

AFAA

MAGAZINE

DEFENDING THE ENLISTED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1961 | www.hqafsa.org

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ANNUAL REPORT
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and services

**BYLAWS
CHANGES**
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HERITAGE HALL
Expansion and new
developments





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Daniel Yeomans,
CMSgt, USAF Retired,
AFSA International
President

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING AFSA!

I am delighted, as always, to say thank you to our loyal members—old and new alike! 2015 is now in our rearview mirrors—but AFSA is going strong. We continue to take pride in being the “voice of the enlisted.” Our legislative platform remains solid, and our efforts on Capitol Hill are unwavering. We will continue to fight for all who wear the uniform proudly, to ensure that key quality of life initiatives are discussed and the benefits you’ve sacrificed for and earned are protected. It won’t be easy—our nation has a \$19 trillion debt and it is growing each day. Congress is looking for answers. Our goal is to ensure the budget balancing efforts are not at your expense.

We are entering a special time of the year. Many Divisions will embrace our pillars of membership—legislation, communications, and particularly fraternity—at their upcoming Division Conventions. I look forward to attending as many as I can. If I am not there in body, I will be with you in spirit. We are also preparing for another event-filled and exciting AFSA International Convention & Professional Airmen’s Conference in San Antonio. Please mark August 20–25 on your calendars and register today—we’d love to see you.

I want to thank you on a number of notes. First and foremost, we needed to increase our dues for the first time in many years to adjust to the reality that a dollar doesn’t buy what it used to. Thank you all for supporting the dues increase to \$36 annually through your continued membership. We realize that there are opportunities to use your \$36 in many ways. I promise that all of you will

reap benefits valued much greater than the check you write to AFSA. Our advocates are working diligently each and every day to ensure fair and equitable pay for all, continued affordable health care, superior educational opportunities, and fair and equitable retirement. We are also very much on board in protecting your Commissary benefits!

This year, we are looking to expand upon the military members that AFSA supports. During the upcoming Professional Airmen’s Conference & International Convention, you will have an opportunity to hear the business case for taking AFSA from great to greater. With Joint Basing and other Joint Force initiatives, our Airmen are working side by side with their Army, Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard brothers and sisters. When AFSA wins on Capitol Hill, it is a win for all enlisted in all services!

Our Charter in 1961 stated that AFSA would support quality of life initiatives for all enlisted. As our military downsizes, it makes sense to us that many members from other services deserve the right to join AFSA. Can’t AFSA be the voice of the enlisted for ALL who wear the uniform? We share that question with you for consideration!

We will also ask you to consider allowing our Divisions to use modern telecommunications capabilities to conduct elections via some form of teleconference. This requires a change to our By-Laws and I ask for your support. Our Division 5 is spread out from Montana to Korea. It is no longer practical to ask these proud members to find dollars to attend both a Division Conference and the Annual International Convention. Our members in Division 7 in Europe face travel restrictions and other challenges that preclude them from getting together as well. As a result, more and more Divisions are opting to conduct their Division Conferences in conjunction with the International Convention to save dollars, and ensure that more can participate. Your support is appreciated!

God Bless you, your families, and our Total Enlisted Force, as we continue to progress through 2016. I am honored to lead this Association and need your help each and every day! In August, my term of office will come to an end. I have enjoyed my time as the International President over the past three years plus. I very much look forward to seeing you all in the next few months, and pledge my continued support to whomever succeeds me in August.

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On the Cover: No Airman Stands Alone/We Support Each Other Every Day and Beyond. U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Isaac Perez (right) from the 374th Maintenance Squadron, and Senior Airman Stanley Quach (left) from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS), work together to load 116 pallets of diesel fuel onto 16 trucks at Yokota Air Base, Japan, March 23, 2011. The 374th LRS prepared diesel fuel to be shipped to power a factory in Sagami-hara city due to the shortage of electricity resulting from the Tohoku earthquake. (U.S. Air Force photo by Osakabe Yasuo)

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MEMBERSHIP

One-year, two-year, three-year and life membership options are available. Please call Headquarters for pricing. A subscription to the *AFSA Magazine* is included in membership dues. Non-member subscription rate is \$27 per year.

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

AFSA Magazine is the only magazine dedicated solely to serving the Total Enlisted Corps and their families. We are obliged to serve the interests and concerns of enlisted personnel and our members by striving to report timely

and accurate information. The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions but will never materially alter the author's viewpoint. The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Air Force Sergeants Association or its editors.

AFSA does not necessarily endorse products or services advertised in *AFSA Magazine*.

Produced in the United States of America.

AFSA

Founded in 1961 by four Air Force enlisted people, AFSA is a non-profit, tax-exempted organization representing the professional and quality-of-life concerns of the Total Air Force (active duty and components) enlisted members in active, retired, and veteran status, and their families, on Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon. Through its many programs and worldwide chapters, AFSA also reaches out to bases and communities to help those in need and to raise awareness of the sacrifices, concerns, and contributions of those who have worn or are wearing enlisted chevrons.

AMF

An AFSA affiliate, the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF) provides educational assistance to dependent children of the Total Air Force enlisted force. It is also an annual participant in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #10517).

AMM

An AFSA affiliate, the Airmen Memorial Museum (AMM), located in AFSA's Airmen Memorial Building, features rotating exhibits and stands as a tribute to those who have served. It is also an annual participant in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #10518).

IMPORTANT AFSA NUMBERS

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UNITED IN STRENGTH



TOTAL ENLISTED CORPS: Representation, Membership, Community

In 1961, four men established an association that has become a beacon for advocating quality of life concerns affecting the Air Force Enlisted Corps. 55 years later, AFSA has championed a variety of topics including issues such as:

- The Montgomery GI Bill, VEAP and the Post 9/11 education benefit
- TRICARE Prime, Standard, Extra, Life, Reserve Select, Retired Reserve, Young Adult
- Concurrent Receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation, as well as elimination of unfair compensation offsets affecting survivors

As we advocate, does our efforts stop at the doors of only the United States Air Force? Definitely not and our advocacy has continued to include the needs of the entire enlisted corps. An increase in pay for Air Force is also an increase for all service members. Tricare for Airmen is Tricare for all. Are we only fighting for the Air Force? Again, no; we advocate for the enlisted members of all the services.

BACKGROUND

The International Executive Council and Headquarters collaborated on a way forward to keep AFSA viable in the shifting non-profit/advocacy landscape. The council approved two major Bylaw changes that will be presented to the membership in August.

FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

- Our Bylaws currently restrict full membership to only the Total Air Force Enlisted Corps (active, retired and/or veterans).
- Our legislative platform consistently represents the entire enlisted corps, yet we don't have the numbers behind it from the other services.
- We want to lead change in this environment.

WHYS

- Why not expand the membership to support this goal – strength in numbers!
- To provide the most viability in the space of an all-service enlisted advocacy organization. We will be the Voice!
- The non-profit and advocacy landscape is shifting, and we want to get ahead of the change so we are not left behind.

PROs

- Larger membership pool (approaches 2.7M uniformed + large pool of veterans and families).
- Expand our influence with the representation of multiple services.

For additional information, please visit the "United in Strength" section on our website: www.hqafsa.org





PROPOSED 2016 AFSA BYLAW CHANGES

AFSA BY-LAW 6 – AFSA INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

CHANGE: *to allow electronic elections under extenuating circumstances if approved by the International Executive Council.*

The proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 6, Section 1.b., is as follows:

b. ELECTED AT DIVISION CONVENTION, CONFERENCE, AND/OR MEETING(S). A maximum of seven Division Presidents shall be elected at the respective annual division conventions, conference, or meeting. Teleconference elections may be conducted under extenuating circumstances if approved by the International Executive Council, and coordinated with International Headquarters to ensure conformity to current AFSA rules. The Division Presidents shall serve as members of the International Executive Council. In the event any Division President so elected is unable to attend one or more sessions of the International Executive Council, that Division President may direct the Division Vice President to serve with voting rights, provided such Division Vice President has been duly elected or appointed and confirmed by the respective Division Executive Council prior to performing such service.

AFSA BY-LAW 4 – MEMBERSHIP

CHANGE: *to clarify the member must have an honorable discharge at final discharge.*

The proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 4, Section 3.a.2., is as follows:

SECTION 3. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

a. AFSA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

- 2) Former Air Force enlisted personnel of the AFAD, AFRC, ANG or their predecessor services; the

United States Army Air Corps or the United States Army Air Force who were honorably discharged on final discharge, and who were not commissioned in any component of any of the United States Armed Services.

AFSA BY-LAW 4 – MEMBERSHIP

CHANGE: *to allow enlisted members of other uniformed services to be full voting rights members of the Association.*

The proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 4, Section 1 is recommended is as follows:

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION. Membership in AFSA shall consist primarily of enlisted men and women (hereinafter referred to as enlisted personnel) of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and will be personnel in active, reserve, national guard, retired, or veteran status. Family members, commissioned or warrant officers, and other individuals may be members as outlined in Bylaw 4, Section 3 defining classes of membership below. Members are normally assigned to chapters, but may choose to be “unassigned” members.

The proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 4, Section 3.a., 1 – 2 is as follows:

a. ENLISTED MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Any enlisted person in active or retired status from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard.
- 2) Former enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard who, upon final discharge, were honorably discharged, and who were not commissioned in any component of the United States Armed Forces.



PROPOSED 2016 AFSA BYLAW CHANGES

The Proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 4, Section 3.b., 1 – 4 is as follows:

b. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. Family membership consists of persons who are 18 years or older, and in their own right are not eligible for Enlisted Membership; if eligible for Enlisted Membership, individuals may not join under the Family Membership class. The following persons are eligible for the Family Membership class:

- 1) Any spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter of persons eligible for the Enlisted Membership class.
- 2) Any widower, widow, father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter of persons eligible at the time of death for the Enlisted Membership class.
- 3) Former widowers and widows of members in the Enlisted Membership class who remarry.
- 4) Any husband or wife divorced from a spouse who was eligible for the Enlisted Membership class at the time of divorce.

The Proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 4, Section 3.c., 1 – 3 is as follows:

c. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Any commissioned or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard.
- 2) Former commissioned or warrant officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard who, upon final discharge, were honorably discharged, and did not complete their service obligation as an enlisted member.
- 3) Any individual not eligible for Enlisted or Family membership, upon application and approval of the International Executive Council. Criteria for such membership shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

AFSA BY-LAW – THE PREAMBLE

CHANGE: *to adjust language that reflects inclusion of enlisted members and their families of other uniformed services and to simplify the preamble.*

With reverence for God and Country, and being ever mindful of our responsibility to aid in maintaining a superior defense for our beloved country; our interest in the welfare of persons who served and are serving in the Armed Forces; our devotion to our fellow enlisted servicemembers and their families in fortune, and distress; and our reverence for the memory of our departed comrades, we unite to further the aims and objectives of this association.

AFSA BY-LAW 1 – NAME, LOCATION, SEAL, AND COLORS

CHANGE: *to rename the Air Force Sergeants Association to reflect inclusion of enlisted members of other services, and provide marketability of the Association.*

The Proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 1, Section 1 is as follows:

SECTION 1. NAME. The organization name shall be the ARMED FORCES SERVICEMEMBER ASSOCIATION Inc. (hereinafter referred to as AFSA), a nonprofit corporation incorporated in the District of Columbia.

The proposed rewrite to the AFSA Bylaw 1, Section 3 is as follows:

SECTION 3. SEAL. The AFSA seal shall consist of the device of a circle with the words “Corporate Seal 1961” in the center, surrounded by the words “Armed Forces Servicemember Association,” arranged around the perimeter.

FY 2017 BUDGET PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BENEFITS REDUCTIONS LOOM FOR DOD

The president's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal was submitted to Congress in early February and it contained a number of pay and personnel matters of interest to our members. His plan calls for:

- A 1.6 percent pay raise, which marks the fourth year in a row that the Administration's request falls short of the amount allowable by law (2.1 percent).
- Alterations to the newly-approved blended retirement system. Specifically, DoD wants to:
 - Increase the government contribution matching rate to Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) accounts from 4 percent to 5 percent of basic pay.
 - Delay the start of government matching contributions to an individual TSP account from the third year of service to the fifth year of service.
 - Extend government matching contributions to a service member's retirement date rather than stopping contributions at 26 years of service.
 - Revise the new retirement system's mandatory minimum continuation pay for all service members reaching 12 years of service, and allowing each Service the flexibility to set continuation pay based on the

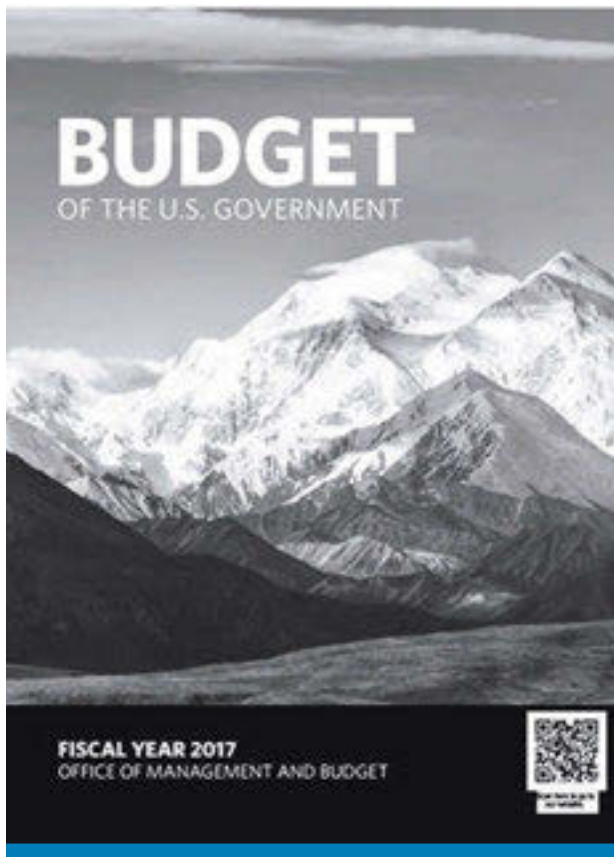
needs of the service. The new retirement system provides all troops at 12 years of service with continuation pay equal to 2.5 months of basic pay.

- A reduction in funding for military commissaries by \$221 million.
- Reduce the number of healthcare programs available for younger retirees and their families, raise TRICARE fees and create some new ones. Care for active duty service members would remain unchanged. To briefly summarize, DoD intends to offer just two TRICARE options to beneficiaries under age 65, "TRICARE Select" which would be similar to TRICARE Prime (Military Treatment Facility-centric) and "TRICARE Choice" which would be similar to TRICARE Standard, offering greater choice but at higher out-of-pocket costs. DoD also wants to impose a new enrollment fee (means-tested) for beneficiaries using TRICARE for Life, establish a new \$600 family deductible for out-of-network care; and implement a multiyear schedule that would double most pharmacy copays. Last but not least, the department seeks to link the future increases of many fees and copays to a national health care index.



CEO Rob Frank provides testimony in support of the enlisted force at a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees of Veterans Affairs.

Eye on Washington reports on all of the legislative activity that AFSA is either involved with or tracking on behalf of our members. The Military & Government Relations Team of Morgan Brown, Paul Grugin and Jennifer Davis write each issue's compilation.



The Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017

On the positive side, the president’s proposal fully funds a number of family-focused reforms recently announced by the Secretary of Defense to include a department-wide standard of 12 weeks paid maternity leave, paternity and dual adoption leaves, longer CDC operating hours and a greater ability to delay PCS if it is in the best interest of the family. As a reminder, the annual budget submission is a non-binding document whose contents will be largely ignored by lawmakers. Still, there is always a fair level of danger that some of these proposals could gain traction on Capitol Hill, so we will be working with our champions in Congress to see to it that doesn’t happen.

AFSA TESTIFIES TO CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PRESENTED

On March 16 Air Force Sergeants Association CEO Rob Frank presented the Association’s views on numerous veteran-related issues during a special joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Eight other military or veteran organizations testified on issues of shared interest, but AFSA’s testimony focused upon those germane

to our membership-approved legislative platform. Specific attention was placed upon testimony regarding advanced VA funding, military sexual trauma (MST), suicide prevention, integrated electronic health records (iEHR), supporting veteran caregivers, VA compensation and pension claim appeals, Agent Orange and Burn Pit exposures, post-9/11 GI Bill issues, as well as veterans’ homelessness.

Check out AFSA’s website and click on the tab labeled “Legislative” and then from the dropdown menu, click on “AFSA Testimony” for access to the entire written Association testimony. Additionally, by visiting the House of Representatives’ YouTube channel you can watch the entire hearing.

While worth your time to hear everyone’s testimony as well as the accompanying Congressional commentary, AFSA’s oral presentation begins around the 43-minute mark. Also, the “sea of blue” that witnesses and Congress members both make reference to at certain points are AFSA members and friends from other base private organizations who attended the hearing to mentor young Airmen as well as to receive some individual Professional Development. Being on hand to observe a hearing is to witness democracy in action, and AFSA HQ would like to thank the following Chapters who helped coordinate the experience for personnel at their bases: C102 (JB Andrews), C201 (Dover), C211 (JB McGuire), C254 (Ft. Meade), C300 (Pentagon), and C358 (Langley).



Air Force leaders present the FY 2017 budget request. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III testify before the House Armed Services Committee along with other Defense Department leaders on their budget proposal for fiscal year ’17 in Washington, D.C., March 16, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)



PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR

CEO Frank is honored to stand in unity with Air Force Representatives from all over the country including representatives from C102 JB Andrews, MD; C201 Dover, DE; C211 JB McGuire, NJ; C254 Ft. Meade, MD; C300 Pentagon, VA; and C358 Langley AFB, VA.

HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE REGISTRY PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL

Were you exposed to burn pits while deployed? Did you serve in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn, Djibouti, Africa, Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm or the Southeast Asia Theater of operations after August, 1990? Do you think you may have been exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards? According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, less than 2 percent of the Veterans and service members that could join the department's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry have signed up. In total, 61,338 Veterans and service members completed and submitted the registry questionnaire between April 25, 2014, and February 28, 2016. In order to be effective, the department needs as many participants as possible. To learn more or sign up, visit the VA's Exposures page.

Important points about the Burn Pit Registry:

- No cost to participate
- Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary

- Not a disability compensation questionnaire, nor required for other VA benefits
- Based on Veterans'/Service members' recollection of service, not on their military records
- Veterans'/Service members' family members are not eligible to participate

VA CHOICE COMMUNITY CARE CALL CENTER RESOLVE REPORTING ERRORS

Veterans can now work directly with the VA to resolve debt collection issues resulting from inappropriate or delayed Choice Program billing. In step with MyVA's efforts to modernize VA's customer-focused, Veteran-centered services capabilities, a new Community Care Call Center has been set up for Veterans experiencing adverse credit reporting or debt collection resulting from inappropriately billed Choice Program claims. Veterans experiencing these problems can call the center at (877) 881-7618, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET, for assistance.

Guaranteed the most comfortable pillow you'll ever own!™

How Well Did You Sleep Last Night?

Did you toss and turn all night? Did you wake up with a sore neck, head ache, or was your arm asleep? Do you feel like you need a nap even though you slept for eight hours? Just like you, I would wake up in the morning with all of those problems and I couldn't figure out why. Like many people who have trouble getting a good night's sleep, my lack of sleep was affecting the quality of my life. I wanted to do something about my sleep problems, but nothing that I tried worked.

The Pillow Was the Problem

I bought every pillow on the market that promised to give me a better night's sleep. After trying them all, with no success, I finally decided to invent one myself. I began asking everyone I knew what qualities they'd like to see in their "perfect pillow." Their responses included: "I'd like a pillow that never goes flat", "I'd like my pillow to stay cool" and "I'd like a pillow that adjusts to me regardless of my sleep position." After hearing everyone had the same problems that I did, I spent the next two years of my life inventing MyPillow.



Mike Lindell
Inventor & CEO
of MyPillow®



In the early days, Mike and his family spent countless hours hand-making each MyPillow. This hard work and dedication to "doing it right" helped MyPillow become a classic American success story.

MyPillow® to the Rescue

Flash forward eleven years and MyPillow, Mike Lindell's revolutionary pillow design, has helped 12 million people improve the quality of their sleep. MyPillow has received thousands of testimonials from customers about how MyPillow has changed their lives.

"Until I was diagnosed with various sleep issues, I had no idea why my sleep was so interrupted throughout the night. I watch Imus each morning and heard endless testimonials about MyPillow. I took his advice and ordered a MyPillow. Now I wake up rested and ready to conquer the day ahead. Thank you for helping me remember what it's like to sleep like a baby!" - Jacqueline H.

Lindell has been featured on numerous talk shows, including *Fox Business News* and *Imus in the Morning*. Lindell and MyPillow have also appeared in feature stories in major magazines and newspapers across the country. MyPillow has received the coveted "Q Star Award" for *Product Concept of the Year* from QVC, and has been selected as the Official Pillow of the National Sleep Foundation.

MyPillow's patented interlocking fill allows you to adjust the pillow to your individual needs regardless of sleep position.



Unprecedented Guarantee and Warranty

I do all of my own manufacturing in my home state of Minnesota and all materials are 100% made in the U.S.A. I'm so confident MyPillow will help you, I'm offering an unprecedented 60-day money back guarantee and a 10-year warranty not to go flat! I truly believe MyPillow is the best pillow in the world and that if everyone had one, they would get better sleep and the world would be a much happier place. *God Bless.*

Mike Lindell



Don't wait—Order MyPillow and get sleep you've been dreaming about!

Save 50% when you use promo code "AFSA2"

BUY NOW AT: mypillow.com or call 800.873.7521



SPECIAL-NEEDS TRUST ADDITIONAL PROTECTION AVAILABLE

Public Law 113-291 (FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act) granted military members and retirees the option to direct Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments to a Special Needs Trust (SNT) for permanently disabled children (does not apply to disabled spouses). An SNT is a legal instrument designed to manage money that was set aside for assisting a disabled person, and is governed by State and Federal law.

According to an Air Force Retiree Services press release, retirees who have SBP coverage for a disabled dependent child may now—or at any time—have a special-needs trust created and elect to direct SBP annuity payments to the trust. This irrevocable decision may be made during the life of the retiree through a written statement that designates future SBP payments go into the special-needs trust. In situations where SBP payments are made to more than one

dependent child, the special-needs trust will be treated as a dependent child for the purposes of determining the shares payable to each child.

To irrevocably add a special-needs trust to existing child SBP coverage, retirees must submit a written statement requesting the annuity be paid to a trust. The statement must include the name and tax identification number of the trust. Additionally, the retiree must submit a certified letter from an actively licensed attorney verifying that the trust is a special-needs trust created for the benefit of the disabled dependent child. Examples of both statements can be found on Air Force Personnel Center's Air Force Retiree website. For more information or help with completing special needs trust election statements, call (877) 353-6807 to contact the SBP or the casualty assistance representative at the nearest Air Force base.



SHARING GOALS AND CONCERNS

U.S. Air Force, DoD, AFSA, and other association representatives take the opportunity to speak and present their legislative proposals for 2017.

A Sparkling Show of Support for Those Who Serve



U.S. AIR FORCE Women's Embrace Ring

Set with genuine diamonds

Sculpted Air Force Emblem

Finely hand-crafted in solid sterling silver with 18K-gold plating

Engraved inside with
SERVICE BEFORE SELF

A Fine Jewelry Exclusive from The Bradford Exchange

The United States Air Force has a long and proud tradition. From the earliest days of the Air Force to today, those who serve have made the ultimate sacrifice, putting country before self. Now, you can show your pride and let the spirit of the United States Air Force soar—with our "U.S. Air Force" Embrace Ring, an exclusive design from The Bradford Exchange.

Exquisitely Crafted in a Custom Design

Hand-crafted from solid sterling silver, this distinctive ring features twin bands—one silver and one plated in 18K gold. At the center of the ring is a sculpted winged Air Force emblem adorned with a solitaire genuine diamond and 18K gold-plated accents. The bands are embraced with two dazzling pavé ribbons set with a total of four genuine diamonds. Inside the band, the ring is engraved with the enduring Air Force motto of SERVICE

BEFORE SELF, making this a stunning expression of Air Force pride and support for all those who serve.

An Exceptional Value... Available for a Limited Time

This ring is a remarkable value at \$99*, payable in 4 easy installments of \$24.75 and backed by our 120-day guarantee. It arrives in a custom case along with a Bradford Exchange Certificate of Authenticity. This ring is not available in stores. To reserve, send no money now; just mail the Reservation Application today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/22399

*Department of the Air Force. Officially Licensed Product of the Air Force (www.airforce.com)
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LIMITED-TIME OFFER

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VA'S REINSTATEMENT OF SES PERSONNEL

"The reinstatement of these previously disciplined executives just continues to show what is fundamentally wrong with the GS/SES system in the Federal Government. What other business model, looking at the private sector, would seemingly protect people who are cheating their customer base and stockholders by making it nearly impossible to get any form of discipline...then when it happens, they stay on the payroll while they fight the system long enough to be reinstated. Even with Congressional eyes on the topic, the people who are hurting the Veterans the worst in the VA are proved to be untouchable. Disappointing."

-SS

POTENTIAL FOR LEGALIZING CANNABIS

"It should be legal for these men and women who suffer from PTSD. It will help with anxiety and lack of sleep. Instead of filling them with [anti-psychotic] drugs. I'm retired AF medic who treated PTSD patients; but back then, 30 yrs ago, they did not [have] a plan. In my opinion they benefit from medical marijuana."

-DV

LINGERING EFFECTS OF BURN PITS

"I was in Afghanistan in 2009 and worked downwind from a burn pit. The smoke came through our work area, and the smell was very different from any other kind of fire. It definitely smelled like burning chemicals and plastics."



Senior Airman Frances Gavalis tosses unserviceable uniform items into a burn pit March 10, 2008, at Balad Air Base, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Julianne Showalter)

“ Apparently our Government cares very little for its Vets who must use the VA for their health care. We have all this ‘talk’ about revamping the VA and getting rid of those who do not do their job. And once again it is just ‘talk’ but no action. ”

-GK

One night in particular really stands out in my memory, and that is when a box of live ammunition ended up in the burn pit. We heard small arms rounds going off all night and our control office advised us to stay indoors and behind the barriers to avoid stray bullets. It seems to me that there were no safety regulations in place for the burn pits, or if there were, they were being ignored.

I have had chronic congestion and frequent sinus infections since serving in the military, although no one will say that [it] was directly caused by burn pits. I also registered online as a person who has served near burn pits, and I put it on every survey that asks about burn pits. I hope that someone is tracking that information to help find out what the long-term effects may be and how to avoid this issue in the future."

-VB

"What should have also been included is the vast numbers of underground fuel storage leaks that have contaminated ground water at numerous locations, military-wide. It has direct impact on the water quality for both military and civilian families and the overall general populace that is affected by this problem, which also affects the vegetation and wildlife in the areas affected. All too often, the government has chosen to ignore their errors and have done too little too late to remedy the problem. In some areas the government seems to want to reinvent the wheel all too often. Government entities must be held accountable for cleanup just like the general population and must set an EXAMPLE instead of being the focus of yet another Congressional Hearing."

-LM

Comments appearing in the Airmen's Forum are culled from letters, emails and social media posts sent by our members and supporters to Headquarters AFSA. The Forum serves as a platform for members to voice their opinions on a given subject, which may or may not reflect the views or positions of the Association as a whole. AFSA Magazine reserves the right to select and condense letters for publication. Send your questions and comments to AFSAComm@hqafsa.org.

TRUE

Chief Master Sgt. Jose A. Barraza says, "Although I worked hard to get where I am today, I wouldn't have made it without amazing leaders who taught me to believe in myself and those around me. No Airman walks alone; we all stand together to celebrate triumph over struggle." CMSgt Barraza stands with the 396th Expeditionary Wing. (Photo courtesy of SSgt. Victoria Baldwin)



GRIT

AIR FORCE SHIFTS PARADIGM TO PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDES

by ALIVIA TAGLIAFERRI

The word is getting out. Seeking help will not negatively impact your career. That is the message Master Sgt. Jason Aucoin of the 48th Fighter Wing Safety Office shared in his impactful story, “End The Myth: Seeking Mental Health Treatment Will Not Impact Air Force Career.”

This encouragement comes at a critical time. The rising rate of suicide in the military—a tragedy reverberating across the branches of our Armed Forces—is heartbreaking, and has alarmed leadership for several years. We can delve into the data but it will not do us justice. People are not statistics. They are our best and brightest. Losing one Airman, Soldier, Sailor, or Marine is one too many. And only one thing is clear: The time for change is now.

This is the theme that echoed at a four-day Suicide Prevention Summit hosted by the Air Force at Joint Base Andrews last September which brought together suicide prevention experts, mental and behavioral health professionals, and Airmen from all ranks and careers—including Secretary Deborah Lee James and senior leaders. And it was evident from the beginning as Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III opened the summit with a powerful call to action. “Something has to change and you are the agents of change.”

If any branch of the Armed Forces can be a leading agent of change in the fight against suicide, it is the Air Force. It has been done before, and with the help of every Airman and community member, can be done again.

AIR FORCE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

In the mid 1990s, senior leaders in the Air Force had an unsettling suspicion that suicide among the ranks of Airmen was rising based on the number of death reports they were receiving on a weekly basis. Epidemiologists quickly confirmed that their concerns were well founded. Resolved to do something about it, then Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Thomas Moorman established a team to study the problem and develop a comprehensive plan to reduce the number of lives lost to suicide.

Retired Col. David Litts remembers the first question the team focused on: “Are suicides preventable?” The team identified a constellation of risk factors such as relationship issues, job stresses, financial and legal issues, and observed that while many factors were in play simultaneously, more importantly, they were treatable. The team also learned about protective factors such as interconnectedness, enhancing individual coping skills and creating cultural norms that promote help-seeking. These factors, too, can be enhanced and strengthened with messaging and training.

This gave them the answer to the question—yes, suicide is preventable—dispelling one of the most pernicious myths surrounding the act of suicide.

Engaging a wide representation of members from the Air Force community including chaplains, commanders, first

sergeants, family advocates, and law enforcement as well as civilian leaders in the medical, mental, and behavioral health fields, the team developed eleven tenets for the first community-based, public health framework for preventing suicide—the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program.

It wasn’t just a new program, it was a new paradigm. No longer was suicide a medical problem, but a problem of the entire Air Force community.

“Senior leaders made it clear they expected leaders, top down, to know their people and take care of them,” shares Retired Colonel Litts.

Strengthening lifesaving social support to all Air Force members, especially those in personal crisis, and encouraging help-seeking became the foundation for a cultural shift. Well received and widely implemented, the program led to a significant 33 percent reduction in the rate of Airman suicides between 1997 and 2004, according to the National Institutes of Health. Hundreds of lives were saved thanks to the dedicated efforts of thousands of Airmen.

Unfortunately, the Air Force is again facing an alarming rise in the number and rate of Airman suicide. Many are asking, what has changed?

FEMALE VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT

ADDRESSING SPECIFIC CONCERNS

A little more than a year has passed since the Clay Hunt SAV Act was signed into law to help curb military and veteran suicides. This important Act generated a number of positive changes like an expanded VA Crisis Line and reduced wait times for mental health care appointments, but it was always viewed as a small step toward curbing the epidemic of suicide that plagues our Veterans. Today, many service members are still struggling, especially our female veterans who, according to recent studies, are nearly six times more likely to commit suicide than their male counterparts. For that reason, the House has already approved Rep. Julia Brownley’s H.R. 2915, the Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act, which would promote mental health and suicide prevention programs specific to female veterans. A Senate companion measure (S. 2487) using the same title was introduced in early February by Sen. Barbara Boxer and is expected to be addressed sometime this year.

SMALLER FORCE, LARGER ROLE

Today, the Air Force is operating at the smallest force level since the branch was reformulated out of the Army Air Corps in 1947, despite the increasing demands and unrelenting pace of a perpetual war. This translates to fewer Airmen taking on larger roles and covering more areas of responsibility.

One area of specialty that bears the disproportionate brunt of “smaller force, larger role,” is remotely piloted aircraft operations (RPA), which has increased tenfold in the last decade as demand for intelligence and surveillance, as well as targeted strikes against enemies old and new, has grown exponentially.

Everyone wants information and there is no such thing as an “unmanned” craft. Logging four times the number of hours as downrange pilots, the tempo is leading to fatigue and low morale. In 2013, the Government Accountability Office found high dissatisfaction among ranks of RPA crews. Mental and physical exhaustion, stigma associated with their role, fear of collateral damage to innocent civilians, upended work-life balance with little or no decompression time, the surreality of flying overseas missions from domestic bases—the combination has negatively affected Airmen and families.

But stress and fatigue does not discriminate to any specialty, age or rank.

“When we implemented the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program, it was peace-time. We trained and exercised, we slept, took leave, spent time with our families and worked reasonable hours,” shares Col. Litts, who was part of the 2010 DoD Suicide Prevention Task Force. “The program, the whole cultural approach, is based on knowing one another, caring for another, being alert when someone is struggling—and that takes time.”

Creating the time to ensure self-care—and care of fellow Airmen—while maintaining mission fidelity presents a new and unique challenge for the Air Force.

WINGMAN ETHOS

Taking care of one another. That’s what the “Wingman Ethos” means to Lt. Col. David Linkh, former squadron commander of the 30th Medical Operations, who now works at the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General.



TSgt. Joshua Hull displays his tattoo in memory of his younger brother, Andrew Hull. Andrew took his own life in December of 2012, when he was only 16 years old. Since the incident, Hull has committed his time to spreading suicide awareness and prevention through Andy Hull's Sunshine Foundation. Hull is the NCO in charge of the Minot Air Force Base Honor Guard. LeAnn Hull and Andy Hull's Sunshine Foundation are available for military functions and speaking engagements. (Photo Courtesy of LeAnn Hull, The Andy Hull's Sunshine Foundation www.andyssunshine.com)

Alivia Tagliaferri is the author of *Beyond The Wall: The Journey Home*. She is currently directing *Power of One: Preventing Suicide in America*, a feature documentary.

This ethos is the cornerstone of the new Wingman Toolkit, an outreach and communication tool created to ensure the total force including Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, have access to programs and resources designed to strengthen and empower Airmen and families. “The goal is to

promote resilience in the face of adversity, stress and trauma,” shares Lt. Col. Linkh.

It is also driving a renewed sense of purpose and urgency to adapt and evolve the suicide-prevention and fitness programs to meet the needs of today’s fighting force. “We are working with research partners like never before, including the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, Centers for Disease Control, and Suicide Prevention Resource Center,” says Lt. Col. Linkh.

Providing support, resilience training and information about resources to everyone in the Air Force is the primary stage, while providing support to Airmen experiencing transient issues such as marital problems and financial stress, as well as working with those addressing sexual assault, family violence, and chronic distress is also considered prevention. “We have a lot of resources available, and we want to help before things continue to deteriorate. That’s when we see people start to isolate.” If the trajectory continues downward, or an Airman is experiencing the onset of a serious mental illness or continued distress from trauma, then tertiary support is needed, which expands from prevention to intervention and treatment.



IS SUICIDE A CHOICE?

A SURVIVOR'S VIEW

By Kim Ruocco, MSW, LSW

There are so many questions following a death by suicide. How could this happen? Why did this happen? Why didn't I see it? Why didn't I do something? Why didn't the military do more?

When my husband died by suicide in 2005, I asked myself all these questions and many more. But the most painful question, by far, was: why did he choose to leave us?

I agonized over the thought that the man I had known and loved for 23 years chose to leave our two beautiful boys and me. I felt his death was a rejection of his life with us. I couldn't understand why our immense love for him wasn't enough to keep him alive. I was desperate to answer this question. During the day, I would search for answers by researching, talking to anyone who might know the answer. At night, I would have nightmares about him walking away from us. I felt tortured by the thought that he could choose to leave us.

After much effort, I began to gain understanding and relief, having spoken to many survivors of suicide attempts as well as survivors of suicide loss. Long-time friend of TAPS, LaRita Archibald, addresses this question in her book *Finding Peace Without All the Pieces*. It helped me better understand the suicidal mind and shift my thinking from "it's all about us" to "it's mostly about him."



One of the major changes the Air Force has made in recent years to reduce the stigma associated with help-seeking is to embed its behavioral health optimization program (BHOP) in each military treatment facility. This allows behavioral health providers to be part of the primary care infrastructure and helps Airmen not feel ostracized for going to a specific place for a specific reason (like a mental health clinic), and also makes caring for self and others more of a comprehensive experience of overall health and fitness.

"For example, if I go into the military treatment facility for lower back pain, and over the course of the exam, my doctor asks how things are going and maybe stress is really affecting my job performance or relationships, I can see

In the book, LaRita references Edwin Shneidman's *The Suicidal Mind*, in which he defines the commonalities of suicide. He points out that the common purpose of suicide is to seek a solution to a problem. The common goal of suicide is to end pain, not necessarily to die. He asks, "Is suicide a choice? Or did the individual who ended his or her life believe, at that time, there was no other way to find relief from the pain? Was it their choice to be gone from this life, and their loved ones, or was it an act born of a desperate need to be free of emotional pain, pain they perceived as endless, unrelenting, and permanent? Pain that was so overwhelming and persistent they were blinded to other options?"

LaRita adds, "Following my son's suicide I was greatly conflicted over the issue of choice. It was beyond my comprehension that this cherished young man, who loved his family and appeared to love living, would choose to leave us by deliberately ending his own life. His 'choice' was contrary to everything he had been taught and that we thought he believed. It was not until I began to study the vast variability of human behavior, and especially suicide, that I had an inkling of how difficult and painful that 'choice' had been for him."

LaRita continues, "At a suicidology conference a number of years ago I made the acquaintance of a young man who had attempted to end his consciousness in order to stop unendurable pain. He eloquently articulated the pain of living; of going through the motions every day, trying to keep at bay the overwhelming pain he felt. As the pain of living grew more intense and his future seemed more hopeless, he planned how he could end his life.

a behavioral health provider who is there as a consultant, supporter, or educator, and it isn't considered a mental health encounter, so it doesn't go in my medical records," shares Lt. Col. Linkh. "It's a consultation with a BHOP provider."

Still, one of the biggest barriers to care is the perception that seeking help will negatively affect or impact an Airman's career.

Is this perception accurate?

"No. We've actually gone back to review records to determine whether seeking help has negatively impacted careers—this is an empirical question we're asking, 'Does seeking or receiving mental or behavioral health support negatively impact careers?'—and most of us in the mental

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

The National Veterans Crisis Line (800) 273-8255 is available 24/7 to survivors of service member suicide. It is confidential and can connect you with local resources. The TAPS [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors] helpline (800) 959-8277 is available for peer-based grief support.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc.

Tax ID# 92-0152268

3033 Wilson Blvd. Suite 630, Arlington, VA 22201

(202) 588-8277 (Headquarters); (571) 385-2524 (Fax)



One morning he awoke with a greater sense of dread and hopelessness than ever before. He opened his pill stash and swallowed one handful after another. His life was saved when his brother stopped to wish their mother a Happy Mother's Day and found him. As a result, depression was diagnosed, treatment begun, and his sense of well-being eventually restored. He had come to tell others of his choice, his near death, and his revived love of life. When I asked him why he had chosen Mother's Day of all days he answered, 'I was totally oblivious to what day it was when I swallowed those pills. I just knew I could not face another hour of living with my pain.' He realized that had he died that day his mother might have forever perceived his death as a message of complete rejection."

This excerpt from *Finding Peace Without All the Pieces* was supported by information I gained from others who had attempted suicide. One of the most pivotal moments of my own grief journey was hearing Kevin Hines talk about his suicide attempt. Kevin described a depression and emotional pain that was all-consuming and so intense that he could not think of anything but ending the pain. He expressed unwavering love for his parents and girlfriend but admitted that in that brief moment he could not even think of them or the pain he would inflict, should he end his life. In fact he had convinced himself that they would be better off without him. His ability to think of any other escape was also absent. He went on to say that he alone knew the extent of the hopelessness and helplessness that he felt.

As Kevin spoke, I felt a wave of calmness and understanding that I had not felt in years. I began to accept that my husband did love us. He chose to end his pain

in a moment when his thinking was clouded and narrow. His pain was great at the same time that his ability to see other options was blocked. He did not choose to leave us; he just could not see another way out of his darkness. Like Kevin, he must have convinced himself that we would be better off without him. It was the only thing that made sense to me.

Although it is so hard to imagine the suffering and pain of our loved ones, it does help to understand their state of mind at the time of their death. We can never fully understand the depth of their despair, but we can find comfort in knowing that they were most likely trying to end pain—not their life or their relationship with us. It also helps to know that a "suicidal mind" is not a mind that is logical. Most survivors of suicide attempts look back at that moment and say things like, "I had tunnel vision," or, "I just couldn't see any other way."

We cannot bring back our loved one, but we can learn from our experiences and move forward with more information about preventing further losses in our families. If you or a family member are having thoughts of hopelessness or helplessness and having thoughts of suicide, get help. Don't continue to suffer day after day. Don't wait until the day is so dark that you lose hope.

Editor's Note: This article was first published in *TAPS Magazine* in March 2015. www.taps.org/magazine. © 2015 Copyright. All Rights Reserved.



health community were amazed by the extent to which it did not impact careers negatively. In fact, it was less than 5 percent of cases," states Lt. Col. Linkh.

"In my career, I've been a family advocacy officer, an alcohol and substance abuse counselor and a general mental health provider. I've seen folks with very significant issues who sought help, work through their issues, and go on to be promoted. The reality, more often than not, is that not seeking help is going to hurt your career."

THE ROLE OF FAMILY

If the cultural crux of suicide prevention is about connection, interaction, help-seeking and care, then the role of families

is vital—both in giving and receiving support—as part of the full continuum of the Air Force community response. Recognizing this, the first Air Force Family Members' Guide to Suicide Prevention was released in 2015.

Alicia Hinds Ward is an Air National Guard Spouse who is a Resilience Teaching Assistant. As 2013 Military Spouse of The Year, she continues to use her platform to focus on building a sense of community and resiliency within spouses and families. "Support and resources are out there for you whether your family is Guard or Active Duty," she says.

She sees the issue of suicide as one of disconnection from self and support. She has spent long hours studying

NINE WAYS TO IDENTIFY SOMEONE IN CRISIS

From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Suicide Prevention Outreach, March 14, 2016

When you ask how someone is doing and get the response “I’m good,” do you ever give it a second thought? It only takes a minute to be there for the people in our lives who, though they may not always show it, might not be doing so well.

Sometimes mounting responsibility or isolation can heighten feelings

of stress, depression, or feeling overwhelmed, until they become difficult to handle alone. It’s important to recognize when emotions reach a crisis point—especially when thoughts of suicide arise. Learn to recognize these nine warning signs in yourself or someone you care about.

SIGNS OF CRISIS TO LOOK OUT FOR INCLUDE:

1 Experiencing mood swings. Moving between seeming normal one minute and down-and-out or abnormally cheerful the next—without a reasonable explanation—can be a sign of crisis. Mood swings that go beyond the good and bad days that most people experience, occur without cause or warning, or have the power to disrupt the day, affect relationships and make it impossible to concentrate, may also be a sign of crisis or even a precursor to suicide.

2 Feeling hopeless, as if there is no reason to live or no way out. Hopelessness, often associated with depression, can manifest itself in a number of ways. Some people who have lost hope feel powerless, while others feel there is no point in living. Hopelessness may be accompanied by feeling trapped or as if there is no way out of a situation. Thoughts, feelings or behaviors associated with hopelessness are serious signs of crisis.

3 Engaging in risky activities without thinking. When they are out of the ordinary, dangerous behaviors, like recklessly driving a motorcycle or car, gambling away large sums of money or starting fights, may be a sign of crisis. When someone becomes unconcerned about causing injury or harm to him or herself or others through risky activities, it’s time to reach out for help.

4 Abusing alcohol or drugs. Many adults enjoy an alcoholic beverage now and then, but when consuming alcohol becomes a daily habit, a sleeping aid, or a reason to get out of bed in the morning—or interferes with daily life—it may be a sign of crisis. Using drugs that are not for medical purposes is also a warning sign that someone may be in emotional pain. Recent onset of alcohol or drug abuse is especially worrisome.

5 Withdrawing from family and friends. Spending less time with friends and family and more time alone, no longer engaging in the activities that used to be pleasurable, or avoiding social interactions of any kind can be signs of distress or, in the worst case, an impending suicide attempt. People can isolate themselves for a number of reasons, but it is almost always a sign that something is seriously wrong.

and training to become a Resilience Teaching Assistant for that reason—she wants to help service members, spouses and children create strong foundations in their lives that will help fortify them against stresses, tragedies, and adversities. Working with a Master Resilience Trainer, she helps others develop skills in the four domains of the Comprehensive Airman Fitness framework—social, spiritual, physical, and mental fitness.

She uses her training in her own life. “As a parent, I am constantly reassessing how I communicate with my children to deliver content in a way that makes them feel empowered, and to listen to them in a way that makes them feel heard. Language is how we communicate and connect with each other, and also how we ensure our needs are met. So often it is taken for granted.”

And she utilizes her training to help herself, too. When she senses that feelings of depression are starting to mount, she reaches out to her doctor and asks, “Can we talk?”

“When I apply my resilience tools that I’ve actively learned, even if things are heading south, I know I’m going to be okay.”

TRUE GRIT

When asked what ‘resilience’ means to her, she answers immediately. “Grit.”

“Resilience is the ability to face any challenge and work your way through it, versus the challenge stalling you or stunting you. It’s the ability to bend and be flexible, and the recognition that you actually become stronger because of that flexibility.”

She admits that speaking out is sometimes difficult. Yet the very act of speaking out is what stops suicide.

Asking for help. Receiving help. Recognizing when someone is in distress. Sharing your story and learning theirs. Being authentic enough to say, ‘I’ve been there. I fought that. I overcame it and you can too.’ That’s how peers help each other and how leaders lead.

That’s true grit.

THE FOLLOWING SIGNS REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:

6

Thinking about hurting or killing yourself. Whether a person has passing thoughts about suicide, experiences frequent or nearly continuous suicidal thinking, or actually begins a routine of self-harm, all of these behaviors point to dangerous levels of crisis and should be handled by a professional immediately.

7

Looking for ways to kill yourself. If a person spends time considering how to kill him or herself—pondering the details of the most effective methods, doing research online, or even making plans for a suicide attempt—this sign of suicide risk should be taken very seriously and requires professional intervention.

8

Talking about death, dying, or suicide. Even passing comments about suicide, or comments about “going away for good” or “not being around anymore,” should never be taken lightly. Whether people say they wish they could go to sleep and never wake up or talk about “how they would do it” if they decided to kill themselves, it’s important to read between the lines and recognize when someone may be in suicidal crisis. Their comment may actually be a sign they want help.

9

Engaging in self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse or reckless use of weapons. When reckless behavior escalates to the point of almost certain self-harm or death, such as overdosing on drugs or harming oneself or others with a weapon, that person and potentially others are in immediate danger, and it is time to reach out for help immediately.

Both Veterans and service members can access crisis support through the Veterans Crisis Line/Military Crisis Line. If you or a Veteran or service member you know is exhibiting any of these signs, call the Veterans Crisis Line at (800) 273-8255 and Press 1, chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat), or text 838255 to get confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

For someone going through a difficult time, one simple act has the power to make a difference. Reach out to the Veterans and service members in your life today and let them know they’re not alone. One conversation can open the door to support.

➔ Visit www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/SignsOfCrisis to learn more about the signs of crisis.



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Conference attendees and delegates should plan to arrive on

Saturday, August 20 and depart on **Thursday, August 25, 2016.**

The room rate is confirmed at the prevailing government per diem rate plus applicable fees/taxes (single or double occupancy) per night.

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Any request for early arrival or late departures at the conference rate **MUST** be made directly with the Grand Hyatt San Antonio and based on availability.

Reservations made after **August 3, 2016** are not guaranteed by the Conference rate.

DRESS CODE

FOR MEAL/BANQUET FUNCTIONS

AFSA MEMBERS

Business attire for all events except AFSA's Honors Banquet which requires evening wear for ladies, and a tuxedo or dark suit for gentlemen.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Service Dress Uniform is required for all events except AFSA's Honors Banquet which requires Mess Dress or Semi-Formal Uniform

CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 20, 2016

Conference guests arrive during the day. Special evening events include:

- **InfoExpo:** Meet & Greet with Exhibitors and Sponsors
- **Theme Party:** "A Texas Roundup"
- **Summer Concert Series Event** with very special entertainer (Open to all convention attendees and special guests)

Sunday, August 21, 2016

- AFSA Gives Back Professional Development Forums:

- Marines, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors & Coasties (M.A.S.S.C.) Transitioning Workshop
- (Open to all Military Service Members; Active, Retired, Veterans, DoD Civilians)

Monday, August 22, 2016

- **AFSA President's Reception & Dinner** (open to all convention attendees and special guests)
- **Professional Development Forum:** with CMSAF James Cody (Open to all Military Service Members; Active, Retired, Veterans, DoD Civilians)

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

- **Professional Development Forums:**
 - On the Brink with CMSgt (Ret) Anthony Brinkley
 - MAJCOM/COCOM Panel
 - Legislative Forum with Member of U.S. Congress
 - M.A.S.S.C. Transitioning Workshop
- (Open to all Military Service Members; Active, Retired, Veterans, DoD Civilians)



Wednesday, August 24, 2016

- **Professional Development Forums:**
 - Former CMSAFs
 - Meet & Greet with the Formers
 - Department of Veterans Affairs
 - M.A.S.S.C. Hiring Fair
 - General Mark A. Welch, III
- (Open to all Military Service Members; Active, Retired, Veterans, DoD Civilians)

Thursday, August 24, 2016

- Final AFSA Meeting
- Conference Adjourned

Note All military members on Active Duty and DoD Civilian personnel may attend the Professional Development Forums free of charge.*

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During the CMSAF #1 Ring Exhibit Dedication ceremony, Enlisted Heritage Research Institute Director Chief Master Sgt. Rick Fanning listens as Chief Airey's son, retired Chief Master Sgt. Dale Airey, talks about life with his dad. The dedication ceremony was held April 30 at Enlisted Heritage Hall at Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex, Ala. (U.S. Air Force photo/Jamie Pitcher)

A HERITAGE HALL OF OUR OWN

A GALLERY OF ENLISTED AIR FORCE MEMORABILIA DEDICATED IN ALABAMA

In 1983, the concept of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall began as a few displays honoring enlisted Air Force Members in the hallways of the SNCO Academy at Gunter AFB, Alabama. After outgrowing that location due to numerous donations, the Heritage Hall moved in 1986 to its current location adjacent to the SNCO Academy. The focus continues to be highlighting and educating visitors on

the Air Force Enlisted heritage, history, and contributions from the U.S. Army Air Corps days of balloon aviation through current operations.

While its humble beginnings were four simple displays, the Heritage Hall now features over 180 museum quality displays showcasing over 2,000 artifacts. These artifacts include the Medals of Honor awarded to Forrest Vosler, John Levitow, Richard Etchberger, and

Red Erwin; Eugene Bullard's pilot's license, Chief Master Sgt. Grace Peterson's first female Chief stripes, as well as countless other precious items. Displays include monuments to campaigns, the AC-47 "spooky" plane with a John Levitow mannequin, tail gunners, flags, uniforms and memorabilia. One of the most popular displays is the "Wall of Achievers," featuring prior Enlisted Air Force members who attained the rank

of General Officer or other professions of note. The wall features Chuck Norris, Johnny Cash, Charlton Heston, President George W. Bush, as well as many others. Another powerful display includes a replica Hanoi Hilton POW cell, featuring a mannequin in shackles along with the signature of any previously held POW who has visited the Hall and was willing to enter the exhibit. This is an emotional visual for over 25,000 visitors each year.

In 1999, the Enlisted Heritage Hall hosted the first 5K run on Gunter which has evolved into the primary fundraiser for the non-profit funds that are used to build new exhibits. On April 9, 2016, the Heritage Hall hosted the 17th annual 5K/1-mile fun-run fundraiser in downtown Montgomery, starting at the Riverwalk Stadium. This year's race was dedicated to all First Sergeants—past, present and future.

This year we offered a “phantom racer” option for \$20, which allowed registrants to support the Enlisted Heritage Hall, but did not require them to be present at the race to receive a participation shirt.

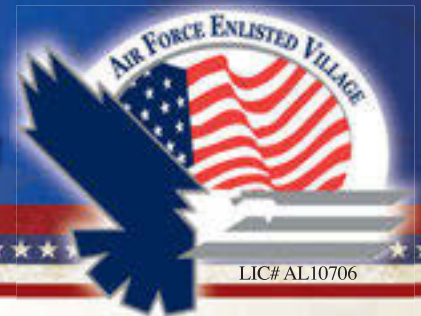
In conjunction with the phantom racer option, there is an Air Force-wide challenge for the organization with the greatest participation and fundraising. For organizations raising over \$500, a “leaf” will be engraved in the entrance of the Heritage Hall on the giving tree; \$1,000 will earn a brick paver in the traditional brick plaza at the Heritage Hall; and donations of \$1,500 will earn a large brick paver in the First Sergeant Monument area. Brick pavers will be engraved as requested.

Corporate sponsorship was also encouraged and was highlighted on the race tee-shirts, swag bags and signage at the race.

The Heritage Hall will expand in 2016 with a new 4,000-square-foot addition. Expansion plans include focus on Iraq and Afghanistan operations, as well as a wing titled “Every Airman has a Story.” New displays will include the history of the First Sergeant, Wounded Warriors, Specialty uniforms, as well as OSI, PME, and Specific AFSCs.

Air University Foundation, under the direction of Col. (Ret.) Joe Panza, has begun a fundraising campaign to raise the \$250,000 needed to construct displays for the new addition. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to Air University Foundation, 55 LeMay Plaza, Room 226, Montgomery, AL, 36112, in the name of the Enlisted Heritage Hall. For more information about donations, please feel free to contact the Enlisted Heritage Hall at (334) 416-5321 to receive donation instructions.

A ONE OF A KIND COMMUNITY, A KIND & CARING MISSION



Your Air Force Enlisted Village is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose core mission is to provide a safe, secure home for surviving spouses of retired enlisted U.S. Airmen. Bob Hope Village is a residential, independent living community with its own assisted living and memory support residence, Hawthorn House, located on the campus. Eligible residents in need may apply for financial assistance through our Benevolent Program which is funded by donors like you.

*“We worked together to support
our family and our country.”*

—Marjorie, Bob Hope Village resident

Read Marjorie's story at afev.us/news

For more information about residency at Bob Hope Village or Hawthorn House, call 800-258-1413
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The Air Force Enlisted Village is an official charity of the United States Air Force and a worthy charity of the Air Force Sergeants Association.



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A LIFE OF SERVICE AND HONOR



STATON JAMES D. STATON (Age 78)

An outspoken advocate for this nation's enlisted servicemen and servicewomen, Jim was a charter member of the Air Force Memorial Foundation's Board of Trustees, where he was instrumental in advancing the Air Force Memorial from an idea to a national

monument. Jim tirelessly supported our aging veterans as the Chairman of the Board of the Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation.

Early in his Air Force career, Jim married the love of his life, Peggy, and they raised their four children at Air

Force bases around the country. Jim rose to the level of Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force and retired in 1982. After leaving the military, Jim joined the Air Force Sergeants Association and served as its Executive Director for two decades. He was also the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Airman Memorial Foundation and the Airman Memorial Museum.

➔ Memorial donations are graciously accepted in his honor to the AFSA Scholarship program at www.hqafsa.org/scholarships.

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2015 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE CEO

By Robert L. Frank



AS WE LOOK BACK ON 2015, WE DO SO WITH SIGNIFICANT PRIDE AND A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT THERE IS GREATER WORK YET TO BE DONE.

I want to first take a moment to recognize the great team here at Headquarters. I am extremely proud of efforts put forth from YOUR phenomenal staff: Mark, Keith, Morgan, Mel, Juanita, Teresa, Francesca, Brenda, Andy, Paul, Judy, Jennifer, Yolanda, Jammie, Ashley, Janice, Patrice, Dee, John, LaToya, Michelle, Johnathan, Jimmy, and Ashley. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge staff members who have moved on but played a critical role in AFSA's great successes: Ernest, Darla, Jim, Scott, Betty, Charles, Isaac, Tracy, and Shane.



On the Cover:
The United States
Capitol dome in
Washington, D.C.

Before I discuss the year in review, I want to take a moment to look forward to the future,

as our past performance and impending outlook has given the organization a moment to pause and ask, "Is it time to evolve?" We will be presenting several facts over the coming months concerning the state of AFSA, the needs of the organization, and opportunities to be the enlisted corps' strongest and most diverse voice on Capitol Hill. This opportunity came from quality analysis of our lobbying efforts, fiscal status, future commitments, and most importantly, shifting landscapes on the Hill, in the halls of the Pentagon, and right at home in your communities. We are excited for the opportunity to execute the changes—if you approve—and I encourage you to get the accurate facts before you make your decision as to how your delegates will vote. In the end, we look forward to a much stronger AFSA for the future!

In 2015, your AFSA was faced with great expectations and even greater challenges, all of which your Headquarters Staff met head-on. We launched an upgraded membership database system (known as iMIS20), initiated a new dues rate, reorganized the staff to provide AFSA a strategic advantage in the VSO/MSO community while being more efficient, and revitalized our International Convention, all while maintaining a balanced membership—a challenge other VSOs/MSOs found virtually impossible to meet.

As many of you know, our upgraded membership database system launched in January 2015. At the 11th hour, Headquarters learned of significant bottlenecks that made a full system launch impossible. Loaded with key compatibility issues, contractual glitches, funding debates, and continuity concerns, the year started with the greatest challenge AFSA would face in 2015. However, the dedicated team of professionals on staff worked diligently and fought tirelessly to create workarounds to ensure business processes could continue.

Along with the database launch, the association unveiled the “5 for \$25” campaign in January with the hope that membership would significantly increase. This came with the understanding that 5 for \$25 would cost AFSA in both manpower and actual dollars. By the end of the second quarter, it was clear the campaign was not going to achieve the results leaders had hoped for and, frankly, expected. Our membership numbers did remain surprisingly constant—a significant win compared to our counterparts in D.C., but the costs associated with 5 for \$25 no longer made this a viable option. Upon our analysis and advice, the International Executive Council, chose to end 5 for \$25 as the financial risk was too great

for the association given the results. The program was not a failure, but an opportunity to learn and improve as an organization.

As we continued to monitor throughout the year, and confirmed during our 2015 annual close-out, I report to you that we suffered a deficit for the fourth year in a row. The charts you see on page 12 include all of our funds, including the general fund, scholarships, and the benefit fund. Rest assured, we have solid financial investments keeping us more than solvent, but as good stewards of your association’s finances, this is a clear signal for change. As we look for more efficient and cost-effective ways to do business, we will aggressively work on strengthening AFSA’s investment portfolio to ensure sustainability for the future.

We came in almost on target with our projected 2015 expenditures, and were within 1 percent of the budget. Two areas that always seem to exceed expectations include the costs associated with the International Convention, as well as maintaining the Airmen Memorial Building. The major reason for the deficit in 2015 was related to our expected income. The 5 for \$25 campaign was expected to bring in significant revenue and membership to strengthen the association. In reality, the majority of those who took advantage of the 5 for \$25 were current members who have historically renewed at the normal dues rate, and not as many new members joined under this program as we had hoped. In fact, we recognized 76 percent of our projected dues revenue for 2015, and the *AFSA Magazine* advertising sales earned 37 percent of our projections. However, our contribution income increased by 325 percent, due to an unusually large number of beneficiary

payments. I would like to say you shouldn’t worry about the financial state of your AFSA, but if we don’t find the right kind of changes, that cause for concern may come one day. As I mentioned, we have invested wisely to account for the waxing and waning in our budget, and we are prepared to reduce costs as necessary in the future, with reduced services. This is not all doom and gloom, but intended to provide you the facts that exist. Fortunately, your International Executive Council has taken steps to look to the future based on our recommendations, and we are excited to see a few of them come to fruition. AFSA leadership has initiatives for 2016–2017 that will keep the association strong, viable, and relevant for many decades to come.

As many know, Headquarters is always looking for new products to offer our members through opportunities with insurance providers and valued business partners. These offers create a potential non-dues revenue stream that helps keep our dues rates as low as possible while increasing AFSA’s financial sustainability. Mass-mailing is the marketing tool of choice for most companies. You will get mailings from time to time, but I want to assure you that we offer only the highest quality products that provide the greatest benefit to a large segment of the membership. I also want to remind our members that when you use the AFSA credit card from USAA, AFSA receives royalties on all qualifying purchases. It’s another way to support your beloved organization. We will also present a few other opportunities in the coming months with added products and programs.

The most important benefit AFSA provides to its membership is its advocacy work on Capitol Hill. After all, looking out for enlisted members is the reason this

Association was founded. A year filled with both challenges and opportunities, 2015 was a whirlwind for your Military and Government (M&G) Relations team and once again, they performed admirably. We saw successes in the repeal for COLA cuts for future military retirees entering service after Jan. 1, 2016; commissary funding cuts (again); and proposed fee increases for health care. M&G engaged to restore Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) eligibility for current spouses if an SBP-eligible former spouse dies, as well as in consolidating multiple VA community care programs into a single framework. M&G placed special emphasis on protecting Basic Allowance for Housing for all personnel demographics, enacting provisions to strengthen service members' financial literacy in the National Defense Authorization Act, as well as expanding mental health support for veterans via passage of the Clay Hunt SAV Act. The icing on 2015's legislative cake was Congress finally putting to rest a decade-long effort known as the "annual Doc Fix." This statutory formula used to determine Medicare/TRICARE reimbursement payments influenced many doctors' business decisions, which in turn influenced network participation, and in the end, affected their ability to deliver medical care for active duty members and families, as well as retirees.

Your M&G team's engagement with legislators in Washington, D.C., has never been stronger. While the team continues to maintain relationships with existing coalition partners, it is expanding the Association's sphere of influence in other areas of government by seeking potential partners for future efforts. As always, M&G needs your help to identify issues of importance and it relies on your engagement with your elected officials. Your continued use of the

Legislative Action Center (think modern version of a letter-writing campaign) to communicate with your elected officials is but one way to augment our advocacy efforts in Washington.

Just prior to the close of 2015, the Member and Field (M&F) Relation and Communications Directorates combined under one director to provide member-focus attention to the field, its leadership, and our 100,143 members. The database upgrade, from an M&F perspective, provided our field leadership with a web-based platform that was leaps and bounds ahead, compared to the previous version which was more than 10 years old. The Headquarters was able to provide report access in multiple formats. In addition, we introduced our new and improved multifunctional website platform, which offers a "Chapter Toolbox," real-time reporting for IT-related issues, training modules, and many more outstanding links for Chapter use.

We finished the year with a slightly higher end-strength than 2014; 23,827 Airmen decided to join the fight with us, and 10,697 continued to be part of something bigger than themselves. Our special membership campaign fell short of leadership expectations, but a large part of the credit for maintaining our balanced membership goes to the 5 for \$25 campaign.

The 2015 International Convention was an outstanding event. We were honored to host CMSAF James A. Cody, as well as the Enlisted Board of Director and Spouses Conferences. Many thanks to CMSgt (Ret) Gerardo Tapia and CMSgt Stanley Cadell for their time and dedication in adding to the Conference's and Convention's success. Big plans are

in the works for the 2016 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, so mark your calendars and plan to join us August 20-24, 2016, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio. We look forward to representation from EVERY chapter to discuss and decide the most significant change to the organization since the Auxilliary was merged with AFSA to be one unified association representing military, veteran, and family personnel.

I am honored to be your Chief Executive Officer and extremely excited about where we will take AFSA in 2016, and beyond. As always, your Headquarters is here to serve all of you to the best of our ability with the goal of strengthening our association. We do have our work cut out for us with the 114th Congress, but rest assured we are primed and ready to be your agents on Capitol Hill. Growing membership will continue to be our goal for 2016 so that we can continue to be the voice of the enlisted here in Washington, D.C. We also look to evolve the association, if the time is right, and we appear to be at that juncture. You all are the key to AFSA's growth, and the solid foundation from which we advocate. As I always say, there is great strength in numbers, we are one powerful voice, and we are stronger together!

As your staff, we take pride in serving our leaders, chapters, and members. We look forward to positive change to strengthen our stance and purpose on Capitol Hill: defending the enlisted corps and their families...a tradition since 1961.



Robert L. Frank,
AFSA Chief Executive Officer

By Keith A. Reed, Director, Member and Field Relations and Communications



The power and effectiveness of a team can never be underestimated or overstated. There are 15 Major League Baseball teams, 30 National Basketball Association teams, 30 National Hockey League teams, and 32 National Football League teams in the United States and Canada. These teams employ individuals with great and outstanding knowledge, skills, and abilities. Moreover, many participate and share their gifts and talents in their communities and are involved in and support many different charities around the world. People, just ordinary people, with extraordinary gifts and talents, come together to build a solid team that is focused on a common set of goals and a common purpose.

Many would agree that, in the 1960s, the Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association had teams built with powerhouse rosters. The Celtics have accrued the most NBA Championships in the history of the league with 17. The Celtics organization formed teams that could not be beaten. On their roster

were names like Bill Russell, Larry Bird, and Paul Pierce, just to name a few. But even as great as Bill Russell was, how great would the team have been without its other key elements, players like Bob Cousy, Tommy Heinsohn, Sam Jones, Jim Lostcuff, and K.C. Jones; with Frank Ramsey and Satch Sanders coming off the bench? One could go further and ask how great would Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls have been without Scottie Pippen? Together, that team won six NBA Championships.

Teamwork is equally important in the National Football League. "America's Team," the Dallas Cowboys, most would agree, displayed the greatness attribute of true teamwork in the '90s. The big three: Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and Michael Irvin were the hottest thing out during their reign. However, here's a thought: how great would Troy Aikman have been without players like Mark Tuinei, Mark Stepnoski, John Gesek, and Nate Newton? How great would Emmitt Smith have been without Daryl

Johnston? Or how great would Michael Irvin have been without Alvin Harper?

John Donne once wrote, "No man is an island, Entire of itself, Every man is a piece of the continent, A part of the main."

AFSA is Congressionally Chartered to advocate for improvements in quality of life for all Armed Forces service members. We are made up of 129 chapters from around the world. These chapters are made up of individuals with great and outstanding knowledge, skills, and abilities. All are volunteers who share their gifts and talents on their bases and in their communities and are involved in and support charities worldwide. People, just ordinary people, with extraordinary gifts and talents, coming together to build a solid AFSA that is focused on a common set of goals and a common purpose: advocating for US!

Few would disagree that AFSA is stronger together than we could ever be apart; that what divides us is minuscule in comparison to what unites us. If pay affects one, then pay affects all. If education is an issue to one, then education is an issue for us all. If health care concerns affect one member's ability to sleep at night, then health care affects us all.

Colin Powell once wrote, "A life is about its events; it's about challenges met and overcome ... or not; it's about successes and failures. But more than all of these put together, it's about how we touch and are touched by the people we meet. It's all about the people." The AFSA and its 129 chapters of ordinary people, doing extraordinary things—we are truly **Stronger Together!**

YOUR EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS

AFSA members enjoy a wide range of specialized benefits and valuable discounts from service professionals, retailers, and suppliers. In order to receive your discounts, please inform our partners that you are an AFSA member.

YOUR AFSA IN ACTION

- Full-time representation on Capitol Hill with elected leaders.
- Single-service orientation AFSA works for YOU.

For more information, call AFSA Military & Government Relations Office at (301) 899-3500 or (800) 638-0594 x291.



Subscriptions

AFSA MAGAZINE

Free subscription to the *AFSA Magazine*, the only publication dedicated to serving Air Force members and their families. The magazine is sent electronically to all members through email, and to some, as an in-home publication. The *AFSA Magazine* is a quarterly magazine delivered Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, and is also available by subscription for \$20 per year. For Cyber-Members desiring to subscribe to an in-home publication, please contact HQ AFSA at (800) 638-0594, ext. 288.

AIR FORCE TIMES: SUBSCRIPTION DISCOUNT

Subscribe to the *Air Force*

Times for only \$39.95 for 52 issues and you'll save 76 percent off the newsstand price. *Air Force Times* will also donate \$5 to AFSA for every paid subscription. Visit www.airforcetimes.com/association/afsa or call (800) 368-5718.



Education

AFSA SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

To date, over \$2.1 million in scholarships have been awarded through AFSA's International Charities. AFSA provides academic scholarships to members' dependent children under age 23. The AFSA Auxiliary provides academic scholarships to members less than 23 years of age and Education Grants to members who are over 19 years of age. Auxiliary Education Grants are available to Auxiliary members to help meet professional requirements of a career change. For additional information, visit the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org and select "Scholarships" under the "About Us" tab.

FELA FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Financial Education & Literacy Advisers (FELA) offers a complimentary, online financial education program known as LifeCents for VALOR for AFSA members and their families. Through this program, AFSA members and their families get a complimentary, personalized financial health assessment; special offers on financial services; and learn to better manage their money. AFSA members can sign up for LifeCents for VALOR by visiting the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org; look under "Membership Benefits" and click on the "FELA" icon. To learn more about VALOR, visit www.valorusa.org or send an email to info@valorusa.org.

FREE SAT & ACT COLLEGE TEST PREP PROGRAMS

In alliance with the DoD and supported by patriotic NFL and MLB players, eKnowledge is donating world-class SAT and ACT College Test Preparation Programs to military service members and their families. To order the free software, visit www.eknowledge.com/AFSA. To order by telephone, call (951) 256-4076 and reference AFSA.

There is a nominal charge of \$13.84 for the cost of materials, processing, distribution, and customer service.

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY \$1,000 AFSA GRANT

Bellevue University offers AFSA members a \$1,000 military tuition waiver to attend Bellevue University as part of our Military Partners program. This applies to new students in a Bellevue University program. Bellevue University will also waive the application fee and provide a Personalized Degree Plan for each student. To apply for the waiver, contact our prior service enrollment team at (402) 557-7632, or at military@bellevue.edu or willie.woolford@bellevue.edu.

TRIDENT UNIVERSITY

Trident is a WASC-accredited, 100-percent online university, offering quality bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degree programs, and dedicated military and veteran student support. AFSA members, spouses, and dependents benefit from a tuition discount of 15 percent for bachelor's degrees, and 27.5 percent for master's/MBA degrees under TUI's military tuition assistance program. In addition, there is no cost for



textbooks, the \$75 application fee is waived (bachelor's and master's degrees only), and a pre-admissions credit transfer evaluation is offered at no charge or obligation. For more information, visit www.trident.edu.

COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (CSU)

Columbia Southern University, one of the nation's top online universities, extends a hearty welcome to the Air Force Sergeants Association as a member of the learning partner tuition discount program! As a partner, Air Force Sergeants Association employees and members can take advantage of a 10 percent tuition discount and application fee waiver (a \$25 value) through the learning partnership. Employees, along with their spouses and children, can learn more about these benefits by visiting www.columbiasouthern.edu.

FAMILY FOCUSED SCHOLARSHIP (CSU)

Columbia Southern Education Group (CSEG) is proud to support the AFSA Gives Back program through the Family Focused Scholarship. The Family Scholarship is open

to all AFSA members in the family member category. The scholarship will cover up to \$16,500 in one online degree program (associate's, bachelor's or master's) at either Columbia Southern University or Waldorf College. The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition for up to 60 semester hours or 24 consecutive months in the selected online degree program, whichever comes first. For more information on the Family Focused Scholarship, please call CSEG at (888) 520-5836.

WALDORF COLLEGE

As a member of the AFSA, you, your spouse, and children will receive a 10 percent discount on your Waldorf online degree tuition. We feature several regionally accredited online bachelor's degrees. In addition, you, your spouse, and children qualify for a \$500, one-time scholarship towards first-year tuition costs (textbook costs are the responsibility of the student). To learn more about your benefits, please visit our Learning Partners page at www.waldorf.edu/Online/Partners/Learning-Partners

or call (877) 267-2157 to speak with an admissions representative today.

- Waldorf College Hero Behind the Hero Scholarship
- Waldorf College Hero Behind the Hero Scholarship Application
- Waldorf Learning Partner Scholarship
- Waldorf Learning Partner Application

Air Force Sergeants Association Career

Enrichment Center: AFSA is proud to partner with Waldorf, which provides a 50 percent tuition discount on select courses and is available to AFSA members currently serving in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.



Insurance Benefits

LIFE, HEALTH, DENTAL & CANCER INSURANCE (MERCER CONSUMER)

For information and applications for any of these insurance plans, please contact Mercer Consumer toll free at (800) 882-5541 or visit www.afsainsurance.com.

Coverage may vary or not be issued in all states.

- Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Plan
- Cancer Expense Insurance
- Group Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- Short-Term Recovery Insurance Plan
- Term Life Insurance
- TRICARE Supplement Insurance
- Life Line Health Screenings
- Youth Life Insurance Plan
- AFSA New Member Term Life Insurance Benefit

AFSA NEW MEMBER TERM LIFE INSURANCE BENEFIT

New first-time AFSA members (one-time only) under the age of 40 receive \$10,000 of Term Life Insurance provided at no cost for 12 months. For more information, contact Marsh Affinity Group Services toll free at (800) 882-5541 or online at www.afsainsurance.com.

DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION CARD

AFSA members and dependents have a Prescription Discount Benefit. Save an average of 20 percent on prescription drugs not covered by insurance and as much as 50 percent on select generic medication when ordering by mail. To print your prescription discount card, visit www.afsainsurance.com, click on "Personal Insurance," click on "Prescription Discount Card," and then click on "Print a card now!"

YOUR EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS

HOME & AUTO

Protect what's important to you with affordable insurance from USAA. USAA offers top-rated coverage at low rates. Combine that with award-winning service—in fact, USAA was ranked one of *Business Week's* top two "Customer Service Champs" the last four years in a row. To make it easy for you, you can do it all online—quote, buy, print ID cards, and much more. Call USAA at (877) 499-AFSA (2372) or visit www.usaa.com/afsa. Also, take a look at these additional resources:

- Leaving Military Life? Make Sure Your Health is Covered
- Traveling? 7 Ways to Help Keep Your Money Safer
- What a Home Inspection Can Do for You
- Market Commentary: Budget Battle Takes Toll on the Markets

LEGAL SHIELD

No matter how traumatic, no matter how trivial, whatever your situation, we are here to help. From real estate to divorce advice, identity theft, and beyond, we have your rights covered. In addition to this prepaid legal services plan, you can get the experts on your side with the optional Identity Theft Shield plan. Services include access to your credit report (or consumer credit disclosure), consultations, expert restoration, and more. Visit www.prepaidlegal.com/info/



[airforcesergeants.org](http://www.airforcesergeants.org) or call (850) 624-4314.

AFSA USAA REWARDS CREDIT CARD

Support the Air Force Sergeants Association with the AFSA USAA Rewards™ Credit Card, available from American Express® Card or MasterCard®. With either card, you can support AFSA's mission to advocate improved quality of life and economic fairness for Air Force enlisted members and their families. Get low variable rates on the AFSA USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard® and American Express Card. USAA Bank will make a contribution to AFSA when you open an account, make eligible purchases, and keep an active account. For more information, please call USAA at (877) 499-AFSA (2372) or visit the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org, look under "Member Benefits," and click on the link under "Credit Cards."



Travel Discounts

GREAT WOLF LODGE DISCOUNT

AFSA members get 10 percent off Great Wolf Lodge's best available rates! Clear your calendar, pack your swimsuit, and head to any of Great Wolf Lodge's eleven Resorts. Just imagine—colossal indoor waterparks, exciting arcade, a luxurious spa, and fantastic restaurants—all under one roof. After all, you deserve a little fun for all your hard work! Visit www.greatwolf.com or call (800) 905-9653 and use corporate code **AIRF207A**.

RENTAL CAR DISCOUNTS

In most cases, special discounts from Alamo and Enterprise are lower than those available with a government ID card.

Enterprise/National: To visit the Enterprise/National and AFSA partnered website, visit the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org and look under "Member Benefits" and click on the link under "Alamo or Enterprise" icon, or call (800) 261-7331 and use Promo Code **NA16w01**.

For Hertz, visit www.hertz.com and click on "Enter a Discount or Promo Code" and enter **10635** in the space marked Discount/CDP/Club Code or call (800) 654-6511 and use Promo Code **0010635**.



Shopping

GOVX

Start using a unique benefit you've earned! GovX offers AFSA members VIP access to GovX.com, where you



get exclusive savings on the brands you love!

- 20,000+ popular tech, tactical, golf, outdoor, and active-lifestyle products and apparel
- Exclusive prices on major league sports and event tickets
- For every purchase you make as an AFSA member on GovX, a portion of the proceeds is donated back to support AFSA programs.

Visit www.GovX.com/AFSA to register for free and start saving today! Questions? Call GovX Customer Support at (888) 468-5511.

AFSA TEAM GIFT ITEMS

Share your AFSA pride! AFSA has a wide range of very reasonably priced AFSA caps, commemorative coins, decals, medal, pins, plaques, awards, and certificates available 24/7. Visit the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org and click on "About Us" then select "AFSA Store."

AFSA ONLINE SHOPPING MALL

Azigo Cash-Back Online Shopping Mail is an online shopping mall where AFSA members can earn lots of cash back for shopping at your favorite stores. Receive cash back from stores such as Kohl's, Target, Nordstrom, Zappos, 1-800 Flowers, and Sephora. And what's more, you will always have the peace of mind that you aren't missing out on a sale, because

you have your own personal stream of offers. To top it all off, Azigo allows you to stay organized by creating your own collections of brands. That way you don't have to weed through offers from brands you don't care about. Visit <https://azigo.com/aa-fsa/> to shop and earn cash today!

VETS-CARS

The Vets-Cars Group is a veteran-owned-and-operated company dedicated to providing AFSA members with a respectful and superior automobile purchase and ownership experience. The Vets-Shield vehicle service contract was developed as a true "For Vets - By Vets" product. It is top-of-the-line coverage, mirroring factory coverage, and it is price-regulated. For more information, visit www.vetscars.com.

DELL COMPUTERS

Exclusive discounts and promotions for AFSA Members on Dell notebooks, mini laptops, work stations, and much more. Check out the new Dell notebook colors: pink, red, black, green, brown, white, and more. Visit the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org,

look under "Member Benefits," and click on the link under "Dell." Or call (877) 907-3355 and mention your AFSA member discount.

APPLE SYSTEMS

Thinking about buying a Mac, iPod, or iPhone? Visit the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org, look under "Member Benefits," and click on the link under "Apple." Or call (877) 377-6362 and mention your AFSA member discount.

FLOWERS FROM FTD

AFSA members can automatically save 20 percent on floral and gift purchases. Visit the AFSA website at www.hqafsa.org, look under "Member Benefits," and click on the link under "FTD." Or call (800) SEND-FTD (736-3383) and use the promo code **4578**.



Communication

WIREFLY—WIRELESS CELL PHONE DISCOUNTS

Shop for the latest phones from top wireless carriers, including Verizon Wireless, Sprint, and T-Mobile!

Discounts available from \$50-\$100 or more, including free phones and accessories, with many top manufacturers to choose from! Free shipping and free return shipping on all orders. Get the latest smartphones at a discount while signing up for the plans you need including new accounts, upgrades, add-ons, and family plans. Don't pay retail prices any more—get your discounted phones by visiting www.wirefly.com.



Employment

AFJROTC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

AFJROTC has employment opportunities for recently retired or retiring Air Force members. AFJROTC currently operates 869 units worldwide with expansion plans to 955 units in the near future. To request information on how to become an AFJROTC instructor, call (866) 235-7682 (ext. 5275/5300/0261/0371) or visit www.afoats.af.mil/afjrotc/instructors.asp for complete instructor requirements and application information.

PUBLICATIONS & INFORMATION

Communication, an informed membership, and an active membership committee are keys to the success of an organization. AFSA fulfills these critical functions by distributing information through its *AFSA Magazine*, legislative bulletins, newsletters, and other publications.

AFSA MAGAZINE

AFSA Magazine is AFSA's premier publication and is used to inform members, congressional representatives, Department of Defense and Veterans Administration officials, and the public about the issues, topics, events, and actions affecting Air Force enlisted members and their families. *AFSA Magazine* is the only magazine dedicated solely to Air Force Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command enlisted

members—active duty, retired, and veteran—and their families.

AFSA Magazine reports on AFSA's legislative efforts; Air Force, VA and DoD news; AFSA member activities; and other special features to let readers know what our Airmen, of yesterday and today, did and continue to do to keep our nation safe and ensure our democratic way of life.

AFSA Magazine was published six times during the last fiscal year. The

January/February issue was a special Enlisted Almanac that provided up-to-date information on base locations; military pay and compensation; Air Force structure and end strength; and entitlements for active duty, reserve components, retiree, and veteran components. Supplemented with charts and graphs, the annual Enlisted Almanac brings an understanding and perspective that no other magazine can match. Other *AFSA Magazine* issues were published in March/April (with





AFSA'S PUBLICATIONS PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN AFSA INTERNATIONAL AND ITS MEMBERS.

the AFSA Annual Report), May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December.

Other Publications and News Items

AFSA E-NEWS

The e-News is a monthly electronic newsletter that presents information about membership benefits, current campaigns, and thoughts from the executive Council and Headquarters staff. To access past newsletters, visit www.votervoice.net/AFSA/newsletters.

HEADLINE ROUNDUP

The Roundup compiles headlines from a variety of news sources that may be of interest to our members. The easy "click on the headline" format lets readers choose the articles they want to see in full. This product is delivered to inboxes a couple of times a week. To access past Roundups, visit www.votervoice.net/AFSA/newsletters.

WASHINGTON REPORT

The Washington Report provides the latest information on the legislative front, as well as informing members about AFSA activity with elected officials, senior Air Force leaders, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and

other government leaders. To access past Reports, visit the publications page on AFSA's website.

CALL-TO-ACTION ALERT

Subscribers to AFSA's Legislative Action Center can be alerted via email when it is imperative that lawmakers hear from them on key issues. Included in the email is a sample message that members can edit or send as is to their elected officials. To subscribe to this service, visit the Legislative Action Center on the AFSA website.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

AFSA's Legislative Action Center is a hub of information about all things legislative. On this site members can search for and communicate with their elected officials, sign up for action alerts, search for legislation by keyword, and take part in the latest AFSA advocacy or survey campaigns.

TWITTER

If AFSA staff members are in sessions on Capitol Hill and are permitted to use smartphones, they'll report live via the social media service. Follow us @AFSAHQ.

FACEBOOK

The AFSA Facebook is managed by HQ AFSA, and provides information

to members in a way that can be engaged, shared, and commented on. To be part of the conversation, like AFSA on Facebook.

INSTAGRAM

AFSA uses its Instagram account to share photos and video that embody all things Airmen. To follow, sign up for an Instagram account and look for AFSAHQ.

Special Publications

AFSA Fact Sheets, POW/MIA Week, Legislative Awareness Week publications, special booklets and brochures, and excerpted copies of congressional testimony, etc., are special publications that are provided throughout the year for AFSA activities and to key Total Air Force enlisted leadership.

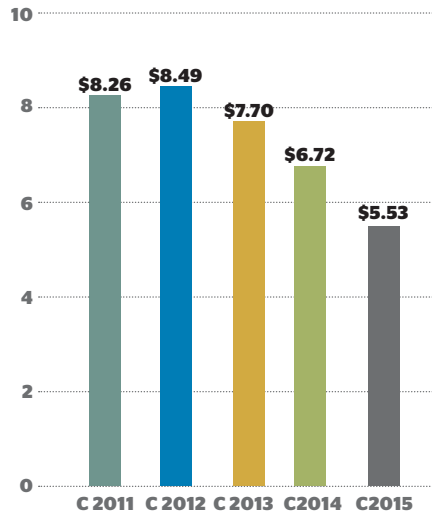
AFSA ONLINE

AFSA's website, www.hqafsa.org, is the online informational source for legislative, DoD, VA, and other Air Force news and actions. The website itself is designed to provide information to non-members and encourage them to join the Association. The site is also the portal for members to log in and access the member-only site, which has information and resources meant to enhance their membership.

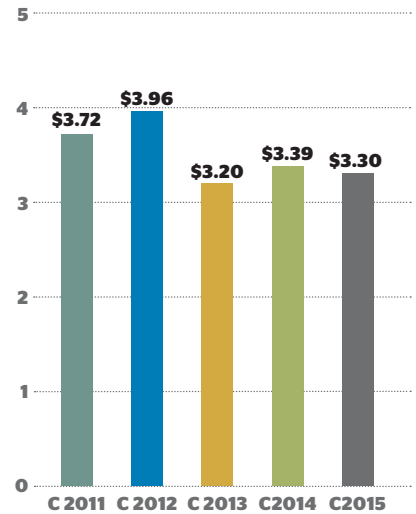
Summary

AFSA's publications provide an important link between AFSA International and its members. AFSA's publications inform members on the latest developments within Congress, DoD, VA, AF, and other agencies affecting the lives of enlisted members and their families. Additionally, they serve as visible reminders of how AFSA is representing its members.

COMBINED ASSETS
(in millions)

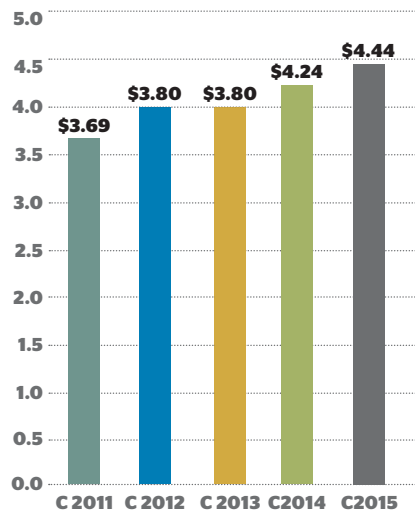


COMBINED REVENUE
(in millions)

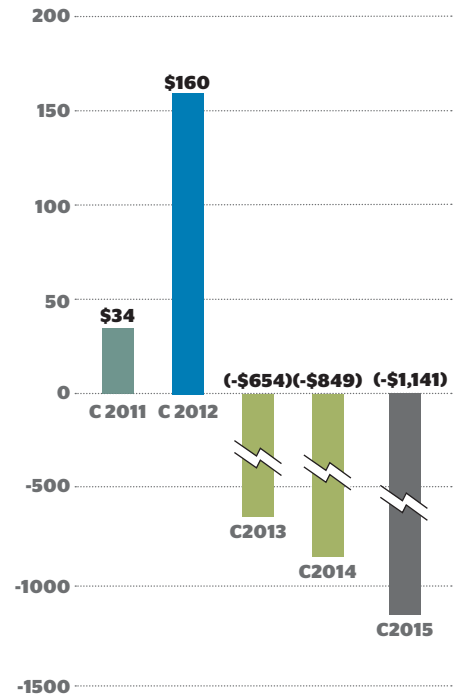


- The C2011-C2012 figures represent an accounting year beginning January and ending December.
- The Air Force Sergeants Association has implemented a new accounting period effective January 2011.
- In Combined Net Income, negative values not to scale.

COMBINED EXPENSES
(in millions)



COMBINED NET INCOME
(in thousands)



“Taking care of our own” is not just a slogan with AFSA members; it is a core value. AFSA members “take care of their own” by participating in the AFSA International Charities Programs. The charities consist of programs to which members and non-members can donate funds to help enhance the quality of life for enlisted Airmen and their families and to maintain the Airmen Memorial Building “monument” that stands as a tribute to Airmen of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Below is a synopsis of the programs through December 31, 2015.

AFSA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Over the past 55 years we have distributed over \$2 million dollars in scholarships. Air Force dependent children pursuing undergraduate degrees are eligible for scholarships. Each person pursuing a scholarship must have a valid sponsor. Sponsors must be enlisted members currently serving (active duty, Air National Guard or reserve), retired, or a veteran of the Air Force. The scholarships awarded are from \$500 to \$3,000 to students attending an accredited academic institution. The amount and total number of scholarships awarded are dependent upon funds available.

AFSA INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

AFSA International Auxiliary conducts a program to financially help AFSA Auxiliary members with a valid need of assistance to enhance their income potential through formal education and/or training. The AEG program is designed for AFSA Auxiliary members to obtain effective education and/or training to acquire improved marketable skills. Since 1990, the AFSA Auxiliary has awarded grants and scholarships totaling over \$157,700.

AIRMEN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FUND

Founded in 1983, the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF) is a not-for-profit charitable and educational assistance

organization. The organization provides funds for worthy causes such as scholarships to enlisted Airmen’s children younger than 24 years of age. Of special note, the AMF also manages, at no cost, other scholarship programs such as the Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force Scholarship program.

THE AIRMEN MEMORIAL BUILDING FUND

Built by AFSA members, the Airmen Memorial Building (AMB) is so named to represent and stand as a living monument to not one, but to all enlisted Airmen. The AMB houses the Air Force Sergeants Association

International Headquarters, The Airmen Memorial Museum, the Airmen Memorial Foundation, and the National Association of States Veterans Homes-DC Office. Donations help ensure this enlisted memorial is maintained and operated in a manner in which all Airmen can be proud.

THE AIRMEN MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Donations to the Airmen Memorial Museum helps the AMM present the Total Air Force enlisted corps through public exhibits and educational research; concentrating on America’s Airmen—their rich history, contributions, and traditions.



AIRMEN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Air Force Sergeants Association founded the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF) in 1983. What started as a museum activity evolved into the Airmen Memorial Museum (AMM) and was incorporated as a stand-alone entity in 1988. The AMF then became a leader in philanthropic and educational endeavors focusing on current and former enlisted Air Force Active Duty (AFAD), Air National Guard (ANG), and Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) members' dependent children.

In December 2015, approval continued for AMF participation in the fall 2016 Combined Federal Campaign. This was the AMF's 33rd year as the only, all-enlisted focused charity (#10517) in the national charity drive. Funds derived from this participation will support the Foundation's extensive educational activities. In CY 2015, the AMF provided administrative and financial management services to the two educational funds listed below.

1. The Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force (CMSAF) Scholarship Fund

provides scholarships to active duty and retired AFAD, AFRC, and ANG enlisted members' dependent children. In CY 2015, the CMSAFs Scholarship Committee Chaired by CMSAF #8 Sam Parish, selected 11 AFAD, ANG, and AFRC dependent children to receive scholarships totaling \$16,000. These academic excellence scholarships brought the 28-year CMSAF program's cumulative total to 270 grants worth \$383,500. Among the major contributors to this worthwhile program are the worldwide military conferences,

the graduating classes of the Senior NCO Academy, other enlisted Professional Military Education organizations, and groups where one of the former CMSAFs conducted speaking engagements around the world.

\$3,000 CMSAF Paul W. Airey Memorial Scholarship

Angelica R. Rodriguez

\$2,500 CMSAF Scholarship

Julia M. Segebarth

\$2,000 CMSAF Scholarship

John Phillip Hendershott

\$1,500 CMSAF Scholarship

Allison Rose Beckmann

\$1,000 CMSAF Scholarship

Karlee Stoll

\$1,000 CMSAF Scholarship

Jennifer Michelle Sissel

\$1,000 CMSAF Scholarship

Leonia Margaret Hunt

\$1,000 CMSAF Scholarship

Jennifer Lee Marshall

\$1,000 CMSAF Scholarship

Dylan Robert Geyer

\$1,000 CMSAF Scholarship

Mickayla Ruth Molnar

\$1,000 CMSAF Scholarship

Nathaniel Albert Heithoff

2. The Airmen Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The CY 2015 AMF Scholarship Committee met in June 2015 and selected 23 AFAD, ANG, and AFRC enlisted members'

dependent children for awards totaling \$33,500. The Veterans United Home Loans Academic Excellence Scholarship was the top scholarship at \$3,000. **The Julene Howard Memorial Scholarship and Richard Howard Scholarship**, established by CMSgt (Ret.) Richard Howard; **the Sharon Piccoli Memorial Scholarship**, established by AFSA Past President Geno Piccoli; and the **Sergeant James R. Seal Scholarship**, established by Mrs. Emma Seal were the top named awards at \$2,000 each. In addition, the AMF awarded additional sponsored scholarships: a \$1,000 scholarship (Audrey M. Andrews Memorial Scholarship), five \$1,000 scholarships sponsored by the United Services Automobile Association (USAA), five scholarships sponsored by the Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO), one \$2,000 Academic Excellence Scholarship, and seven \$1,500 Academic Excellence Scholarships. These scholarships brought the total to 560 AFM scholarship awards worth \$666,500.

\$3,000 Veterans United Home Loans Academic Excellence

Scholarship

Natalie Ebreo

\$2,000 Richard Howard Scholarship

Cecelia Pletan

\$2,000 Julene Howard Memorial Scholarship

Jordan Frotz

\$2,000 Sharon Piccoli Memorial Scholarship

Franklin Gum

\$2,000 Sgt James R. Seal Memorial Scholarship

Seth Grant

\$2,000 Academic Excellence Scholarships

Shannon Corcoran

\$1,500 Academic Excellence Scholarships

1. Danielle Norfleet

2. Rebecca Wolff

3. Michael Sheehan

4. Sarah Bailey

5. Jacob Baker

6. Hali McDonald

7. Brianna Heck

\$1,000 USAA Scholarship

1. Dustin Pletan

2. Malik Jackson

3. Bethany Rainwater

4. Vanessa Hosaka

5. Kristina Pond

\$1,000 GEICO Scholarship

1. Joshua Smith

2. Mackenzie Dewaard

3. Sherman Paul

4. Madeline Smith

5. Tayanna Todd

Founded in 1986, the Airmen Memorial Museum (AMM) proudly celebrates twenty-nine years of preserving the accomplishments of the Total Air Force Enlisted Corps.

Located in the Airmen Memorial Building, 5211 Auth Road, Suitland, Maryland, International Headquarters for the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Airmen Memorial Museum stands as a tribute to enlisted Airmen who have served in the Signal Corps (1907-1918), the Army Air Service (1918-1926), the Army Air Corps (1926-1941), the Army Air Force (1941-1947), and/or the United States Air Force (1947-present). The AMM researches, documents, and communicates the many achievements and contributions by current and former Air Force Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command enlisted men and women to our nation's air and space power. By preserving these stories, the AMM ensures that enlisted Airmen's contributions are not forgotten and that enlisted Airmen take their rightful place in America's military history.

Publications

The museum published the AMM Spotlight in the AFSA Magazine and continued to receive outstanding support from the AFSA International Headquarters. The AMM Spotlight was a special section dedicated to the

achievements of enlisted Airmen and their aircraft. The following features were published in 2015: "The Doolittle Raiders;" "Faith, Counsel, and Friendship;" "Sergeant Pilots and Guadalcanal;" "Red Air Rising;" and "The Numbers of War."

The AMM will continue to work on the process to make the AMM Spotlights and Our Heritage articles available for viewing in *AFSA Magazines* posted on AFSA's home page. Although expanded use of the internet by the museum continues to be desired and discussed, it is somewhat constricted by time, funds, and other limitations.

AMM ENSURES THAT ENLISTED AIRMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN AND THAT ENLISTED AIRMEN TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN AMERICA'S MILITARY HISTORY.

Exhibits

The *Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force Gallery* has received good reviews thus far. We are currently seeking sponsorship.

Upon entering the gallery, you are immediately greeted by the colorful flag of the CMSAFs.

The outer walls of the gallery feature portraits of all 17 Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force, dating all the way back to the first in 1967. That first, of course, is CMSAF Paul Airey, who is also memorialized in a handsome bronze bust in the new *Chiefs Gallery*.

As you walk through the many corners of the gallery, the visitor sees this new AMM display boasts the uniforms (on mannequins) of five former CMSAF. The featured Chiefs are Harlow, Barnes, McCoy, Binnicker and Benken. By far the most eye-catching (or as some visitors have commented, "unique") is the Vietnam War era powder-blue



most time studying is the large display case featuring the several-hundred count "Challenge" coin collection of CMSAF Frederick (Jim) Finch. Although many stories of the origin of the "challenge coin" exist, the version that is most widely accepted by the Air Force enlisted corps comes from the Vietnam War era. As the story goes, the challenge coin originated from the Bullet Club in Vietnam. Bullet Clubs were created by front-line fighters who carried a live, fully functional, "personalized" bullet from their weapon with them wherever they went, especially to the Hooch Bars. If a member was ever challenged to produce his bullet and could not do so, then he had to buy a round of drinks or drinks for the rest of the night.

The *Chiefs Gallery*, of course, does not forget its Sergeant-based roots. The halberd display sees to just that. A halberd, or a hatchet mounted to a 6-foot-plus handle, is mounted on the wall in the gallery. An extensive text

AIRMEN MEMORIAL MUSEUM



panel explains how the tradition of the halberd in U.S. military history dates all the way back to Sergeants in Colonial times. Please make a point the next time you are near the Washington, D.C., area to stop by AFSA International Headquarters and see this fine new display that pays homage to these USAF leaders of the last half-century.

In the summer of 2013, the AMM opened its new exhibit “Base Life.” This new exhibit, through the use of AMM artifacts as well as researched text, tells the tale of a bygone era—immediately after the WWII era when the Cold War was in its infancy. The exhibit not only looks at life on Air Force bases in the U.S., but overseas as well.

The exhibit highlights the 1950 to 1969 time period, beginning with the occupancy of Japan and Germany after the war. Visitors to the exhibit

see how these former enemy nations quickly became U.S. allies in a new war—a Cold War against the Soviets. USAF bases quickly sprang up all over the two defeated former-Axis nations. You see everything from pipes and lighters from Asia to beer steins sent home as souvenirs from Germany.

The exhibit doesn’t skip out on the base experience stateside either. From giant steel milk cans that were delivered to Andrews AFB to “I Like Ike” presidential campaign pins to recruitment books dealing with the new recruitment push for female enlistees, the visitor walking through “Base Life” gets to stroll back in time. It is our hope that the artifacts bring the feeling of the 1950s and ‘60s to life even more than an episode of “Mad Men.”

On May 27, 2009, the AMM was honored to host the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the family of the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Paul W. Airey (deceased) during a grand opening reception of the Airey Hangar. Airmen Memorial Museum’s exhibits were officially re-opened to the general public on June 1, 2009. The two hangars chronologically portray enlisted historical events, beginning with the Army

Signal Corps’ Aeronautical Division through World War II. The unique people-centered approach to interpretive, educational exhibitions used in the AMM’s galleries focus on the people who have made history.

The first hangar accurately presents the enlisted history of the U.S. Air Force and its predecessor organizations from 1907 through 1947. Significant changes were

honoring the thoughts of our Total Air Force Enlisted Corps.

The Cheney Awards displays numerous artifacts associated with this prestigious Air Force award presented for an act of valor, extreme fortitude, or for an act of self-sacrifice. The Cheney Award has been presented to 24 enlisted recipients since its first presentation in 1927. The exhibit contains award artifacts from several donors.



made to Gallery A. Five built-in displays were constructed to include a POW exhibit. A salute to “America’s Airmen of Tuskegee” with video, honoring the Tuskegee Airmen was also added. The built-ins and exhibits increased the gallery’s total display space by 25 percent.

One of the first exhibits that visitors will see is “Reflections,”

The “Atomic Missions and the End of World War II” exhibit commemorates the end of the war and the atomic missions of 1945. The exhibit features personal items from enlisted participants on both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing.

The “Poignant Memories of World War II” exhibit contains rare WWII color photography





THE AMM IS CONTINUING THE INTERIOR INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION EFFORTS TO HIGHLIGHT WOMEN IN SERVICE, AS WELL AS THE TECHNOLOGICAL, INFORMATION, AND SPACE AGES.

of the late Jeffrey Ethell and Bob Sand.

The Airey Hangar proudly displays the CMSAF Paul W. Airey exhibits as well as various exhibits depicting the lives of other enlisted personnel. One such exhibit is the “Orderly Room” exhibit, which educates visitors about the days when the orderly room was central to an organization. There is a computerized database containing the duty roster, a listing of Air Force enlisted members and their Air Force service. For a small donation, visitors can expand this database by entering notations about their own military service or a family member’s service to the nation.

The anchor of Airey Hangar is “BEAR (Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources) Base” exhibit. “BEAR Base” is an interactive exhibit allowing visitors to enter and get a true sense of a base having minimum essential facilities to house, sustain, and support operations to include, if required, a stabilized runway, taxiways, and aircraft parking

areas—Air Force expeditionary capabilities. The exhibit is co-sponsored by USSOCOM Deployment Cell, Alaska Structures.

The AMM is continuing the interior infrastructure expansion efforts to highlight women in service, as well as the technological, information, and space ages. We are proud to announce the addition of the USAF F-16 Thunderbird replica, donated by the United States Air Force’s Recruiting Service.

Another unique display in the lobby of the Museum is the “Enlisted Military Uniform” exhibit. The display exhibits some of the enlisted members’ uniforms from the early Signal Corps thorough today’s Air Force Service Dress Uniform. The AMM is always actively seeking both stories and artifacts. We continue to strive to constantly update and change our exhibits.

On the other side of the “Enlisted Military Uniform” exhibit is “Service Before Self,” honoring our Total Air Force Enlisted and its



predecessor organizations’ Medal of Honor recipients.

We are attempting to find more Gallery space as well as implement new Air Force Art into the museum. We also want more exhibits featuring a diverse USAF enlisted uniforms. As you can imagine, this is taking a lot of planning, as well as time and effort. These things, of course, also require financial support.

Museum Outreach Collections

The AMM’s 2015 calendar continues to be in great demand as an educational tool. The Museum’s focus in the 2015 calendar was “America’s Airpower Series—The Jet, Nuclear, and Space Age.”

The 2015 AMM Label Program celebrated and paid tribute to the contributions of air power in the jet, nuclear, and space ages and the impact of our service to our great nation. The AMM’s continued success in the

annual Combined Federal Campaign #10518, as well as AFSA members’ charitable support throughout the year and with each outreach mailing, demonstrate people’s strong interest in the AMM and its dedication to “telling the enlisted story.” The AMM receives no federal or state funding.

In CY 2015, the AMM received six donations from 16 donors, conveying 96 individual artifacts, library, and archival items. The quantity and quality of the items being donated are evidence of the Air Force enlisted community’s support for the museum’s exhibition and research programs. We will continue to seek more artifacts from “back in the day,” but a greater need right now is artifacts from both the Korean War (1950-1953) and current operations. We need to expand these exhibits, but we have few artifacts. If you are interested in helping us tell more of the Total Force enlisted corps’ story, please contact us today.

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PAST PRESIDENTS



L to R: Benny McGehee (1961-1964), Earl Lehman (1964-1965), Elmer Andrews (1965-1968), Leon Donnelly (1968-1969), Robert Long (1969-1970), John Concannon (1970-1971), Jose Rodriguez (1971-1974), and Mike Hammer (1974-1976)



L to R: John Paul May (1976-1978), Walter Scott (1978-1980), Lewis Spence (1980-1982), John Hodson (1982-1984), Charles Bryant (1984-1985), John McBrien (1985-1988), Geno Piccoli (1988-1991), and Victor Bartholomew (1991-1992)



L to R: Donald Gammon (1992-1994), Claude Klobus (1994-1997), Steven Norberg (1997-2000), Michael Parente (2000-2003), Joseph Kuchera (2003-2005), John R. McCauslin (2005-2009), Michael R. Carton (2009-2009), and Jeffrey E. Ledoux (2009-2012)

AUXILIARY PAST PRESIDENTS



L to R: Mary Hohman (1973-1974), Barbara Avery (1974-1976), Audrey Andrews (1976-1979), Jacqueline Hopkins (1979-1981), Willa Hyde (1981-1984), Phyllis Bartholomew (1984-1986), Gloria Pinksaw (1986-1988), and Shirley Mello (1988-1991)



L to R: Peggy Stala (1991-1993), LaRene Paul (1993-1994), Barbara Beichler (1994-1997), Elaine Warner (1997-2000), Kathryn Oden (2000-2003), Carolyn Whitsell (2003-2007), Carol Ruholl (2007-2008), and Marie McDowell (2008-2011)



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