

# AFSA

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2019

DEFENDING THE ENLISTED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1961 | [www.hqafsa.org](http://www.hqafsa.org)



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One-year, two-year, three-year and life membership options are available. Please call Headquarters for pricing. An *electronic subscription* to the AFSA Magazine is included in membership dues.

## EDITORIAL STATEMENT

AFSA Magazine is the only magazine dedicated solely to serving our members and their families.

We are obliged to serve the interests and concerns of 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 the 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). Donate to the AMF here.

[https://members.hqafsa.org/Members\\_AFSA/Donate/Members\\_AFSA/Fundraising/AFSA\\_Ways\\_to\\_Give.aspx](https://members.hqafsa.org/Members_AFSA/Donate/Members_AFSA/Fundraising/AFSA_Ways_to_Give.aspx)

# CONTENTS

WINTER 2019

VOL. 58 NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY..... 4

EYE ON WASHINGTON..... 7

FEATURE: AIR FORCE  
DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON..... 12

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE..... 16

FEATURE: MEMBERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT..... 24

FEATURE: FAMILY MATTERS... 27

FEATURE: WARRIOR..... 28

FEATURE: HISTORICAL  
REFLECTION..... 29

FINAL FLY-BY..... 33



**ON THE COVER:** Joint Base Andrews Airmen salute the remains of late President George H.W. Bush on Joint Base Andrews, Md., Dec. 5, 2018.

Nearly 4,000 military and civilian personnel from across all branches of the U.S. armed forces, including Reserve and National Guard components, provided ceremonial support during George H.W. Bush's, the 41st President of the United States state funeral. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Michael S. Murphy)



Michael R. Carton  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
27th International President



# PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

## MISSION

AFSA's mission is very straight forward "To advocate improved quality-of-life and economic fairness to support the well-being of our enlisted members and their families," and we have been doing this for 58 years. Our future mission remains unchanged. Yet our membership dynamic is changing. Our future depends on how successful we are at reaching out to them.

## VISION

Today, our members are younger, smarter, and more attuned to their surroundings. This generation of Airmen is looking for something to do that fulfills their individual needs. It is the chapter's responsibility, with AFSA's support, to stay current and share changes and updates, so you can continue serving your base and local communities. Regardless of the recommendations, chapters are the only place where change can effectively take place and produce a lasting long-term impact. So how do we make this transition? The Air Force is constantly changing to meet new challenges. Look at how the Air Force is making a transition to the squadron environment. Why, to meet future threats and challenges and to place decision making authority at the lowest level. Our chapters are facing similar types of challenges. No, we are not giving you more authority; but we are going to assist you as you start your transition through an old concept called outreach. Outreach is being accomplished across AFSA in some form. As we are now an inclusive (all services and all ranks) National Military Association. We need to broaden our outreach scope and efforts and that should start at home. So, how do we adopt and adapt this old school philosophy into a 21st Century Airmen's environment?

I suggest a two-pronged approach which includes your base as well as local communities.

At base level, schedule time with every commander, wing, group, and squadron, and their senior enlisted person, on a regular basis. Next, schedule time with all of the base Private Orgs to include the spouses Clubs and officer centric organizations like the Company Grade Officers Council. You only need 5-10 minutes with each to share current chapter information, answer questions, and most importantly, ask for their support and assistance at your next scheduled activity.

Within your local communities, schedule time with the Veterans Service Organizations which share AFSA's mission and vision, caring for those in uniform. Have you ever spoken to them about the AFSA and our mission? Again, you are just sharing chapter information and inviting them to participate.

Both levels of outreach are information sharing only, not a recruiting pitch. With increased visibility and AFSA name recognition your outreach efforts will bear dividends. A byproduct of your expanded outreach could be membership growth.

With an expanded outreach effort, your chapter activities can be the catalyst bringing people together. So, how do we bring people together without employing the STP volunteer principle (STP= Same Ten People)? For starters, ask one simple question.

“What do you like to do after work?” Knowing what peaks a person's interest and makes them feel good is crucial. Some like school, working out, gaming, sports, or family time. The point is everyone may not like your current activity menu. So, adjust your menu by offering options based on your question and exercise your outreach network for support. You end up with volunteers who actually want to work the event. If your chapter activity menu is appealing and you have the necessary outreach support, think of what you be able to accomplish for your base, community, and AFSA.

## MEMBERSHIP

AFSA introduced the new E-1/E-5 Reward the Recruiter/Reward the Retainer membership campaign in January. It is designed to train, educate, and reward AFSA's next generation of recruiters/retainers. The rest of your chapter plays a vital role. They are the recruiters/retainer mentors, ensuring they have the correct tools, are doing their job properly and are ultimately successful. Kudos to the Raptor Chapter, Chapter 358 at Joint Base Langley Eustis, for the idea and making it a reality. My special thanks to CMSgt Vanessa Johnson and MSgt Sharon Nichols for developing and testing the concept and congratulations to SSgt Andrew Harrison for proving the concept works. Now is the time for all good AFSA members to embrace this campaign and work it hard. In the end, your chapter and AFSA will benefit.

## FAMILY

AFSA's Mission Statement speaks to two groups of individuals, enlisted members and their families. Everyone has family and we want to ensure their safety and security now and in the future. You have a unique opportunity to help families under the AFSA Family Matters program. Your Family Matters Trustee, Mrs. Patti Dalzell, is continually providing family related concepts and ideas to your Division and Chapters to establish and promote a local Family Matters program. However, embracing the family as part of your chapter's mission requires yet another culture change and still more chapter level outreach. Do you have a Family Matters Trustee? If not, why not? Your outreach efforts must include the base and squadron Spouses Clubs and community VSO Auxiliary units. Remember you are only looking for 5-10 minutes of their time. Share your activities and ask for their help with events.

It is springtime in AFSA, so your Division Professional Airmen's Conferences will be in full swing. I encourage each of you to attend and participate to every extent possible. My thanks to all of you for what you do for our Air Force and AFSA. ***We are good people doing good things!***



Michael R. Carton  
AFSA International President

## STRONGER TOGETHER

We are AFSA, representing 100,000+ members by advocating for improved quality of life and economic fairness to support the well-being of the Total Enlisted Force

We are a United States Armed Forces Service Organization and National Military Association

We are a global association with 7 Divisions and 125 Chapters across the world

We lobby on behalf of the Enlisted Corps throughout the Halls of Congress, on Capitol Hill, the DoD, Veterans Administration and more

We support our Veterans and work to ensure they receive their earned benefits, educational opportunities, health care and services

We provide scholarships for our members and their families

We take care of all members of the Total Enlisted Corps and their families... past, present and future

We are here for you...



We invite you to join, re-new  
or give the gift of membership

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WWW.HQAFSA.ORG



CMSAF#8 Sam Parish congratulates SSgt Jeffrey Hawkins on his promotion.

# WE ARE AFSA

DEFENDING THE ENLISTED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1961



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# EYE ON WASHINGTON

## FEWER VETERAN LAWMAKERS IN THE NEW CONGRESS

Veteran experience in Congress has been in a slow, but steady decline since the early 1970's when nearly three fourths of lawmakers (73 percent) were Veterans. There was hope that we could win more seats with over 400 Veteran candidates competing in the primaries, and when more than 200 of them survived to run in November's General Election. But when the final votes were counted, that was not to be the case and the number of lawmakers with military experience declined even further in the 116th Congress. 96 Members (17.94 percent) who have served or are serving were sworn in when the new Congress began on January 3rd—seven members less than the previous Congress when it ended. Here is a quick look at some of the demographics pertaining to the Veterans serving in the new Congress:

- 30 are Democrats; 66 are Republicans
- 48 served in the military after 2000
- 21 served in the military in the 1960s or earlier
- 19 are first-time lawmakers
- 7 are women
- 50 served in the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard
- 17 served in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve
- 17 served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard
- 13 served in the Navy or Naval Reserve
- 1 served in the Coast Guard

**Currently there are 77 Members in the US House of Representatives who are Veterans:**

- Rep. Ralph Abraham (R – LA) – Coast Guard, Air National Guard
- Rep. Mark Amodei (R – NV) – Army
- Rep. Brian Babin (R – TX) – Air Force
- Rep. Don Bacon (R – NE) – Air Force
- Rep. Jim Baird (R – IN) – Army
- Rep. Jim Banks (R – IN) – Navy Reserve
- Rep. Jack Bergman (R – MI) – Marine Corps
- Rep. Sanford Bishop Jr. (D – GA) – Army
- Rep. Mike Bost (R – IL) – Marine Corps
- Rep. Anthony Brown (D – MD) – Army Reserve
- Rep. Vern Buchanan (R – FL) – Air national Guard
- Rep. Larry Bucshon (R – IN) – Navy Reserve
- Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D – NC) – Army
- Rep. Salud Carbajal (D – CA) – Marine Corps Reserve
- Re. Gil Cisneros (D – CA) - Navy
- Rep. Doug Collins (R – GA) – AF Reserve
- Rep. Mike Conaway (R – TX) - Army
- Rep. Paul Cook (R – CA) – Marine Corps
- Rep. Rick Crawford (R – AR) – Army
- Rep. Daniel Crenshaw (R – TX) – Navy
- Rep. Jason Crow (D – CO) – Army
- Rep. Warren Davidson (R – OH) – Army
- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D – OR) – Air Force

**WITH VETERANS  
LAWMAKERS NUMBERS  
AT AN ALL-TIME LOW,  
YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED  
NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR  
VALUED AFSA MEMBERSHIP  
TO HELP US KEEP OUR  
MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS  
HIGH TO ENSURE  
OUR MESSAGE IS HEARD  
LOUD AND CLEAR!**



Rep. Dr. Neal Dunn (R – FL) – Army  
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D – HI) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Mike Gallagher (R – WI) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Ruben Gallego (D – AZ) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Louie Gohmert (R – TX) – Army  
Rep. Jared Golden (D – ME) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Mark Green (R – TN) – Army  
Rep. Brett Guthrie (R – KY) – Army  
Rep. Andy Harris (R – MD.) – Navy Reserve  
Rep. Clay Higgins (R – LA) – Army  
Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D – PA) – Air Force  
Rep. Duncan Hunter (R – CA) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Bill Johnson (R – OH) – Air Force  
Rep. Walter Jones (R – NC) – Army  
Rep. Trent Kelly (R – MS) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Peter King (R – NY) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R – IL) – Air Force  
Rep. Conor Lamb (D – PA) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Ted Lieu (D – CA) – Air Force  
Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R – GA) – Air Force  
Rep. Elaine Luria (D – VA) – Navy  
Rep. Roger Marshall (R – KS) – Army Reserve  
Rep. Brian Mast (R – FL) – Army  
Rep. Seth Moulton (D – MA) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Steven Palazzo (R – MS) – Marine Corps/Army  
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (R – CA) – Navy Reserve  
Rep. Bill Pascrell (D – NJ) – Army  
Rep. Greg Pence (R – IN) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Scott Perry (R – PA) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Collin Peterson (D – MN) – Army  
Rep. Pete Olson (R – TX) – Navy  
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R – PA) – Navy  
Rep. Dr. Phil Roe (R – TN) – Army  
Rep. Denver Riggleman (R – VA) – Air Force  
Rep. Hal Rogers (R – KY) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Max Rose (D – NY) – Army  
Rep. Bobby Rush (D – IL) – Army  
Rep. Bobby Scott (D – VA) – Army  
Rep. Jose Serrano (D – NY) – Army  
Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D – NY) – Navy  
Rep. John Shimkus (R – IL) – Army  
Rep. Greg Steube (R – FL) – Army  
Rep. Chris Stewart (R – UT) – Air Force  
Rep. Steve Stivers (R – OH) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Van Taylor (R – TX) – Marine Corps  
Rep. Mike Thompson (D – CA) – Army  
Rep. William Timmons (R – SC) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Michael Waltz (R – FL) – Army  
Rep. Steve Watkins (R – KS) – Army  
Rep. Wenstrup (R – OH) – Army Reserve  
Rep. Joe Wilson (R – SC) – Army  
Rep. Steve Womack (R – AR) – Army National Guard  
Rep. Don Young (R – AL) – Army  
Rep. Lee Zeldin (R – NY) – Army

**There are 19 Members in the US Senate who are Veterans:**

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R – OK) – Army  
Sen. Johnny Isakson (R – GA) – Air Force  
Sen. Dan Sullivan (R – AK) – Marine Corps  
Sen. Mitch McConnell (R – KY) – Army  
Sen. Ed Markey (D – MA) – Army  
Sen. Jack Reed (D – RI) – Army  
Sen. Tom Cotton (R – AR) – Army  
Sen. Mike Enzi (R – WY) – Air Force  
Sen. Lindsey Graham (R – SC) – Air Force  
Sen. Roger Wicker (R – MS) – Air Force  
Sen. Pat Roberts (R – KS) – Marine Corps  
Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D – CT) – Marine Corps Reserve  
Sen. Todd Young (R – IN) – Marine Corps  
Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D – IL) – Army National Guard  
Sen. Joni Ernst (R – IA) – Army National Guard  
Sen. Gary Peters (D – MI) – Navy  
Sen. Rick Scott (R – FL) – Navy  
Sen. Thomas Carper (D – DE) – Navy Reserve  
Sen. Martha McSally (R – AZ) – Air Force

**LOOKING AHEAD AT 2019**

The partial government shutdown had entered its fourth week at the time this issue of the AFSA Magazine was being prepared with the president and congressional leaders digging in on their respective positions. 800,000 federal workers missed their first paychecks of the shutdown, but Congress passed legislation ensuring these workers would eventually be paid. The inability of the Administration, House and Senate to reach a compromise here strongly suggests they may experience similar problems reaching consensus on a FY2020 Budget Resolution as well as other key legislation later this year. If the level of animosity between the three entities remains high, 2019 could be a difficult year indeed. Much of the success in the recent past was due to an agreement that suspended budgetary caps imposed in the 2011 Budget Control Act for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. Lawmakers were able to raise defense spending as part of that deal, alleviating the need to raid military benefit programs. Without a similar deal this spring, sequestration would be revived, and departmental spending across the board would be imposed. Congress would again be tempted to cut or reduce benefit programs and raise out-of-pocket expenses for active duty family members, military retirees, their families and survivors. **That's the scenario we are now planning for — to defend your hard-earned benefits like pay, BAH, healthcare, the commissary, etc. The list is long, and the threat has never been greater. AFSA will be fully committed to this fight but we can only achieve victory if those affected**





by the issues join us in the battle. Remember, Congress will only respond if your needs correspond with the demands of our headquarters lobbyists. So, it's important that you communicate your needs and wishes on key issues with your elected officials in Washington on a regular basis and participate in letter-writing campaigns that we are planning to launch on key issues this year.



## AAFES ONLINE SHOPPING BENEFIT UPDATE

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Veterans online shopping benefit launched 14 months ago, and more than 62,000 Veterans have used their new benefit to save on low-cost, name-brand merchandise while also saving nearly \$3.4 million in sales tax.



*"In its first year, the Veterans online shopping benefit has brought significant savings to all who raised their right hand and vowed to defend our Nation,"* said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull, a Vietnam-era Army Veteran who worked to secure the change in Department of Defense policy to give all honorably discharged Veterans shopping privileges at military exchanges online. *"This benefit acknowledges sacrifices and makes a real difference to them and their families."*

Since Veterans Day 2017, honorably discharged Veterans of all United States Armed Forces (Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard as well as the Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve and National Guard) have been eligible to shop their military exchanges online tax-free for life. With 100 percent of Exchange earnings supporting the military community including Quality-of-Life programs like Army Child Development Centers and fitness centers and Air Force Outdoor Recreation activities, it's a win-win for everyone including the American taxpayer. You can learn more about this life-long benefit at [shopmyexchange](https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans)

<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>

## CONCURRENT RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY PAY (CRDP)

For several years, AFSA and its Coalition partners have been seeking to extend authorization for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) to disabled retirees not eligible under the current statutes. At a minimum, we would like to see eligibility extended to severely disabled Chapter 61 (military-connected disability) retirees with less than 20 years of service due to wounds, illnesses, or injuries that forced their premature medical retirement. Three pieces of legislation were introduced in the 115th Congress that would have helped us achieve our goals regarding concurrent receipt:

### H.R. 303 – Retired Pay Restoration Act;

<https://www.congress.gov/search?q=%7B%22congress%22%3A%22116%22%2C%22source%22%3A%22legislation%22%2C%22search%22%3A%22H.R.%20303%22%7D&searchResultViewType=expanded>

### H.R. 333 – Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act;

<https://www.congress.gov/search?q=%7B%22congress%22%3A%22116%22%2C%22source%22%3A%22legislation%22%2C%22search%22%3A%22H.R.%20333%22%7D&searchResultViewType=expanded>,

### and S. 66 – Retired Pay Restoration Act

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/66?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.%2066%22%5D%7D&searchResultViewType=expanded>

Unfortunately, none of these bills gained the necessary support to advance them out of committee so they died when the 115th Congress ended on January 3rd. We are pleased to report that our House champions Rep, Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Sanford Bishop (D-GA) reintroduced H.R. 303 and H.R. 333 (respectively) in the early days of the new Congress and they are already at work securing cosponsors for their legislation. The author of the Senate bill, Senator Heller (R-NV) lost his bid for reelection and we are working with our coalition partners to find a new champion for this issue in that chamber as quickly as possible.

## FAKE DFAS SITES

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently issued a warning about fake websites on the internet made to look like DFAS.mil and myPay. They remind users that DFAS only uses websites that end in ".mil" such as [dfas.mil](https://www.dfas.mil) and [mypay.dfas.mil](https://www.mypay.dfas.mil) or ".gov." for their short links.

You can learn more about protecting yourself while using their systems here

<https://www.dfas.mil/pressroom/onlineprotection.html>



## 2019 PAYMENT RATES

The start of each new year often triggers changes in pay, healthcare fees and VA-related programs. Here is where you can find current rates for major military benefits and Veterans programs:

### 2019 Pay Tables for Active Duty and Reserve Component Personnel

[https://www.dfas.mil/dam/jcr:8b09814f-9898-4ed3-bf17-28502b115437/MilPayTable2019\\_1.pdf](https://www.dfas.mil/dam/jcr:8b09814f-9898-4ed3-bf17-28502b115437/MilPayTable2019_1.pdf)

### 2019 BAH Rates

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1714524/dod-releases-2019-basic-allowance-for-housing-rate>. **Editor's Note:** There are built-in rate protections so if you are not moving and live in an area where rates have been reduced, your current housing allowance will not decrease if you continue to live at your current address.

### 2019 Rates for TRICARE and Related Fees

<https://tricare.mil/Costs/Compare>

### 2019 Payment rates for VA Compensation Programs (Including DIC),

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/rates-index.asp>

### FY19 Payment Rates for VA's Education and Training Programs

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits\\_resources/rate\\_tables.asp#ch33](https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp#ch33)

## CAREGIVER PROGRAM REVIEW TRIGGERS SUSPENSION

VA recently announced that it will temporarily stop dropping caregivers from its stipend program until a thorough review of the program/practice is completed.

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5169>

The suspension was apparently triggered by adverse media reports like this one

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2018/12/21/va-benefits-cuts-caregiver-program-tennessee/2349255002/>

showing caregivers of severely disabled Veterans are being cut from the program with little explanation or change in status. VA took the same action in the spring of 2017 following similar complaints, so this is a repeat occurrence. AFSA and its Coalition partners will be monitoring the outcome of this review closely along with the expansion of the VA Caregiver Program that was directed by the passage of the VA Mission Act (PL 115 – 182).

## RETIREE COLA

Military Retirees and other federal annuitants began receiving a 2.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) starting January 1, 2019. The same increase applied to VA disability compensation, survivor benefits and Social Security payments.

## JANUARY 2020 MILITARY PAY RAISE

Annual military pay raises are, by law, linked to the increase in private sector wages, as measured by the Employment Cost Index (ECI). The ECI measurement reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in late October was 3.1 percent. Unless the Administration moves (and Congress agrees) to reduce the next pay hike, this is the amount servicemembers should expect for their next pay raise on January 1, 2020. This raise should be incorporated into the Administration's FY 2020 Budget Proposal which is presented to Congress in early February. Of course, the Administration could ask for an increase above the established level which is something AFSA has lobbied for many years.

## VETERANS BILLS IN 115TH CONGRESS

18,732 pieces of legislation (bill, joint resolution, concurrent resolution, or simple resolution) were proposed in the 115th Congress and only about 430 bills became law. Lawmakers passed 25 bills relating to Veterans' issues including a pair of key ones that established the "Forever GI Bill" and streamlined VA's Community Care programs. Here is a complete list of those bills and a brief description of what they will do.

1. **The Veterans Choice Program Improvement Act** (S.544/H.R. 369), ensuring Veterans have access to timely care in their own communities, signed into law on April 19, 2017 (PL 115-26).

2. **The HIRE Veterans Act** (H.R. 244), requiring the Department of Labor to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to recognize companies for their efforts to employ Veterans, signed into law May 5, 2017 (PL 115-31).

3. **The Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act** (S.1094), holding the VA accountable to our Veterans and protecting the rights of whistleblowers, signed into law on June 23, 2017 (PL 115-41).

4. **The VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017** (S.114), providing funding for the Choice Program and strengthening VA care, signed into law on August 12, 2017 (PL 115-46).





**5. The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017** (H.R.3218), improving Veterans' G.I. Bill education benefits, signed into law August 16, 2017 (PL 115-48).

**6. The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017** (H.R.2288), modernizing the outdated benefits claims appeals process at the VA, signed into law on August 23, 2017 (PL 115-55).

**7. The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017** (H.R.3819), reauthorizing more than 20 important Veterans' programs, signed into law September 29, 2017 (PL 115-62).

**8. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017** (H.R.1329), increasing Veterans' disability benefits based on rising costs of living, signed into law November 2, 2017 (PL 115-75).

**9. The VA Prescription Data Accountability Act** (H.R.1545), allowing the VA to securely share opioid prescription data with states, signed into law November 21, 2017 (PL 115-86).

**10. The Veterans Apprenticeship and Labor Opportunity Reform (VALOR) Act** (H.R.3949), streamlining the process for non-federal Veterans' job training programs, signed into law November 21, 2017 (PL 115-89).

**11. The Enhancing Veteran Care Act** (S.1266), authorizing VA to contract with non-profits to investigate VA medical centers, signed into law December 20, 2017 (PL 115-95).

**12. The Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act of 2017** (H.R.1725), requiring VA to evaluate an initiative to reduce the need for in-person disability examinations, signed into law March 9, 2018 (PL 115-130).

**13. The Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017** (H.R.3122), protecting Veterans from fraudulent or predatory scams, signed into law March 9, 2018 (PL 115-131).

**14. H.R. 3656**, providing VA memorial headstones and markers for Veterans whose remains are unavailable, signed into law March 16, 2018 (PL 115-136).

**15. The State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act of 2017** (S.324), allowing qualifying Veterans to receive adult-day medical model health care, signed into law March 27, 2018 (PL 115-159).

**16. H.R.3562**, improving the process for providing certain home adaptations, signed into law June 1, 2018 (PL 115-177).

**17. The John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act** (S.2372), streamlining and strengthening VA community care programs

to ensure Veterans receive efficient, timely and quality care, signed into law June 6, 2018 (PL 115-182).

**18. The Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act** (H.R.4910), providing equal burial benefits for Veterans interred in National Park Service cemeteries, signed into law June 15, 2018 (PL 115-184).

**19. The VA Senior Executive Accountability (SEA) Act** (H.R.2772), preventing rogue employees from being reassigned within the VA without the VA secretary's approval, signed into law June 21, 2018 (PL 115-188).

**20. The Veterans Providing Healthcare Transition Improvement Act** (S. 899), to provide leave for medical treatment for certain new federal employees who are Veterans with service-connected disabilities, signed into law September 7, 2018 (Public Law 115-238).

**21. Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act** (H.R. 2147) requiring VA to hire at least 50 Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists under the Veterans Justice Outreach Program. Each of these specialists must serve as part of a justice team in a Veterans treatment court or other veteran-focused court. Signed into law September 17, 2018 (PL 115-240)

**22. The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018** (S.3479), to ensure Veterans continue to have access to critical programs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), signed into law September 29, 2018 (Public Law 115-251).

**23. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018** (H.R.4958), to increase Veterans' disability benefits based on rising costs of living, signed into law October 10, 2018 (Public Law 115-258).

**24. The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act** (S.2248), Protects student veterans through improved transition reforms by forcing schools that receive G.I. Bill benefits to adopt a policy that will not impose a late fee, broadens SCRA protections to include lease terminations by surviving spouses and expanding protections to more types of consumer contracts; requires VA to report on the possibility of expanding Veterans' access to dental care, allows military spouses to establish the same state of residency as their servicemember for voting and tax purposes and keep that same state of residency through each relocation; signed into law on December 31, 2018 (PL 115-407).

**25. The Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act** (S. 3777) to help ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reimburses student veterans for missed or underpaid Forever GI Bill housing benefits; signed into law on January 3, 2019 (PL 115-422).

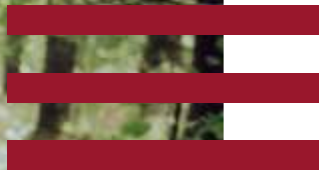
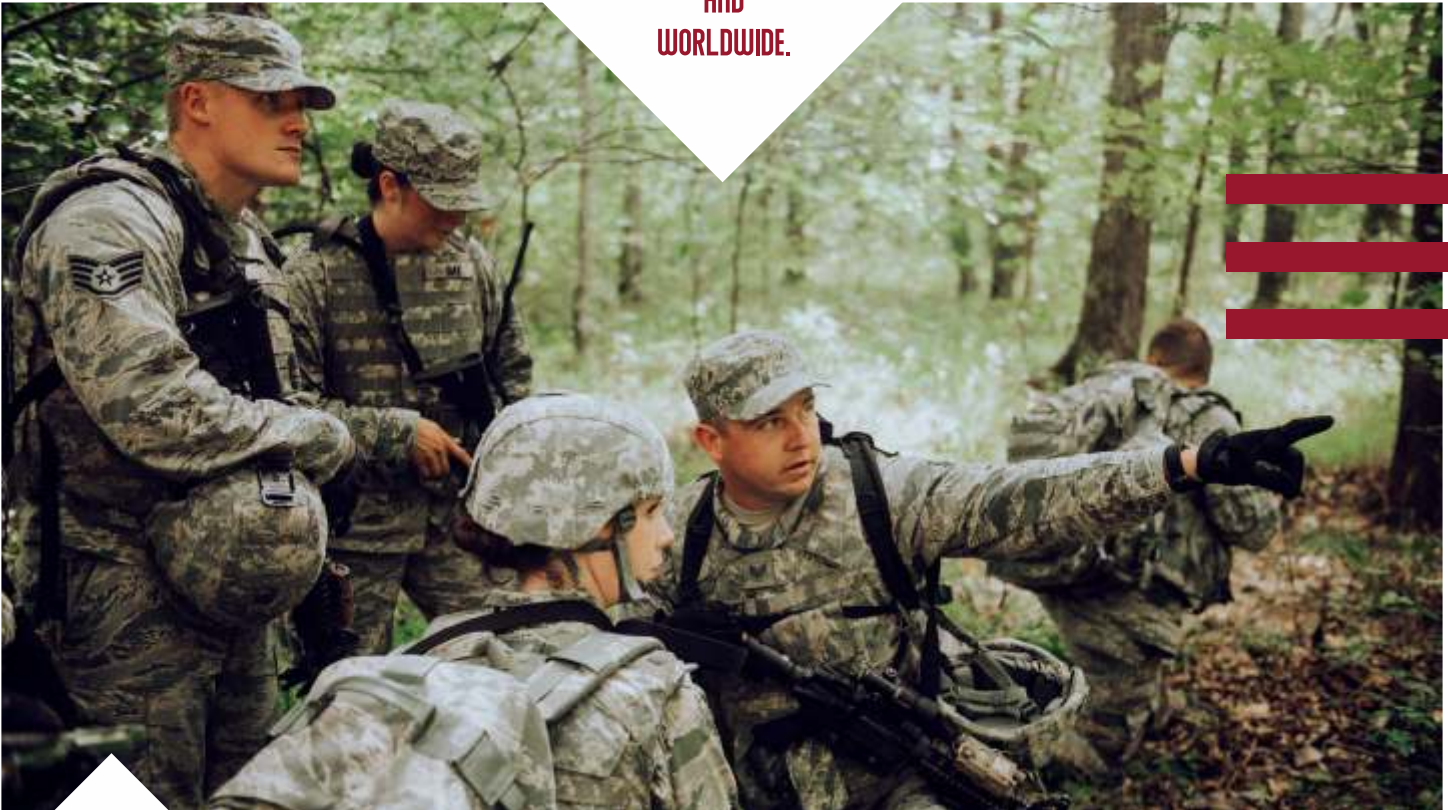


Staff Sgt. Andre Aguilar and Airman 1st Class Branden Lees from the 779th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Bioenvironmental Flight respond to the site of an unknown substance during a hazardous material training exercise at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Jan. 18, 2017. The flight conducts routine training to remain proficient and ready to respond at a moments notice. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz)



The U.S. Air Force premier rock band, Max Impact, performs at the White House in Washington, D.C., July 4, 2018. President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump welcomed service members and their families for an Independence Day celebration with a picnic and musical performances featuring Max Impact with several other artists.. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Michael S. Murphy)

**MISSION  
CONTINGENCY RESPONSE,  
CEREMONIAL HONORS AND  
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT ACROSS  
THE NATION'S CAPITAL  
AND  
WORLDWIDE.**



Members of the 11th Security Forces Group coordinate a navigation route during a training exercise at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Aug. 28, 2017. As part of their annual training plan, defenders honed their light infantry skill sets and reinforced their warrior mindsets by undertaking a rare, but vital operation in an unfamiliar training environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Delano Scott)

AFDW



## ON THE MAP:

# AIR FORCE DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON BRINGS GAME-CHANGING AGILITY, INNOVATION TO THE FIGHT

By Master Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Air Force District of Washington Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Maryland – Whether behind the scenes to shoulder operational support and contingency response or on the world stage showcasing the precision of ceremonial honors, Air Force District of Washington Airmen continue to play a pivotal role in the overall Air Force strategy.

Since its 2005 designation as a direct reporting unit to Air Force Chief of Staff, AFDW's unique mission brings air, space, and cyberspace capabilities to the joint team protecting the national capital region, while supporting thousands of Airmen who carry out those tasks from here to the farthest reaches of the world.

*"Airmen are the power and essence of the Air Force,"* said Maj. Gen.

James A. Jacobson, AFDW commander. *"AFDW Airmen deliver the highest standards of leadership*

*and performance in multiple no-fail missions not only within the world's most visible venue, the NCR, but in nearly every state and dozens of nations around the globe."*

AFDW is comprised of a headquarters staff, two wings, one group and two specialized units: the 11th Wing, 320th Air Expeditionary Wing, the 844th Communications Group, The United States Air Force Band, and The United States Air Force Honor Guard. Additionally, the 11th WG's 11th Medical Group organizes the Air Force's regional medical assets and is the Air Force's singular medical voice for planning and implementing Air Force medical operations and solutions within the NCR. Through intensive planning, executing, and coordination,

AFDW provides combatant commanders and Air Force elements worldwide fully-prepared Airmen to deploy and operate under any circumstance or theater of operation.

Career advancement and leadership opportunities abound at the unit, with enlistees providing air, space, and cyberspace forces in response to planned events or unplanned emergencies, ranging from security support during presidential inaugurations, natural or man-made disaster response, and even terrorist attack mitigation.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers put the scope and complexity of AFDW's charge into greater perspective. Overall, the unit supports Airmen in 46 of 50 states, 109 countries, and 1758 units.

Though about 407,946 Airmen comprise the Air Force's nine major commands, absent AFDW, a staggering number of military and civilians – some 35,000 – would be left unsupported in terms of training, promotion, decorations, professional development, evaluations, or even coverage by the Air Force's legal system, the general court-martial convening authority.

As such, AFDW remains steadfast in its commitment to the lives, families, and careers of 25,719 military and 8,887 civilians across 17 Air Force field operating agencies, direct reporting units, combatant commands, elements, and defense agencies that fall under the unit.

## CONTINGENCY RESPONSE

With so many Airmen serving in various capacities throughout the world, how AFDW organizes, trains, and equips ready forces along an ever-changing landscape is just as important as why, according to Vickie Phillips, A5 operational planning, policy, requirements and strategy division chief. *“In addition to complying with air expeditionary force guidance and policy, AFDW leverages opportunities to participate in joint and coalition training and exercise events,”* she said.

These joint training efforts, she explained, provide the mechanism for elements of AFDW to quickly transition to the 320th Air Expeditionary Wing, which ideally supports and strengthens partnerships with U.S. Northern Command, Air Forces Northern, Headquarters Air Force, Defense Department agencies and installations, service components, National Guard Bureau, local, district, state,



Senior Airman William Leuzinger, 11th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services firefighter, pulls a fire hose toward a simulated aircraft fire during a training exercise at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Aug. 9, 2018. During the training, firefighters were split into three teams of two, with two teams extinguishing fires and the remaining team on standby. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Delano Scott)

federal, and other interagency mission partners. Typically, the AFDW commander also serves as the 320th AEW commander, and refines mission tasks and guidance, ensures revitalized and combat ready units and Airmen, increases organizational effectiveness, and supports a resilient workforce.

*“When activated, the 320th AEW serves as the Air Force service component to the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region and provides command and control and situational awareness of attached forces,”* Phillips said. *“AFDW subordinate commanders have the resources and conduct regular training events to hone our Airmen’s expeditionary skills so they can survive, operate, and be successful in contested, degraded, and operationally-limited environments.”*



Staff Sgt. Joshua C. Lawson, a military working dog handler with the 11th Security Support Squadron, trains with his dog, MWD Gip, on Joint Base Andrews June 12, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Cicchetto/released)

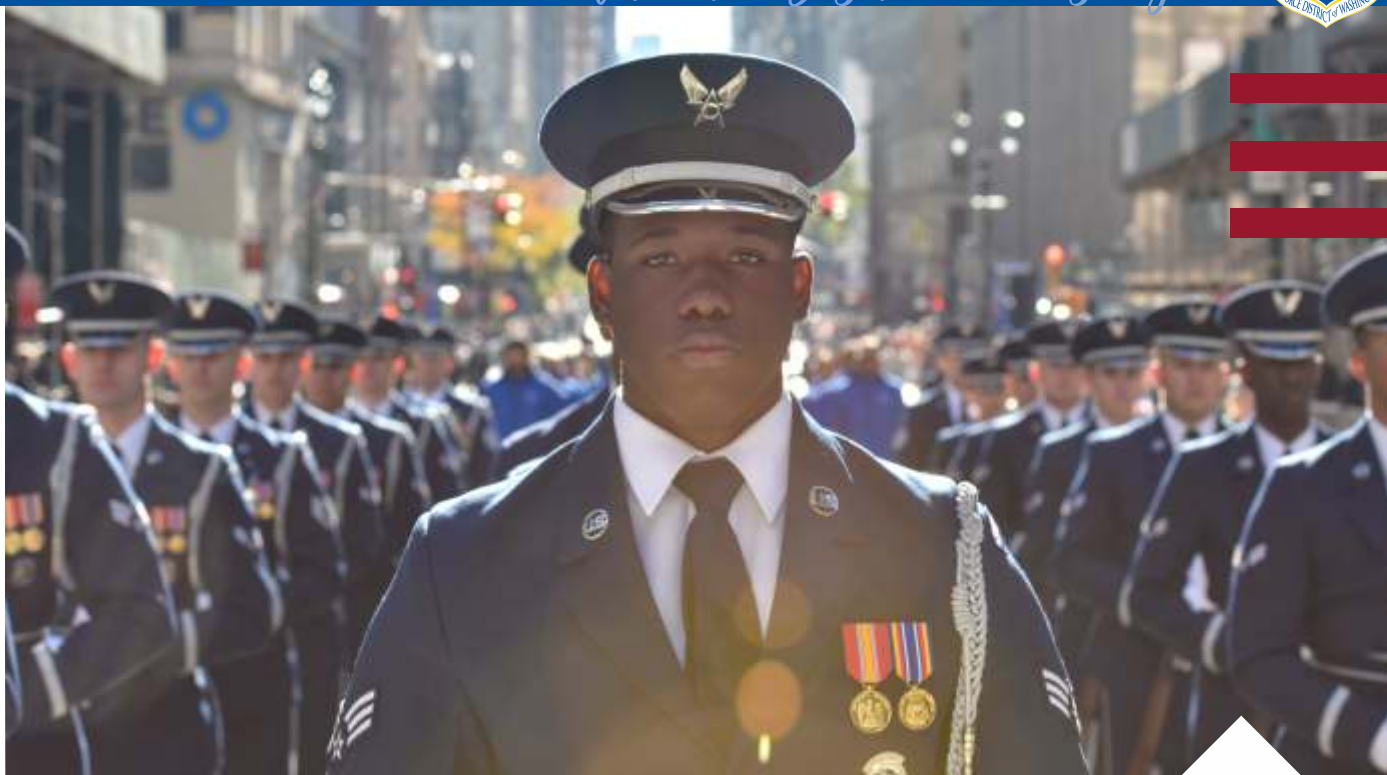
## OPERATION THROUGH INNOVATION

Whatever the environment, perhaps no domain is as vast as cyber, and AFDW’s 844th Communications Group deftly provides communications and information technology, services, and management to ensure the Air Force can carry out one of its core missions: command and control, said Chief Master Sgt. David Harris Jr., 844th CG superintendent.

*“Secure voice conferencing for the National Military Command Center, and non-secure voice and data communications throughout the NCR allow the flow of information between senior leaders and global forces,”* Harris explained. *“Having the ability to interface with the Joint Task Force in support of state funerals, presidential inaugurations, and presidential addresses allows cyber-Airmen from diverse backgrounds and experiences the opportunity to fulfill missions alongside joint partners, which diversifies perspectives and breeds the continuous pursuit of game-changing technology.”*



Dentist gives oral cancer screening . Tech. Sgt. Justin Wolf, 11th Medical Group dentist, conducts an oral cancer screening for a veteran at the at a health fair for Retiree Appreciation day on Joint Base Andrews Md., Oct. 27, 2018. The Retiree Appreciation Day event provided veterans easy access to military health care screenings and immunizations as well as individualized assistance with military finance, records, and benefits questions.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jamar Jackson, a United States Air Force Honor Guard ceremonial guardsman, marches in the Veterans Day Parade in New York, Nov. 11, 2018. The Honor Guard performed in the parade to honor veterans and to inspire, recruit and retain future Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Michael S. Murphy)

## CEREMONIAL HONORS

The high-visibility DoD official functions Harris cites are watched closely by a global audience, so regular training is paramount in AFDW's ability to flawlessly coordinate, synchronize, and execute such events when called upon. Of recent note, when President George H.W. Bush, passed away Nov. 30, months of training culminated in having nearly 4,000 U.S. DoD personnel assigned to the JTF-NCR provide logistics, ceremonial, and civil affairs support during the state funeral within a few hours' notice.

AFDW and Joint Task Force-NCR personnel conducted an arrival and departure ceremony at Joint Base Andrews prior to and following the arrival of the president's remains, which laid in state in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol until Dec. 5 with Honor Guard members in attendance.

*"After President Bush passed away we had less than 24 hours to get everything in line,"* said Tech. Sgt. Tara Hickman, AFDW Ceremonies and Protocol manager. *"Had the volunteers who become part of the protocol cell for the JTF not been savvy in what to do, or failed to conduct training exercises at Fort McNair [D.C.] each quarter, it could've been a disaster."*

Hickman said AFDW Headquarters Ceremonies and Protocol staff selects the volunteer teams, ensures the volunteers or their successors remain reachable from quarter to quarter, and coordinates all entities for event management in support of the Secretary of the Air Force, Air Force Chief of Staff, the

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Congress, the DoD, and all general officers in the NCR. *"One of the most rewarding aspects of ceremonial honors is maintaining the Air Force's history, the traditions that started so long ago, and being able to still portray that history to the public today,"* she said. *"We want to make sure we protect the integrity of our brand and legacy along with respecting our history and traditions."*

## THE WAY AHEAD

Overall, Jacobson maintains that the success AFDW has enjoyed is based squarely on the unwavering dedication of Airmen – dedicated sergeants and sergeants-to-be whose application of innovation in procedures and processes align with and complement Air Force senior leaders' priorities and lines of effort.

*"Key to how we, AFDW operate and support our Air Force is found in our commitment to becoming an innovative, agile and learning organization,"* Jacobson said. *"Change is not easy, but our mission – contingency response, ceremonial honors and operational support across the nation's capital and worldwide demands effective and innovative processes."*



# UNDERSTANDING AFSA

## AN AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET

*If you or a comrade don't completely understand the organization and the benefits that AFSA can provide for our members and their families, take a moment to read this fact sheet. It will tell you most of what you need to know. If you have more questions, find an AFSA chapter nearby or visit [www.hqafsa.org](http://www.hqafsa.org) for additional information.*

### ABOUT AFSA

The Air Force Sergeants Association is a federally chartered, 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization representing the professional and personal interests of our members and their families. AFSA has 100,000 dues-paying members and is the largest solely enlisted military association. The members are organized in 125 chapters throughout the world. The chapters provide professional development, opportunities for community involvement and a strong sense of fraternalism.

AFSA's mission is to advocate for improved quality of life and economic fairness to support the well-being of the U.S. Air Force enlisted Airmen, Veterans and their families. To achieve this mission, AFSA works closely with the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Defense.

### HISTORY

AFSA was founded in 1961 by four U.S. Air Force non-commissioned officers who recognized the need for an organization to represent all enlisted personnel to America's elected and military leaders. Over the past five decades, AFSA has built a reputation as a stalwart advocate for U.S. Air Force enlisted members and their families. AFSA represents its members by advocating for its members' interests, ensuring the military and Veteran's benefits service members have earned through their service to the nation are maintained. As a federally chartered Veteran Service Organization, AFSA is endorsed by the U.S. Congress to represent Airmen, Veterans and families on Capitol Hill.

### STRUCTURE

AFSA's headquarters is located in Suitland, Maryland. The association is governed by a 14-person Executive Council, which consists of elected presidents from seven geographically organized AFSA divisions, as well as an international president, Vice president, senior adviser, secretary and three trustees representing uniformed, Veterans and Family Matters, respectively. Six of the divisions are located throughout the United States, and one in Europe.



## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Specifically focused on issues that affect our members and their families, AFSA regularly meets with members of the U.S. Congress and U.S. Armed Forces senior leaders to advocate for fair and equitable benefits that matter to all Active Duty, Guard, Retired and Veteran Military Members: Joint Services Enlisted and Commissioned Officers.

Our Legislative priorities include:

- Military Pay and Benefits
- Education
- Military Families
- Air National Guard & Air Force Reserve
- Military Health Care
- Veteran/Retiree Benefits
- Caring for Survivors' Military Benefits & Programs



The complete 2017-2018 Legislative Platform can be found at [www.hqafsa.org/legislative-platform](http://www.hqafsa.org/legislative-platform)

## AFSA MEMBERSHIP DESCRIPTIONS

- **UNIFORMED:** All Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Retired and Veteran
- **Military Members:** Joint Services Enlisted and Commissioned Officers.
- **FAMILY:** Family members of active AFSA members.
- **ASSOCIATE:** DoD Civilians, Civil Air Patrol, JROTC, Member Service Providers/Sponsors, Non-Military Supporters.
- **GIFT MEMBERSHIP:** Share the benefits with military associates, friends, family and co-workers.



# JOIN AFSA *or* RENEW *your* MEMBERSHIP NOW

To join or renew visit [www.hqafsa.org](http://www.hqafsa.org) or call 1-800-638-0594, ext. 288.

**AFSA International Headquarters**  
5211 Auth Road, Suitland, MD 20746  
[www.hqafsa.org](http://www.hqafsa.org)

Toll Free: 800.638.0594 | Phone: 301-800-3500  
Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @hqafsa

## QUICK REFERENCE

### IMPORTANT MILITARY SUPPORT CONTACT LIST

#### LEGISLATIVE

##### CONGRESSIONAL

U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121  
Senate Majority Leader: 202-224-3542  
Speaker of the House: 202-225-0600

##### SCHEDULES: LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE ACTION

Senate Democrat Cloakroom: 202-224-8541  
Senate Republican Cloakroom: 202-224-8601  
House Democrat Cloakroom: 202-225-7400  
House Republican Cloakroom: 202-225-7350  
Bill Status: 202-225-1772 [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) **WHITE HOUSE**  
White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111  
White House Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

#### PAY

##### ACTIVE DUTY/GUARD/RESERVE DFAS

Denver Center Building 444  
6760 East Irvington Place Denver, CO 80279-6000  
1-888-332-7411 option 1  
[www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo.html](http://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo.html)

##### SURVIVOR BENEFITS

DFAS-Annuitant Pay  
PO Box 7131 London, KY 407 42-7131  
1-800-321-1080  
[www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html)

##### RETIRED

U.S. Military Retirement Pay  
P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130  
1-888-332-7411, option 7  
[www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html)

## PERSONNEL ISSUES

##### ACTIVE DUTY

Air Force Personnel Center  
HQAFPC 550  
C Street West, Suite 50 JBSA-Randolph AFB, TX 78150  
1-800-525-0102  
[www.afpc.af.mil](http://www.afpc.af.mil)

##### GUARD/RESERVE

HQ ARPC/DPTOCW (Contact Center)  
18420 E Silver Creek Ave, Bldg. 390 MS68  
Buckley AFB. co 80011  
1-800-525-0102  
[www.arpc.afrc.af.mil](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil)

# QUICK REFERENCE

## RETIREE ACTIVITIES BRANCH

HQ AFPC/DPSIAR  
550 D Street East, Bldg. 399, Randolph AFB, TX 78150  
210-652-6880 or 1-877-782-2441  
[www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Retiree-Activities-Office](http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Retiree-Activities-Office)

## CASUALTY ASSISTANCE

Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC)  
HQ AFPC/DPFCS 550  
C Street West, Bldg. 499, JBSA-Randolph AFB, TX 78150  
1-800-433-0048 or 210-565-3505 or DSN: 665-3505  
[www.afpc.af.mil/Benefits-and-Entitlements/Casual-Operations](http://www.afpc.af.mil/Benefits-and-Entitlements/Casual-Operations)

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR)

4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 03E25 Alexandria, VA  
22350-1200 1-800-336-4590  
[www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, VA 22211  
1-877-907-8585  
[www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)

## NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

### NPRC/MPR

1 Archives Dr. St. Louis, MO 63138 314-801-0800  
1-866-272-6272  
[www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel)  
*(Note: All requests must be submitted in writing)*

## USAF WORLDWIDE LOCATOR

### HQAFPC/DPDXIDL

550 C Street West, Suite 50  
JBSA-Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4 752  
210-565-2660 or DSN: 665-2660  
[www.afpc.af.mil/Support/Worldwide-Locator](http://www.afpc.af.mil/Support/Worldwide-Locator)

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Office of Public Inquiries  
1100 West High Rise  
6401 Security Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21235  
1-800-772-1213  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- 810 Vermont Ave. NW Washington, DC 20420
- General Line: 1-844-698-2311
  - VA Benefits: 1-800-827-1000
  - Health Care: 1-877-222-8387
  - Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, press 1
  - VA Educational Benefits: 1-888-GIBILL-1  
(1-888-442-4551)
  - VA Insurance Center: 1-800-669-8477
  - Debt Management Center: 1-800-827-0648
  - CHAMPVA: 1-800-733-8387
  - Headstones/Markers: 1-800-697-6947
  - Direct Deposit Program: 1-800-827-1000
  - Special Health Issues (Gulf War, Agent Orange):  
1-800-749-8387
  - VA Location finder: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>

**NEW! [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov)** — Built with Veterans, for Veterans. The new VA site offers one place to access all VA benefits and health care services. You can sign in with your My HealtheVet, DS Logon, or ID.me account to track your claims, refill your prescriptions, and more for:

### Health Care

- Refill and track your prescriptions
- Send a secure message to your health care team
- Schedule and view your appointments
- View your lab and test results
- Apply now for VA health

### Disability

- Check your claim or appeal status
- View your payment history
- Upload evidence to support your claim
- File for a VA disability increase
- File a claim for compensation

### Education

- Check your Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits
- View your payment history
- Change your current education benefits
- Compare GI Bill benefits by school
- Apply for education benefits

### Records

- Get Veteran ID cards
- Get your VA medical records
- Download your benefit letters
- Apply for a home loan COE
- Request your military records (DD214)



## MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM

*VA researchers are using MVP data to learn about a range of health conditions affecting Veterans.*  
To enroll call: 866-441-6075  
[www.research.va.gov](http://www.research.va.gov)

## VA Community Care

- Veterans Choice Program (VCP):  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/VCP/index.asp>
- Choice Program Support Line: 866-606-8198
- VA Adverse Credit Helpline: 877-881-7618
- Emergency Medical Care:  
[https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Emergency\\_Care.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Emergency_Care.asp)
- Foreign Medical Care:  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp>
- Indian Health Service/Tribal Health Program (HIS/THP):  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/ihs/index.asp>
- Infertility Treatment:  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/ivf.asp>
- No Cost Flu Immunization:  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>
- Patient-centered Community Care (PCS):  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/pccc/index.asp>
- State Veterans Homes:  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/statehome/index.asp>
- Veterans Choice Program (VCP):  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/VCP/index.asp>
- Managing Your Health Portal:  
<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/index.asp#health>

## DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY REGIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101  
Falls Church, VA 22042-5101

Need to Submit a Claim? Send it to the correct claims address. <https://www.tricare.mil/ContactUs/ClaimsAddresses>



## COMMUNICATING WITH CONGRESS

Though the opportunity to communicate with Congress is often neglected, it is not only a right of citizenship; it is an expectation. Senators and representatives are elected by the American public. meaning you. Their salaries come from the American taxpayer. meaning you. They are supposed to vote on issues based on the interests of their constituencies. meaning you. You give them their job and fund their paychecks-don't be afraid to check up on your "employees" and give them direction on how to do their job.

To find your elected officials to view and respond to key legislating. Visit the AFSA Legislative Action Center at [www.votervoice.net/AFSA/home](http://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/home).

Need Technical Help? Find the right contact info for the help you need.  
<https://www.tricare.mil/ContactUs/SecureLogin/TechnicalHelp>



### TRICARE

[www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) is an official website of the Defense Health Agency (DHA), a component of the Military Health System. For up-to-date information and complete plans and resources, visit: [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

### TRICARE Regional Offices

The TRICARE Regional Offices (TROs) manage and oversee an integrated health care delivery system in the three U.S. TRICARE regions. In most cases, you'll call your regional contractor first:  
TRICARE East: Humana Military - 1-800-444-5445  
Tricare West: Health Net 1-844-866-9378

# QUICK REFERENCE

*But, there are times when you will need to call your TRO: Approval for the Prime Travel Benefit:*

<https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/Prime/TravelReimb>

Determination of eligibility requests for TRICARE Prime Remote:

<https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TPR/DetEligRequest>

If your issue is unresolved with the regional contractor call, TRO-East & TRO-West at 1-844-204-9351

## TRICARE Resources

Find resources to better manage your TRICARE benefits.

<https://www.tricare.mil/Resources>

- Plan Finder: <https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/PlanFinder>
- Claims: <https://www.tricare.mil/FormsClaims/Claims>
- Disaster Resources:  
<https://www.tricare.mil/Resources/DisasterInfo>
- Forms: <https://www.tricare.mil/FormsClaims/Forms>
- Go Paperless:  
<https://www.tricare.mil/Resources/GoPaperless>
- Military Health Records:  
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- Multimedia Center:  
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<https://www.tricare.mil/Resources/Recoupment>
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Contact the MHS Nurse Advice Line 24/7 to:

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- Receive recommendations for the most appropriate level of care
- Schedule same or next day appointments when recommended by a registered nurse and enrolled to a military hospital or clinic
- Get an online "absence excuse" or "sick slip" when medically appropriate--subject to service command requirements

United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico: Visit [MHSNurseAdviceLine.com](http://MHSNurseAdviceLine.com) for web chat and video chat, or dial 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1.

Overseas military hospitals and clinics: Contact your local facility or visit [MHSNurseAdviceLine.com](http://MHSNurseAdviceLine.com) for web chat, video chat, or to find country-specific numbers.

*If you need immediate medical attention, call 911 or your international emergency number – or, go to an emergency room.*

You can use the MHS Nurse Advice Line unless you are enrolled in the **U.S. Family Health Plan**.

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### OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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- **CMSAF:** Since 1988, the fund has awarded more than 303 scholarships valued at \$433,000.00.
- **AMF:** To date, fund has awarded more than 632 scholarships valued at more than \$771,000.00.
- **AFSA International Auxiliary Education Grant Program:** To date, Auxiliary has awarded 170 grants and scholarships totaling over \$165,700.00.

*Completed application packages with all required documents can be sent to AFSA HQ NLT March 31. After March 31, applications are ineligible for consideration.*



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- National Guard and Reserve members who aren't on active duty or covered by TAMP
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United Concordia

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OCONUS: 844-653-4060

OCONUS Toll: 717-888-7400

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<https://www.benefeds.com/>

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- Family members of retired service members
- Retired Guard and Reserve members
- Family members of retired Guard and Reserve members
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- Family members of Medal of Honor recipients
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## DIVISION CONFERENCES

### Division 1 | March 21-23, 2019

One Burlington Mall Road, Burlington, MA  
SMSgt Jessica McWain | 724-980-8388  
mcwainjessica@gmail.com | jessica.mcwain@us.af.mil

### Division 2 | April 4 - 7, 2019

Host Chapter 358: Marriott Newport News Center City,  
740 Town Center Drive, Newport News, VA  
Andrea Scherlin | 843-670-9047  
AFSADiv2Conference@gmail.com

### Division 3 | April 25-27, 2019

Drury Inn & Suites, 1118 Central Park Dr  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
SSgt Kaitlyn Foster | 228-382-7936  
kaitlynfoster1025@yahoo.com

### Division 4 | April 4-6, 2019

The Hampton Inn - 499 Singing Oaks, Spring Branch, Texas  
MSgt Candi Manabat | 253-304-9699  
candimanabat@gmail.com

### Division 5 | August 30-31, 2019

Grand Hyatt Regency Hotel - San Antonio, Texas  
DP Trey Horn | 228-327-7008 | thorn@hqafsa.org

### Division 6 | March 31 - April 2, 2019

Orleans Hotel & Casino - 4500 W. Tropicana Ave, Las Vegas, NV  
DP Kerry Wright | 505-659-7399 | kerrywrightpa@gmail.com

### Division 7 | August 30-31, 2019

Grand Hyatt Regency Hotel - San Antonio, Texas  
DP Joshua Hinsey | 4916 2586 9495  
joshua.hinsey@us.af.mil or joshua23@yahoo.com



Volunteering at the Armed Forces Retirement Home for their monthly bingo events.



By: Daniel Kazumura, SMSgt (Ret)  
Chapter 652, President

Chapter members placed 570 U.S. flags along the main thoroughfare on Keesler's main road that stretches more than a mile for in honor of Flag Day

# MEMBERSHIP = LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND FAMILY

When I first became an AFSA member I felt as though I gained a family and to this day, I still feel this way. To me AFSA is more than just a private organization but my family. Throughout my nine assignments that took me around the world, one of the first things I would do was find the AFSA Chapter meetings and try to attend them, which of course allowed me to be involved with that chapter. It was always easy because I felt the members of AFSA were always open to new members and willing to go the extra step of mentoring or just helping out a fellow Airman.

As the president of our chapter at Keesler, I hope that I am creating the same feeling with our active members where they, too, have an extended family and an outlet where they feel they can get the mentorship, leadership skills and friendship that they can call family. One of the ways I try to do this is by focusing on our younger Airmen. For most Airmen, this is their first time away from home and many of them have so much potential and willingness to give back that I felt if I could give them the leadership opportunities or events for them to participate in, that the rest would follow.

For example, here at Keesler we have three Airman Activity Coordinators and another three Program Managers. The Airman Activity Coordinators are given weekly events to lead. Each Saturday for an hour they lead an Airman Attic, highway or beach cleanup. Our Program Managers are responsible for weekly bowling events with the special needs, monthly Fisher House dinners or occasional events at the Armed Forces Retirement Home. To say that these Airmen lead the way is an understatement. After these Airman leaders felt comfortable with the program they were running, they began to improve on their program.



Our chapter teamed with the Alley Cats Bowling League where we help 30-50 bowlers each week bowl in preparation of the Keesler Special Olympics.

One example would be our monthly Fisher House dinner. Each month our program lead coaches an Airman who wants to lead the monthly dinner. They provide this Airman with all the tools they need to ensure they have a successful dinner and they cook for 15-30 residents plus all the volunteers. Essentially they can cook for up to 45 members. The lead is responsible for coming up with a menu, finding the volunteers to cook, cleaning and serving the meals. They also coordinate with our Chapter Program Manager and the Volunteer Coordinator from the Fisher House to ensure they receive all the tools for a successful event. This monthly dinner has become so successful that we have other Airmen who want to lead these dinners. What started as a once per month event has grown to be 2-3 dinners at the Fisher House per month.





Another example is our weekly bowling event. Each Saturday for 2 ½ hours we have approximately 30 to 65 volunteers who come out to support a special needs bowling league that is preparing for the annual Special Olympics held at Keesler for the state of Mississippi in May. When this program first started, we averaged 10 volunteers. The two program leaders that we have now discovered ways to integrate the student Airmen population. Since January we have had over 800 volunteers serve over 2,000 hours! Not only does this give our students an outlet to get out of the student environment for a few hours but also an opportunity to give back to their community and for some an opportunity to help lead and build upon their leadership skills.



Each month our chapter hosts 1-2 dinners for members and their families who are staying at the Fisher House seeking medical treatment. Last year our chapter hosted 19 dinners for 2018.

Additional to the recurring events, I found it was important to give other Airmen in our chapter an opportunity to lead as well. For these opportunities we find events throughout the year for them to lead, such as setting 19,000 flags on Memorial Day for Veterans graves at the Biloxi National Cemetery; on Flag Day we place over 800 flags on the main road on base, march at a few Veterans Day Parades where members carry small U.S. flags and hand out candy and beads; help collect donations for the First Sergeants during their annual Operation Warmheart; help lay wreaths at the Biloxi National Cemetery during Wreaths Across America;

volunteer for 5K run/walks in the local area where we help with everything from registration to teardown; periodic JrROTC events; and judging at school science fairs to name a few events that our Airmen lead.

By providing our chapter members with events to lead and volunteer, we are able to provide leadership opportunities they desire for growth and success in the military. In addition, many of these members reach out to one another for mentorship and help with the projects they are leading. Most of these members become close with each other and eventually they feel as though they have another family member.



**WHEN I FIRST BECAME AN AFSA MEMBER I FELT AS THOUGH I GAINED A FAMILY AND TO THIS DAY, I STILL FEEL THIS WAY. TO ME AFSA IS MORE THAN JUST A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION BUT MY FAMILY.**

Keesler Special Olympics – Our chapter hosted the annual Keesler Special Olympics bowling competition where we had 99 members compete.

Member alert...  
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The **Airmen Memorial Building (AMB)**, located near our Nation's Capital is home to the Air Force Sergeants Association. AFSA represents the Total Enlisted Corps and their families in Congress, the DoD, the Veterans Administration and through local communities across the globe. AFSA is a non-profit, politically non-partisan United States Armed Forces Veterans Service Organization.

***Built in 1980, the Airmen Memorial Building is a fitting tribute to all past, present, and future Airmen.***

In honor of our building's 39th Anniversary, AFSA invites you to help protect, maintain and enhance AFSA headquarters by sponsoring a leaf on our **AMB Benefactor Tree**. Your tax-deductible donation (Tax ID#520743333) is a permanent symbol, and unwavering reminder of how you helped support and continue our success. Each leaf recognizing you, your family, loved ones, your group or business will be permanently and prominently displayed on our beautiful **AMB Benefactor Tree** at the entrance of the Airmen Memorial Building at 5211 Auth Road in Suitland, Maryland.

**Each Leaf is a minimum donation of \$1,200** (\$100 per month/12 months) and may be personalized with a name, dates of service or special date, memorial tribute, the name of your company, or a special message of your choosing.

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On June 5, 2015, Clark Kent Horne, son of Master Sergeant Cornelius Horne and Air Force Special Agent India Horne was born with the rare genetic disorder, 6Q Micro Deletion Syndrome causing a series of complications to Clark's lungs, heart, vision, hearing, physical deformities to his arms and hands and developmental delays. Moments after birth, Cornelius and India were flooded with predictions regarding substantial limitations that Clark was likely to face. This disheartening news was coupled with six major surgeries to include a tracheotomy and extensive hospital stay all within the first 12 months of life.

(left to right): Kai Lyn (Clark's older sister), India Horne (Clark's Mother) and Clark (middle) at the pool on summer vacation



# MILITARY FAMILY STRONG



Family (left to right): Kori Michelle (Clark's eldest sister), Jaiden (Clark's older brother), Kai Lyn (Clark's older sister), Clark (middle)- Christmas 2018

By the age of one, Clark's milestones lessened as his developmental delays grew due to immobility among other factors. After researching and locating a vast amount of resources required to aid Clark in gaining momentum developmentally, it became apparent that a platform was needed to support other families through the challenges faced with supporting severely ill children. In 2016, Cornelius, India and Technical Sergeant Rodney Dowell (India's brother) founded a non-profit organization, alongside co-founders Jaiden Horne, Kori Michelle Horne and Kai Lyn Horne (Clark's older siblings) called **The Horne Initiative** which supports military families experiencing long-term hospital stay.

The first fundraiser in July 2017, raised several thousand dollars, gained corporate sponsorship and the support of Air Force leadership. The money was used to gift toys and other resources to combat developmental delays for children also experiencing long term hospital stay at the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. In November 2018, Cornelius and India were featured on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon highlighting their initiative and future projects.

Now at the age of three, Clark has managed to exceed expectations while impacting the way he and other children like him are perceived by the world. It goes without saying that his improvements were the result of an incredible amount of support and resources from family, friends and the military medical community.

In February 2018, **The Horne Initiative** will begin a project at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to build a family room to be utilized within the Pediatric ward. This location will aid in providing a place where the families can reset and maintain their resiliency while making critical decisions which impact their children's lives.

For more information about **The Horne Initiative**, or to join the cause, visit [thehorneinit.org](http://thehorneinit.org).

*The Horne Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Their mission is to provide support to military families experiencing long term hospital stay.*

Honored to help recognize an Airmen of excellence, Executive Director Keith Reed attended the USAF First Sergeant Academy Class 19B graduation where he and David Scott, Director of Education presented the esteemed Commandant's Award to MSgt Benjamin G. Seekell.

# WARRIOR AMONG US

**MSgt Benjamin Seekell**  
**Active Duty, Security Forces Instructor**

A Warrior games participant, Master Sergeant Benjamin Seekell joined the Air Force December 2004 in Security Forces responsible military working dog handler. In 2011, during his deployment to Bagram Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Ben was conducting a routine foot patrol mission outside the airfield when he and his patrol dog, Charlie, encountered two improvised explosive devices that detonated, seriously wounding Seekell. His first reaction was to attend to his team, including Charlie. Charlie had multiple shrapnel wounds to his hind quarters and his

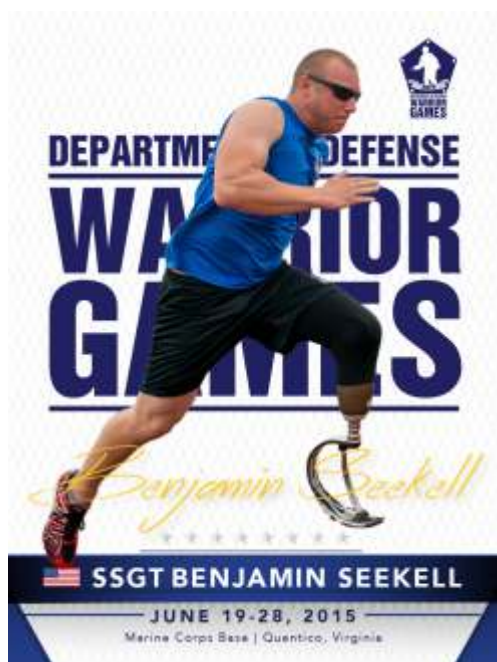


ear drums had burst during the explosion but made a full recovery.

After recovering from multiple surgeries to remove his left leg below the knee, Sgt. Seekell dedicated four to five hours every day to physical therapy and getting fit for his prosthesis.

He was returned to active duty and was selected for Warriors Games 2015, earning two bronze medals, and Invictus Games 2016, earning one gold and two silver medals. He was recently selected to be the Team Co-Captain for the Air Force at Warrior Games 2017 and to represent the USA at the Invictus Games in Toronto later this year. TSgt Seekell will represent the United States at 2017 Invictus Games.

Ben says, "It is an amazing honor to represent the Air Force at Warrior Games. It is an opportunity not afforded to most and I feel an immense responsibility to showcase the excellence that makes our service great!"



**AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

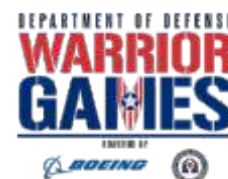
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**AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH 2 OLC**

**AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

**BONUS:** After ten years of service, watch Purple Heart recipient and service dog, Charlie's retirement ceremony

<https://www.wral.com/news/local/video/12812213/>



***As new memorials are being dedicated for the woman known as “the Moses of her people,” historians find that Harriet Tubman indeed does have ties to today's enlisted U.S. Military men and women.***

She certainly was not treated like an officer. How could she be? The mid-19th century wasn't a great time to be an African-American in the United States. Being a woman also meant she had another “strike” against her. Despite being born a slave, Harriet Tubman showed from very early on in life that a little thing like the color of her skin would not hold her back. Additionally, she wasn't going to let it hold others back either. Her leadership, which parallels so many NCOs (non-commissioned officers) in today's Air Force, was going to help others persevere and —eventually—thrive.

## TUBMAN, SPIES AND AIR FORCE TIES

By Sean M. Miskimins

Tubman was born and raised on Maryland's eastern shore, thus she knew the Del-Mar-Va (the coastal areas of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia) region well, and chose to use this area as one of her pipelines for the Underground Railroad. Many of her runaway “cargo” trekked northward past where today Dover AFB sits in Delaware. The term Underground Railroad is the name given to the network of people, houses and towns that would help escaped slaves make their way out of the Antebellum, slave holding South of the 1840s and 1850's. “Conductors,” or the leaders, on these clandestine night-time journeys were fearless leaders—people like Harriet Tubman, whom although an African-American and a woman, is the best known of all the Conductors on the Underground Railroad.

Harriet became a Conductor first out of necessity. She escaped north to Philadelphia as a 29-year-old in 1849. Word though was leaking to her that various family members, still in bondage near Cambridge, Maryland, were possibly going to be sold, thus she had to find a



*Harriet Tubman, circa 1865, around the age of 45. This is the most famous photo of the Civil War scout and spy. Since she was paid by the Union Army during the war, Tubman was in fact a military veteran—a fact often forgotten by most Americans. She even took part on a couple of military raids not far from where Shaw AFB, SC sits today. Library of Congress photo*

way to get her loved ones out of slavery and into safety. This would be no easy task as U.S. laws were starting to crack down on the growing numbers of escaping slaves headed to the North.

Slaves were property, and simply put, valuable property. No one was going to let their valuables be taken away easily, thus thanks mainly to the Southerners in Congress, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed. This law basically stated that all Americans—even those Northerners whom didn't believe in Slavery—were supposed to help Southerners recapture their “lost” (more accurately “fleeing”) property. Proving someone was guilty of “not helping” or even aiding these runaway slaves was difficult, but should the courts agree people faced a fine of up to \$1,000 if charged. This was quite a hefty fine for 1850.

Harsh new laws like this, as well as rewards being offered for re-captured slaves that were returned south, meant stopping in Philadelphia wasn't “far enough

north,” so Harriet had to come up with a different plan. She decided they needed to go further north—all the way to Canada. By this time, Canada had banned slavery thus it was a desirable target for Tubman and her compatriots. It is said she made around a dozen trips north as a Conductor, saving around 75 slaves in all—including several of her relatives. Like a Sergeant in the Air Force who leads and trains others then is promoted and “moves on,” Harriet Tubman did this as well. She trained other Conductors who could carry on her work as she had new tasks to attend to with war clouds looming.

The Civil War was a huge “step” for African-Americans in the U.S. Military as it was the first war that had formal units of Black soldiers (fighting for the North of course). African-American women too wanted to do their part and due to the chivalrous attitudes of the times, women made the best spies during America's bloodiest war. They were likely not to be searched as thoroughly as a suspected male spy would, thus they were employed by both Union and Confederate forces from 1861-1865. Being an “informal NCO” with huge skills and leadership abilities, it wasn't long until the Union sought out Harriet Tubman.



*This painting titled, The Underground Railroad by Charles T. Weber, shows fleeing slaves, right, that appear to be bedding down for the night at the home of White Abolitionists, left. Thank goodness for the aid and coordination of Underground Railroad “conductors,” who much like today's enlisted Air Force, did much of the “behind the scenes” planning to make these escape missions North a success. Charles T. Weber painting*

By 1859 an ardent Abolitionist (one who wants slavery abolished) named John Brown was organizing a raid that he hoped would spark a massive slave uprising/revolt in the U.S. being someone now “known” in the Abolitionist community, Tubman was put in contact with Brown and she helped him recruit a few Black men to take part in his 1859 raid on the weapon's arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (today West Virginia). The raid was squashed by Federal troops, and Brown and his men (those who were not killed in the raid) were executed but the gauntlet had been thrown down. Northerners and Abolitionists were not going to sit idly by and continue to watch an institution (slavery) that promoted human bondage exist in the United States. In 1861, following the November 1860 election of Abolitionist Abraham Lincoln as President, the Civil War began.

By the spring of 1862, Union General David Hunter, whom would one day serve on the Military court for the trial of the Abraham Lincoln assassination conspirators, had Tubman serving as a spy for he and his Union forces in Beaufort, South Carolina—not very far from where today Shaw AFB sits. By the following spring, Tubman was not only listed as a Union spy but also “scouts organizer.” No doubt after only a year, the Union army wanted to put her tremendous planning and leadership abilities she had shown on the Underground Railroad to good use. As an organizer, she sought out contacts within the South Carolina slave communities that she felt could be trusted as well as be of use to the Union. These select few would also become contacts for the Union in South Carolina and the neighboring states.

She was more than just a spy and organizer though! Her skill set was quite diverse. She knew how to Nurse as well as cook and clean. At one time or another she did all these things for Union troops during her wartime service. It is very likely she even participated in military action--the June 1863 Combahee River raid in South Carolina. Some historians state she was in contact that summer with the famed 54th Massachusetts Infantry—the most famous unit of all the Black Union units in the war.

The prevalent theme of the 1860's was to not acknowledge or even look past the exploits of Blacks in America. Military records from the Civil

War were no different. It is difficult to confirm all reports of what Harriet Tubman accomplished during the war. Given her brains and leadership it is likely most of what is reported about her is true despite the lack of paper evidence. While there are many reports that detail the knowledge gained through the work of Caucasian female spies, there is little recorded on the work of Black spies, such as

Harriet Tubman. None the less, the few accounts that do remain show excellent work. Major General James Negley wrote in an 1863 report that, “My negro girl scout has seen heaps of Rebels in the gap near Lee's Mill (Tennessee). (She reports) there is a huge Rebel army there!”

No doubt General Negley's scout was most likely a young lady who chose this job because she was inspired by the likes of Harriet Tubman. Isn't that what today's enlisted leaders in the Air Force do—they inspire others by their own actions. American patriot, war veteran and “un-official NCO” Harriet Tubman died in New York at the age of 93 in 1913. Lest we never forget.

**THE DEMANDS OF WAR AND THE AMBITIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY AND PROVE THEIR QUALITY AS CITIZENS WOULD CHANGE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH FAR-REACHING HISTORICAL REVERBERATIONS.**

**SOURCES:**

*Elizabeth Leonard, All the Daring of the Soldier: Women of the Civil War Armies, Penguin Press, 1999.*

*James McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom, Oxford University Press, 1988.*

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## CMSAF #4 THOMAS N. BARNES

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas N. Barnes, retired, became the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) in 1973 and was the first African American to serve in the AF's highest enlisted position.

He was appointed CMSAF on Oct. 1, 1973. During his tenure, he championed equal opportunities for minorities and worked to solidify the enlisted professional military education system.

He was granted an unprecedented second-year extension as CMSAF and retired in July 1977. He said, "I'd like to be remembered as a role model for people who believe they can't get there. It was an honor to have been chosen on the basis of my qualifications, as opposed to my race or my gender."



#Airmen Who Led the Way #BlackHistoryMonth #KnowYourMil



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*Airman 1st Class Justin Horne salutes an F-22 Raptor pilot Feb. 4, 2010, during a Red Flag training exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Airman Horne is assigned to the 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Holloman AFB, N.M. Holloman will soon be losing its F-22s. U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Brett Clashman.*



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## CALL TO ACTION... MILITARY HOUSING – SHARE YOUR STORY

On February 13, the AFSA Legislative team was in attendance for a Congressionally held joint hearing with the Senate Armed Services (SASC) subcommittees on Readiness and Management and Personnel.

Discussed at the hearing was the issue of the rapidly degrading quality of privatized military housing conditions, as well as the effects on health and readiness that have stemmed from such conditions. The hearing consisted of three panels: military spouses who told stories of the conditions they and other military families had experienced in privatized on-base housing, leadership from five of the private sector companies who manage the housing, and lastly, delegates from the Department of Defense (DoD).

Each gave testimony and received questions from Congressional members seeking to understand the scope of the issue, and start working to find a solution.

Some of the most pressing topics that were covered are as follows:

- Lead-based paint, rampant mold, exposed asbestos, faulty electrical wiring, vermin infestations and gas leaks in base homes
- Health problems in children and adults from persistent exposure
- Lack of willingness of housing companies to properly communicate or treat and resolve issues
- Retaliation from military members' chains of command for reporting their situations.

A survey of nearly 15,000 families who have experience residing in privatized military housing was recently conducted by the Military Family Advisory Network. The results show that over 55% of respondents had a negative opinion of their base housing.

**We'd like to hear from you, or members...  
If you have experience with any of these issues or know someone who does, please contact us via email to [milgov3@hqafsa.org](mailto:milgov3@hqafsa.org) to share your story.**

Military members and their families sacrifice too much to ever feel unsafe in the comfort of their own homes.



Help us to serve you better by taking our survey.

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To help AFSA HQ provide the best possible service and enhance member experience, please take a moment to complete the short on-line AFSA Membership Survey.

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Survey closes March 9, 2019. Thank you in advance for your participation.



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