



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

## Legislative Update



### KEITH'S CONGRESSIONAL CORNER



*“The Normandy Invasion was based on a deep-seated faith in the power of the air forces, in overwhelming numbers, to intervene in the land battle . . . Without that air force, without the aid of the enemy air force out of the sky, without its power to intervene in the land battle, that invasion would have been fantastic. . . Unless we had faith in the air power to intervene and make safe that landing, it would have been more than fantastic, it would have been criminal.”*

— Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1945

What a difference a few weeks make...

At the end of last month, shortly before heading out on recess, lawmakers passed and the president signed into law a bipartisan two-year budget caps deal. In doing so, they raised statutory spending limits for fiscal years (FYs) 2020 and 2021. They also jettisoned the awful 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) which indiscriminately targeted defense accounts and directly led to depleted readiness issues in the Air Force. The agreement also suspended the debt limit until July 31, 2021—avoiding contentious debate during next year’s election season--while providing security to international markets and Wall Street. The deal sets discretionary spending levels for both defense and non-defense departments and agencies, so, the risk of a federal government shutdown has been mitigated.

Perhaps most importantly, it sets budget agreements for this year and the next fiscal year, giving the Air Force and its sister services stable and predictable funding—at reasonable levels for at least the next two years (FY 2020 and FY 2021). It also provides industry some solid budget numbers for planning, so this will help with contracting and new programs’ cost savings.

*“In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”*

— Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Total defense spending for fiscal year 2020 will be \$738 billion, \$12 billion short of the \$750 billion sought by the White House. That means, the Senate’s version will need to undergo some defense cuts. In comparison, in FY 2019 Congress appropriated \$716 billion for defense. In FY 2020, total defense spending would be \$740.5 billion. Both FY defense toplines include Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) spending.

Senate appropriators will begin marking up their appropriations bills the week of Sept. 9, and AFA is advocating that the Defense appropriations bill gets signed into law before the Oct. 1 start of FY 2020.

Also, before the Senate adjourned for the August recess, it finally confirmed the new secretary of defense. Dr. Mark Esper, the former secretary of the Army and then acting secretary of defense, took over in July.

The wait for a new secretary of the Air Force continues, and we understand confirmation hearing preparations are well along.

This week the Air Force stated that it had finished installing new wings on its fleet of 173 A-10 Thunderbolt IIs. That means that the vaunted Warthog will keep flying until the late 2030s. Also, the Air Force cleared 87 C-130 Hercules aircraft back to service after a quarter of the cargo aircraft were grounded following wing crack inspections.

The July/August 2019 issue of Air Force Magazine had a great summary of Arlington National Cemetery including its complex history and anticipated changes in eligibility requirements to keep it an active burial ground for many years into the future.

We have been reporting on prospective changes in burial and inurnment policies at Arlington National Cemetery for quite some time and have spent a great deal of time on Capitol Hill advocating for continued eligibility for our members and the deserving 20 million living veterans. Along with a few other associations, including MOAA, AFSA, and the VFW, I testified before the House Armed Services Committee last year on this issue. AFA continues to advocate for continued access for burials on behalf of our members and veterans, however, Karen Durham-Aguilera, the executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries, told lawmakers at that same hearing last year, "It's a tough reality...we cannot serve that population." AFA will keep you updated.

The Air Force's B-2 Spirit bomber turned 30-years old, and earlier this month Air Force Global Strike Command celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Happy Birthday to those that provide our nation its greatest deterrent in two legs of the nuclear TRIAD and protect us every day.

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## AIR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

*"If we should have to fight, we should be prepared to do so from the neck up instead of from the neck down."*

Gen. (Ret.) Jimmie Doolittle, leader of Doolittle Raiders

[MITRE: Air Force Needs New Aircraft, Basing Ideas to Win in Pacific](#)

AirForceMag.com | 8 Aug 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen

A prominent defense research organization argues that the Air Force needs to rethink its procurement plans and spread its forces across more bases by 2030 to be a formidable opponent in the Pacific. An [unclassified summary](#) of MITRE Corp.'s sweeping inventory study, which Air Force Magazine obtained Aug. 7, calls for buying additional long-range aircraft and "large magazines of long-range standoff weapons," expanding four bases in the Pacific region to host up to 24 bombers and 18 tankers, and making at least 80 percent of all aircraft fleets mission-capable. The report also says the Air Force should retire the A-10 and F-16 as the service brings on new F-35s, and arm Boeing's new training jet as an international "light fighter" platform.

*"It is a network-connected family of systems that gets after things we need ... for our nation to ensure air superiority."*

- Maj. Gen. David Krumm, director of Air Force global power programs

### [Air Force Trying to Rally Congressional Support for NGAD](#)

AirForceMag.com | 7 Aug 2019 | by John A. Tirpak

The Air Force [with support from the Air Force Association] needs to convince Congress about the merit of its Next-Generation Air Dominance program, a "system of systems" aimed at ensuring air superiority into the 2040s, the service's top planners said Aug. 7 [during a Mitchell Institute event].

The service is planning to integrate current and future systems into a multi-domain network that takes over the role now played by its highest-end stealth fighters, instead of following fifth-generation aircraft with a single sixth-generation platform.

Congress, however, needs some convincing to support the effort. House lawmakers propose slashing fiscal 2020 funding for NGAD from \$1 billion to \$500 million due to "cost risk associated with development," according to the House-passed version of the 2020 defense policy bill.

### [Video: USAF paying Boeing to get tanker boom right the second time](#)

DefenseNews.com | 24 Jul 2019 | by Jill Aitoro, Exec Editor, Defense News

The Air Force could pay up to \$55.5 million for Boeing to redesign the boom on KC-46 tankers.

*"I think within a year, next year at this time, we'll have a Space Force, and a Space Command, and we'll be operating in this new dimension with much more cohesion and coordination."*

- Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC)

## [Top SASC Democrat sees momentum building for a space force](#)

SpaceNews.com | 7 Aug 2019 | by Sandra Erwin

The Senate and the House in their versions of the National Defense Authorization Act have laid out competing proposals for how to create a military space service. But broadly speaking there are no major obstacles to passing an NDAA that authorizes the Defense Department to stand up a space force, said Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

*"I actually don't know what's going on. And I certainly can't point to our programs today and say that they're working."*

- Gen. David Goldfein, Chief of Staff, US Air Force

*"Let's take a moment and breathe and spend a little time on our airmen and their resiliency, and make sure we're not missing anything when it comes to suicide and suicide awareness."*

- Chief Master Sergeant Kaleth Wright, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

## [USAF Orders Stand-Down to Combat Rising Suicide Rate](#)

AirForceMag.com | 1 Aug 2019 | by Brian Everstine

Air Force units will stand down for one day this summer to address the rising problem of suicides, which Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein said is "an adversary that is killing more of our airmen than any enemy on the planet."

As of the end of July, 79 suicides had occurred in the Air Force in 2019 —nearly as many as were recorded last year in about half the time. The service saw about 100 suicides per year in each of the last five years.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright told airmen this week he believes suicide is the biggest problem the service faces.

*"The Air Force is withholding payments to protect our interests and incentivize Boeing to deliver KC-46s that meet all specification requirements in the contract."*

- Capt. Cara Bousie, Air Force spokeswoman

## [Second Annual AFWERX "Fusion" Event Tackles Multidomain Operations](#)

AirForceMag.com | 1 Aug 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen

[AFWERX Chief Executive Officer Brian] Maue believes the multidomain ideas underway here can fit into the Air Force's push for an Advanced Battle Management System, an effort that was launched when the service decided to cancel its plan to

replace the E-8C Joint STARS. Multidomain operations will rely on a greater level of trust between people in uniform as well, Air Force Warfighting Integration Capability Director Maj. Gen. Michael Fantini said.

### **[Boeing's Exit From ICBM Bid Shouldn't Become Another Excuse To Delay Modernizing U.S. Nuclear Deterrent](#)**

Forbes.com | 26 Jul 2019 | by Lt Gen (Ret.) David Deptula

The better choice would be for the Air Force, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman to work together to determine what would be needed to address these concerns. Absent a mutually satisfactory agreement, however, the Air Force should continue the GBSD program as scheduled. At this point, moving forward with a single bidder would be preferable to further delaying a Minuteman III replacement. The GBSD is critical to our nation's security, is cost-effective, and is years overdue. Modernizing our nuclear deterrent triad is too pressing a priority to let it slip any longer.

### **[US Air Force Has Withheld \\$360M — and Counting — For Boeing's Tanker Woes](#)**

DefenseOne.com | 24 Jul 2019 | by Marcus Weisgerber

The U.S. Air Force has withheld \$360 million from Boeing due to problems with the company's KC-46 tanker, according to a service official. It's the first time the Air Force has disclosed the total amount being held back until Boeing fixes various problems with the planes.

Service officials [previously said](#) they could withhold up to \$28 million per plane, roughly 20 percent of its delivery cost. Wednesday's disclosure shows that the Air Force is following through with that pledge. To date, Boeing has delivered 13 tankers to the Air Force, meaning the firm has been shorted nearly \$27.7 million per plane.

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## **YOUR AIR FORCE – DID YOU KNOW?**

AFWERX: "Established in 2017 by the Secretary of the Air Force and reporting to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, AFWERX is a catalyst for agile Air Force engagement across industry, academia and non-traditional contributors to create transformative opportunities and foster an Air Force culture of innovation. The ultimate aim is to solve problems and enhance the effectiveness of the Air Force.

We enable thoughtful, deliberate, ground-up innovation across the Air Force. We do this through an innovation approach that combines startup urgency with the largest pool of motivated talent in the world to uncover opportunities to improve Air Force capabilities, connect and engage the right stakeholders, and facilitate outcomes."

[https://go.afa.org/e/285922/2019-08-](https://go.afa.org/e/285922/2019-08-15/6k4ps6/647294725?h=mMfdcD0cYye4yCJKbnNyFis70fVDq2MgZbTlf1e-dz4)

[15/6k4ps6/647294725?h=mMfdcD0cYye4yCJKbnNyFis70fVDq2MgZbTlf1e-dz4](https://go.afa.org/e/285922/2019-08-15/6k4ps6/647294725?h=mMfdcD0cYye4yCJKbnNyFis70fVDq2MgZbTlf1e-dz4)

*"Why would I want to fly a Cessna when I've flown a P-51?"*

- Dorothy Olsen, WASP pilot in World War II

### **[Dorothy Olsen, WASP pilot in World War II, dies at 103](#)**

Associated Press | 12 Aug 2019 | by Unattributed

Dorothy Eleanor Olsen, a member of a group of civilian volunteers who flew planes across the country during World War II, has died. She was 103.

She flew about 60 missions as part of the 6th Ferry Group of the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

WASP members hauled targets for shooting practice and performed other flying duties.

WASPs were not recognized as veterans until 1977 under President Jimmy Carter. Olsen flew about 29 different aircraft. Her favorite was the P-51.

"Mom said the P-38 was an old woman's plane. She said anybody could fly that," said her daughter, Julie Stranburg. "She said that the P-51, you had to stay on top of that."

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## QUOTES TO NOTE

"We have the statistics on the pressures that add up that tend to be the ones that most often end poorly. It's relationships, it's financial, it's career troubles, they're under investigation or something goes south. It's the pressures that build up, and then the question is: Does that individual have the resiliency to find a path, any hope that this can end in a different place than where it ended for him. Every commander who's lost someone to suicide has got that story that's burned into their psyche for life."

- Gen. David Goldfein, Chief of Staff, US Air Force

"Pilots take no special joy in walking. Pilots like flying."

- Neil Armstrong, Astronaut and Commander of Apollo 11

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## KEY DATES TO WATCH

### 2019

Aug 23	AFA Breakfast with Gen. James Holmes, Commander, Air Combat Command at Key Bridge Marriott
Sep 14-15	AFA National Convention at Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor, MD
Sep 16-18	AFA's Air, Space & Cyber Conference at Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor, MD
Oct 1	FY 2020 Begins
Oct 24	AFA Breakfast AFA Breakfast, Capitol Hill Edition, with Mr. Randy Walden, Director and Program Executive Officer for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, at Capitol Hill Club
Nov 6	AFA Breakfast, Capitol Hill Edition, with Gen. David Goldfein, Chief of Staff, US Air Force at Capitol Hill Club

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*If you have questions, please contact:*

Keith Zuegel, USAF (Ret.)

Senior Director, Government Relations  
Air Force Association (AFA)  
[GRL@afa.org](mailto:GRL@afa.org)



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1501 Lee Highway, Arlington VA 22209-1198 | Tel 703.247.5800 | Fax 703.247.5853 | [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)

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