

Reid Nishizuka

Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan
Captain
427th Reconnaissance Squadron
U.S. Air Force
January 29, 1983 – April 27, 2013
Kailua, Hawaii



Reid Nishizuka desired to be a pilot in childhood and that dream would be fulfilled as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Reid grew up in the town of Kailua on the Windward side of Oahu. He attended and graduated Kailua High School where he excelled academically and trained as a cadet in the school's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). He was accepted to the prestigious University of Notre Dame and left Hawaii for Indiana to study aeronautical engineering and further his training as a cadet in the university's Air Force ROTC. Upon graduation from the university, Nishizuka was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

2nd Lt. Nishizuka went on to complete pilot training. He would eventually be assigned to the 427th Reconnaissance Squadron which would deploy to Afghanistan. This squadron provided intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in the support of U.S. ground troops.



Nishizuka would fly more than 200 combat missions. On April 27, 2013, Captain Nishizuka's MC-12 Liberty aircraft crashed, killing him and 3 other crew members.

Nishizuka's military awards included pilot wings, 10 Air Medals, two Air Force Commendation Medals and two Air Force Achievement Medals.

Reid Nishizuka's father stated in a tribute to his son, "In Reid's short 30 years, in his life, he accomplished a lifetime of achievements that most people would love to achieve, including his dad. His life has touched so many friends and family that his memory will live in our hearts forever and will always be our hero."