

# AFSA MAGAZINE

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



## UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



### AWARDING EXCELLENCE

Award Recipients and Accomplishments

### AFSA UP PAC2018

Professional Airmen's Conference

### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Making a Connection for Proper Care



USAA is proud to be the  
**Preferred Provider**  
of Financial Services for the  
Air Force Sergeants Association



# LET USAA HELP YOU GET FINANCIALLY FIT.

**Your goals. Our guidance.**

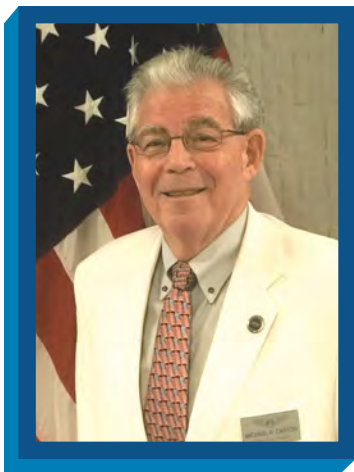
We want to help you do more with your money. And now is a great time to get going. Let's work together to build an investment strategy to help you put every dollar to good use.

**Take the first step to getting financially fit today.**

**877-499-AFSA (2372) | [usaa.com/afsa](https://usaa.com/afsa)**

**Investments/Insurance: Not FDIC Insured • Not Bank Issued, Guaranteed or Underwritten • May Lose Value**

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Financial advice provided by USAA Financial Advisors, Inc. (FAI), a registered broker dealer, USAA Investment Management Company (IMCO), a registered broker dealer and investment advisor, and for insurance, USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (known as USAA Financial Insurance Agency in California, License # 0E36312). Investment products and services offered by IMCO and FAI. Life insurance and annuities provided by USAA Life Insurance Co., San Antonio, TX, and in NY by USAA Life Insurance Co. of New York, Highland Falls, NY. Other life and health insurance from select companies offered through USAA Life General Agency, Inc. (known in CA (license #0782231) and in NY as USAA Health and Life Insurance Agency). Banking products offered by USAA Federal Savings Bank and USAA Savings Bank, both FDIC insured. Trust services provided by USAA Federal Savings Bank. AFSA receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2018 USAA. 256135-1118



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

## UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

Our 2018 Professional Airmen's Conference theme provides you the opportunity to grab the next rung in AFSA's growth and success and be an active participant in the overall process. We are blessed with a wealth of enlisted talent and energy — those members willing to take the next step and make a difference. Look no further than the Professional Development speakers and the award winners at the 2018 PAC.

The speaker's message during the Professional Development sessions was about you becoming the very best Airman you can be. Inspirational speakers starting with CSM John Wayne Troxell, CMSAF Kaleth Wright, Dr. McCaully and "Mindfulness," and retired CSM Patrick Alston are examples of individuals who I know lifted up the delegate's spirits and charged or recharged their AFSA and leadership batteries. Our 2017 "Excellence in Military Leadership" recipient, Air Force Chief of Staff General David L. Goldfein, provided a great overview of our Air Force and its future. He, along with his wingman, CMSAF Wright, are stellar examples of taking care of Airmen and seeing them working together solidifies that we have a great leadership team guiding our Air Force. Finally, AFSA's Americanism Award recipients are two outstanding enlisted leaders; both of whom are very familiar to AFSA members. CMSAF #5, Robert D. Gaylor and CMSAF #6, James M. McCoy are premier examples of enlisted leadership and are an inspiration to us all. Congratulations to you both for all you do for our Air Force and AFSA.

I'd like to say a very special thank you to Past President Jeff Ledoux and his wife Pam for all they have done for AFSA. Jeff's tireless dedication, devotion, and dynamic leadership have helped guide and strengthen AFSA for the future. I'd like to add a very heartfelt and special thank you to Pam for sharing your husband with us. Your commitment and dedication allowed your husband to execute his vision for AFSA's future and you have our heartfelt thanks and admiration.

The delegates approved two bylaw changes. First, they approved the change that allows enlisted and officer personnel from all five services to enjoy full active membership within AFSA. This bylaw change recognizes their service and sacrifice and we are offering them an "opportunity" to join our association, but only if they so choose to join. Regardless, we are and will remain the Air Force Sergeants Association. We are not going to change our name, mission, vision or focus. The second bylaw change formalized a Trustee for Family Matters as an elected leadership position within AFSA. Ms. Patti Dalzell has been appointed to fill this position and the position will be open for election at the 2019 PAC in San Antonio.

I have initiated, with Executive Council approval, a Strategic Review Task Force comprised of numerous AFSA members and subject matter experts. Their mission is to examine our various business practices, identify issues, and make recommendations to improve how we do business. Our first two efforts will be membership and communications (to include social media). This Task Force is focused on our long-term vision; ensuring the AFSA is the 21<sup>st</sup> century National Military Association of choice. By streamlining and updating processes, current and potential members can one-stop-shop using their devices and/or our website. For example, the new EZ Renew tab on the website is designed to make the renewal process easier.

On a personal note, my thanks to you for the opportunity to serve as your President. I extend to you my promise of transparency so you will know what we are doing to make our association better for the future. May you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving and most joyous Christmas season. "AFSA UP."



*Waldorf is honored to serve our nation's military members, veterans and their spouses.*

We understand the importance of flexibility and accessibility of quality education for active-duty and veteran military students. That's why our online degree programs are tailored to provide flexible learning opportunities for military students with hectic schedules.

### WHY WALDORF?

Regionally Accredited // No Entrance Scores Required  
Military Tuition Assistance // Military Spouse Scholarships



[waldorf.edu/mil](http://waldorf.edu/mil) // 877.267.2157

## GENERAL OFFICES

5211 Auth Road  
Suitland, MD 20746  
**Telephone:** (301) 899-3500 or  
(800) 638-0594  
**Fax:** (301) 899-8136  
**Web:** www.hqafsa.org  
**Email:** staff@hqafsa.org

## PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR

Keith A. Reed

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Andrea D. Sanford

## ADVERTISING SALES

Contact AFSAComm@hqafsa.org for  
advertising information.

## KEY STAFF

**Executive Director** Keith A. Reed  
**Director, Acct & Finance** Juanita S. Weems  
**Director, Business Center, Marketing & Comm**  
Andrea D. Sanford  
**Director, Member & Field** Brenda L. Hill  
**Director, Military & Government**  
Latisha Carter

## AFSA MAILING ADDRESS

AFSA  
Post Office Box 50  
Temple Hills, MD 20757

## PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY:



www.glcdelivers.com

**AFSA Magazine** (ISSN 0360-7364) is published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Air Force Sergeants Association. Copyright ©AFSA 2018, all rights reserved. Periodicals postage paid at Southern Maryland Facility, MD 20790 and at additional mailing offices.

Send address changes to:  
**AFSA Magazine**, P.O. Box 50,  
Temple Hills, MD 20757

## 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.

## 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 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).

## IMPORTANT AFSA NUMBERS

**AFSA Headquarters:**  
(301) 899-3500 or (800) 638-0594

## AFSA INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**President** Michael R. Carton  
**Vice President** Jeffrey S. Foreman  
**Senior Advisor** Michael Parente  
**Secretary** Keith A. Reed  
**U.S. Air Force Uniformed Service Trustee**  
SMSgt Jessica McWain  
**Trustee, Retired and Veterans Affairs**  
Dale C. Lutzen  
**Trustee, Family Matters** Patricia R. Dalzell  
**Division Presidents:** Div. 1, Frank Bearse;  
Div. 2, Andrea F. Scherlin;  
Div. 3, Steven Zalesky;  
Div. 4, James Crissinger;  
Div. 5, SMSgt Trey Horn;  
Div. 6, Kerry Wright;  
Div. 7, MSgt Joshua Hinsey

# CONTENTS

FALL 2018

VOL. 57, NO.4

<b>PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EYE ON WASHINGTON</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AFSA AWARDS</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>FINAL FLY-BY</b>	<b>36</b>

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>THE STRUGGLE IS REAL</b>	

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>AIR FORCE ENLISTED VILLAGE</b>	

<b>FEATURETTE</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>FINDING HAPPINESS</b>	

<b>FEATURETTE</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>FREEDOM AWARD NOMINATION SEASON NOW OPEN</b>	

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES</b>	

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS UPDATE</b>	

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>2018 PAC TESTIMONIALS</b>	



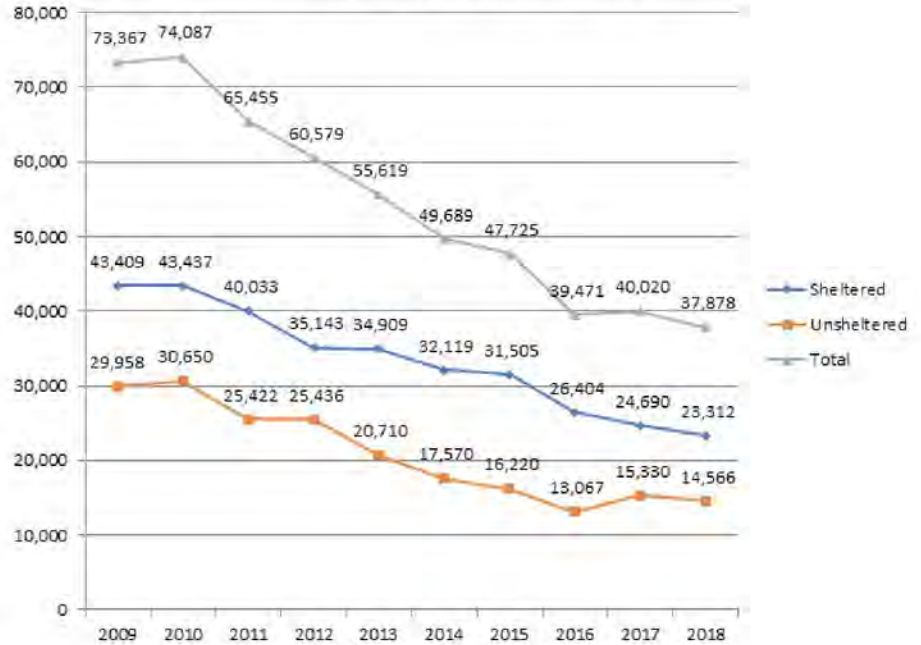
**On the Cover:** General David L. Goldfein is joined on stage by Airmen from across the globe as he accepts the 2018 Excellence in Military Leadership award from AFSA International President Jeffrey Ledoux.

## VETERAN HOMELESS RATE DROPS NATIONWIDE DECREASE ATTRIBUTED TO HUD-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

Veteran homelessness in the US continues to decline, according to a new national estimate announced on November 1 by US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson. HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment identified 37,878 homeless Veterans in January 2018, compared with 40,020 reported in January 2017. That's a 5.4 percent reduction over the previous year and almost a 50 percent reduction compared to the number reported in 2010. (See VA graph to the right charting Veteran homelessness over the past 10 years). VA officials say the decrease in Veteran homelessness can largely be attributed to the effectiveness of the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines permanent HUD rental assistance with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. They also

remind our readers that **HUD** (<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-veterans/>) and **VA** (<https://www.va.gov/homeless/>) have a

**Veteran Homelessness**



wide range of programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans, including health care, housing solutions, job training and education. Click on the link to learn more about what they have to offer.

## 2020 MILITARY PAY RAISE PROJECTED 3.1% INCREASE

Since 1962, Title 37 of the United States Code (USC) has dictated how military pay adjustments will be automatically calculated. USC Title 37, Chapter 19, § 1009 c reads, "An adjustment made under this section in a year shall provide all eligible members with an increase in the monthly basic pay that is the percentage (rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent) by which the ECI for the base quarter of the year before the preceding year exceeds the ECI for the base quarter of the second year before the preceding calendar year (if at all)."

On Wednesday Oct. 31, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics released (<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/eci.toc.htm>) the ECI calculation that will be used to

determine the 2020 military pay raise. That figure is 3.1 percent which, if Congress and the Administration don't move to reduce, would result in the largest pay raise in 10 years. Paragraph e of section 1009 allows the president to cap the pay raise based on a national emergency or serious economic conditions, but he must also notify Congress in writing by Sept. 1 of the preceding year and lawmakers must approve it. We probably won't have to wait that long though. We could know the president's intent regarding the pay raise as early as next February when he presents his annual budget proposal to Congress. We won't stand idly by until he reveals his decision because we know our position on the matter. AFSA has already been working with its Coalition partners, laying the necessary groundwork to help secure the full, 3.1 percent pay raise that current law provides for.



## HONORING VETERANS

A joint service color guard presents the colors during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis on Nov. 10, 2018. The ceremony recognized Indiana veterans, who have served in military engagements throughout American history. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Jonathan W. Padish)

## MEDICARE PART B UPDATE PREMIUMS WILL INCREASE SLIGHTLY IN 2019

TRICARE for Life (TFL) is Medicare-wraparound coverage for TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A and B. There aren't any enrollment fees for TFL, but you must pay Medicare Part B monthly premiums which are based on your income. In mid-October the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released (<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2019-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles>) 2019 premiums, deductibles,

and coinsurance amounts for the Medicare Part A and Part B programs. After staying the same last year, the Part B standard premium (for individuals making \$85,000 or less and couples making \$170,000 or less) will rise slightly from \$134 to \$135.50 per month. The five higher income brackets will see modest increases as well (click on the link to see exact rates). As a reminder, the Social Security Administration uses the most recent federal tax return you filed to the IRS to determine your premium. That means that the amount you pay usually reflects your income from two years ago—for example, your 2019 premium will reflect your 2017 income, because that's what you filed with the IRS in 2018.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

FOR YOUR CAREER. FOR YOUR FAMILY. FOR YOU.

**BRYAN  
DIFFERENCE  
MAKER**

EARN YOUR BACHELOR'S  
DEGREE AND BRYAN WILL  
PAY FOR YOUR MASTER'S

CHRIST ABOVE ALL  
**BRYAN COLLEGE**

[bryan.edu/airforce](http://bryan.edu/airforce)

Bryan College is a yellow ribbon school



Photo by Sgt. Jeremy McGuffin  
The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

## NDAA REVIEW DEFENSE POLICY AND FUNDING BILLS PASS

For the first time in recent memory, Senate and House conferees completed reconciling their different versions of the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) before the end of July. By Aug. 1, 2018, the fiscal 2019 NDAA was officially passed in both houses of Congress, and on the 13th of August it became Public Law 115-232 with the president's signature. This more aggressive schedule was a welcome change to AFSA and its Coalition partners. In recent years we had grown accustomed to the reconciliation process (Joint House-Senate Conference) not even beginning until late in the summer or even in the fall. As previously reported,

the biggest concern with this year's NDAA was the Senate's proposed elimination of the grandfathering for beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE prior to Jan. 1, 2018, protecting them from dramatic cost increases imposed in NDAA 2018. We are happy to report that this was stricken from the final bill language, which also provides for the full military pay raise of 2.6 percent; no new TRICARE fees; and no additional cuts to basic allowance for housing (BAH). A matrix of key provisions addressed in the FY2019 NDAA is located below.

We are grateful for the tremendous effort by lawmakers and the hardworking members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committee's professional staffs—in both houses of Congress—to ensure the timely passage of this year's defense policy and funding bills. By the way, 2018 was the earliest time a defense authorization bill has become law since 1978. That's 40 years, folks!

ISSUE	S. 2987	H.R. 5515	FINAL FY19 NDAA
Study on phasing out burn pits	N/A	Study to consider phasing out open burn pits (Sec. 344)	Provision to study the phasing out of open burn pits (Sec. 355)
Addition of domestic violence punishment under UCMJ	Adds domestic violence to list of punishable offenses under UCMJ (Sec. 541)	Adds domestic violence to list of punishable offenses under UCMJ (Sec. 532)	Addition of provision of domestic violence to be punishable under the UCMJ (Sec. 532)
Making the Career Intermision Program permanent	N/A	Making the Career Intermision Program permanent (Sec. 551)	Provision for authority to make the Career Intermision Program permanent (Sec. 551)
Expansion period of Military OneSource to service members and immediate family	Expansion period of one year to Military OneSource to retiring and separating service members and their immediate family (Sec. 567)	Expansion period of one year to Military OneSource for retiring and separating service members and their immediate family (Sec. 557)	Provides one year of access to Military OneSource for retiring and separating service members and their immediate family (Sec. 558)
Prohibition of funds for use of enlisted personnel to attend officer PME	Prohibition of funds to be used for enlisted personnel attending intermediate and senior level officer PME (Sec. 554)	N/A	Prohibition of funds for enlisted personnel to attend intermediate and senior level officer PME (Sec. 559)
Impact Aid	Allocates \$40M for Impact Aid (Sec. 561)	Allocates \$40M for Impact Aid (Sec. 563)	\$40M in funds to assist school districts with large amounts of military dependent children (Sec. 561)
Expansion of Authority for Noncompetitive Appointments of Military Spouses	Expansion of authority for noncompetitive appointment of spouses by federal agencies (Sec. 568)	Temporary expansion of noncompetitive appointment authority for spouses (Sec. 569)	Five-year expansion of authority for noncompetitive appointment of spouses by federal agencies (Sec. 572)
Assessment on impact of frequent PCSs on military spouse careers	N/A	Study the effects of frequent PCS moves on the stability of employment of military spouses (Sec. 565)	Assessment to study the effects of frequent PCSs on the unemployment and underemployment of military spouses, the effects on force readiness and recommendations moving forward (Sec. 575)
Criteria revision for internment at Arlington	N/A	Revision of criteria for internment at Arlington National Cemetery (Sec. 582)	Provision for revision of criteria for internment eligibility at Arlington National Cemetery to ensure active cemetery "well into the future" (Sec. 598)
Prohibition of reduction of per diem for long-term TDYs	Prohibition of reduction in per diem rates based on length of TDY (Sec. 632)	Revision to per diem policy no longer utilizing the flat rate policy for long term TDYs (31-180 days: 75%; 181 or more days: 55%) (Sec. 605)	Prohibits reduction of per diem allowance due to length of TDY in a location (Sec. 603)
Extension of MWR privileges to certain veterans and their caregivers	N/A	Extension of certain MWR privileges to certain veterans and their caregivers (Sec. 629)	Extension of Commissary and MWR privileges to Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients, former POWs, those with service-connected disabilities and certain caregivers (Sec. 621)
Space-A for certain disabled veterans	Space-A travel for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as total (Sec. 597)	Space-A travel for veterans with service-connected, permanent disability rated as total (Sec. 622)	Provision for Space-A travel for veterans with service-connected disability rated as total (Sec. 624)



ISSUE	S. 2987	H.R. 5515	FINAL FY19 NDAA
Study and Report on Development of Single Defense Resale System	N/A	Study to determine the feasibility of consolidating DeCA and Exchanges. (Sec. 625)	Provision for study to determine the feasibility of consolidating military resale entities into one defense resale system (Sec. 627)
Pilot program to treat PTSD from MST	Pilot program for treatment of PTSD related to military sexual trauma (Sec. 705)	Pilot program for treatment of PTSD from military sexual trauma (Sec. 702)	Pilot program for treatment of PTSD relating to military sexual trauma (Sec. 702)
Expanded eligibility of TDP beneficiaries for FEDVIP	Allow TRICARE dental program beneficiaries to enroll in federal dental and vision program (Sec. 702)	N/A	Provision to extend eligibility of beneficiaries of TRICARE dental programs into Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program administered by OPM (Sec. 713)
Pilot program for opioid management	Pilot program to manage the use of opioids (Sec. 704)	Counseling and treatment for substance abuse disorders and chronic pain management services for veterans (Sec. 705)	Pilot program to manage the use of opioid medications (Sec. 716)
Report on requirement of TFL beneficiaries to be enrolled in Medicare Part B	N/A	Study on requirement to enroll in Medicare Part B before being eligible for TRICARE for Life (Sec. 739)	Report on the feasibility of requirement to enroll in Medicare Part B before being eligible for TRICARE for Life (Sec. 734)
Expansion of eligibility of residence at AFRH	Expansion to spouse of eligible veterans to reside at AFRH (Sec. 1422)		N/A
Relief for residents of AFRH impacted by fee increases	Prohibition on removal of a resident due to inability to pay increase in fee (Sec. 1425)	N/A	Provision to prohibit the removal of a AFRH resident solely due to their inability to pay increased fees (Sec. 1415)
Limitation of applicability of fee increases on residents at AFRH	Limitation of fee increases to not exceed 50 percent more than the fees payable by individual resident as of April 9, 2018 (Sec. 1426)	N/A	Limitation of fee increase to be in increments over three years those residing at AFRH as of April 9, 2018 (Sec. 1416)

## ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME - WASHINGTON, D.C. AND GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI

# Affordable Independent Living for Eligible Veterans!

The Armed Forces Retirement Home is an affordable retirement community for eligible veterans who served primarily in the enlisted ranks.

Whether it's at our scenic, wooded campus in Washington, DC, or on the beach-side campus in Gulfport, Mississippi, AFRH offers supportive care and shared camaraderie.



### GENERAL SERVICES

Medical, Dental & Vision  
Wellness Program  
Recreational activities  
Full Service Library  
Dining Facility  
Computer Center  
Banking Center  
Mail Room  
Campus BX/PX  
Barber & Beauty Salon  
On/Off Campus Shuttle

### MAJOR AMENITIES

Private Room-Shower  
Internet-TV Connection  
Deluxe Fitness Center  
Movie Theater  
Bowling Center  
Hobby Shops

### GULFPORT, MISS.

Walking Path to the Beach  
Outdoor Swimming Pool  
Ocean-view Balconies

### WASHINGTON, DC

9-Hole Golf Course  
Stocked Fishponds  
Scenic Walking Patch

For more information,  
or to obtain an application call **800-422-9988**  
email: [admissions@afrh.gov](mailto:admissions@afrh.gov) | [www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)  
3700 N. Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011



## 2019 COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE (COLA) LARGEST INCREASE SINCE 2011

The 2019 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security recipients, military retired pay, survivor annuities, VA disability and Dependency and Indemnity (DIC) benefits was 2.8 percent. This is the largest COLA increase since 2011 when it was 3.6 percent. As a reminder, COLAs for 2019 began Dec. 1 and are payable starting with the January check.

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS SAFETY AND PEACE IN 2019

AFSA Executive Director Keith A. Reed and the entire headquarters staff wish all AFSA members, veterans, the men and women serving around the world, and their families the finest of holiday seasons. We wish you safety, peace, and we honor your service and thank you for protecting this nation.

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE YEAR CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Thanks to the hard work of your AFSA advocates coupled with your grassroots efforts, 2018 is shaping up to be another successful legislative year. Here are just a few of the legislative accomplishments that, by working together, we have already secured this year:

- A full, 2.9 percent military pay raise
- Stopped further attempts to reduce BAH
- Prevented additional TRICARE Premium and copay hikes
- Expanded eligibility for the VA caregiver program
- Additional funding to keep the VA Choice program running until next spring.

Even as the year winds down, we are pressing for the passage of several good bills dealing primarily with veterans issues that have been passed in one chamber that must still be addressed by the other. So, the list above will grow, and we will post a complete one on the AFSA web page once the dust settles from this Congress and in the next issue of *AFSA Magazine* as well.



## FIGHTING LIGHTNING

View of a U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II, with the 34th Fighter Squadron, 388th Fighter Wing out of Hill Air Force Base, Utah, being refueled by a KC-10 Extender flown by the 76th Air Refuel Squadron with the 514th Air Mobility Wing, over Texas, Nov. 9, 2018. The 514th is an Air Force Reserve Command unit at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Ki Hong)



## LEGISLATION IN THE 115TH CONGRESS AFSA IS COMMITTED TO KEY BILLS

At the time this article was prepared, nearly 13,000 bills and resolutions had been introduced in the 115th Congress, as well as another 5,035 amendments to them. At least 272 of them became law and three were still awaiting the president's signature. The truth is that thousands of bills, resolutions and amendments are introduced each numbered Congress but very few of them ever get passed. Sometimes bills are introduced by a lawmaker to make a political statement or curry the favor of constituents but there was never really an intent that a bill would be passed. How does AFSA ensure that legislation of the greatest importance to our members gets proper attention? First and foremost, we sift through the thousands of pieces of legislation and weed out those that don't fall under our purview. Then we identify those that at first glance do, and we examine them carefully to determine exactly what they will do. History has shown that many bills have nice sounding names that imply they are of benefit to the military, retirees, Veterans and their families but under scrutiny they would prove to be harmful. We pay attention

to the measure's "pay-for" if it is identified because it could be siphoning off funds intended for one important benefit or cohort to pay for another. This high-level, three-card monte tactic was attempted numerous times in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Finally, does it fix a real problem and is the effort consistent with the goals and initiatives outlined in **AFSA's Legislative Platform** (<http://www.hqafsa.org/legislative-platform.html>)? If a piece of legislation meets this criteria and a handful of other variables, we will list it in the bills section (<https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/Bills>) of our Legislative Action Center (LAC). From that point on, the Association works closely with the author of the bill and their staff, with its passage being the final goal in mind. Once a bill has been introduced, it is "alive" and may be considered at any time during each numbered Congress, which lasts for a period of two years. Once the numbered Congress adjourns for the last time—like the 115<sup>th</sup> will soon—all unpassed legislation dies. So key bills such as those listed in the LAC become null and void and we will have to work with our House and Senate champions to get them reintroduced. We're already doing that now so key bills addressing improvements in military pay and expanding concurrent receipt are reintroduced quickly in the 116th Congress which is scheduled to begin at noon on Jan. 3, 2019.



# THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

ARE YOU AT A LOSS ON HOW TO HELP A LOVED ONE WITH PTSD? HERE ARE 8 TIPS TO HELP PEOPLE COPE IN THESE SITUATIONS.

By Stan Popovich

**1. Learn as much as you can in dealing with PTSD, anxiety and depression.** There are many books and information that will educate you on how to deal with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and mental health issues. Share this information with the person who is struggling. The main point is that the person who is struggling gets as much information as possible on how

to overcome their PTSD. In addition, other family members should be aware on how to deal with someone who is struggling without making things worse. Education is the first step in overcoming a person's mental health issues.

**2. Be understanding and patient with the person struggling with their fears.** Dealing with PTSD, depression, and

anxiety can be difficult for the person so do not add more problems than what is already there. Do not make things worse by getting into arguments with someone who is suffering. Yelling at your loved one with PTSD will only make things worse.

**3. Talk to the person instead of talking at them.** It is important not to lecture the person who is struggling with



PTSD. Talk to the person about their issues without being rude. Most people will listen if you approach them in a proper manner. It is also important to listen to what they have to say so you get an idea of where that person is coming from.

**4. Get the person to see a PTSD counselor.** It is very important to get the person who is struggling with PTSD to talk to a professional counselor. A counselor can give advice and ideas on how to overcome PTSD. Getting advice from a professional is the number one priority in helping your loved one deal with their mental health issues.

**5. Find out the reasons why the person won't get assistance.** Some PTSD sufferers may not want to get help for various reasons. If this happens, find out the reasons why that person won't talk to a counselor. Many people who are struggling are fearful and frustrated. Try to find out the reasons why he or she won't get the advice they need and then try to find ways that will overcome their resistance of seeking treatment. Addressing a

person's issues and fears of getting assistance will go a long way in helping your loved ones.

**6. You're learning how to overcome your PTSD.** Some people in the military may think that getting help is a sign of weakness. In this case, remind your loved ones that they are not asking for help. Instead, they are learning how to overcome their PTSD. Remind your military friends and fellow veterans that when they were in the military, they had to constantly learn new ways of doing things. Every member of the military had to learn new things on a regular basis during their time in the service. Dealing with PTSD is no different. There is nothing wrong with learning new things, whether you're learning how to start a new job, learning a new hobby, learning how to drive a car or learning how to deal with your fears and PTSD. Learning is learning and there is nothing wrong with that.

**7. Find a local veteran's support group for your loved one.** It is also important that the person who is struggling join a local veteran's support group so they can

get advice from other veterans. Many people who have been in the military and are struggling with PTSD will be better able to relate to other veterans who may have similar experiences and insights.

**8. Learn how to handle the nightmares.** Many veterans and military members who have been in combat may get nightmares regarding their past war time experiences. It is not easy to stop the nightmares, but you can start to reduce the frequency of these dreams by getting advice from a PTSD counselor or local veteran's group. The more time you spend in getting assistance to address your PTSD issues, the better the chances that you will be able to reduce those nightmares. Some veterans turn to drugs and alcohol to fix their problems, but that will only make things worse. In addition, suicide is not the answer.

**About Stan Popovich**

Stan is the author of a popular managing fear book, *"A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear."* Stan's book has received over 400 book reviews and offers a lot of free mental health advice on his website. For more information and some more helpful advice, visit [www.managingfear.com](http://www.managingfear.com)



# AIR FORCE ENLISTED VILLAGE

A ONE OF A KIND  
COMMUNITY  
WITH A KIND AND  
CARING MISSION

By Scarlett Bauman

For 50 years, the Air Force Enlisted Village's nonprofit mission has been to provide a safe, secure home for surviving spouses of retired enlisted U.S. Air Force members who are over the age of 55. Housing is provided in Shalimar, Fla. near Eglin Air Force Base, at Bob Hope Village, an independent living community, and at Hawthorn House, an assisted living and memory care residence on the Bob Hope Village campus.

Every resident has a deeply touching story, but \*Theresa's path to Bob Hope Village last winter is uniquely moving. She is why the Air Force Enlisted Village exists. Theresa shared her story in her own words:

After my husband retired from the Air Force, we became full-time RVers and had great plans to travel all over the U.S. When we reached Jacksonville, I started having some health issues. Then Bob got sick. The doctors said he had five more years, but he passed away 82 days later.

Everything was in Bob's name because he didn't want me to have to worry about anything. Without Bob, I couldn't afford the motorhome and our car.

I like to take care of myself, and didn't want to be a burden on others. I bought a cheap old SUV, and I downsized to the barest necessities to survive. The SUV had no heat, and I couldn't afford to get the heater fixed. It was tough to stay warm. I would sleep in shopping center parking lots. I was scared.

My husband had told me that if anything happened to him, I should contact the Air Force and that's how I found out about the Air Force Enlisted Village. I called, and I was told to come right away and there'd be an apartment waiting for me at Bob Hope Village.

If the Air Force Enlisted Village weren't here to help me, I wouldn't have survived winter in the SUV. Now I can close my eyes and go to sleep unafraid.

\*Name changed to protect the privacy of the resident.



The bust of Bob Hope in front of the community center is a favorite photo spot for visitors and residents. Bob Hope visited the local area regularly from 1977 to 1995 and performed shows with celebrity friends to raise funds for the Air Force Enlisted Village. As a thank you, board of directors named the community for widows of retired enlisted Air Force members "Bob Hope Village."

"We're honored to help Theresa. At the Air Force Enlisted Village, we believe spouses serve our country alongside the active duty member, and our residents have dedicated their lives to service and helping others," Air Force Enlisted Village President and CEO Brooke McLean said. "We provide a small 'thank you' in recognition of their sacrifice."

Theresa joins other military widows who enjoy the camaraderie and worry-free living at Bob Hope Village. More than a safe, secure home for military widows, Bob Hope Village is a community where residents have access to scheduled bus transportation, prescription pick up service, activities, social events, on-site conveniences, and a variety of amenities to promote fitness, wellness and independence. A friend or neighbor is always nearby to share memories of military life.

The Air Force Enlisted Village has grown over its 50 years to meet the ongoing and everchanging needs of residents. In 2005, Hawthorn House opened to provide assisted living for residents who needed a higher level of care. Later, a memory support wing was added for residents with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Originally built in the mid-1980s, Bob Hope Village expanded in 2015 from the original four villages to five with modern apartment amenities specifically designed for aging residents.

"We survey our residents every year to identify their needs and we do our best to provide them with quality housing and outstanding amenities," McLean said.



There's no such thing as boredom at Hawthorn House, AFEV's assisted living and memory support residence. Residents can participate in a wide variety of activities including the Ms. Southern Belle pageant.



Air Force Enlisted Village opened Village 5 at Bob Hope Village with a ribbon cutting ceremony in July 2015. From left to right: Leven Lord, Lord and Son Construction; Brooke McLean, AFEV President and CEO; Nick Nicholson, AFEV Chairman of the Board of Directors; CMSAF#17 James Cody; Mary Gilmore, Hawthorn House resident; and Don Gaetz.

"Residents had been asking for more fitness and wellness activities so we've launched a wellness program for residents and later this fall we'll be opening our new fitness wing at the Bob Hope Village community center where residents will have access to fitness classes and new workout equipment."

Air Force Enlisted Village board members are currently planning the construction for Bob Hope Village 6 that will open in 2020 and meet the demands of a growing population of baby boomers.

"The demographics are clear. Our nation is changing with the aging of the baby boomers and we have some large challenges to address," McLean explained. "We want to be part of the solution to care for more residents in new and innovative ways."

As a private, nonprofit organization, the Air Force Enlisted Village has provided over the past five years an average of \$897,000 per year for the direct support to the widows of retired enlisted Airmen who embody the core mission.

"We receive support from active duty Air Force members around the world, but we also rely on a robust level of support from AFSA members and we thank you," McLean noted. "Every donation changes lives of people just like Theresa who from no fault of their own have found themselves living in less than desirable conditions."

For more information about the Air Force Enlisted Village or to make a donation, please visit [www.afev.us](http://www.afev.us).

# FINDING HAPPINESS

## AFTER WAR, A VETERAN LEARNS TO THRIVE

Like many Veterans, the war followed Brandon home. He used alcohol to cope.

“I had a really hard time with the transition from military to civilian life,” Brandon, a Marine Corps Veteran, explains.

Encouraged by loved ones, he sought care at the Minneapolis VA — and by using his VA benefits to receive treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and to get an education, Brandon built a new life and career.

“Anything that you might have going on, that’s what the VA’s for. And there are plenty of people there to help you.”

More than a quarter of all Veterans use VA health care; however, many are not aware of all the benefits VA health care includes. All enrolled Veterans who meet criteria have access to the following:

- Preventive, primary and specialty care
- Prescriptions
- Vision and dental care
- Mental health care
- Home health care
- Geriatrics and extended care
- Medical equipment and prosthetics

In addition to health care, Brandon used VA’s Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) to earn two associate degrees, one in business management and one in marketing.



➔ Find out more about VA education benefits.



➔ Watch Brandon’s story and learn more about VA benefits at [Explore.VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).

➔ Learn more about VA health care benefits.

VA’s education benefits (including MGIB, Post-9/11 GI Bill® and others) assist Veterans in pursuing higher education degrees, certificates and other education and training. Financial support can be used for flight training, non-college degrees, on-the-job training, technical training and more.

The support Brandon received from MGIB helped to prepare him for entrepreneurship. He started his own production company and now travels the United States and Canada recording Native American music.

“I’m really happy where I’m at right now,” he says.



# FREEDOM AWARD NOMINATION SEASON NOW OPEN

## DOES YOUR EMPLOYER GO ABOVE AND BEYOND IN SUPPORT OF A GUARDSMEN OR RESERVIST?

WASHINGTON – Do you have a story to tell about how exceptional your employer's support is to Guard and Reserve service members? If your employer goes above and beyond in their support for guardsmen or reservists, nominate them for the 2019 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award – it only takes a few minutes!

A Missouri Air National Guard member said, "I work for a small business, six employees, so the impact of when I leave is truly felt. However, that does not deter my employer from encouraging me to pursue my military career, even if it means the load at the office will be heavier for the rest of the team."

Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Hamilton of Maryland said, "In addition to routinely sending care packages to deployed deputies and maintaining direct contact with family of deployed personnel, the sheriff's office command staff and fellow deputies maintain contact through periodic email and Facebook Messenger."

These are stories from just a couple of the employers who received the Department of Defense's highest employer award – the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Of the more than 2,000 organizations nominated by their guard and reserve employees, just 15 became recipients in 2018. Nomination season opens Oct. 1, and runs through Dec. 31. For more information about the Freedom Award, or how to nominate your employer, visit [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil).

Nominations for the Freedom Award must come from a Guard or Reserve service member, or their family members, employed by the organization they are nominating. Service members can nominate large and small employers from a broad cross-section of America, including health, transportation, hospitality, entertainment, banking, service and security, as well as from federal, state and local government agencies.

The graphic features the ESGR logo at the top, followed by the text "SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD 2019". Below this, it says "NOMINATE YOUR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER OCT. 1 - DEC. 31, 2018" and provides the website "www.FreedomAward.mil". At the bottom, there are three small images: a Freedom Award trophy, a group of award recipients, and a man receiving an award.

### FREEDOM AWARD FACTOIDS!

- Launched in 1996, the Freedom Award is administered by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
- The award recognizes outstanding employers and draws attention to support from the employer community.
- Since its inception, 265 supportive employers have received the award.
- Nearly 20,000 nominations have been received since 2011.

➔ To learn more about ESGR, visit [www.ESGR.mil](http://www.ESGR.mil).

# UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES



CMSAF#15 Rod McKinley celebrates with an amazing group of First Sergeants to strike a diamond worthy pose.

---

## 2018 AFSA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN'S CONFERENCE

---



CMSAF Kaleth O Wright delivers his keynote address to PAC18 participants

*"Visionaries saw humanity's untapped potential and the unlimited possibilities in the unseen world and they brought them forth. Join the club and bring forth what our world and humanity needs in your generation and generations to come..."*  
 –Assegid Habtewold

During the AFSA Annual International Convention, the International and Executive Councils, Division and Chapters Delegates along with our active members came together to share valuable information, discuss and ratify bylaws, review the Legislative Platform, set goals and objectives for the coming year and celebrate all the past year's amazing success.

In addition to AFSA's general membership, attendees and guests had the opportunity to meet past and present AFSA, military and congressional leaders as part of the professional development forums and prestigious awards ceremonies.

These forums consisted of keynote addresses from the Secretary of the Air Force Dr. Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff General David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright. Professional Development Forum speakers included Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Sergeant Major John Wayne Troxell, Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the ever popular (and lively) former Chief

Master Sergeants of the Air Force, Joint Armed Forces Senior Enlisted Leader Panel, MAJCOM/COCOM Command Chief Panel, D. Jannell Z. MacAulay Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (ret), and Command Sergeant Major Patrick Alson, U.S. Army (ret).

Each speaker and honored guest provided a rich insight to the Air Force's past, present and future. Moreover, these forums continue to build on the strong, solid foundation of activism, education, fraternalism and support for our total enlisted corps and their families.

Within our International Convention, the Air Force Sergeant's Association hosts the Professional Airman's Conference to support and educate service members on the issues affecting the U.S. Air Force and our national security. The Professional Airmen's Conferences feature participants from Military Educational Centers, supporting Military Branches and Joint Services Trainers, as well as Enlisted Leadership groups.

For those who were not able to attend, what follows is a recap in photos of the convention and conference. And, for those in attendance, we hope this feature provides a fond reminder of your time with us and your fellow members of AFSA in San Antonio.



Welcome to San Antonio and the 2018 AFSA PAC.



Over 1,500 Airmen attended the PAC18 for a wide range of professional development opportunities.



The InfoExpo was filled with great mission partners.



The MAJCOM Training at PAC18.



Wendell Osterreich helps with raffle ticket sales.



There's always time for a selfie at the Opening Night fun.



It was a full house during Secretary Wilson's keynote address.



Division 3 poses with the AFSA Alpha Dog Mascot.



General Goldfein and CMSAF#5 Gaylor shake hands.



Scavenger Hunt items were hidden throughout the Grand Hyatt San Antonio with Prizes provided by the InfoExpo Partners.

Mrs. Wright leads the Leadership Spouses Forum.



Everyone comes together to raise funds during the Parade of Checks.



The Armed Services Senior Enlisted Leadership Panel provide a great joint services perspective.



Special guest Dr. Jannell MacAulay provided great insight on Mindfulness Research.



Secretary Heather Wilson meets and greets conference participants.

# INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By International President Michael R. Carton



CMSAF Wright said it best... "I would venture to say that this is the premier professional development opportunity in our Air Force for any enlisted Airman,"... continue to attend events like the (AFSA PAC) and continue to make yourself a better Airman."

**PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN'S CONFERENCE** – This year's PAC was simply in two words "AFSA-olutely tremendous." Delegates arrived with great anticipation of an event-filled week and they were not disappointed. The theme, "Unlimited Possibilities," is the theme for our future. This means we are open to new and innovative ideas and concepts to make our association the "Premier National Military Association of choice for 21st century Airmen."



Michael R. Carton

Another fact that fortified the theme was the overwhelming number of young Airmen and NCOs in attendance. For the first time that I can remember, our legacy members were not a majority of the delegates in attendance. This bodes well for our future. Now, we the legacy members, have a duty and responsibility to reach out to mentor and guide this next generation of AFSA members so they can evolve into our new leaders.

**STRATEGIC REVIEW** – Speaking of evolving, AFSA is starting this new chapter through a comprehensive association-wide Strategic Review. Multiple teams of AFSA

members and subject matter experts will review, analyze and make recommendations to improve our processes and daily practices so we appeal to Airmen across our entire Air Force, active duty, Guard, and Reserve forces. We are going to start with two areas of greatest importance and potential impact for AFSA. They are membership and social media; two areas which are critical to our ability to attract and retain members.

**MEMBERSHIP** – AFSA relies on each of you and your chapters to develop, implement, and execute a plan to grow and sustain your chapter, and in turn, AFSA. Your International Membership Committee is working to ensure we have responsive programs which meet our Airmen's and their family's needs. We need your chapter to be more aggressive in working membership in order to help the association remain strong. The team is creating a series of membership initiatives to help us achieve our 2018 recruiting goals. Your chapter leadership and membership committee should work together with the executive director and AFSA HQ to develop specific membership campaigns and initiatives to support your special events. As you may know, today's Airmen get their information from some form of Social Media and that is our second focus area.

**SOCIAL MEDIA** – This is a very difficult area to tackle, but we have some ideas that will allow AFSA to create a



AFSA Division 7 members join International President Jeff Ledoux in celebration at PAC18. #weareAFSA

one-stop-shopping experience for Airmen interested in AFSA or those just looking for information about us. For example, the EZ Renew tab on the website has streamlined the renewal process. Next, we are looking for teams of talented AFSA members to develop an AFSA app for your various devices. The winning team will receive a free registration and hotel accommodations at the 2019 PAC in San Antonio, Texas. Those interested in the APP development or other upcoming communications efforts are asked to first contact the AFSAHQ Executive Director to discuss parameters and the focus of the project. This is your chance to help AFSA, have some fun, improve communications, and help AFSA reach out to our young Airmen and NCOs.

**CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT** – Reaching out and communicating with chapters is vital to our future success. As such, chapter presidents will be receiving more direct communications in the future, text, voice, social media and the web. It is imperative we ensure important information is disseminated to the lowest levels possible. To accomplish this, I intend to communicate directly with chapter leadership while including your division leadership so they also know what is being distributed. You, as AFSA's leaders, have a responsibility to be informed of everything impacting your chapter and members. This is a two-way street and you must pass information upward and pass the information laterally to your members.

**REPORTS** – Report time is fast approaching so please be diligent and complete and forward your reports as soon as possible. Also, we are approaching the annual election and end of year. Please be sure to complete your Directory of Officers, budget, and other reports by the established deadline.



The Command Chiefs join in the selfie fun before the panel discussion and Q & A.

# PAC18 TESTIMONIALS

*People are talking about the 2018 AFSA International Convention and our Professional Airmen's Conference. Read the interviews and reviews to see why so many AFSA members, guests and military leaders joined together to network, learn, motivate and celebrate at the AFSAPAC18.*

**AFSA INTERNATIONAL AIRMAN OF THE YEAR**  
**Chapter 652 member, SrA Rebecca Fentress, from**  
**the 81st Security Forces Squadron.**

**How long have you been involved with AFSA?**

I have been involved with AFSA for a little over two years.

**What is the most enjoyable part of AFSA, for you?**

The most enjoyable part of AFSA for me is the opportunity to mentor and be mentored. Every time I attend an AFSA event, whether it's a volunteer activity or a membership meeting, I see Airmen developing professionally through mentorship. Often, activities such as our monthly beach clean-up provide networking opportunities for volunteers to both seek and receive advice from each other. I have gained an incredible amount of insight from my mentors and have had the opportunity to provide this guidance to some newer Airmen as well.

**How did it feel to be named the AFSA International Airman of the Year?**

When it was first announced, I was overwhelmed and surprised as the other finalists were all competent leaders who would have been excellent selections for the award. I immediately felt extremely grateful to my AFSA mentors as they were the ones who have encouraged me and provided opportunities for me to excel. Any success I achieve can be attributed to their efforts.

**What are your future plans within AFSA?**

I would like to continue to be involved with the community service efforts that AFSA initiates, especially partnership events with the Airman's Attic and Fisher House as these two organizations provide much needed services to Keesler Airmen.

**What would you say to a potential AFSA member to get them to join?**

I would tell them about the leadership opportunities that AFSA offers to Airmen, which are often difficult to find at the squadron level. AFSA develops Airmen through placing them in leadership positions and giving them responsibility over volunteer events, fundraising efforts, and legislative activities. I would argue that AFSA Airmen are better equipped to execute the mission and often excel above their peers because they have been entrusted with demanding leadership responsibilities.



International Airman of the Year Rebecca Fentress accepts the award from CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright and International President Jeffrey Ledoux.





AFSA Chapter 161 was on the verge of being disbanded less than two years ago, now they are stronger than ever and were selected to receive the Humanitarian Service Award for 2017.



CMSAF Wright and TSgt Bogert. BTW: TSgt Bogert dreams of working in the office of the CMSAF.



"Sergeant Major, just how excited are you that Marines can now be AFSA members, too?" Semper Fil

**TSgt Autumn Bogert, AFSA Paul Revere Chapter 161, Hanscom AFB, MA**

Attending the 2018 Professional Airman's Conference was an incredible experience for me. It was my first time attending and there was nothing like it! Not only hearing from, but being in the same room and enjoying the same company as our Air Force and Joint Force Leaders, was incredible. Being able to share a snippet of my story, my personal struggles

with medical issues and have valuable conversations with the highest enlisted leader within the DoD, knowing my words will actually make a difference in bringing about change in our healthcare. The support I received from my comrades after sharing the challenges of 10.5 years in a physically demanding career, the understanding you can't get anywhere else. Leaving the conference as a rejuvenated and revitalized professional, ready and lethal.

**David I. McCoy, SMSgt (Ret), USAF – President, AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751, Wright Patterson AFB, OH**

Going to the Professional Airmen's Conference (PAC) is something I look forward to every year. Not only does it re-Blue me but it rejuvenates and re-energizes me as well. It provides us the opportunity to catch up with long-time friends and to make new ones too. My wife and I truly enjoy finding out what has been going on in their lives. If the military is a tight community, and the Air Force even more so, then the PAC is a homecoming on steroids!

This is a homecoming where you know that you are going to hear amazing things about amazing people. It is not like going back home and wondering why little has changed or what has changed is more about the surroundings than those you left behind. This is about sharing an experience with YOUR community, while learning and growing at the same time. It is a dose of resiliency, in whatever form that may come for you. And, it comes at a time when many need it and have come to expect just that. The PAC isn't just an event. It is Air Force culture at its best!



CMSAF#14 Gerald & Mrs. Murray and Mr. & Mrs. David McCoy

**TSgt Benjamin Perry - Chapter 1674, Ramstein, Germany, Vice President, Division 7 Trustee**

Had a great time at my first PAC. Looking forward to it again next year! My favorite experiences were the former CMSAF panel and the opportunity to network with so many great people. It was great to receive informal mentorship from the Air Force top leaders. Not only were they fantastic speakers, but they took the time to answer questions, meet and greet and take a few selfies. I also enjoyed the experience of the AFSA elections and the voting process. It was a great learning experience and really showed that our voices do matter.



The Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson was an amazing and inspirational speaker. She even took the time to meet and greet us and pose for photos.



Having the opportunity to meet CMSAF#8 Sam Parish is a personal and professional dream come true. This man has inspired me during my entire career.

Chapter 1674 was very well represented. The annual PAC is a fantastic opportunity to learn, share experiences, network and support each other personally and professionally. Join us next year!



**Robert Simpson**

Having the opportunity to attend the Professional Airmen's Conference was a wonderful experience for my wife Carolyn, and I. The leadership and educational programs were timely and interesting from an active duty and support perspective. The dinners and awards ceremonies were inspiring and the overall opportunities for networking will most definitely help me in my career today and throughout my military career. Thank you AFSA for providing us with a top-notch, professional event.

My wife, Carolyn, and I were able to meet and listen to our truly motivational CMSAF Kaleth Wright.



**SMSgt Shari Owoh - AFSA  
Chapter 1320, Travis AFB, CA**

Travis AFB AFSA Chapter 1320 representing at this year's PAC, where all of our members (E-2 thru E-9) were able to network and learn from our Senior Leaders the importance of being an AFSA member. This experience will forever impact our team and help build our chapter's numbers in 2019.

**“It was great to meet  
AFRC Chief Kelly  
at the AFSA-PAC18.  
She is an amazing  
Command Chief  
who is making a  
difference.”**

**SMgt Christian Krug,  
Chapter 858,  
Minneapolis, MN,  
Chapter President**



MSgt Therrien, uber mentor Michael Byrd and SMSgt Erik Robbins from Travis AFB

**MSgt Stephanie Therrien - Chapter 1201, Kirtland AFB**

For the past week I've been participating in the AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference and I really cannot explain just how amazing it was.

I reconnected with people I hadn't seen in 18 years, and another I hadn't seen in 10. I connected with LEADERS, and I'm not just talking about the former CMSAFs. (I did that too!) I'm talking about fellow SNCOs who want to do incredible things just like I do. And I was able to see this event through some young and UNBELIEVABLE Airmen. It's so inspiring and SO motivating.

If you aren't attending this, let me know, and I can tell you how to get there next year!

# AFSA AWARD RECIPIENTS

The AFSA International Convention and Professional Airmen's Conference was held August 25 – 29, 2018, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas. This annual event brings together AFSA members with Senior Air Force and Congressional leaders for professional development, the sharing of ideas, mentoring and networking opportunities, and to conduct the business of AFSA. Another highlight of the annual event are the AFSA and Air Force awards ceremonies, which recognize specific members and nominees who have accomplished great things in support of Airmen, Veterans, families and this association. The following pages highlight the award recipients and the wide range of activities and learning opportunities featured during this international event.



## THE WILLIAM H. PITSENBARGER HEROISM AWARD

**SSgt Jared R. Isenhart**

Staff Sergeant Jared R. Isenhart distinguished himself as a Pararescueman, 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Army Air Field, North Carolina from Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2017. During this period, Isenhart served 120 days in an elite Joint Task Force fighting terrorism. Responsible for the personnel recovery plan, he executed a combat jump into enemy territory. During the mission, Isenhart put himself in danger to rescue a combat wounded teammate. He also identified two casualties with life-threatening shrapnel wounds. Isenhart's efforts kept his team members alive and aided in the elimination of 32 terrorists. The distinctive accomplishments of Isenhart reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force. Isenhart received a full 4-year Scholarship from AFSA Mission Partner - American Military University.



# AFSA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

## 2016 AFSA EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

General David L. Goldfein



General David L. Goldfein accepts his award from CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright and AFSA International President Jeff Ledoux.

General David L. Goldfein is the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, Washington, D.C. He is the 21st Chief of Staff and serves as the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for the organization, training and equipping of 660,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Goldfein and other service chiefs function as military advisers to the Secretary of Defense, National Security Council and the President of the United States of America.

Since becoming the 21st Chief on April 29, 2016, Goldfein has made strategic decisions that have continued to improve the quality of the life of the Total Air Force Enlisted Corps and their families. These improvements have been paramount to the Air Force's success in its quest of air superiority and include enhanced commander assignment and promotion release notifications, updated promotion eligibility code and assignment availability code policy, authorization for early pin-on for those selected for reassignment to certain projected billets requiring a higher grade, greater flexibility in completion of Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME), and the reduction of additional duties performed by unit members.

Goldfein's consistent record of support for enlisted members has been and remains an integral part of his leadership style and clearly merits the presentation of the AFSA Excellence in [Military Leadership Award for 2017](#).

## L. MENDEL RIVERS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Representative William "Mac" Thornberry (R-Tx)

Representative Mac Thornberry (R-TX) has served as the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee since 2015. Charged with jurisdiction of general defense policy, ongoing military operations and the organization and reform of the Departments of Defense and Energy, the House Armed Services Committee



must, along with Senate counterparts, author and pass the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which sets troop levels, pay raises, authorizes programs and maintains benefits earned by each service member among other things.

Serving as chairman of the conference committee responsible for resolving differences between the two versions of the FY2018 NDAA, Rep. Thornberry conducted long and arduous negotiations against the harsh Senate proposals, ultimately convincing the Senate to agree to

- Authorize a full pay raise of 2.4 percent, the largest raise in eight years
- Drop the proposed cuts to dual-military couples' basic allowance for housing (BAH)
- Increase end-strength of the military – for both active and reserve components
- Permanently preserve Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) for survivors

Rep. Thornberry remains a staunch advocate for a fully-funded and well-equipped military. Of the steady stream of Continuous Resolutions (CR) and budget caps, Thornberry stated, "We lost twenty three service members to hostile actions in two thousand and seventeen; we lost four times more than that to training related accidents. This budget dysfunction has a human cost and our military is bearing the brunt of it..."

Rep. Mac Thornberry's unceasing support and reverence for service men and women make him the ideal nominee for the 2017 L. Mendel Rivers Award.

## AFSA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

### MSgt Alexander J. Rosales

Master Sergeant Alexander J. Rosales is a Crew Chief assigned to the 3rd Maintenance Group as the MOC Superintendent at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. He is responsible for the daily maintenance coordination of seven squadrons and the supervision of 18 personnel. Sergeant Rosales oversees critical command and control efforts as well as coordinating global mobility efforts.



#### AFSA INVOLVEMENT CHAPTER OR BASE

- 1473's most active member - directly involved in 98% of all Chapter activities — personally accumulated 1.5K volunteer hours.
- Chapter 1473 President; led 1.2K members/14 exec council — guided 304 events to generate 10K+ volunteer hours to make AFSA JBBER's most active organization
- Revitalized FB direction; authored 212 updates. 80% of Chapter's posts — raised likes from 304 to 471
- Created all-inclusive group for exec council; 14.8K messages bridged communication gap — enabled 24/7 Chapter ops
- Organized Alaska's 1st Pat Tillman Run; plotted CRS/provided safety support — 6 runners earned \$120 toward veteran scholarships
- Brainchild of Boards & Beers event — ran 2 events to pair 22 Chiefs with 46 SNCOs for 1-on-1 mentoring; coined by 3WG CCM
- Led 10 Membership/21 Executive meetings; enforced biweekly face-to-face meets — increased council immersion/10 OGs retained
- Supplemented base professional development programs; authored 2 CRSs/taught 4 semesters — established AFSA as the only organization that helped every rank; mentored 250 Airmen
- Led talks during 8 Command Chief Base PO Council meetings; teamed with 18 leaders/12 top orgs — raised awareness/5K members
- Rekindled JROTC ties; mentored 4 High School classes; pushed awards program — presented 4 young Cadets with AFSA Award
- Directly assisted base Top 3; mentored fundraising committee with plans and execution — raised \$30K in support of 79 organizations
- Teamed with comm. rep; utilized Facebook, email, flyers, mailings — increased meeting member average to 35, up 300%
- Met with base cadre; held 2-hr Q/A session/plain talk/best way forward — solidified AFSA presence back into enlisted PMEs
- Face of AFSA: briefed and recruited at 5 CC calls/12 FTAC/2 ALS/1 NCO/8 VFW events — connected with 2K Airmen and Vets
- Led 8-hr symposium for 8 base-level orgs; hosted FSS/JA/PA/Prof Development — built ties/connected councils/coordinated efforts
- Authored op parameters; cleared AFSA 'just a PO' stigma — 1st legit JBBER Chapter — lauded by FSS CC/673WG CCM
- Created/led Arctic Challenge; hosted 6 teams/68 individual's 24hr run w/ 5 food booths — raised \$3,4K for St. Baldrick's
- Authored monthly Chapter Newsletter; flaunted base/community efforts — enabled contact to 'offline' retired members
- Supported National Cemetery; led 16 person flag setup/teardown on Memorial/Flag Day — opened door for future events
- Remembered those who gave all; read names of fallen on POW/MIA day at VFW for 10-hrs — highlighted by local news
- CC of the Mess for AFSA Combat Dining-In; coined local Afghan Vet — praised "best event of the year"; 100 attendees

- Created/attended 9 Tops Off events; allowed mentoring of all ranks, out of uniform — broadcast on JBBER base paper
- Connected with VFW Wreaths Across America; enabled 12 AFSA attendees — coordination praised by Quartermaster
- Ran 3 events to support the VFW Aux; prepped nacho bar/ran raffle/provided prizes — raised \$520; coined by Aux CC

#### MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

- Most recruits/retentions in 1473; results were top 10% of all AFSA '17; #6 in Div 5 — shouldered Div 'Top Chapter' win
- Pioneered AFSA Discount Card; secured 10 establishments/built local bonds — the reason for Chapter's 173 recruits
- Initiated Chapter POC program; solidified reps for 27 of 37 squads across 3 Wings in 1-week — enabled bad contact info fixes
- Scrubbed chapter roster; identified all members/called/completed online searches — cleared 22 bad mailing addresses
- 1 of 3 members at International PAC; pushed recruiting campaign to home Chapter — secured 11 Members-for-Life
- Attended various Vet Service Orgs; provided 9 opportunities to update contact info — personally corrected 18 emails

#### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Led 18 Voters Voice drives/taught 54 Vets; secured sig's — fought reforms, COLA hikes, med co-pays, pay increase
- Posted 26 legislative points on FB page; revamped communication effort — reached 39K 'bookers/keyed 2K interactions
- Conducted live training at 4 meetings; coached 91 attendees — showcased 8 letters sent & received for elected officials
- Attended monthly Chamber of Commerce; spoke on behalf of base community — solicited to join Governor's Council
- Distributed Action Alert/Govt. Relation emails; utilized FB/Twitter/Instagram/email — 6K members/10K non reached monthly
- Hosted Legislative Week; secured booths at BX/local VFWs — informed hundreds on current initiatives on Capitol Hill

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NON-AFSA RELATED

- Member of Top of the World Toastmasters; completed 4 speeches/evaluated regional performance — awarded Best Speaker
- Pushed 9 member booster club planning team; secured 64 volunteers/\$7K equip/food — raised \$9.2K for Squad holiday party/picnic
- Hosted base-wide Silver Bullet Writing Prof Development CRS; 2-hr training across all ranks — 30 Airmen mentored/16 AFSCs
- Teamed w/JBER USO; grilled 1.2K burgers/brats w/4 AFSA members — fed 800 military at FSS's 5K Color Fun Run

# AFSA NCO OF THE YEAR

## MSgt Ruben J. Zamora

Technical Sergeant Ruben J. Zamora is the Section Chief of Cargo Movement, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Grand Forks AB, ND. TSgt Zamora is responsible for the movement of all inbound and outbound cargo.

TSgt Zamora is a dedicated AFSA Member as Vice President and recently being selected to fill the President position. He has received his bachelor's degree in Logistics and Transportation Management as well as a Professional Managers Certificate. He is currently working on his master's degree through Columbia Southern University and has been selected for promotion to the rank of MSgt and recently welcomed his second daughter Genevieve in July of 2017. MSgt Zamora received a 2-year Scholarship from AFSA Mission Partner - Columbia Southern University.

### LEADERSHIP AND JOB PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY DUTIES:

- Led 13 military and civilians across 5 work centers; provided expert logistics management and leadership — recognized as Squads Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award nominee
- Steered 841 PPTY inspections; drove 96% QC rate/beat DoD standards by 46% — flawless support for 2.1K TFI Airmen across the installation
- Guided Hurricane Maria response; led 20 personnel management 9 pieces/73 tons of equipment — relief delivered to Puerto Rico in 12 hours
- Served as 1st Sergeant for 75 days; advised CC on 2 DDRPs/2 NJPs/emergency leave — ensured msn ready force of 180 Squad Airmen
- Led 4-mbr PPTY team; oversaw 12 DV & 299 PPM moves — slashed 5-day standard by 50%/ \$656K returned to DoD personnel
- Piloted innovative education program; drafted FAQ sheet/expedited PPM payments in 3 weeks — adopted across multi-MAJCOMs
- Revamped base's TPS entry process; coordinated/certified contractor access w/ SFS — expedited 76 arrivals & saved \$91K
- Spearheaded the 1st-ever Wingman's/CC's spouse tour; coordinated 14 briefs across 7 sections — set new leadership-immersion benchmark
- Managed \$83K CBA account; authorized 188 transactions/reconciled w/in 48 hours vs. month standard — recovered \$152K/year
- Wing Inspection Team member; evaluated 8 shops across Wing/tenant units — Identified 7 deficiencies/provided 'best practice' insight
- Rebooted file storage program; corrected 2K files/purged 10K junk docs — eliminated 67 man-hours/year f/ 2 units/3 positions
- Penned 6x AFI-required local SOPs; merged team talents across FSS — cut PCS process by 50% f/ TFI personnel in 2x Wings
- Led PAX travel team program; validated 137 DTS requirements for 95 PCSs and deployments — met 48-hr requirement/100% military air usage standard
- Organized CPI training; teamed w/ SMEs/enabled 13 Green Belt certs — 75 bottlenecks removed & improved 60% of Squad programs
- Embraced TFI initiative; shared PCS/PPM lessons learned w/ ND ANG — 6 personnel training/expedited 45 docs/\$60K saved
- Supported RQ-4 en-route TDYs/PCSs; coordinate with 2x Wings & AFPC — seamless trans/grad for GF's 1st-enlisted pilots
- Directed trans f/ 27 TPS items; 100% positive inventory/generated 25 sorties — safely delivered \$3M in msn critical assets
- Sync'd customer services hours; expedited relocation process/partnered with CPTS — eased access for TFI partners/retirees
- Reviewed inbound-cargo reject program; Identified limfacs/resolved 141 deficiencies — efforts slashed 148 man-hours f/ 2 work centers
- Steered 45 HHG re-weighs; Identified/validated 10 errors/corrected DPS accts — averted \$25K in potential excess costs to member
- Expedited RQ-4 shipments; prepped 92 items/31Klbs in 30 mins/slashed 12-hr AF study 96% — enabled 104 combat sorties



MSgt Zamora accepts his award from CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright and AFSA International President Jeff Ledoux.

### SIGNIFICANT SELF-IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS:

- Crushed AMC's LRM course; 1 of 6 certified instructors on base/enhanced stewardship — readied 27 warfighters/met 100% standard
- Earned 6 credits towards MBA; balanced 9 PDSs/civilian management program; garnered innovative techniques...awarded CCAF PMC
- Completed 40-hr/2-block HAZMAT course; exploited vital tech training/eased process time — unit declaration errors down 85%
- Aced 70-hr DAU course; hand selected as COR/provided QA for \$1.5M PPTY contract — upheld integrity of DoD partnership
- Represented GF TMO at '17 PPTY/NDTA conference — 27 topics/vital AFSC insight/briefed 14 person critical system update
- Board member for squad/group/wing awards; reviewed 14 top performers/enhanced writing acumen — shared lessons learned w/ 4 Airman

### BASE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NON-AFSA RELATED:

- Base Top-3 Mentorship Committee lead; guided 8 courses, 16 topics & 8 instructors — deliberately developed 210 Airmen across 2x Wings
- AF Ball Committee lead; led 36 members — raised \$16K & cut ticket cost 42%; successful event for 450 personnel and Wing/CC coined
- Unit Booster Club Pres; inspired 180 personal/oversaw 12 community event projects — raised \$3.6K f/ unit morale events
- Organized Lunch & Learn program; guided discussions w/ 27 Airmen & 6 SNCOs — opened communications channels across generations
- Developed 13 Squad Airmen; inspired 21 credit hours/9 CLEPS/7 PDSs — Airmen earned CCAF/scholarship/1st Sgt award/2 awarded BTZ
- Facilitated DSD Crosstalk Panel; coordinated SME panel/highlighted program pros — 9 members vectored...2 selected for special duty

### AFSA INVOLVEMENT BASE AND COMMUNITY:

- Chapter VP; led 332 members, inspired 75 volunteers across 12 events/raised \$6K — cinched Division 3 Small Chapter/Year '17
- Guided 'Flock-a-Friend' event; 48 spots decorated & \$750 raised — cemented AFSA as 'household name' on GFAFB
- Oversaw 4-day Music Fest; led 30-mbr team/raised \$750 — event enjoyed by 3K+/promoted AFSA/raised awareness
- Hosted Chapter Quarterly Social; rallied 38 family members/educated local vets on AFS —; built cohesive team of AFSA reps
- Led Relay For Life event; organized 90 personnel/upheld 12-hr event — raised \$120K for cancer research/positive AFSA image
- Organized Plate Lunch event; led 11 POCs/cooks & gave GF a 'Taste of Mexico' — raised \$1.7K and sent 4 members to Div Conference
- Model AFSA ldr; built FTAC/ALS/provided org partnerships — Chapter #3 in recruits & #4 in retainment out of 14 in Div for 2017

## AFSA AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

A1C Rebecca L. Fentress

Airman First Class Rebecca L. Fentress is an Installation Patrolman for the 81st Security Forces Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. She has been responsible for leading 42 responses to on base assaults, security incidents, vehicle accidents, DUIs, thefts, and attempted suicides. Additionally, she partners with the squadron's investigations section to conduct sting operations and gather evidence to support their criminal cases.

In addition to her work duties, Airman Fentress serves as a Chapter 652 AFSA Airman Activity Coordinator leading over 26 community-strengthening volunteer events annually. She is also a student at the University of Louisville working towards her master's degree in Criminal Justice and conducting graduate-level research.



A1C Fentress accepts her award and 2-Year Scholarship from AFSA Mission Partner, Waldorf University; CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright and AFSA International President Jeff Ledoux

### LEADERSHIP AND JOB PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY DUTIES:

- Jt ops trainer; instructed 145-hrs/18 courses in base security ops — turned 36 Soldiers/enabled AF transfer of deployment msn to USA
- On Scene Commander f/4 security incidents; directed 10 cops to protect wing PL3 resources — 81st MSG AOO, #1/104
- Graduated 40-hr med course; turned 17 enlisted in life-saving skills — saved 10/10 wounded in ex/selected as AOM by CRS instructor, #1/18
- Deployed flat armorer; armed 1440 personal/accounted f/1.1K weapons/117K rounds — 100% mx & accountability/secured \$5.5M
- Initiated background checks f/4K OCN members; processed qualified members/375 badges — protected \$3M resources & 2K personal
- Selected f/project tracking 36 aircraft; plotted locations/created map in 10hrs — Identified discrepancy in official data for \$2M ACFT
- Organized 5 member CDC study group; 27-hrs/30K questions/20 sessions — 5/5 passed & 3 members scored >90% AFSC average
- Lead patrol f/75 Random Anti-terrorism Measures; instructed 12 additional cops/37-hrs — secured 3 housing locations/700 personnel
- Coordinated response f/3 assaults; led 10 interviews/documentated crime scene/testified in court — 8 citations issued/perps arrested
- Led 10 alarm activation responses; directed 18 assisting patrols/expedited response time 20% — secured \$800K assets
- Directed 2 responses f/unauthorized personal in restricted area; instructed 3 patrols/escorted member out — secured \$5M ACFT
- Headed search f/21 suspicious vehicles; oversaw 6 mbr tm f/10 hrs/directed MWD tm — intercepted 3 contraband items
- First-on-Scene to 8 disputes; briefed 20 members/deescalated mil conflicts — restored peace to 330 home neighborhood
- Identified 550 suspicious personal entering base; conducted 1,100 scans/operated \$2M equipment — denied entry to 25 threats
- Headed response f/2 suicide attempts; secured 8 weapons/monitored victims — avoided devastation for 15 close family members
- Organized response f/5 reports of stolen vehicles; directed 15 patrols/gathered 9 statements — recovered \$32K property
- Partnered w/lcl TSA f/sting op; test'd accuracy of \$2M xray technician/provided positive results — vital to safety of 200K annual flyers
- Augmented SF investigations; led underage drinking case efforts/questioned 15 Airmen — gathered intel/identified 30 culprits
- Oversaw search of 1.5K parcels for members entering base; Identified 30 contraband items — protected 300 workers/585+ visitors
- Initiated investigation f/OCN partner security threat; gathered 7 statements — member removed/ensured safety of 100 members FLT
- Acquired 40 hr Northrop Grumman DBIDS cert; verified identity of 35 potential threats — increased Wing validation time 20%

- Initiated equipment ROS; Identified/tracked/located 12 armory assets — vital to conservation of \$8K/reinvested in 24K ammo rounds
- Collected biometrics from 200 base civ personal; documented 4K identifiers — enhanced security for 841 homes/2K deployed members
- Led response f/12 DUIs; arrested subjects/conducted sobriety tests/ensured due process — boosted conviction rate 15%
- Delivered brief to 23 officers on base security threats; chosen over 7 peers/displayed job mastery — coined by Wing Op Supt

### SIGNIFICANT SELF IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS:

- Achieved impressive 95% on 5-level CDC EOC! Top 5% in AFSC/3 mos early — top squad score in 3 years/#1 of 42 testers
- Earned 6 CR hours through CLEPs/awarded 5 level; applied educational training to deployed environment — earned CCAF degree regulations
- Educationally focused! Earned 9 cr hrs/4.0 GPA twds M.S. in Criminal Justice — 25% complete & applied education to SF msn
- Dedicated 45-hrs f/Arabic 101 self-study course; 3 credit equivalent — leveraged language to reduce hostility w/12 OCNs
- Pursued personal development; devoted 15hrs to John Maxwell courses — utilized skills to org 3 morale events/24 deployed members
- Conquered 40hr Crime Investigations course; furthered path to AFOSI career goal — maximized skills to seize 16g illegal drugs

### BASE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NON-AFSA RELATED:

- Elected Rising Six Event Coordinated for 160 enlisted; led 10 events f/200 attendees — sole airman in squad coined by 379th MSG CC
- Headed wing 9-11 ruck; coordinated w/20 members/10 volunteers/recruited 50 ruckers/MC'd opening ceremony — honored 3K personnel lost
- Organized 2 squad promotion ceremonies; led 24 volunteers/raised morale for 96 members/20 promotees — coined by 879th ESFS CC
- Flag Bearer f/10 member squad drill team; executed precise movements in retreat ceremony — lauded by wing CC for flawless job
- Developed new morale trip for 84 deployed; coordinated with 5 agencies/12 personnel — ensured safe travel f/7 trips/21 cars/672hrs

### AFSA INVOLVEMENT BASE AND COMMUNITY:

- AFSA Airman Council VP f/1.4K members; led & promoted 26 events/500+ volunteers/700+ man hours — seized chapter AOO x2
- Led 26 beach/highway cleanups; 180 volunteer/270 man hours — removed 800lbs trash & enhanced \$1.6B tourism industry
- Teamed w/Airman Attic for new community program; 77 volunteers/184 hours — sorted 1Klbs clothes/enabled service to 3K+ Airmen in need
- Organized 12 volunteers; cooked 3 Fisher House meals/10hrs — nourished 40 vets/vital to Div Command Svc Chapter OTY award



---

## AMERICANISM AWARD

### Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force #5 Robert D. Gaylor AND Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force #6 James M. McCoy

CMSAF Robert D. Gaylor set a goal as the senior enlisted Airman to feel the pulse of the enlisted force and serve as a conduit of information. He addressed Airmen's low morale, the weak military public image, educated the force on the hazards of substance abuse and continued to raise confidence and shift attitudes within the force. Additionally, Gaylor is credited with securing a policy allowing E-4s to transport their families at government expense during permanent change of station moves — a solid step to preserving quality of life. He believes one of the most important roles a former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force can play is that of a link between the USAF of the past and the one of today.

CMSAF James M. McCoy took office during a time when the public was still questioning the military involvement in Vietnam, and the Air Force was experiencing the lowest recruiting year ever. McCoy worked with recruiters to get the right people in the Air Force and sought to improve the military education system from basic training to the NCO level. He also instituted the Stripes for Exceptional Performers Program to give incentive and an alternate promotion option. In addition to visiting Airmen, he placed great value in being involved with the Pentagon staff. McCoy expanded the list of boards and conferences where he believed the CMSAF should have a role.

It is an honor to present the nomination of CMSAF #5 Robert D. Gaylor and CMSAF #6 James M. McCoy for their lifelong contributions to the Enlisted Corps for the award of the 2017 AFSA Americanism Award.



We are deeply honored to present the Americanism award to CMSAF#5 Robert Gaylor. Presented by CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright and AFSA International President Jeff Ledoux.



CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright presents CMSAF#6 James McCoy with the Americanism award at the Former CMSAF Summit in Omaha, Nebraska.

---

## AFSA TOP PERFORMERS

**AFSA Chapter of the Year - Over 500**  
**Division 3: Chapter 985,**  
**Tinker AFB, OK**

**AFSA Chapter of the Year - Under 500**  
**Division 3: Chapter 964,**  
**Grand Forks AFB, ND**

**AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger**  
**Communication (Chapter)**  
**Division 4: Chapter 1075,**  
**Randolph AFB, TX**

**AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger**  
**Communication (Division)**  
**Division 6: Aurora, CO**

**AFSA Veteran Administration**  
**Volunteer Service (VAVS)**  
**Division 3: CMSgt (ret) Hershell**  
**Sourlock, Chapter 804,**  
**Kansas City, MO**

**AFSA Humanitarian Service**  
**Division 1: Chapter 161,**  
**Hanscom AFB, MA**

**AFSA International Legislative**  
**Award (Chapter)**  
**Division 3: Chapter 985,**  
**Tinker AFB, OK**

**AFSA International Legislative**  
**Award (Individual)**  
**Division 4: MSgt (ret) Johnny C. Byrd,**  
**Chapter 615, Barksdale AFB, LA**

**AFSA Volunteer Service (VSA)**  
**(Chapter)**  
**Division 3: Chapter 804,**  
**Kansas City, MO**

**AFSA Volunteer Service (VSA)**  
**(Individual)**  
**Division 1: MSgt NaTosha M.**  
**Nordquist, Chapter 161,**  
**Hanscom AFB, MA**

**International Membership**  
**Achievement Award**  
**Division 6: MSgt Christopher D. Dodd,**  
**Div 6, Ch 1260, Luke AFB, AZ**

## AFSA FAMILY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**Ms. Barbara L. Veach (Presented Posthumously)**

Prior to her passing on June 27, 2018, Barbara Veach served as Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 804's Family Matters Trustee and Veterans Administration coordinator. In this role she provided oversight for all Family Matters programs and activities. She provided monthly reports and kept the chapter informed of opportunities to get involved in the community, organized monthly luncheons, card parties, and bridge and pinochle tournaments. Barbara believed in giving back and remembering those who served before. She was a member of Chapter 804's POW/MIA Committee and helped promote the annual event as well as participated in it by reading the names of the missing from Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. She volunteered at the Spofford Home and Hope Haven to provide support for battered women and children as well as high-risk youth in underprivileged neighborhoods. Barbara was a lifetime member of the Air Force Sergeants Association and remained active in every way within Chapter 804.



### AFSA INVOLVEMENT CHAPTER OR BASE

- Elected by her peers to serve as Chapter Family Matters Trustee; provided oversight of all Family Matters programs
- Provided detailed monthly updates and kept chapter members informed of what the needs are in the community
- Reached out to inactive family members to get them re-engaged with the Chapter and active in the community
- Committed to AFSA; reminded chapter family members past and present of the value of fraternity within the AFSA family
- Increased family member participation in chapter meetings and activities by 25%; new energy driving our chapter
- Served as Chairperson for Chapter Social Activities Committee focused on Chapter activities outside of meetings
- Organized and led 48 fun-filled community bridge and pinochle socials involving more than 700 local players
- Greatly increased our Chapter visibility in the retiree community and demonstrated that AFSA is a fun organization of friends
- Promoted five trips to The New Dinner Theater where over 100 chapter members enjoyed dinner and show
- Organized four trips to Harah's Casino for lunch and fellowship for over 50 chapter members
- Hosted two community card parties raising \$508 for Chapter family members to use in support of local communities
- Organized and hosted 12 monthly luncheons for AFSA Chapter 804 family members to enjoy fellowship and fun
- Fraternity: events well attended by over 200 chapter members during the year keeping members active and engaged
- Member of Chapter 804's POW/MIA Remembrance Committee responsible for organizing and implementing our much anticipated annual public ceremony held at Belton Veterans Memorial Park; ensuring America never forgets
- Read the names of our nation's POW/MIA's still unaccounted for from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska
- Event lauded for its reverence paid to our nations POW/MIA heroes and their families; showed that AFSA cares
- Member of Chapter 804's Family Member Coupon Committee; provided cut and readied coupons to send to overseas families
- Assisted in the cutting, packaging, and shipping of 310,000 coupons weighing in at 310lbs to 20 overseas bases
- Coordinated chapter volunteer schedule for St Michaels Homeless Veterans Center providing support for more than 150 homeless veterans who are putting their lives back together; provided healthy meals, games, and activities

- Barbara has represented AFSA Chapter 804 at the Kansas City Veterans Administration (KCVA) Medical Center for the past ten years accumulating 3600 volunteer hours over that time period; well-known and respected by staff
- Dedicated. Volunteered a total of 430 hours in 2017 to the KCVA in a variety of capacities helping patients and families
- Served as the Lead Manager for the KCVA Special Events Committee responsible for organizing and managing special events over the course of the year. lauded as the most active committee involved with patient/family support
- Scheduled AFSA Chapter 804 member volunteer participation in special events and holiday celebrations at KCVA
- Provided holiday cheer and gifts for all in-patient clinic patients many of whom have no family or support system
- Volunteered to work Chapter Bingo at the Belton Senior Center helping to fund Chapter activities throughout the year

### MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

- Served as member of Chapter Membership Committee responsible for developing effective membership strategies
- Reminded members of the importance of their membership and how much we appreciate their continued support
- Conducted specific outreach to expired family members and reminded them how important they are to our future
- Despite not having a base to support the Chapter making it difficult to recruit: Chapter retained 97 and recruited 21

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Barbara was very active in legislative activities and regularly contacted her elected officials demanding they support
- AFSA legislative initiatives; informed, aggressive, and engaged in fighting for our Airman; past, present, and future
- Attended local town hall meetings and met with local, state, and federal elected officials to discuss AFSA priorities

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NON-AFSA RELATED

- Volunteered at the Hope Haven center for abused women and children: creating safe and secure environment for all
- Shopped for needed items such as clothes, toiletries and hygiene products for residents: dignity for abuse victims
- Volunteered at the Spofford Home for Children: provided compassionate care for children, young adults and families
- Member of local church auxiliary where she organized, promoted, lead women's group activities and bible study



## A ONE-OF-A-KIND COMMUNITY, A KIND AND CARING MISSION

The Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) is a nonprofit organization whose core mission is to provide a safe, secure home for surviving spouses of retired enlisted U.S. Airmen. Located along the beautiful Emerald Coast of northwest Florida in Shalimar near Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, apartments are available at Bob Hope Village, our independent living community, and at Hawthorn House, our assisted living and memory care residence located on the Bob Hope Village campus.

**Widows and Couples-Retired Enlisted  
USAF, AF Reserves or ANG are Eligible**



### BOB HOPE VILLAGE

#### HASSLE-FREE, INDEPENDENT LIVING WITH THE CAMARADERIE OF MILITARY LIFE

Bob Hope Village is a 55+, active, independent living community shaped by five villages of one and two bedroom apartments, a community center, a swimming pool, and more.

#### BOB HOPE VILLAGE 6 - OPENING 2020

An all-in-one community with 63 spacious apartments and its own club house. Select from 4 different floor plans. Each one includes 2 bedrooms/2baths, a balcony or patio, and plenty of parking.



**Bob Hope Village 6 - Opening 2020**

Call 850-651-3766 or 850-651-9422 to learn more and how to reserve your new home at Bob Hope Village 6.

Air Force Enlisted Village | 92 Sunset Ln., Shalimar, FL 32579 | [WWW.AFEV.US](http://WWW.AFEV.US)

★ Thank you to our AFSA friends for 50 years of support. ★

**Raymond L. Abrell**  
DESTIN, FL

**Michael C. Ashcraft**  
FARMERSVILLE, TX

**Robert M. Benson**  
MOUNTAIN GROVE, MO

**Herman Church**  
VINTON, VA

**Harry M. Conrad**  
ODESSA, TX

**Frank A. Desalvo**  
HARRISON, OH

**Robert V. Dimola**  
YONKERS, NY

**Joe O. Dixon**  
MONROE, LA

**Charles H. Farr**  
CHIDESTER, AR

**Josephine I. Fimbres**  
RODEO, CA

**Bill L. Fox**  
BATTLE CREEK, MI

**Arvil Frazier**  
MARYVILLE, TN

**Robert H. Gallimore**  
ABILENE, TX

**Elizabeth I. Gilder**  
MERRITT ISLAND, FL

**Alan F. Gioia**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

**Milford J. Guerin**  
HUGO, MN

**Theodore Huff, Jr.**  
FORT WAYNE, IN

**Christopher W. Hunter**  
PRATTVILLE, AL

**Morris L. Hutchings**  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

**George P. Jahnke**  
POCATELLO, ID

**Robert E. James**  
BATTLE CREEK, MI

**Florence A. James**  
BATTLE CREEK, MI

**Ruth R. Janik**  
COQUILLE, OR

**Hugo A. Johnson**  
ANDOVER, MN

**Marcus J. Johnson**  
CLINTON, MS

**Arnest A. Kime**  
FORT WORTH, TX

**James F. Klingensmith, Jr.**  
LAKE PLACID, FL

**Edward R. Lake**  
MCMINNVILLE, OR

**Robert Marrocco**  
PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL

**Bernice E. Martin**  
SAINTE GENEVIEVE, MO

**David Mattson**  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

**May J. Miller**  
QUITMAN, GA

**William D. Morgan**  
LYNNWOOD, WA

**James L. Morrison**  
MURRELLS INLET, SC

**Rosaire J. Ouellette**  
TREMPEALEAU, WI

**James P. Pouliot, I**  
LAS VEGAS, NV

**Richard Quay**  
POPLAR BLUFF, MO

**Christa Sikes**  
GREENVILLE, TX

**Daniel Sileo**  
EL MIRAGE, AZ

**John R. Spring**  
GROVE CITY, OH

**Robert M. Stavinoga**  
MADISON, TN

**Thomas J. Strickland**  
OHATCHEE, AL

**Charles G. Thibodeaux**  
KATY, TX

**Ralph C. Thomas**  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

**Scott A. Thompson**  
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, PA

**George H. Topinke**  
BOWLING GREEN, MO

**Vincent Tropiano**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

**Thomas L. Tucker**  
SWEET HOME, OR

**Leland F. Uhlenhopp**  
CANON CITY, CO

**Lon L. Wampler**  
TUTTLE, OK

**Winston P. Watts**  
CONWAY, SC

**Jacob D. Wermerskirchen**  
MOUNT HOREB, WI



The Thunderbird's Delta Formation returns from a training sortie Jan. 13, 2015, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The training flight was the first Delta Formation flight of 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez/Released)

# WE HAVE YOUR SIX WHERE OTHERS FALL SHORT



TRICARE is a good plan, but it wasn't intended to cover everything. At a time when benefits are uncertain and costs are certain to increase, it is our duty to monitor the constantly changing conditions in Health Care and help provide you the coverage you may need. The **AFSA TRICARE Supplement Insurance Plan (FlightCare)** can help provide a safety net of coverage where TRICARE leaves off. **FlightCare** helps pay for out-of-pocket expenses for covered doctor visits, hospital stays, lab tests, prescription drugs, other covered expenses, and, 100% of your TRICARE copayments after your deductibles are met.

#### FlightCare TRICARE Supplement Insurance Plan offers:

- **Guaranteed acceptance\*** for you and your family.
- **Affordable group rates** negotiated for our members.
- **A TRICARE-authorized doctor of YOUR CHOICE.** NO preferred provider lists, NO doctor or hospital networks and NO referrals required for second opinions.
- **Portable coverage.** If you switch jobs or relocate, your AFSA FlightCare coverage goes with you.\*\*

To learn more about how the AFSA TRICARE Supplement Insurance Plan can help you<sup>†</sup>, call 1-800-882-5541 or visit [www.afsainsurance.com](http://www.afsainsurance.com)

Request Number 81697-1-1-1



\*This policy is guaranteed acceptance, but does contain a Pre-Existing Conditions Limitation. Please refer to the website for more information on exclusions and limitations, such as Pre-Existing Conditions.

\*\*You can keep FlightCare as long as the Master Policy remains in force, you pay your premiums on time and you remain an AFSA member.

<sup>†</sup>Information includes costs, exclusions, limitations and terms of coverage. Coverage may not be issued in some states.

All benefits are subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. Policies underwritten by Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company detail exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms under which the policies may be continued in force or discontinued. Underwritten by Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company, Hartford, CT 06155. The Hartford® is The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., and its subsidiaries, including issuing company Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company.

Program Administered by Mercer Health & Benefits Administration LLC  
AR Insurance License #100102691 | CA Insurance License #0G39709  
In CA d/b/a Mercer Health & Benefits Insurance Services LLC

TRICARE Form Series includes SRP-1269, or state equivalent.  
81697 (9/18) Copyright 2018 Mercer LLC. All rights reserved.

# AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

## AFSA Headquarters

301-899-3500, OR 800-638-0594,  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST

## AFSA Headquarters Extended Customer Service Hours

7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST

Full-time representation on Capitol Hill with elected leaders. For more information, call AFSA Military & Government Relations

301-899-3500, 800-638-0594 X227  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST

Website: [www.hqafsa.org](http://www.hqafsa.org)

HQ Email: [staff@hqafsa.org](mailto:staff@hqafsa.org)

Comm Email: [afsacomm@hqafsa.org](mailto:afsacomm@hqafsa.org)

HQ Address: 5211 Auth Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746

 [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AFSAHQ](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AFSAHQ)

 @AFSAHQ  @AFSAHQ

 [WWW.VIMEO.COM/AFSGTSASSN](http://WWW.VIMEO.COM/AFSGTSASSN)

AFS-044-Fall 18



I SERVED FOR *loved ones*

With the Air Force Sergeants Association USAA Rewards™ Visa Signature® credit card, you have the freedom to provide your loved ones with the things they deserve while benefiting from great rewards, competitive rates, and USAA's legendary customer service.

**JOIN USAA AND APPLY TODAY!**

CALL 877-499-AFSA (2372) OR VISIT [USAA.COM/AFSAVISA](http://USAA.COM/AFSAVISA)



USAA is proud to be the  
**Preferred Provider**  
of Financial Services for the  
Air Force Sergeants Association

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change.

The Air Force Sergeants Association receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2018 USAA. 248413-0518