



**SUPPORT AIRMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES;  
TREAT RETIREES AND VETERANS WITH  
DIGNITY AND RESPECT;  
CHAMPION CIVILIAN MATTERS**

#### *AIRMEN AND FAMILIES*

- ✦ Pay and Benefits: Tie military pay raises to the Employment Cost Index (ECI).
  - Enhance the needed authorities for special pays and bonuses for select career field service members.
  - Defend against adverse changes in educational opportunities.
- ✦ Healthcare: Healthcare is a readiness issue.
  - Fully fund TRICARE to provide proper care for military members and families.
  - Prohibit the Defense Department from realigning or reducing the proposed 18,000 military medical positions until analyses are conducted.

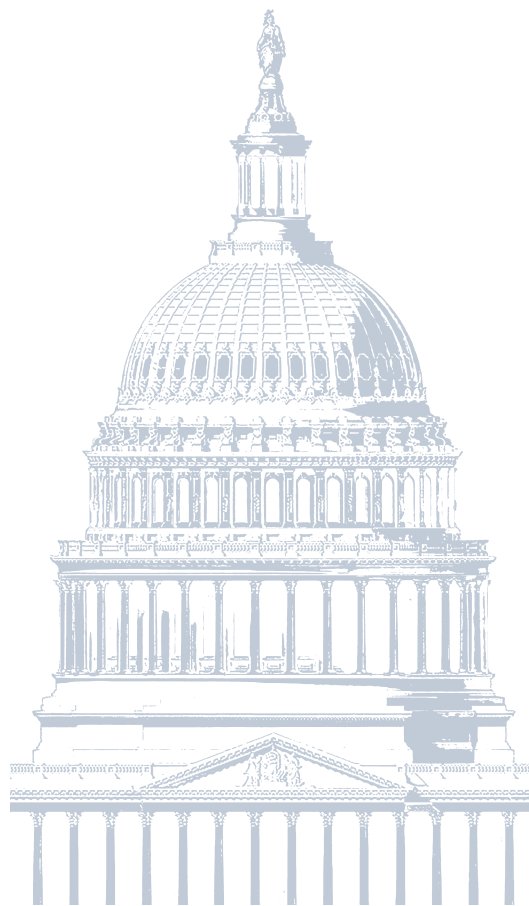
#### *VETERANS*

- ✦ Pay: Support Cost of Living Allowances (COLAs) to ensure a promise kept.
- ✦ Healthcare: Honor our nation's promise to veterans.
  - Challenge TRICARE fee increases and preserve TRICARE for Life (TFL).
  - Improve VA Health Care to ensure veterans have the health care they deserve.

#### *CIVILIANS*

- ✦ Improve the recruitment, talent management, and retention of quality Air Force civilians.
- ✦ Promote civilian pay raises. They are key members of the Air Force's Total Force, and our nation needs to retain them.

**Our mission is to promote a  
dominant United States Air Force,  
a strong national defense,  
to honor and support Airmen and  
the Air Force Family, and to remember  
and respect our Air Force Heritage.**



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**AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**  
*LEGISLATIVE ISSUES*

**2020**



***“Regardless of where the next conflict occurs  
or which adversary it features, the Air Force  
will be at the forefront.”***

*National Defense Strategy Commission*

The great power competition between the United States, Russia, and China has become the central challenge to U.S. security—both militarily and economically. America's dominance in the air, space, and cyber realms can no longer be taken for granted.

The National Defense Strategy Commission highlighted the needs of recapitalizing and modernizing the force in order to conduct the newest National Defense Strategy, and the commission particularly emphasized the importance of the Air Force.

After 1991's Operation Desert Storm, the Air Force was downsized by a third and has become a force that is too small for what our nation requires of it. The Air Force is the only service that deployed to the Gulf in 1990 and has not yet returned home—30 straight years of continuous combat operations.

OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE A DOMINANT UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, TO HONOR AND SUPPORT AIRMEN AND THE AIR FORCE FAMILY, AND TO REMEMBER AND RESPECT OUR AIR FORCE HERITAGE.

We support the following:

### REBUILD COMBAT READINESS IN AIR, SPACE, AND CYBERSPACE IN A TIMELY MANNER

- ✦ The Air Force needs stable and predictable funding—at adequate funding levels. Continuing Resolutions (CRs) degrade readiness. Currently, both the Air Force and Space Force must train and equip their forces—using the Air Force’s original budget level.

### INCREASE FORCE STRUCTURE

- ✦ Increase Active Duty strength to 350,000 personnel, the Air National Guard to 120,000, and the Reserve to 72,500 personnel.
- ✦ Grow the Total Force to 386 operational squadrons to meet the Air Force’s many missions.
- ✦ Organize, Train and Equip for Space Success. Today’s combat operations are dependent on the integration of space assets managed and coordinated by U.S. Space Force Airmen.
- ✦ Recruit and retain highly skilled support personnel, and implement selective bonuses for depleted career fields—such as pilots, cyber security, space operators, security forces, maintainers, and medical personnel. It is “cheaper to retain than retrain.”



### ACCELERATE RECAPITALIZATION / MODERNIZATION

- ✦ F-35A Lightning II—The U.S. must speed up acquisition of the game changing multi-domain strike fighter, which is the only fifth-generation fighter in production and is survivable against today’s defenses.
- ✦ KC-46A Pegasus Tanker—Replace the costly 50-year-old aircraft that are at the end of their service lives.
- ✦ B-21 Raider Bomber—Procure 180 B-21 bombers. The current long-range strike force averages 40 years in age and 87 percent of today’s bomber fleet predates stealth technology.
- ✦ Support full funding for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) to replace the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile system (ICBM).



- ✦ Sustain and modernize the airlift fleet that provides our nation’s global mobility.

- ✦ Advance the Long Range Standoff Weapon (LRSO) with nuclear capability.

- ✦ Grow robust space launch and on-orbit capabilities, taking advantage of cost-reducing measures in the commercial space industry and examining commercial operating models.



### INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

- ✦ Invest at least 10 percent of Science & Technology (S&T) funding in sustainment technologies and increase the budget for basic and applied research to drive long-term innovation.
- ✦ Advance and leverage hypersonic technologies more aggressively.
- ✦ Invest in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems and strategies, which will enhance warfighting capabilities.