

AFSA

SUMMER 2021

MAGAZINE

60

1961 - 2021

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- > SUICIDE PREVENTION
- > AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIORS
- > AFSA 2021 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM
EVENT OVERVIEW, AWARD NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS

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AFSA

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THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION FOR
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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 the men and women and their families who serve.

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AFSA Magazine serves the interests and concerns of our members (military members and their families) 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.

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COVER

AIR FORCE ROCK STARS

After the 2021 AFSAPEDS Air & Space Honors Banquet, the former CMSAFs along with SEAC Colón-López and CMSAF JoAnne Bass took to the stage to get in touch with their inner rock and roll alter egos.

This was such a fun and unexpected moment in time, we wanted to be sure to highlight it on our cover and share it with you!



Kerry Wright
CMSgt USAF - Retired
Air Force Sergeants Association
28th International President



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Wow!!! We must first thank and congratulate YOUR Air Force Sergeants Association Headquarters Staff for executing an exceptional 2021 AFSA International Convention and Professional Education and Development Symposium in Orlando; well done! It was great to see and fellowship with life-long friends and establish new friendships with the common cause of supporting our enlisted force, past and present, and their families.

I want to share my priorities over the next year:

1. Modernize our governance by updating our Bylaws and Policy and Procedures that reflect how we can effectively and efficiently govern our Association while maintaining our heritage.
2. Training: Start with training the International Executive Council on expectations for a transparent understanding of the Budget process and Membership goals. Establish Chapter level expectations for Legislative, Retired and Veteran Affairs, Uniformed Services and Family Matters efforts. The Chapters are the driver for the success of the Association.
3. Groom our replacements: Prepare our future International, Division and Chapter Executive Councils by identifying talent and training them to be successful.

I want to use the following example from my great friends Jim Lokovic and Andrew Duenas on how we want to provide Chapters with outreach tools; this one focused on Retirees and Veterans...

Establish Strong Outreach and Support for Military Retirees

1. Help AFSA Deliver a Message to Current and Future Military Retirees. Here are some facts you need to communicate to current military retirees and to military members who will one day retire. The underlying reality is that the only protection and advocacy for military retirees, their family members, and their survivors come from AFSA and a very few other advocacy associations.

Here's why:

- Once the Department of Defense receives its politically legislated budget each year, because of its mission-required operational needs it must determine spending based on priorities. The top spending priority is always for operational needs. Military personnel benefit programs are relatively lower in priority. Military retirement programs are DoD's lowest priority. For that reason, when DoD wants to cut overall spending, it will first look at military retirement programs as the place to cut funding. It always has; it always will.

Examples of such DoD attempted or actual cuts in recent years:

- Cut services and/or charge additional fees for military healthcare for retirees and survivors.
- Repeated efforts to increase the cost of healthcare for retirees and/or push military retirees out of the system.
- Actual replacement of the legacy military retirement system with the current Blended Retirement System for all those who joined beginning January 2018 or current members who opted into the program during CY 2018 – to save DoD many billions of dollars in future retirement spending.

- Efforts over the years by Administrations (through DoD) to freeze or stop military retiree cost-of-living adjustments.
- Efforts to establish an annual user fee for TRICARE for Life recipients.
- Efforts to eliminate all levels of concurrent retirement and disability pay, and much more.

All of these have come from DoD and the federal civilians who run that agency. Fortunately, in each case, AFSA has been the voice working with Congress to block the majority of these moves. In a very real sense, AFSA (and a very few other actual lobbying associations) are and will be the only protections once a military member retires.

Once you retire, the active military services cannot advocate for you. DoD will not advocate for you. The unionized federal civilians who run the Pentagon will not advocate for you. While commanders will support you within current law, they cannot advocate for legislation to change or protect your retirement benefits. AFSA will be one of your very few firewalls against those who would cut your retirement benefits.

Current and future military retirees need to be members of AFSA to elevate its strength in membership numbers and therefore reinforce our influence on Capitol Hill. They need to be AFSA members to invest in themselves and their families. On the Hill, without question, Association size equates to greater power and influence. Larger associations get more opportunities for high-level congressional meetings and to provide testimony before congressional committees.

2. What a Chapter should do at the Local Level. AFSA Division 6 Trustee for Retirement and Veterans Affairs, CMSgt (Ret) Andrew Duenas recently reminded us of the need to:

- Establish contact with your chapter's retired military members.
- Inform the retired military members in the community and invite them to join and to participate in your efforts. Remind them that AFSA is a true not-for-profit, 501(c)(19), organization.
- Help them communicate with their elected officials, to participate in our campaigns.
- Periodically hold military retiree and survivor-focused events.
- Explain to military retirees that legacy Veterans' associations focus primarily on Title 38,

veteran-centric programs. AFSA works the Title 10, military member-, retiree-, family member-, and survivor-programs in addition to the title 38 programs.

- Locate the Base Retired Affairs Office and Establish a Relationship with, and volunteer to help the Retired Affairs Officer. The retired affairs office is a voluntary function on a military base that represents the commander and communicates with the military retired community. The Retired Affairs Officer (RAO) and his/her staff are volunteers. As such, they can use help. AFSA chapters should establish a relationship with the local RAO and offer to assist in retiree-focused efforts.
 - Engage in Retiree Appreciation Day by contacting your Base Wing Command Staff and offer to assist in the base's annual Retiree Appreciation Day each year. Make sure to have an info table in its exhibit area. Consider providing speakers/briefers.
3. Participate in key legislative campaigns impacting retirees. Examples:
- Concurrent Receipt (CRDP) of Military Retired Pay and VA Disability Compensation for all VA-determined disability levels.
 - Military Health Care availability and costs
 - Absolute protection of TRICARE for Life
 - Access to On-base programs and benefits (commissaries, exchanges, MWR, healthcare, etc.)
 - Family members and Survivor Support

Note: It has become apparent we will only achieve success in these matters with a strong grassroots communication with your elected officials. We urge current and future retirees to be members of AFSA and engage in these legislative advocacy efforts. You have every legal right to do so.

Note: Please engage and help your military retirees to engage in these campaigns by going to the AFSA Website's Legislative Action section at <https://www.hqafsa.org/takeaction.html>

There you will see pieces of legislation supported by AFSA and pre-written letters for you to send "as is" or with your adjustments to tailor these letters to your situation. At this time, AFSA's legislative team has pre-written letters to support eliminating annual enrollment fees for TRICARE Select enrollees (S. 625); letters calling for allowing full concurrent receipt of VA disability pay and military retirement pay for all VA-determined disability levels (H.R. 303, H.R. 313, S. 1147); and, more specifically, concurrent receipt for those who retired for combat-related medical reasons (S. 344 and H.R. 1282). You can amend these letters, if desired, or send them out "as is." AFSA's Legislative Action Center makes it easy to send these letters to your elected officials using the Voter Voice program.

If you need any assistance in using the page and/or in constructing and sending your own letters (on any subject) to your elected officials, please let us know.

In short, it is time for all chapters to exert a renewed focus on our retired military members and the programs that affect them. It is time to fully engage in the legislative campaigns to achieve success in overcoming DoD's proclivity to first cut programs for military retirees, their families, and survivors. You can do it. All chapters should take action on this. In the long run, it will no doubt increase your chapter's military retiree participation and your chapter's membership strength."

In the coming days, we will be working to provide such guidance to our various functional trustees at all levels. Please share your ideas on how we can increase our effectiveness to your leadership who will get the information to us.

It is very important that we give our chapters the tools they need to be effective, including giving each of their functional Trustees detailed expectations. It is not enough to tell them

what they need to accomplish, but also how to do it -- what actions may be required to get the job done. At the International Executive Council level, we need to be clear in our expectations for our Divisions and Chapters. Division leadership should be clear with their chapters about what is expected. Chapter leaders need to make sure their project managers are given a sound marching plan. The bottom line is that we can all be more effective with the proper tools and by communicating well.

Again, I am honored to be your President and look forward to working with you and learning from you as we go forward as a team.

As always, thank you for your service to our Nation, our Air Force, and our Association.

IP Wright

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EYE ON WASHINGTON

AFSA DELEGATES VOTE TO APPROVE 2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM, OPEN LETTER, AND ANNUAL RESOLUTION AT 2021 LEGISLATIVE FORUM

On Sunday, July 25, AFSA delegates convened to take part in our annual Legislative Forum with a member of Congress - where we made a formal presentation of our L. Mendel Rivers Award to House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, received an up-to-the-minute update from our Policy Advisor, Matthew Schwartzman, and voted on the AFSA's 2021-2022 Legislative Platform, Open Letter, and Annual Resolution.

This year's Legislative Platform saw a total of six modifications that were approved unanimously. In addition to an aesthetic change to the document, the following additions were made to modernize the Platform to address pressing issues in the field:

1. To ensure proposed military medical billet cuts, any other uniformed/civilian/contracted medical personnel reductions and/or military treatment facility downsizing, or closures are not implemented until DoD presents to Congress a thorough analysis of civilian care availability and plan to mitigate impacts on readiness and beneficiary care.
2. To monitor transition of MTF administration to DHA and secure a transparent analysis and report on access to care at the MTF level as well as beneficiary problem tracking and resolution.
3. To support DoD's encouragement for States to engage in immediate actions to fully implement military spouse licensure laws; to attain a baseline of getting military spouses a license in 30 days based on minimal documentation; to seek long-term solutions for reciprocity through compacts.
4. To increase USAF and military oversight of privatized and government owned family housing and barracks to ensure quality housing is provided, health and safety hazards are properly addressed, abated, and prevented, and utility rates are equitable.
5. To reverse trends in (and ultimately end) the national tragedy that is suicide among service members past and present and their families; to expand research into core causes, risk factors, and protective factors for suicide among veterans, caregivers, service members and their families; to pursue further legislation and funding for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) as treatment of persistent post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)/post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) for veterans through VA.

This year's open letter to Congress addressed pending legislation before the 117th Congress on toxic exposure - specifically, the COST of War Act of 2021 and Honoring our PACT Act of 2021.

In short, the letter respectfully requests Congressional consideration of the following:

1. Expand a presumption of service connection to include K-2 veterans
2. Ensure health care personnel and processors of claims have adequate training with respect to toxic exposure veterans



3. Provide for reevaluations of claims for compensation involving certain presumptions of service connection
4. Require consultation with congressionally chartered, membership-based Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) on select appointments to de jure advisory bodies that make determinations on presumptions.

To read the Open Letter in its entirety, please visit <https://voterveice.s3.amazonaws.com/groups/afsa/attachments/Open%20Letter%20on%20Toxic%20Exposure%20Legislation%20Pending%20Before%20the%20117th%20Congress%20FINAL.pdf>



Above:
Chairman Mark Takano addressing AFSA's Delegates at the 2021 AFSAPEDES Legislative Forum.



Right:
Representative Mark Takano receiving the AFSA L. Mendel Rivers Award.

And, lastly, our Annual Resolution addresses one of the most important issues to our members - that of TRICARE beneficiary cost shares. In short, with the approval of the 2021 Annual Resolution, the AFSA will continue to urge decision-makers to:

1. Oppose future TRICARE fee increases.
2. Ensure any programmatic revision to TRICARE and its managed care support contract structure does not force beneficiaries to incur any additional costs.
3. Separate the costs of providing health care to TRICARE beneficiaries from the costs of ensuring readiness.

4. Improve the transparency of readiness funding.
5. Reprogram appropriate apportionments of funds from year-end savings back into the TRICARE program or to beneficiaries to lower their health care costs.

To read the Annual Resolution in its entirety, visit <https://voterveice.s3.amazonaws.com/groups/afsa/attachments/2021%20Convention%20-%20Resolution%20On%20TRICARE%20Beneficiary%20Cost%20Shares%20FINAL.pdf>

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT UPDATE

As it currently stands, Congress has formally received the President's budget request, hosted a series of posture hearings, and both the House and Senate have prepared their respective markups of the legislation. To be more specific, at the time this entry was authored, the Senate has put forward its full committee markup, while the House lags slightly behind - only having approved several subcommittee markups.

To this point, our Military and Government Relations Team has fully analyzed all the available materials publicly available.

After thoroughly analyzing the SASC's committee markup and HASC's personnel subcommittee markup, there is room for cautious optimism in a number of policy areas - including pay and compensation, sexual assault and harassment prevention, and childcare access and affordability.

More specifically:

SASC Markup (Voted 23-3 to advance bill to Senate floor.)

- Supports increase in top-line DoD funding from the President's budget.
- Includes funding for a 2.7% pay-raise for servicemembers and DoD civilian workforce.
- Creates a new category of bereavement leave for military personnel.
- Establishes a basic needs allowance to ensure all servicemembers can meet basic needs and combat food insecurity.
- Authorizes the DoD Safe Helpline to receive sexual assault reports in both restricted and unrestricted forms, and to provide support to victims making reports.
- Authorizes increases of \$4.0 million for SecDef to enter into cooperative agreements with the Council of State Governments to assist w/ funding and development of interstate compacts on licensed occupations.

HASC Personnel Markup (Markup held on July 28, 2021, full committee hearing to be held on September 1, 2021.)



- Requires Command oversight of military privatized housing to be an element of performance evaluation(s).
- Modifies annual reporting requirements regarding sexual assaults involving members of the armed forces.
- Establishes the Exceptional Family member Program Advisory Council.
- Establishes a basic needs allowance for low-income regular members of the Armed Forces.
- Expands a pilot program to provide financial assistance to members of the Armed Forces for in-home childcare.
- Increases funding for construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of commissary stores.
- Requires conduction of an independent analysis on DoD's Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration Program.

As alluded to previously, on September 1, the House Armed Services Committee will host its full committee markup. Following the conclusion of the markup, both Committees will send their respective NDAA's to the "floor," where rules for further debate and amendments will be considered. However, now, it is too early to speculate how Congress will decide to reconcile their differences. As more information comes to light, our Team will keep you posted.

If you have any questions about the NDAA process, please contact our Policy Advisor, Matthew Schwartzman, at mschwartzman@hqafsa.org.

SENATE VOTES FAVORABLY ON TWO PIECES OF AFSA SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

On July 21, 2021, the Senate passed two AFSA supported bills: S.89, the *Ensuring Survivor Benefits During COVID-19 Act of 2021* and S.189, the *Veterans' Disability Compensation COLA Act of 2021*.

S.89 is legislation that requires the VA to solicit a medical opinion to determine if a service-connected disability was the principal or contributory cause of death in situations where a veteran's death certificate identifies COVID-19 as the principal or contributory cause of death, the certificate does not identify any of the veteran's service-connected disabilities as the principal or contributory cause of death, and a claim for DIC is filed concerning the veteran.

S.189 provides that whenever there is a COLA increase in benefits payable for Social Security recipients, the VA shall increase by the same % the amounts payable for VA disability compensation, DIC, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and additional compensation measures for veterans and dependents.

While VA compensation and pension COLA rates are the same as benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act, unlike social security beneficiaries, veterans and their families depend on intervention by Congress each year to approve their COLA.

Both bills were a cornerstone of AFSA HQ lobbying efforts, as the Military and Government Relations Team worked with elected officials and members to secure its passage. Now, the ball is in the court of the House of Representatives. Ultimately, a law can only be passed if both the Senate and the House introduce, debate, and vote on similar pieces of legislation.

As more updates unfold on this front, our Team will keep you posted via our Military and Government Brief and other departmental modes of correspondence.

REPRESENTATIVES KIM AND KELLY INTRODUCE AFSA SUPPORTED LEGISLATION TO EXPAND NO-FEE HEALTHCARE FOR RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD

On May 25, 2021, Congressman Andy Kim and Trent Kelly introduced the *Healthcare for our Troops Act*, a bill that would make no-fee healthcare available to the 800,000+ Americans serving our country in the Reserve and National Guard.

Specifically, if enacted, the Healthcare for our Troops Act would:

- Ensure Reservists and National Guard members have no-fee healthcare through TRICARE Reserve Select that covers medical and dental coverage.
- Increases military readiness by ensuring service members can access physicals needed to be ready for no-notice deployments which have increased over the past year.
- Provide an incentive for small businesses to hire Reserve and National Guard members by ensuring their healthcare costs are covered.
- Require a study on eliminating annual physicals during drill and replacing them with forms to be completed by civilian providers to assess medical readiness--giving commanders back valuable training days and saving over \$162 Million annually in contracted medical assessments.
- Eliminate the statutory language that excludes Federal Employees Health Benefits Program eligible service members from TRICARE Reserve Select eligibility.



- Fix the parity gap for Reserve Component retirees receiving early retirement pay due to deployment credits making them eligible for TRICARE upon receipt of retirement pay.

To read remarks from a Congressional press release on this legislation given by AFSA's Executive Director, Keith A. Reed, please visit

<https://kim.house.gov/media/press-releases/military-support-organizations-endorse-rep-kim-and-kelly-effort-expand>

AFSA SUBMITS STATEMENT FOR RECORD ON VA'S FY22 BUDGET

On June 8, 2021, Executive Director Reed submitted a Statement for the Record to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and Advanced Appropriations (AA) for FY 2023.

In analyzing each of the recommendations put forth by the VA's FY 2022 Budget and FY 2023 AA requests, the AFSA employed the following guiding principles:

- Decisions on veterans' funding should be based on merit.
- The VA must openly and willingly assume the responsibility for treating the maladies of war.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on access to and utilization of VA health care.
- Changes to VA and its scope of operations are not occurring in a vacuum.

In considering responses and feedback provided to the AFSA over the past year, Executive Director Reed

highlighted the following issues of grave concern within the context of the VA's FY 2022 Budget request:

- Preventing Veteran Suicide
- Ending Veterans Homelessness
- Bridging Inequities in Care Accessibility and Quality for Rural Veterans
- Adequately Funding the Caregiver Support Program
- Caring for Women Veterans
- Opposing Reductions in COLA for VA compensation and DIC

Moreover, Executive Director Reed requested that the Committee work with Congressional appropriators to be ready to adjust funding levels in the VA's budget in alignment with the IBVSO submitted Independent budget - specifically, as it pertained to:

- \$102.2 billion in total medical care
- \$3.0 billion in electronic health record modernization
- An additional \$1.4 billion to onboard approximately 10,750 full-time employees (FTE's)
- An additional \$335 million to expand VA's long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs
- An additional \$200 million for VBA operations
- \$5.0 million to reinstate the VA's recently rescinded pre-decisional review policy

If you have any questions concerning this testimony, please contact AFSA's Policy Advisor, Matthew Schwartzman, at mschwartzman@hqafsa.org.



LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED VISIT THE AFSA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER TO:

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- Sign up for AFSA Legislative eNewsletters and Alerts
- Keep up-to-date regarding all of the AFSA Legislative priorities throughout the year www.hqafsa.org/takeaction

If you have any questions about AFSA's Legislative Priorities, please reach out to our Military and Government Relations team at milgov3@hqafsa.org



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.

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Air Force Enlisted Village | 92 Sunset Ln., Shalimar, FL 32579 | WWW.AFEV.US

★ *Thank you to our AFSA friends for your generous support* ★



TOP: Master Sgt. Dee Parks talks to senior leaders during the 2019 Pacific Air Forces Warrior CARE Event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii in early January. This was one of 29 briefings the Ambassador Program conducted around the base reaching over 2,000 new Airmen, highlighting the program and how it helps Airmen facing what may be the worse situation in their life. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Roger Placido)

“Telling my story gives meaning to why I went through something so tough and it gives me such joy knowing I may be helping our Airmen through my experience.”

BOTTOM: Capt. Belena Marquez (R) is enjoying her first experience with "Improv to Improve" classes led by retired Staff Sgt. BJ Lange (L). Wounded warriors learn how improvisational comedy skills can help them cope with daily struggles. It gives them a new tool to add to their toolbox for recovery and is part of the restorative care model AFW2 has adopted. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Jay Martinez).



AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM **MAKING CONNECTIONS**

By Shannon Hall

The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program (AFW2) is directly administered by the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Their job is to help seriously wounded, ill and injured Airmen and Guardians and their families navigate difficult medical and non-medical processes. The overall goal is to return the Airman to active duty, but if that is not possible, AFW2 will coordinate a smooth transition to veteran status, often going above and beyond to ensure the wounded warrior receives the care they receive.

When an Airman or Guardian is enrolled they go through many phases of care and support through the program, starting with the initial conversation they have with members of the team.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC) are most often the first people that our wounded warriors talk to in the program, either before or during their enrollment process. They are responsible for making contact with the warrior within the first 72 hours of being enrolled in the program and conducting an initial assessment of the Airman or Guardian, and their families, needs within the first week. They then take this information and coordinate those needs with the service member's care management team, their leadership, the Airman & Family Readiness Center (AFRC), a Family Liaison Officer and any other person(s) who need to be involved with the service member during their recovery process.

"I spend my day providing information, support and guidance



In 2015, Technical Sgt. Harry McClure was in a life-altering car accident after a driver had run a red light and slammed into his car. McClure sustained two ruptured discs in his neck and a torn shoulder from the impact, which led to a series of surgeries, ongoing treatments, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Although he had deployed three times and survived the chaotic nature of those events, this car accident ultimately changed his life and initiated a new journey. (Courtesy Photo)

for our wounded, ill and injured Airmen and Guardians," said Ivette Bohannon-Bagnato, AFW2 Recovery Care Coordinator. "I do this by working with multiple entities and programs to ensure the warrior, and their family, are well informed and empowered to meet the challenges ahead."

Some RCC's cover one base, while others cover multiple, depending on their location. They have office hours to allow for warriors and caregivers to come visit and talk. They also brief wing leadership on their cases, how to best help Airmen and Guardians enrolled in the program and the benefits available to service members and their leadership. In this job position, RCC's have every opportunity to influence young Airmen and Guardians, wing leadership and family members. No one asks to be enrolled in AFW2, but every warrior enrolled needs a circle of support.

"Unfortunately, things don't always go according to the rule book and that's where we can step in and advocate for the warrior and impact is the main reason I continue down this career path," said Joseph LoFria, AFW2 Recovery Care Coordinator. "Appreciating the impact that I can make on a warrior's life is the biggest reward for me. Whether it be the service member returning to duty to complete their career, or ensuring they obtain maximum benefits with a smooth transition plan to avoid stumbling blocks along the way if they are no longer fit for duty."

No matter the outcome of the wounded warrior's career, AFW2 has a ton of resources to help the Airmen, Guardian and their family conquer their new normal and the RCC's usually help make the first contact.

"Every day I choose to devote myself to a career that strives for being solution-driven on an individual level. This has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling careers and I am blessed and honored to support and serve our Airmen and Guardians," Ivette said. "Never be afraid to effect change if it's for the better or greater good."

As the wounded warrior continues to go through the medical board process, they may feel disconnected and unsure of what is going to happen next. That is where the Support Branch comes in. They offer opportunities for holistic healing through virtual and in-person CARE Events. CARE events are a fully immersive opportunity for wounded warriors and their families to learn more about Caregiver Support, Ambassador and Outreach, Adaptive Sports, Recovering Airmen Mentorship (RAMP), Wellness and Resiliency and Empowerment in Transition Programs. Essentially, it is a chance for wounded warriors to add new tools they can use to help with their recovery and long-term resiliency.

A NEW TOOLBOX

In August, AFW2 held a modified CARE event covering Ambassador and Outreach, Wellness and Resiliency, Empowerment in Transition, and Recovering Airman Mentorship Programs to a small group of wounded warriors both in-person and virtually. Normally these CARE events are much larger in scope, but AFW2 wanted to test the capability of being able to blend the in-person and virtual audience to help expand the ability to connect with wounded warriors.

These connections can help in the recovery process and are often the difference between success and failure. One way AFW2 helps promote the connection is through RAMP, which offers insight into the positive role a mentor can have in overcoming some of the obstacles a wounded warrior may face. AFW2 pairs mentors and mentorees based on a series of factors, usually centered around the wound, illness or injury they face. By pairing two wounded warriors together, a smaller community can be built that will continue to grow, leading to that long-term resiliency needed as part of the recovery process.

"Having that community where they are so welcoming was awesome," said Staff Sgt. (ret) Kami Ensley, AFW2 warrior. "At first I wasn't ready because I was battling depression and now I'm getting myself together and these people gave me a family and life. Now that I have the option to become a mentor I want to be able to bring that comfort to others."

As the cases of COVID continue to fluctuate, AFW2 strives to find new ways to make connections and educate the

audience on how the program can positively impact the recovery of an Airman or Guardian. That is where Outreach comes in.

TELLING THE STORY

Earlier this year, AFW2 hit the road as part of their Ambassador Roadshow. They conducted outreach briefings at multiple locations using specially trained Ambassadors to help tell the story of how the program supports Airmen and Guardians, highlighting the importance of leadership involvement.

Part of the tour included a stop at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, home of the 7th Bomb Wing. AFW2 staff and Ambassadors conducted over 30 briefings to include wing leadership, the Chiefs group, Airmen from the 317th Airlift Wing and 7th Security Forces Squadron and many more across the base.



Volunteers from Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam learn about the upcoming Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Warrior CARE Event. This is the first Warrior CARE Event AFW2 has held in PACAF. The goal for 2019 is to reach bases and locations we have not been to before with the hopes of increasing awareness of the program and how it helps Airmen and veterans. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Shawn P. Sprayberry)

"The Ambassador Roadshow is a great way for the AFW2 program to connect with Air Force audiences who may need a boost in resiliency coming out of COVID," said Melissa Wiest, AFW2 Ambassador program manager. "Due to a series of suicides prior to COVID, Dyess leadership invited our team to bring examples of resilience to their personnel."

AFW2 briefed more than 870 Airmen across Dyess highlighting the Recovery Care Process and support programs within AFW2 like Empowerment in Transition, Adaptive Sports, Recovering Airmen Mentorship and many others. They also provided personal testimonies from AFW2 Ambassadors on their journey to recovery and how they overcame the tough times and how AFW2 assisted along the way.



One of the most important parts of the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games is the connection with the families. The Fisher House Foundation held a Friends & Family Mixer where Warrior Games competitors could relax with those who may have helped them most in their recovery. The 2019 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games will be held June 21 to 30 in Tampa Bay, Florida. Approximately 300 wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans will participate in the Paralympic-style competition. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Shawn Sprayberry)

“Telling my story gives meaning to why I went through something so tough and it gives me such joy knowing I may be helping our Airmen through my experience,” said Staff Sgt. Jessica Thelen, AFW2 Ambassador. “Knowing I’m potentially giving them a small spark of hope where there was none, inspiration to continue their fight or a newfound ability to reach out and help fellow Airmen who are struggling makes it worth it.”

Hearing a testimony helps Airmen better understand the impact that AFW2 has on the warriors that are enrolled in the program. There are many Airmen serving today that have never heard of the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program. When they attend a brief that talks about the program followed by living proof that their resources help, it tends to resonate with them a little more.

“I didn’t know about the program before today. I hope that I never go through something traumatic, but if I do I know

where to turn to,” said Senior Airman Garrett Honeycutt, 7th Security Forces Squadron. “We are always taught to just go to the chaplain or the First Shirt. Although they do their jobs effectively, this is another great resource I can share with my Wingmen.”

AFW2 is an invaluable resource for Airmen, Guardians, their family and their units. Starting with that initial impression, they set the tone for the wounded warrior, who will soon see just how important the program can be during what is often the worst thing that has ever happened to them. From that first conversation with an RCC all the way to the first time a wounded warrior attends a CARE event, the connections they make are a critical part of their recovery.

Visit AFW2 at www.woundedwarrior.af.mil to learn more about what they offer and how they help the Nation’s Airmen and Guardians. ◆



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SUICIDE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION



Every month, not just September – is Suicide Prevention Month. Reach out and stay connected to the Veteran in your life. Be there for a Veteran facing hard times, your support can provide hope when it's needed most—and you already have what it takes to show you care. Take a few minutes to check in today.

Here are some ideas to help you get started with a call, text, or email:

Talking on the phone with your Veteran loved ones can strengthen your connection. Calling to just catch up is important—especially during this unpredictable time.

- Not only does an open and honest conversation help people feel less alone, but it also can give you a window into their experiences.

If you're worried about someone, you might need to have a more serious conversation.

- **Remind them you are there for them, even if physically apart.** It's easier to feel isolated these days—so reaching out is more important than ever.
- **Validate their experience.** Listen more than you speak. Don't dominate the conversation. Even if you can't relate to what they are going through, you can tell them you understand that they went through something difficult, show them you respect their feelings about it.
- **Let them decide how much information to share.** Supportive and encouraging comments, rather than invasive personal questions, will create a space for open communication and avoid putting them on the defensive.
- **If you're concerned, it's okay to ask directly if they are thinking about suicide.** Asking questions about

thoughts of suicide does not increase a person's suicide risk. The answers can help you determine the next steps to take.

Simple gestures of support can provide hope during challenging times. As a leading Suicide Prevention advocate, the VA is here to help Veterans and share the message that suicide is preventable, and resources do exist to help Veterans get back on track. Visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE RED FLAGS

People can experience an emotional or mental health crisis due to a wide range of situations. For some, it might be the end of a personal relationship. For others, it might be the loss of a job. For Veterans, these crises can be heightened by their experiences during military service.

When emotional issues reach a crisis point, Veterans and their loved ones should contact the Veterans Crisis Line.

Many Veterans may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves before doing so, but some actions can be a sign that a person needs help. Veterans in crisis may show behaviors that indicate a risk of self-harm. The following can all be warning signs:

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
- Hopelessness; feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling as if there is no reason to live
- Feeling excessive guilt, shame, or sense of failure
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking

- Losing interest in hobbies, work, or school
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Neglecting personal welfare; a deteriorating physical appearance.
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, or writing a will

The following signs require immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

No matter how casually or jokingly stated, comments about emotional distress, crisis, or suicide should always be taken seriously. Someone who talks about suicide, or who shares concerning images on social media, provides others with an opportunity to intervene before suicidal behaviors occur.



According to University of Utah research portrayed in BWF Stand SMART for Heroes, **Veterans who died by suicide were more likely to:**

- Post about stressful events and then immediately talk about emotional distress and negative thoughts.
- Talk about alcohol consumption or post pictures involving alcoholic beverages.
- Post content that rapidly switched back and forth between positive emotional content and negative emotional content.
- Post pictures of personal firearms but not of friends and pets.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO EMOTIONAL DISTRESS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The following example language includes signs of emotional distress:

- Hopelessness: “Nothing I do makes a bit of a difference. It’s beyond my control.”
- Direct statements about suicide: “I’m having thoughts of suicide.” “I’m thinking about hurting myself.”

- Feeling trapped: “I can’t see any way out of this mess. Life will never get better.”
- Feeling like a burden: “They’d be better off without me.” “I’d be better off dead.”
- Lack of belonging: “No one cares. I just don’t fit in anywhere.”
- Guilt: “It’s all my fault. I’m to blame.”
- Saying goodbye or desire to escape: “I just wanted to tell everyone thank you for all you’ve done, but I just can’t take this anymore.”
- Feeling alone: “I’m on my own. No one cares about me.”

When you notice emotional issues have reached a crisis point, Veterans and their loved ones must contact the Veterans Crisis Line immediately.

HERE’S HOW YOU AND AFSA CHAPTERS CAN HELP

- Add the **Veterans Crisis Hotline: 1-800-273-8255 x 1, TEXT to: 83825** to your email signature block.
- Review the **#BeThere Campaign Overview** with downloadable resources, email, call and text campaign scripts.
https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/support/bethere?utm_source=bethereforveterans.com#reach-out
- **Connect** with your local VA Suicide Prevention Counselor (SPC) and ask about straining opportunities.
- **Host a S.A.V.E. Training** in your community and ask you local VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC) to help you coordinate.
https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/support/bethere?utm_source=bethereforveterans.com#reach-out
- Review the **Veteran Training** website and its wide range of programs including: Anger & Irritability Management Skills, Moving Forward, Recovery Plans, Parenting for Veterans, Path to better Sleep, Sleep 101, Sleep Apnea, Sleep Check-up, Parenting, etc.

Anyone can help prevent Veteran suicide. Your actions can make a lifesaving difference when you reach out to a family member or friend you are concerned about and provide resources that can help.

As you scroll on social media, look out for warning signs of suicide risk that are outlined in this toolkit, and follow the steps to provide support for the Veterans in your life and your community. #BeThere. ♦



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

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

In honor of our building's 40th Anniversary, AFSA invites you to help protect, maintain and enhance AFSA headquarters by sponsoring a leaf on our **AMB Benefactor Tree**. Your tax-deductible donation (Tax ID#520743333) is a permanent symbol, and unwavering reminder of how you helped support and continue our success. Each leaf recognizing you, your family, loved ones, your group or business will be permanently and prominently displayed on our beautiful **AMB Benefactor Tree** at the entrance of the Airmen Memorial Building at 5211 Auth Road in Suitland, Maryland.

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The 2021 Professional Education & Development Symposium was held July 24 - 29 in Orlando, Florida. During the PEDS, AFSA conducted its general membership business including its International Executive Council and Trustee elections/appointments, Committee overviews, Bylaws and Legislative Platform review and updates, Four Worthy Charity appeals, Training Programs, and the Award Recognition Ceremonies and Celebrations.

In addition to the AFSA's general membership business, the AFSA was extremely proud to host the Military Enlisted Leadership Conferences (PDS, PES and ELC). These conferences convened simultaneously with the AFSA to provide a shared venue and resources for Air Force-specific business, training, networking, collaboration and professional development. These separate conferences also came together during Professional Development Forums for shared career and personal development.

These Professional development forums consisted of keynote addresses from senior congressional decision makers, Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force senior leadership, war historians, professional and motivational speakers, and much more. Each speaker provided a rich insight to the Air Force's past, present and future. Moreover, these forums continued to build on the strong solid foundation of our professional enlisted corps.



The 2020 Executive Council meets to review the past years success and prepare for a smooth transition and continuation of services & support.

Wonderful World of **Disney** Theme Party

The Disney theme Opening Ice Breaker brought out many of the most beloved Disney characters... and a few unexpected monsters.



Mark your calendars now: Join us for #AFSAPEDS22 - August 6-11, 2022 in Las Vegas!



The 2021AFSAPEDS was held at the beautiful Hilton Bonnet Creek Orlando Resort. Close to the magic of all of the theme parks, AFSA members and guests enjoyed the perfect family vacation – exceptional dining, 3-acre lazy river and pools, fitness center and so much more!

A highlight of the International President's Welcoming Ceremony -- sponsored by Columbia Southern University was having an opportunity to hear CMSgt Hope Skibitsky share her story and AF enthusiasm.



Swearing in of the new 2021 AFSA Executive Council and Trustees



VIP President's Club members enjoy breakfast with the CMSAFs



Popular Info/Expo exhibitor and speaker, Mark Tilsher's booth included free puppy hugs - and all of the puppies were adopted!



Highlighted here are a few of the many members who took advantage of the special PEDS offer and became AFSA Members for Life



Over 800 Airmen attended the very first AFSA hosted Air Force Gaming Summer Smash Tournament with CMSAF Bass and CMSSF Towberman. Visit the website to see what you missed



The Former CMSAF Panel and Meet & Greet is always one of the most popular and crowd filled events each year.



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- CMSSF Roger A. Towberman
- CMSAF JoAnne Bass
- SEAC Colón-López
- MAJOM/Co-COM Senior Enlisted Leadership
- Former CMSAF's Panel
- Dr. Jannell MacAulay - The Warriors Edge
- AF Gaming - Capt. Oliver Parsons, Capt. Zach Baumann, MSgt Ian Eishen
- CMSgt Nate Cox - Resiliency and the Warfighter
- Keynote Carousel Speakers: Anthony Brinkley, Mark Tisher - Military Sherpa, Shon Barnwell, CMSgt Stefan Blazier, USAF and CMSgt Amber Mitchell, USSF
- Threat Analysis Panel: CMSgt Ian Eishen, TSgt John Campbell, CMSgt Jeremy Melton, TSgt John Lewis
- Family Spiritual Resilience: Ch., Col. Michael Newton, M.Div., Ch., Maj. James Galyon, Ph.D. M.
- Legislative Liaison Fellowship: CMSgt Marcus Oats
- Financial Readiness: CMSgt (Ret) Gerardo Tapia, USAA
- EFDS Rollout - CMSgt Stefan Blazier and CMSgt Keith Castille
- Cooking in the Crunch: TSgt Angela Powers and TSgt Jessica Thomas

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L. MENDEL RIVERS AWARD



The Air Force Sergeants Association names
U.S. Representative Mark Takano
(D-CA 41st District)
as the 2020 L. Mendel Rivers Award Recipient

The L. Mendel Rivers Award is named after the Late Congressman L. Mendel Rivers (D-SC) who served as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Throughout his career in Congress he championed the cause of enlisted members from all armed services.

EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY LEADERSHIP



The Air Force Sergeants Association names
Major General Andrea D. Tullos
(Commander of Second Air Force)
as the 2020 Excellence in Military Leadership Recipient

The Air Force Sergeants Association's Excellence in Military Leadership Award is awarded annually for superior military leadership and for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the Air Force.

AMERICANISM AWARD



The Air Force Sergeants Association names
the
Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute
as the 2020 Americanism Award Recipient

The Air Force Sergeants Association's Americanism Award is presented annually to deserving individuals or organizations for the development of programs, ceremonies or other initiatives that further patriotism in America.

WILLIAM H. PITSENBARGER AWARD

The Air Force Sergeants Association names
SSgt Michael T. Rogers
as the 2020 William H. Pitsenbarger Award Recipient

Award recipient receives a 4-Year Scholarship to American Military University (AMU)



The Air Force Sergeants Association's William H. Pitsenbarger Award recognizes an Air Force enlisted member who has performed a heroic act, on or off duty, which resulted in the saving of life or the prevention of serious injury.



AFSA INTERNATIONAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



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MSgt Eric A. Natalicio
Chapter 751, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH



DIVISION 2
MSgt Benjamin R. Hardy
Chapter 554, Eglin AFB, FL



DIVISION 3
MSgt Rhonnie L. Kolp
Chapter 872, Scott AFB, IL



DIVISION 4
SrA Matthew Ketterling
Chapter 652, Keesler AFB, MS



DIVISION 5
SMSgt Alexander Collazo
Chapter 1553, Kadena AB, Japan



DIVISION 6
MSgt Junita Branstetter
Chapter 1320, Travis AFB, CA



DIVISION 7
TSgt Duane Smith
Chapter 1681, Spangdahlem AB, Germany

AFSA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



DIVISION 3
Maureen Bamburg
Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD



DIVISION 5
Heather Walston
Chapter 1178, F. E. Warren AFB, WY



DIVISION 6
Jesusana Ward
Chapter 1320, Travis AFB, CA



**NCO OF THE YEAR
NOMINEES & RECIPIENT**

**AIRMAN OF THE YEAR
NOMINEES & RECIPIENT**



DIVISION 1
TSgt Fabian G. Garcia
Chapter 102, Andrews AFB, MD

DIVISION 2
TSgt Candis L. Mathews
Chapter 553, Tyndall AFB, FL

DIVISION 1
A1C Michael J. Mannozi
Chapter 751, Wright Patterson AFB, OH

DIVISION 2
A1C Justin W. Bullitt
Chapter 460, Moody AFB, GA



DIVISION 3
TSgt Raina Arnold
Chapter 972, McConnell AFB, KS

DIVISION 4
TSgt Roxanne C. Berg
Chapter 1076, Lackland AFB, TX

DIVISION 3
SrA Noemi Salazar
Chapter 872, Scott AFB, IL

DIVISION 4
SrA Carlos Castillo
Chapter 652, Keesler AFB, MS



DIVISION 5
SSgt Meagan Blankenship
Chapter 1553, Kadena AB, Japan

DIVISION 6
TSgt Gian Carlo Gonzalez
Chapter 1252, Nellis AFB, NV

DIVISION 5
A1C Corey M. Reynolds
Chapter 1178, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

DIVISION 7
A1C Joshua Yi
Chapter 1671, RAF Croughton, UK

*AFSA International
NCO of the Year
Receives a 2-Year
Scholarship from
Columbia Southern
University (CSU)*



DIVISION 7
TSgt Nelson Berrios
Chapter 1674, Ramstein AB, Germany

*AFSA International
Airman of the Year
Receives a 2-Year
Scholarship from
Waldorf University*



DIVISION 6
SrA Lelauni Sanders
Chapter 1163, Hill AFB, UT



CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE (CMSAF) AWARD RECIPIENTS



MSgt Jose Pagan
Air Force First Sergeant
of the Year



TSgt Latosha L. Enoch
Air Force Military Training
Leader of the Year



MSgt Ky Covert
Air Force Military Training
Instructor of the Year



TSgt Chamoi Frazer
Air Force Base Honor Guard
Manager of the Year



TSgt Stephen Duremdez
Air Force Base Honor Guard
Member of the Year



TSgt Nathaniel L. Hildreth
Air Force Recruiter of the Year
Active Duty



MSgt George Wyatt
Air Force Reserve Command
Recruiter of the Year

MISSION PARTNER SCHOLARS

Kaleth O. Wright
Excellence in Leadership



BM1 Magdalena Esparza

*Receives a Scholarship for a Bachelor or
Master's Degree from Waldorf University*

**Family Focused
Scholarship**



De'Aveyon Tamar McClemore

*Receives a Full 4-Year Scholarship from
Columbia Southern University (CSU)*

**AF Recruiting Service
Blue Suit Scholarship**



MSgt Marquise Heard

*Receives a 2-Year Scholarship from
Columbia Southern University (CSU)*



AFSA INTERNATIONAL AWARD NOMINEES

AFSA Chapter of the Year - Over 500 Nominees

Division 1: Ch 751, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
 Division 2: Ch 554, Eglin AFB, FL
 Division 3: Ch 872, Scott AFB, IL
 Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 Division 6: Ch 1260, Luke AFB, AZ
 Division 7: Ch 1670, RAF Mildenhall, UK

AFSA Chapter of the Year -Under 500 Nominees

Division 3: Ch 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD
 Division 5: Ch 1473, Elmendorf AFB, AK
 Division 6: Ch 1201, Kirtland AFB, NM

AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger

Chapter Communication Award
 Division 2: Ch 554, Eglin AFB, FL
 Division 3: Ch 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD
 Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 Division 6: Ch 1260, Luke AFB, AZ

AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger

Division Communication Award
 Division 3: Rapid City, SD

AFSA International Membership Achievement Award

Division 4: SMSgt (Ret) Daniel Kazumura, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

AFSA Volunteer Service Award (VSA) Individual

Division 2: SSgt Christopher R. Deforge, Ch 358, Langley AFB, VA

Division 3: SrA Noemi Salazar, Ch 872, Scott AFB, IL
 Division 4: SSgt Shanthenia Griffin, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 Division 5: TSgt Israel Ortiz, Ch 1556, Osan AB, Korea
 Division 6: MSgt Michael Burd, Ch 1201, Kirtland AFB, NM
 Division 7: MSgt Walter Townsend, Ch 1670, RAF Mildenhall, UK

AFSA Volunteer Service Award (VSA) Chapter

Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 Division 6: Ch 1320, Travis AFB, CA

AFSA Veteran Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) Award

Division 2: SMSgt (Ret) J. Alan Clineman, Ch 554, Eglin AFB, FL

AFSA International Legislative Award - Chapter

Division 3: Ch 985, Tinker AFB, OK
 Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 Division 5: Ch 1552, Misawa AB, Japan
 Division 6: Ch 1163, Hill AFB, UT

AFSA International Legislative Award - Individual

Division 3: MSgt (Ret) Terry L. Turner, Ch 985, Tinker AFB, OK
 Division 4: TSgt Jose Lurita-Sanchez, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 Division 5: TSgt Santana Brown, Ch 1552, Misawa AB, Japan
 Division 6: MSgt Mishon Montgomery, Ch 1252, Nellis AFB, NV
 Division 7: MSgt David Rivero, Ch 1653, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

AFSA Humanitarian Service Award

Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 Division 6: Ch 1253, Creech AFB, Indian Springs, NV

AFSA RECRUITING & RETENTION RESULTS



HighFLIER Club 2020
 Retained 100 or more members
 * Denotes Repeat HighFLIER from the last two consecutive years

Gregory Gallup*
 Division 3, Chapter 858
 286 Retentions

Roland Kolwitz*
 Division 3, Chapter 851
 112 Retentions

Maria Gallup*
 Division 3, Chapter 858
 110 Retentions

Jean Kolwitz*
 Division 3, Chapter 851
 106 Retentions



TwinFLIER Club 2020
 Recruited/retained a combined total of at least 100 members (75/25)
 * Denotes Repeat TwinFLIER from the last two consecutive years

There are no members that recruited/retained a combined total of at least 100 or more members (75/25)



TOP RECRUITERS
 2020 Membership Campaign. Top Recruiters must recruit a minimum of 100 members. Top Recruiting Chapter must recruit at least 200 members

– **Top Recruiter Member–**
Matthew Ketterling*
 Division 4, Chapter 652
 212 Recruits

– **Top Recruiting Chapter –**
Chapter 652
 Division 4
 Keesler AFB, MS
 520 Recruits



TOP RETAINERS
 2020 Membership Campaign
 - Top Retainer must obtain a minimum 100 retentions. Top Retaining Chapter must obtain at least 300 retentions

– **Top Retainer Member –**
Gregory Gallup
 Division 3, Chapter 858
 286 Retentions

– **Top Retaining Chapter –**
Chapter 858
 Division 3
 Minneapolis, MN
 402 Retentions

AFSA RECRUITING & RETENTION RESULTS



SKYHIGH Club 2020 Recruited 100 or more members

* Denotes Repeat SKYHIGHer from the last two consecutive years

Member Name	Chapter	Recruited
1. Ketterling, Matthew*	652	212
2. Gallup, Gregory*	858	162
3. Kazumura, Daniel*	652	119
4. Castillo, Carlos*	652	100

DIVISION 1

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F0102	10	2
F0109	2	0
F0154	0	0
F0155	2	2
F0161	1	0
F0171	3	1
F0174	0	1
F0177	1	2
F0182	0	0
F0201	3	0
F0211	6	0
F0254	3	0
F0258	1	0
F0265	4	3
F0482	1	1
F0751	69	12
F0753	0	0
F0762	0	0
F0768	2	0
F0779	1	1

DIVISION 2 CONTINUED

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F0477	0	0
F0478	12	3
F0479	1	0
F0480	0	0
F0552	7	1
F0553	19	3
F0554	50	2
F0556	0	0
F0557	1	2
F0559	1	0
F0564	1	6
F0567	5	0
F0570	1	0

DIVISION 4

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F0615	26	8
F0651	3	3
F0652	520	14
F0658	1	5
F1054	76	3
F1055	3	10
F1056	15	5
F1062	1	3
F1066	2	1
F1069	1	0
F1073	4	3
F1075	11	14
F1076	49	97
F1077	0	0

DIVISION 6

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F1163	69	9
F1179	9	1
F1180	16	3
F1181	19	8
F1182	8	1
F1201	16	6
F1252	42	16
F1253	13	2
F1255	2	1
F1257	28	1
F1260	34	4
F1261	53	8
F1311	1	1
F1320	18	13
F1322	5	0
F1328	17	4
F1330	5	1
F1356	17	4
F1360	0	0
F1365	1	1
F1372	23	7
F1379	1	1

DIVISION 2

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F0300	1	1
F0306	8	4
F0358	7	5
F0363	2	3
F0365	0	0
F0367	5	1
F0371	6	3
F0373	0	0
F0376	0	0
F0377	3	1
F0404	7	2
F0444	5	0
F0451	0	0
F0452	2	0
F0455	0	0
F0460	101	9
F0467	0	0
F0473	1	1
F0476	0	0

DIVISION 3

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F0804	7	37
F0851	21	223
F0858	172	402
F0872	46	15
F0881	0	0
F0883	2	0
F0951	8	5
F0959	7	6
F0964	4	2
F0972	7	3
F0984	1	0
F0985	8	5
F0988	19	2
F0990	6	2

DIVISION 5

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F1156	11	2
F1164	1	1
F1178	23	1
F1451	0	0
F1461	15	3
F1462	4	1
F1473	64	4
F1474	11	3
F1550	30	4
F1551	89	8
F1552	50	3
F1553	28	5
F1554	28	0
F1556	8	0
F1557	0	0
F1560	22	6

DIVISION 7

CHAPTER	REC	RET
F1650	1	1
F1653	8	0
F1655	3	1
F1657	12	2
F1660	8	3
F1661	2	0
F1663	6	0
F1665	8	3
F1669	32	5
F1670	33	7
F1671	17	5
F1674	25	6
F1678	18	1
F1681	46	15

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