

# UNDERSTANDING AFA

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# GUIDE III — UNDERSTANDING THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

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## A. What is AFA?

It's nearly 140,000 men and women who believe strongly enough in national defense, and the importance of air power to that defense, to want to support their beliefs in an organized way. Founded in 1946 by former members of the World War II Army Air Forces, it has grown steadily in size, influence, prestige, and ways to serve its membership. AFA headquarters, in Arlington, Virginia, includes a professional staff of some eighty persons.

The objectives of the Association, set forth in AFA's Constitution, are to provide an organization through which free people may unite to:

Advocate military preparedness of the United States and its allies adequate to maintain the security of the United States and the free world

Address the defense responsibilities of our nation imposed by the dramatic advance of aerospace technology

Educate the members and the public at large in what that technology can contribute to the security of free people and the betterment of mankind

### **AFA's History**

AFA's heritage is rooted in the legacy of Billy Mitchell. Mitchell had seen the United States enter World War I as the eighth-ranked nation in air power — exceeded by Bulgaria, Greece and Japan as well as by the major powers. Despite the bitter lessons of the war in the air, despite the high priority other nations were giving to airpower—the U.S. Air Service in 1919 was reduced from 10,000 pilots to 149; 6,000 were discharged in nine days. Mitchell fought hard and long in support of the importance of air power and the need for a strong national defense.

His work was carried on by the men who believed and served under him. One was the man who commanded the World War II Army Air Forces — Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold. In April 1945, General Arnold first mentioned the need for an independent civilian organization to argue the case for military preparedness and the importance of aerospace power. AFA was incorporated in the District of Columbia on February 4, 1946, after a year of cross-country organizing by the Association's first national president, retired Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, a noted aviation pioneer and Medal of Honor

recipient. A vice president at Shell Oil Co. at the time, Doolittle took a year off to set up AFA chapters across the country.

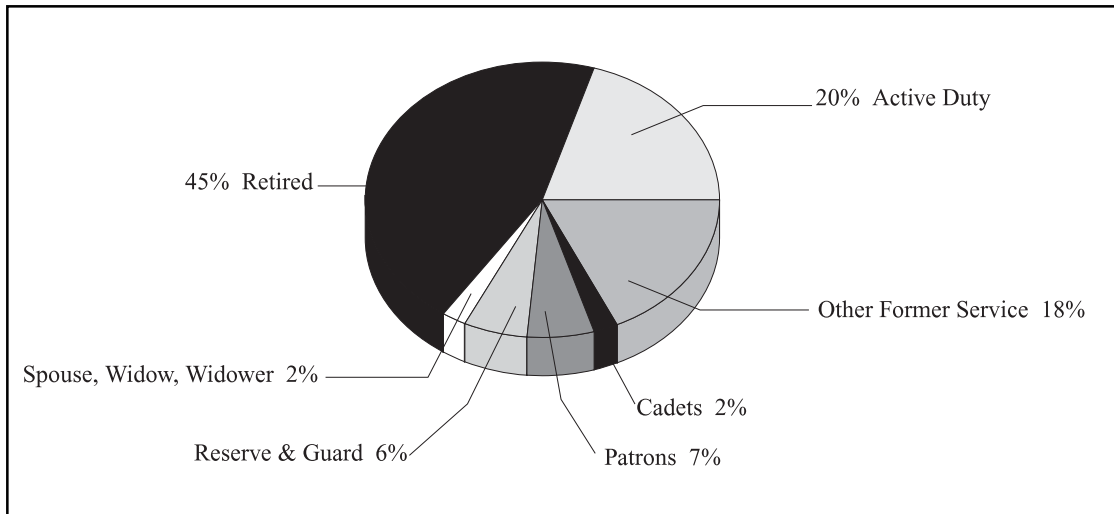
Since then, AFA has spanned the air age, the missile era, the conquest of space, the nuclear age and the post-Cold War period. Although Association policies have evolved to meet changing technological and human demands, AFA has been constant in establishing and meeting goals to upgrade the prestige and career status of the military profession and to strengthen American aerospace power to help maintain national security and preserve world peace.

### **How is AFA Governed?**

The delegates to the national convention are the top governing body of the Association. Between conventions, AFA policy is established by the Board of Directors. Between Board meetings the Board of Directors acts through an Executive Committee, which serves as an extension of the Board. Elected National Officers of the Association, each of whom also serve on the Board, are elected annually. They include a Board Chairman, a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All elected officials serve without pay. Established policy is implemented on a day to day basis by a national staff under the direction of an Executive Director appointed by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors.

### **B. Who can join AFA?**

Any person who either is now or has been at one time on extended active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, or who is a spouse, widow, or widower of such an individual, or who is or has been a member of the Guard or Reserve of the Armed Forces of the United States may become a member of the Association. Additionally, cadet membership is available to any person enrolled as a cadet at a United States Service Academy or in a university or college ROTC program as well as officer trainees. Other persons interested in joining the Association may do so as an AFA patron. Members, including those on active duty, are eligible to vote and hold elective office in the Association. Patrons may hold appointive office. The percentage in each category is approximately as follows:



**C. What does it cost?**

Annual dues are \$36, a three-year membership is \$90, and Life Membership is \$500 (paid in full) or \$525 (paid in installments). Cadet dues are \$18 per year.

**D. How is AFA organized?**

The United States is divided into AFA Regions, each consisting of one or more states containing approximately 20 chapters each. Each Region is headed by a Region President who is elected by members within the region. Regions are subdivided into state organizations and local chapters.

**E. What is an AFA State Organization?**

A State Organization may be chartered in any state where there are two or more AFA chapters. State officers are elected by members of chapters within the state and each State Organization coordinates the activities of its local chapters.

**F. What is an AFA chapter?**

An AFA chapter is the principal unit in AFA's organizational structure and each is required to have a minimum of 20 voting members. Operating at the community level, chapters elect their own officials and develop their own local programs, such as seminars, air power displays and community projects in support of the Air Force and Air Force people. Currently there are over 250 AFA chapters, and at least one chapter is located near every major Air Force installation in the United States.

**G. How do individual AFA members make their views known?**

There are many ways. The chapter and state organizations provide a ready vehicle for the expression of individual views on both local and national affairs. Letters to the editors of AIR FORCE Magazine, both from individuals and groups, are another popular and effective way to reach a large audience. AFA's elected leadership and staff also encourage correspondence from members as to actions or improvements they seek, either in operating activities or national policy. Still another mechanism is through the members of AFA's National Councils and Advisors appointed annually by the President to provide on-going advice and counsel on policy matters.

**H. What Councils and Advisors serve AFA?**

AFA is served by six Councils and several advisors long experienced in their particular field of expertise. The six Councils (Enlisted, Junior Officer, Civilian Advisory, Retiree/Veterans, Reserve and Guard), represent the special interests of military and civilian employees and meet periodically to discuss a wide range of subject material. The Special Advisors provide continuing advice and counsel on Civil Air Patrol, Civilian Personnel, Junior AFROTC, Medical, Scientific, and Senior AFROTC issues.

**I. What does a member receive?**

***AIR FORCE Magazine***

AFA members and patrons receive a monthly subscription to AIR FORCE Magazine, a unique, challenging, enjoyable source of authoritative information on aerospace developments. AIR FORCE Magazine offers a full range of aerospace power articles and provides a vital link to the interests of Air Force personnel.

AIR FORCE Magazine deals with today's concerns — training, policies, strategies, USAF Heritage, hardware, planning, and more. Recent issues have dealt with the impact of the drawdown on Air Force people and programs, space, long-range airpower, theater war, as well as health care and pay. AIR FORCE Magazine also reports on Air Force weapons competitions, combat and support operations — plus moving stories of personal heroism and events that have changed the focus of military aviation. It gives anyone who reads it seriously a sense of the present, the past and the future of the Air Force and how he or she shares in all of them.

The USAF Almanac issue, published every May, is a desk-top, use-all-year reference guide with reports from all major USAF commands, a gallery of USAF weapons, command charts, and more. Many members tell us that the AIR FORCE Almanac issue alone is worth many times the modest cost of AFA membership.

## **Insurance Programs**

The Air Force Association also provides a variety of excellent, low cost group insurance programs for members. More than 40,000 members are insured under one or more of these programs: supplements to Medicare, TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Prime, Decreasing and Level Term Life Insurance, Accident, Hospital Indemnity, Long Term Care and CancerCare Insurance. Each program has been exclusively designed for AFA members (insurance coverage is not available to patrons). Detailed information about any of these programs can be obtained by contacting AFA headquarters.

## **Other Direct Benefits**

Members and patrons are eligible to apply for AFA's exclusive MasterCard with no annual fee, a very competitive low interest rate and a variety of add-on benefits. Other programs available provide discounts on car rentals, travel services, auto insurance and other services.

## **Legislative Support**

A major part of the Air Force Association's efforts and resources are devoted to improving conditions for Air Force people and their families. After policy positions are developed during each year's national convention, AFA's elected leaders and national headquarters staff ride hard on implementation procedures throughout the year on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon, and wherever the effort may take them. And members throughout the world do their part, too, through meaningful and regular contact with their elected representatives in Washington. As a consequence, AFA support of specific benefit programs is doubly meaningful since it provides help both in Washington and at the grass roots level.

## **AFA's Online Community**

AFA maintains a "Members Only" area from the AFA webpage ([www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)) for the exclusive use of current AFA members and patrons. After registering for the community, members can take advantage of services available, which at the present time include:

- ❖ Searchable AFA Membership Directory - Members update their directory listings to display whatever information they want available to other members — personal, professional, academic and/or military. Most members are included in the directory and can be located using a variety of search fields. (Members can choose to be excluded.)

- ❖ Permanent E-Mail forwarding address - Members set up an E-Mail address using an AFA domain name and have that E-Mail address “pointed” to their ISP E-Mail address. No matter how many times someone changes ISPs, they don’t need to notify people of the new address, they just change the forwarding information online.
- ❖ Career center — More than 9,000 employers post jobs in the career center. AFA members can search available jobs and post resumes.
- ❖ AIR FORCE Almanac - A searchable version of the very popular May issue of AIR FORCE Magazine — the Air Force Almanac issue - is available to Members and Patrons Only.

The Members Only area is also the place to go for AFA’s Constitution and other governing documents and additional resources for field leaders including:

- Quarterly Activity Reports and Financial Forms
- Officer Roster Forms
- AFA/AEF Biographical Data Form
- Monthly Membership Reports
- Unit Reports Received/Paid
- Chapter Rosters (Special Authorization Required)
- Field Operations Guidebook
- AFA Chapter Operations Handbook
- Protocol Guidelines
- AFA Awards
- Nomination Forms
- Membership Action Plan

To register:

Go to [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)

Click “members only”

Follow the instructions to register

## **Public Outreach**

With its grass roots organization, AFA works tirelessly to educate members of the media and public on the important role air power plays in our national defense and the need for a strong U.S. military. Through the AFA News Service, the association reaches over 2,000 newspaper, radio and television newsrooms around the country. AFA provides AIR FORCE Magazine articles, AEF reports, and other materials to members of the national media. It also sponsors several national symposia designed to keep Air Force and other national security issues in the forefront. AFA’s website is another excellent source for information and can be accessed by the general public.

## **Recognition Programs**

In addition to chapter, state and national recognition programs for AFA units and people, AFA also provides special recognition for Air Force people. Through sponsorship of a variety of special Aerospace, Management and Combat Crew awards, Citations of Honor and the Air Force Team-of-the-Year, AFA plays a vital role in properly recognizing Air Force personnel who have provided outstanding service to the Air Force and to the nation. And beyond question, AFA's Outstanding Airmen program is the most coveted award available to enlisted personnel of any service.

# WHAT IS AN AFA LIFE MEMBERSHIP?

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Life Membership is AFA's fastest growing category of membership (currently more than 40,000) and represents a particularly strong commitment to the goals and objectives of the Association. It is valuable to the member since it eliminates the necessity for annual dues payments, and it is valuable to AFA since Life Members provide a solid foundation of support for AFA activities that can be matched in no other way.

When joining this select group, the Life Member receives a handsome certificate of Life Membership, a personalized and permanent Life Member wallet card, a 14 carat gold filled Life Member lapel pin and, of course, a lifetime subscription to AIR FORCE Magazine.

The Life Membership fee is \$500 if paid in a single sum. The fee is \$525 if paid in installments over a one year (\$ 110 per quarter) or two year (\$55 per quarter) period after receipt of an initial payment in the amount of \$85.

Current members choosing to become Life Members will be credited with whatever balance of time remains on their existing membership. This credit amount will be computed by AFA and will either be refunded directly to the applicant (if the Life Member payment is in the full amount) or credited to the applicant's installment payments. Invoices for these installment payments will be prepared by AFA and sent to the applicant approximately 30 days in advance of each due date.

AFA Life Members constitute a prestigious group of aerospace leaders within the Association, and membership in this select category is very much encouraged.



# WHAT IS THE AEROSPACE EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

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## *National Vision: Local Focus*

The Aerospace Education Foundation provides aerospace education to the American people, our students and the men and women of the United States Air Force. The Foundation focuses on three areas:

- ❖ enhancing aerospace and technical education by assisting students and educators;
- ❖ assisting the Air Force in meeting its educational requirements; and
- ❖ informing the American people about aerospace issues so they can make better decisions about how to invest in our future.

### **Assisting Students and Educators:**

- ❖ **Visions of Exploration**, a joint effort with USA TODAY newspaper and local Air Force Association Chapters, provides elementary teachers (grades 4-8) across the nation with a curriculum to enhance student understanding and appreciation for math and science, and to sharpen their critical and strategic thinking skills. Approximately 30,000 students benefit from this program each year.
- ❖ **Educator Grants** to at least 250 teachers nationwide for an aerospace activity to assist in teaching math and science in the classroom. Teachers use these grants for field trips, to purchase texts, software and videos, simulators and other instructional aids.
- ❖ **Chapter Matching Grants** to AFA chapters to assist in establishing aerospace education programs to benefit their local communities. More than 25 of these grants are given, matching the expenditures of the local AFA chapter. Chapters used these grants to fund science fairs, teacher education, and stay in school programs.
- ❖ **AFJROTC Instructor Grants** enable AFJROTC instructors to expand the aerospace and civics experiences in this growing educational program.
- ❖ **Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Instructor Grants** provide CAP cadet squadrons with a source of funding for new and innovative programs expanding the benefits of the aerospace education.

- ❖ **Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Educator Grants (New for 2001)** provide classroom teachers who are Aerospace Education members or CAP members with a source of funding for new innovative programs expanding the benefits of the aerospace education.
- ❖ **Teacher Recognition Programs** honor outstanding teachers, promote excellence in the field, and encourage aerospace instructional activities. Each year, we conduct a national search for a “Teacher of the Year.”
- ❖ **Aerospace Education Awards** are presented each year to AFA chapters and members that promote aerospace education in the local community. The Sam E. Keith, Jr. award recognizes an AFA chapter and the George D. Hardy award is for an AFA member.

#### **Assisting Air Force People:**

- ❖ **Pitsenbarger Award** gives approximately 500 educational grants to Air Force enlisted people each year. These grants assist enlisted people, E3 through E7, in completing their college education.
- ❖ **AEF Scholarships for Air Force Spouses** provide \$1,000 scholarships to 30 spouses of Air Force active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members. Military spouses face unique difficulties in completing their education— frequent moves, overseas duty, isolated locations and the special hardships associated with the rigors of military life. These scholarships ease the burden of completing an education.

#### **Assisting Americans Nationwide**

AEF's publications focus on especially significant aerospace, defense and Air Force issues each year. Topics range from the challenge of aerospace in the decades ahead, to status reports on the Air Force and making the acquisition process more affordable.

#### **Raising Funds to Support Programs**

Each year AEF conducts address label and calendar fund-raisers, fellowship programs, and receives contributions through the Combined Federal Campaign. All of these provide the Foundation the funds to run its programs. All contributions to the Foundation are, by law, fully tax-deductible.

**Visit the Foundation at its web site at [www.aef.org](http://www.aef.org) or e-mail us at [AEFStaff@aef.org](mailto:AEFStaff@aef.org) or call 1-800-291-8480.**

# AFA Support of Enlisted People

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An often asked question and rightly so, is what does AFA do for the individual? And among the most inquisitive potential members posing the question are thousands of present and former enlisted people. In response to that question the following paper, originally published as an AFA Field Service Report, is presented for reference purposes.

Any discussion of what AFA does for enlisted people has to start with AFA's basic mission: national defense. It is in this context that the Association deals with personnel matters in general, and with enlisted matters in particular. This enhances AFA's effectiveness in the personnel arena. Putting personnel concerns in the broader context of national defense gives the Association a great deal of credibility in the Pentagon, on Capitol Hill, and with the public in general. The broader goals of the Association combine with the diversity of our membership to give us a well-deserved image as an organization that is not self-serving.

It also is important to note that, by definition, all Air Force professionals — enlisted, officer, civilian - are concerned with national defense. And in this regard, the Association serves as the professional society for Air Force people. Through the highly respected AIR FORCE Magazine — and through a variety of symposia, seminars, briefings, etc. — bluesuiters can make their professional education a continuing process.

AIR FORCE Magazine also helps the Association serve as a leader in public dialogue on national defense issues. It is the finest aerospace publication in the world. Copies regularly go to every Member of Congress as well as to top-level Administration officials and other leaders of the free world. AIR FORCE Magazine is also quoted widely by the national news media and is frequently used for reference purposes in schools and universities throughout the country.

The Air Force Association always has recognized the vital role played by enlisted people as part of the Air Force team — and of the AFA team. Retired enlisted have always been active in AFA field organizations. With the passage some years ago of the AFA constitutional amendment giving active duty people the opportunity to hold elected office, many active duty enlisted have emerged as field leaders. This is especially so in overseas areas.

Two prime examples . . . retired CMSAF Jim McCoy, who recently completed two years as AFA's National President and two as Chairman of the Board. Also, retired Chief Walt Scott, who has just finished two years as Chairman of the Board of AFA's affiliate, the Aerospace Education Foundation, and two as President of AEF. Walt is a former President of the Air Force Sergeants Association. Both McCoy and Scott served in AFA Chapter and State elected posts prior to their election to National positions.

Some of the specific programs AFA sponsors for enlisted people are:

**A. Recognition**

**The Outstanding Airmen Program.**

For more than 40 years AFA has sponsored this program that recognizes annually the 12 top enlisted people in the Air Force, as selected by the Air Force itself. The 12 airmen and their spouses are brought to Washington for a week of festivities that includes the Outstanding Airmen Banquet, a highlight of AFA's annual national convention. This is the most prestigious recognition program provided for enlisted personnel of any service.

**The Enlisted Council.**

No other group representing Air Force enlisted people has anything approaching the impact of AFA's Enlisted Council. Each year the 12 Outstanding Airmen form the nucleus of this Council and, from its inception, the Council has been influential in shaping certain personnel policies supported by the Association. For example, a proposal originated by the Enlisted Council and then adopted as Association policy led to the 1967 creation of the position of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. In addition to advising AFA's national president on matters affecting enlisted people, the Enlisted Council tackles a new project each year, with its report going to AFA's president and the Air Staff.

**World-Wide Senior Enlisted Advisors' Conference.**

Since establishment of the office of Senior Enlisted Advisor for each Command and Separate Operating Agency in 1977, the Air Force Association has provided a forum for this annual conference during its national convention each Fall. The conference provides a unique opportunity for these top enlisted people to get together, discuss common problems, be briefed by senior Air Force leaders, and make recommendations to both AFA and the Air Force.

**Awards.**

AFA serves as an integral part of the Air Force's recognition program by sponsoring a variety of special aerospace, management and combat crew awards, Citations of Honor, the Thomas V. Barnes (Outstanding Crew Chief) Award, the Dick Red (Outstanding ANG Aerospace Maintenance) Award, the Outstanding Airmen program, and an Air Force Team-of-the-Year Award. These recognition programs, the majority of which honor enlisted people, are among the most coveted awards available to Air Force personnel. The state and chapter organizations also conduct extensive awards programs to recognize exceptional service by enlisted personnel.

## **Complimentary Memberships**

Since 1972, AFA has extended one-year complimentary memberships in the Association to graduates of all Air Force NCO Academies in recognition of their pursuit of professional excellence.

### **B. AFA and Educational Opportunities**

Through the pioneering work of AFA and its affiliate, the Aerospace Education Foundation, degree granting authority was obtained in 1973 for the Community College of the Air Force. Since that time more than 158,000 Associate degrees have been granted by the College and the vast majority of these degrees have been awarded to enlisted men and women. Each year the Aerospace Education Foundation provides 500 grants to CCAF graduates to encourage further academic study.

In addition, the Aerospace Education Foundation annually provides 30 scholarships to spouses of Air Force Active Duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members. These scholarships ease the burden of completing an education while facing the unique difficulties of military spouses.

### **C. AFA Policy and Enlisted People**

Each year, delegates to AFA's national convention adopt a Policy Paper on Defense Manpower Issues. This paper deals with specific concerns of Air Force people and sets objectives for the year ahead. Over the past several years, a significant number of these specific AFA objectives have been implemented by Congress, DoD, or the Air Force — an enviable record of which the Association is quite proud. Following are some of the AFA supported programs that have been enacted into law and which are of specific benefit to enlisted people:

- ❖ Across the board pay increases for all Air Force military personnel.
- ❖ Authorization for dental care (on a space available basis) for dependents of active duty personnel at military facilities.
- ❖ Increases in air crew flight pay.
- ❖ Increases in enlistment and reenlistment bonuses.
- ❖ Increases in Variable Housing Allowances (VHA).
- ❖ Increases in the benefits of survivors' group life insurance.

- ❖ Increases in Permanent Change of Station (PCS) mileage allowances.
- ❖ Continuation of funding for USAF commissaries.
- ❖ Defeat of proposals to impose user fees for persons using military health care facilities.

This is fine so far as it goes, but AFA continues to work for other improvements that are equally needed such as: dental care for dependents, further enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, improved access to health care, additional improvements in the educational incentive program, increased housing, improved child care facilities, and an improved Survivors' Benefit Plan. All these benefits, and more, continue to be AFA Policy objectives that are actively supported by AFA's national officers and staff.

AFA at both the national and local level also actively supports the Air Force Aid Society, Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Air Force Village Foundation, and USO.

#### **D. The Basic Commitment**

Despite the many specific programs that have been either implemented or supported by AFA on behalf of Air Force enlisted personnel, AFA delegates from a previous National Convention established a broad policy which would guide future association activity on behalf of all Air Force personnel. That policy paper is known as "A Special Statement in Support of the Men and Women of Our Armed Forces," and following are excerpts from that Statement:

"The prime concern of the Air Force Association, as always, is people, especially the men and women serving in the Air Force and the other armed services of the United States.

"Young military professionals look for and have every right to expect dignity, pride, job satisfaction, and the appreciation of the American people for the sacrifices that are a part of military life. They deserve a sense of belonging to an institution that is a part of American society and representative of the best in that society. The quickest way for the nation to lose the best and the brightest in its armed forces is by degrading, eroding and ignoring the value and purpose of military service and national security.

"The Air Force Association sees compelling cause, then, for reaffirming herewith our belief in, our compassion for, and our unswerving commitment to the men and women of the Air Force and of all the armed services. They have never needed recognition and help more urgently. They can be assured of continued support from the Air Force Association — fully, enthusiastically, and effectively. This we pledge."

## **E. The Meaning of AFA Membership**

While the vast majority of AFA's efforts and resources are devoted to improving the lot of Air Force personnel and their families, some 70% of its membership is civilian (non active duty) and this enables the Association to be extremely effective when speaking out for the needs of Air Force people. AFA leaders and members throughout the country are personally acquainted with their elected representatives in Washington and, because of this, AFA support of specific benefit programs is doubly meaningful since it means help both in Washington and at the grass roots level. In this regard AFA is almost unique among Air Force oriented organizations-and none has the overall strength of AFA's total membership which now numbers in the area of 150,000. Today more than one out of every three AFA members can be identified as either current or former enlisted people. As this important element of AFA membership continues to grow so, too, will the Association's future as the nation's foremost supporter of aerospace power and as an effective advocate for all Air Force people.

# AFA Support of USAF Civilian Personnel

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Support of Air Force civilian personnel is a central element of AFA's mission. Comprising nearly one-third of the total Air Force team, Air Force civilians are vital to the effectiveness of the total force and play a major role in the shaping of policy for the Air Force Association. AFA has consistently called for effective, long term solutions to federal pay — including benefit and retirement programs for USAF civilian employees. And legislation actively supported by the Association in recent years has included simplification of the position classification system, pay linkage to performance, corrections to procedures for employee recovery of contributions to the pension annuity program, improved retirement benefits, payroll increases, repeal of the civil service 'offset' provision and removal of civilian personnel ceilings. AFA's Civilian Personnel Council provides AFA's President with recommendations on how the Association can be even more effective in its support of civilian personnel policy issues.

An important element of AFA's national awards program is also directed toward the Air Force civilian. Each year the Association presents a variety of individual and organizational awards to Air Force people for outstanding contributions to national security, and a large percentage of these AFA Aerospace Awards are presented to USAF civilian personnel.

USAF civilians play a key role, too, in the leadership structure of the Air Force Association. Many of AFA's top elected officials are Air Force civilians as are literally dozens of chapter leaders-and all of them are absolutely vital to AFA's effectiveness at both the national and local levels. It is estimated that more than 20,000 USAF civilian employees are either members or patrons of the Association and their participation in AFA activities-from formation of national policy to organization of chapter programs-has been, and is, critical to AFA's overall success in support of the Air Force ... and all Air Force people.

As AFA continues to grow both in numbers and in prestige the Air Force civilian will be increasingly important to the Association as AFA seeks to further broaden public understanding of Air Force needs. The Association actively seeks their support and fully recognizes the vital role they play in this country's national defense.

★ Since AFA is chartered as a veterans organization (and Federal law defines veterans as those who have served the armed forces either on active duty or in the Reserve Forces), non-veterans are recognized by the Association as patrons rather than as members. By definition, then, many USAF civilians are AFA patrons, but this is a legal distinction which has no effect on AFA's kinship to, and support for, Air Force people.

## Quotes From New Members

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Reprinted with permission from Michael C. Reynolds, CMSgt, USAF:

“It has always been my pleasure to be a life member of AFA, but I’m not sure I understood just how much that meant - until I attended the convention in Washington and the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Banquet. I now have a deeper understanding of the Association. I truly hope that I will be able to contribute, in some small way ... I realize none of this would be possible if not for your leadership and the support of your staff.”

“Thanks for your help in supporting Air Force people in Congress. I am happy to support AFA.”

“Your member services are outstanding.”

“Your recognition of enlisted members of the Association and topics of interest to enlisted personnel is very responsive to their needs. Keep up the fine work.”

“Just an outstanding magazine-each issue keeps getting better.”

“As an AFA member, I’m getting my money’s worth-a rare occurrence nowadays!”

“My appreciation (for AIR FORCE Magazine) has turned from simple respect to admiration and awe because of the accuracy of (your) facts and predictions.”

“AFA’s information on defense and international affairs is tremendous.”

“How could I not belong to my professional association?”

“The low cost group insurance programs and AIR FORCE Magazine are excellent.”

“The ‘Gallery’ and ‘Almanac’ issues are invaluable to me.”

“AFA is effective in telling the Air Force story to civic, local, state and national business and political leaders. Membership is a must.”

“I am very satisfied with AFA-especially the insurance programs. For my family, they have been a lifesaver.”

“For many of us on active duty, AFA accomplishes those things we cannot do for ourselves. We appreciate the outstanding job you’re doing for us.”