

Body of Airman Kelly Tomfohrde returns from Japan

Liz Welter, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 6:10 p.m. CT April 16, 2015 | Updated 6:58 p.m. CT April 16, 2015



(Photo: Contributed)

MARSHFIELD –

A military escort accompanied the body of Airman 1st Class Kelly Tomfohrde, 22, of Auburndale to Marshfield Thursday. She died April 5 while serving with the 115th Fighter Wing of the Wisconsin National Guard in Okinawa, Japan.

A statement from the U.S. Air Force said Tomfohrde died after she fell from a fifth-story window. The death remains under investigation, said Capt. Kristen Boustany of the 115th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office.

Tomfohrde's family attended a ceremony Thursday in Minneapolis as her body was transferred back to American soil. A military escort which included her family, law enforcement vehicles and Patriot Guard Riders, a group of motorcycle veterans who attend the funerals of fallen soldiers, accompanied the body to the Rembs Funeral Home in Marshfield.

"She was an extremely professional airman and dedicated herself to the service of her country, the U.S. Air Force, her state and the Wisconsin National Guard," said Col. Jeffrey Wiegand, 115th Fighter Wing Commander.

The daughter of Tim and Lisa Tomfohrde, she was a graduate of Auburndale High School and a student at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. In July 2013, Tomfohrde completed basic training and graduated as a tactical aircraft mechanic. She was a member of the 176th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron which was deployed in January to Kadena, Japan.

Tomfohrde was an esteemed member of her team which worked as a mechanic crew for the F16 fighter jets, Wiegand said.

"It is unfortunate for this tragic loss, but I am proud we could welcome her home with full military honors and dignity and respect. Our efforts are to support the family in the loss of their daughter," Wiegand said.

A military funeral for Tomfohrde will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Northridge Church in Marshfield. Visitation is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Auburndale High School and at 10 a.m. Wednesday prior to the funeral at the church.

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