

## **STRATEGIC TALKER – 2009**

**The Air Force Association is older than the Air Force itself. AFA celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in February 2006. Just one year before the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our United States Air Force; which was celebrated September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

**AFA is a non-profit organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and its role in national defense. Its mission is to educate, advocate & support. We educate the public about the critical role in aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocate for aerospace power and a strong national defense; and support the US Air Force and the Air Force Family.**

**AFA annually develops a Statement of Policy that contains our Top Issues. This document takes a full year to pull together and results in a collection of concerns and issues from across the spectrum of the Total Force family.**

**The Statement of Policy and the Top Issues are voted on at our annual convention by the AFA members serving as convention delegates. AFA takes the Statement of Policy to Congress, distributes it to the media, AFA members and Air Force leadership.**

**This isn't all that we do though. We are heavily involved in advancing aerospace education through grants, scholarships, and professional forums. We are truly the force behind THE FORCE**

**AFA has 5 Top Issues for 2008:**

- Supporting our nation's airmen
- Investing in Air Force Capabilities
- Recapitalizing the aging fleet
- Strengthening the Foundation
- Secure space and cyberspace

The Air Force has 3 priorities outlined in its 2006-08 Strategic Plan. AFA's Statement of Policy and Top Issues: '*Air Force Airpower in a Year of Decision*' is aligned with that Strategic Plan. Let me explain how AFA's policy and positions support the Air Force priorities.

**Air Force Priority 1:** Winning the war on terror...while preparing for the next war. The Air Force wants to ensure the safety and security of our Nation and her citizens and at the same time, prepare for next war, whatever, whenever it may be.

**AFA Top Issues that support Priority 1:**

- Supporting our troops who are fighting the Global War on Terrorism
- Fully funding the needs of the Air Force to fulfill its vital role
- Allocating an extra \$20 billion a year over the next 20 years
- Compensating, equipping, and manning the Guard and Reserve in consonance with their increased contribution to the Total Force
- Funding ISR (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) systems in greater numbers and provide capability upgrades
- Investing in technical education to build the support foundation the nation needs.

- **And increasing funding to permit a 3 percent investment in science and technology**

**Air Force Priority 2:** Developing and caring for Airmen and their families, to maintain our competitive advantage. The Air Force believes that Airmen are our most valuable asset in fighting and winning the Global War on Terrorism. They're highly educated, innovative and we have created the most lethal Air Force in the world. The Air Force must take care of all Airmen and their families

**AFA issues that support Priority 2:**

- **Ending the practice of having airmen serving in place of ground forces and permit their return to their specialties**
- **And continuing and expanding national programs encouraging the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics**

**Air Force Priority 3:** Recapitalizing and modernizing aircraft, satellites and equipment, to optimize the military utility of Air Force systems to better meet 21st Century challenges. By recapitalizing and modernizing air superiority, strike, space, ISR, mobility, and other systems, the Air Force will ensure the right capabilities for today and the future.

**AFA issues that support Priority 3:**

- **Applying additional resources to increase the procurement rate of all types of aircraft**
- **Restore discipline and confidence to the nuclear enterprise and ensure excellence through vigilance, support, and a comprehensive plan**

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- **Allowing the Air Force to manage its fleet and rid itself of many low-value, high-cost aircraft to modernize the force.**
- **Designating the Air Force as the executive agent for UAV systems above 3,000 feet**
- **And clearing the red tape and get the CSAR-X on the ramp without delay**
- **Modernize and fully fund vital space and cyberspace systems and ensure their security**

**Bottom line:** These are critical times for our nation. We must make necessary investments today to win the Global War on Terror and to counter future threats. Our air and space dominance cannot be taken for granted.

I will leave you with this quote from one of our Air Force and AFA founding fathers:

*“...our Air Force belongs to those who come from ranks of labor, management, the farms, the stores, the professions and colleges and legislative halls...Air Power will always be the business of every American citizen.”* - General Henry ‘Hap’ Arnold

In this, we dare not fail.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Background Only**

**U.S. AIR FORCE GOALS: From 2006-2008 Air Force Strategic Plan**  
<http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-060919-008.pdf>

- 1. Foster mutual respect and integrity...AF core values, “*Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do*”, underpin all our actions...we must walk the talk, daily exercise those values in words, actions and decisions**
  
- 2. Sustain air, space and cyberspace capabilities...means preserving and expanding our existing competitive advantages**
  - Sustaining these capabilities is foundation of ‘Force Sharpening’**  
**It is the uncompromising key to success in all the AF priorities and across the spectrum of conflict**
  
- 3. Provide persistent situation awareness...comes from the integrated application of sensors, intelligence collection, exploitation, fusion, analysis and production, dissemination systems, and other AF air, space, and cyberspace systems.**
  - Immediate goal: fully integrate information operations with air & space operations, ultimately presenting more flexible options to combatant commanders.**
  
- 4. Develop Joint and battle ready trained Airmen...the AF source of strength is its people and their commitment to the AF and to Joint operations.**
  - Lead by example and sharpen the force by equipping Airmen with combat skills for all types of operations and locations**

**5. Improve the Total Force quality of life...the AF works diligently to improve the quality of life for all Airmen and their families, so Airmen can focus on continuing their extraordinary service to our nation**

**6. Implement open, transparent business practices and achieve a clean audit**

**- Transformation of the 'business' side of the AF will not only lead to operational efficiencies, a 'clean audit,' and improved credibility, but will also lead to more effective and timely decisions where they matter most...combat**

**7. Foster Air Force Smart Operations across the Total Air Force**

**- At every level, Air Force Smart Operations is not about efficiency for efficiency's sake, but about a visible commitment to sustaining our competitive advantages in air, space and cyberspace**