

THE MARAUDER

Gold Coast Chapter 351 Quarterly Newsletter



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President: Virginia Montalvo

<http://goldcoast351.org/news.htm>

MISSION The Air Force Association educates the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense; and supports the United States Air Force and the Air Force Family and aerospace education.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: To update your email address or Unsubscribe please email: mnauheimer@afa.org

President's Message: I defer my comments for this very important message, in its entirety, from Mike Dunn, the AFA National President.

A NATIONAL ASSET-

America's national security strategy calls for striking a balance between defeating today's threats and preparing for those of tomorrow. Now, the US must strike another balance -- providing for defense while preserving economic might. The task may be a complex one, but nonetheless it is feasible and imperative.

In today's global environment, the US will not be able to sustain its current defense if its economy suffers a breakdown. The Air Force Association is mindful this may happen in the future unless the federal government puts its fiscal house in order.

The US is more than \$14 trillion in debt. Worse, it is on course to add \$10 trillion more debt if the government does not act swiftly to cut spending.

The consequences of hyper-indebtedness would surely be dire. Fortunately, fiscal health can be regained without doing violence to defense. But

unfortunately, the Air Force Association has concern that we are headed in the wrong direction. National leaders are debating deep cuts in defense budgets. We worry that these cuts, if done in their totality, and in a slapdash manner will cause serious damage--not least to the Air Force. AFA does not oppose judicious

*SAVE THESE DATES:

July 8 & 9; AFA Florida Summer Convention
Ocala Hilton; warhawk10@bellsouth.net

July 13, 1pm; Gold Coast Council Meeting,
Banyan Bldg., Ft Lauderdale Executive Airport

August, Date & time TBA; Visit to Ft Lauderdale
Naval Air Station Museum

Sept 16, 6pm; Dinner Meeting @ Galuppi's in Pompano

reductions. We would note, however, that defense expenditure has not caused today's historic deficits. Even at a time of war, military outlays consume 4.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product--about the same as at the start of the Clinton Administration. We can afford that amount.

Moreover, the Air Force is doing its part. Secretary of Defense challenged all of the services to find ways to cut overhead and support costs. USAF's target was \$38.3 billion over six years. It exceeded that target by \$5 billion.

AFA believes that, even amid fiscal woes, the nation must provide adequately for all the armed services. This is especially true for USAF's air and space forces on which the US has become reliant for global vigilance, reach, and power.

Our defense strategy must balance the threats of today with those of tomorrow, meet our military, diplomatic, and development goals, and recognize that for

America to effectively project power, it must have its economic house in order.

A NATIONAL ASSET

America's air and space power--embodied in the Air Force--uniquely defines the military might of the United States. Air and space forces are the most-flexible, hardest-hitting, longest-reaching, and fastest-moving forces in our arsenal. Airpower provides our best hope of meeting US defense needs at reasonable cost.

Let us emphasize: We do not believe in single dimension warfare. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown, surface forces are important, and the Joint Force will need land and sea power as well as air, space, and cyber power.

The nation, however, makes a critical mistake if it fails to put sufficient emphasis on air and space power, which provides:

Global vigilance, comprising not only intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance (ISR) actions by air- and space-borne sensors but also those of many other forces, from ICBM sites to no-fly zones, on alert and on guard, at home and abroad, on an around-the-clock basis.

Global reach, allowing us to put a military platform--for reconnaissance, humanitarian, or operational use--above any point on Earth's surface in a matter of hours, and provides strategic mobility to rapidly position or reposition forces anywhere.

Global power, providing a unique capability to operate from regional bases overseas or to fly or strike directly from the United States on missions that range from humanitarian aid to power projection and crisis response.

Air and space power, more than any other force, is the military tool that allows us to scale up and down the spectrum of conflict, from small operations to major theater conflicts, and respond with agility to all needs in between. Only with adequate air and space power can we handle new, unforeseen operations rapidly and successfully.

In military strategy, the importance of speed, range, flexibility, and power should be obvious. These vital qualities are intensified in air and space forces.

USAF's contribution to Joint operations remains behind-the-scenes, but it is undeniably substantial. No one questions the value of airlift or the advantage of air superiority, of which USAF is the principal agent. It is difficult to imagine a future conflict of any major scope in which land or sea forces could survive--much less be decisive--without Air Force airpower.

Strength in air and space is a fundamental requirement for the projection of US military power abroad in any form, and for sustaining it over any considerable period. This has been shown to be true over and over in today's conflicts.

At a workaday level, we have a full-service Air Force of integrated capabilities that include airlift, air refueling, air superiority, long-range bombardment, close air support, deep interdiction, air defense, search and rescue, electronic combat, ISR, cyber operations, and airborne command and control.

These capabilities have been built up, over decades and through much hard work, by a military organization that views air and space operations as Job One, not as a sideline to something else. That is the purpose of the United States Air Force.

AN ENDANGERED FORCE

Decades of non-stop combat have placed great stress on our Airmen and aircraft. Now, even as its missions continue to increase, the Air Force is shrinking, and its critical fleet of air and space craft grows older and older.

Since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Air Force has flown more than 419,000 sorties in support of operations in Iraq and 244,000 in support of operations in Afghanistan. In the two wars, USAF has delivered 6.3 million passengers and 3.3 million tons of cargo, employed almost 23,800 tons of munitions, flew more than 15,750 personnel recovery sorties, and transported more than 15,400 casualties from the region.

All of this has produced much wear and tear on equipment. Underinvestment in new systems has left our fleets of aircraft older than they have ever been. With satellites and ballistic missiles, the story is much the same.

USAF's active-duty force is the smallest since USAF's creation. Air Force acquisition operates at a glacial pace. With weapon production at low ebb, the nation's critical aerospace industry has contracted and weakened.

Over the past decade, the service has eliminated layers from its command structures. It has combined staffs, retired aircraft, reduced training, and taken other steps to obtain efficiencies, all while supporting multiple wars. USAF has had to make some painful moves of personnel into expanding mission areas.

The Air Force has not maintained adequate force structure. In theory, USAF is supposed to maintain enough aircraft, troops, and support forces for 10 full-fledged Air Expeditionary Forces. In reality, this goal has been abandoned, though nothing has yet replaced it.

USAF's long-lasting period of high operations tempo has damaged readiness for full spectrum operations. Nineteen enlisted and nine officer career fields are categorized as "stressed." Old aircraft take more and more time--and money--to keep in combat trim. In the years since 2003, we have seen a slow but steady decline in reported readiness indicators.

For years, US officials have acted as though the replacement of worn-out aircraft and satellites

was optional. It is not. At some point—and soon—the need becomes a dire need. Whether it is met in a timely fashion will decide the fate of the Air Force as an instrument of US global power projection.

A CLEARLY DEFINED STRATEGY

With the Air Force entering an uncertain period, this Association calls upon our nation's leaders to produce a credible and clearly articulated military strategy, stating with precision future objectives of overall national policy.

The latest National Security Strategy does little to clarify important "ends" of US policy, while virtually ignoring the concept of exploiting potential enemy vulnerabilities. It almost ignores both the "ways" and the "means" (resources) for accomplishing its strategy. Further, the U.S. national strategy does not recognize the threat of sustained budget deficits for the rest of the decade.

We know that the Air Force must continue to work with other services, allies, and partners to dismantle al Qaeda and affiliate terror groups, but it cannot ignore a growing threat of potential nation-state adversaries such as Iran or China. They are developing and proliferating counters to US power projection, including air-defense and area-denial systems.

The need is for the Administration and Congress, working together, to establish the true strategic ends for the nation. New strategic planning needs to define our objectives and better pronounce our goals and desired end states. In addition, it must identify our strategic means, which cannot be defined apart from the strategic ends, and make prior decisions on allocating our resources, including capital and people.

Our armed services simply must have a better approach, from the highest levels, to determine which global issues to embark upon and intervene. There is not enough money anymore to hedge every military bet.

The Air Force Association believes the US, whatever the specifics of its strategy, should be strengthening air and space forces. In this, we embrace five priorities as recently spelled out in detail by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE

The Air Force has made a long-term commitment to organize, train, and equip a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear enterprise in support of US strategic deterrence policies. The Service has taken steps already to raise standards and ensure credibility. Air Force Global Strike Command achieved full operational capability in 2010, moving all Air Force nuclear-capable bombers and

Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) under one command. The Air Force has established the Nuclear Oversight Board, to write and monitor nuclear-related policies, standards, and performances. It has formed an Air Staff organization, A10, to ensure sustained institutional focus and integrating activities Air Force-wide. It has also completed the creation of a fourth B-52 squadron at Minot AFB, N.D.

The USAF has consolidated sustainment activities in the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, instituted positive inventory control of weapon system components and nuclear weapons-related material, and enhanced nuclear unit readiness and nuclear surety with more robust and standardized inspections.

Finally, we must modernize the nuclear support equipment and infrastructure. Often neglected over the years, test equipment, vehicles, and other mission-critical hardware are fundamental to the nuclear mission. AFA applauds the Comprehensive Assessment for Nuclear Sustainment (CANS) studies that identify critical sustainability needs and urges aggressive implementation of the findings.

However the above is only part of the task. AFA believes that such a continuing effort must be supported at high levels. We call on national leaders to support programs and policies for future improvement of our nuclear deterrent.

Specifically, they must support Air Force efforts gain a stronger voice in future nuclear policy debates; advance critical scientific, research, and development and human capital efforts to field strong future missile and bomber forces; invest in the modernization and recapitalization of nuclear systems; and craft a comprehensive deterrence and crisis stability vision.

AFA supports funding of bomber force modernization and continued study of a Ground Based Strategic Deterrent program to replace the Minuteman III by 2030. It supports new investment in command and control, cryptographic improvements, and ballistic missile fuse sustainment.

We applaud USAF's commitment to extending the service life of the B61 nuclear weapon, producing a future long-range standoff weapon, and other programs. AFA urges Congress to provide life extension programs that ensure safe, reliable, and secure nuclear weapons and the responsive production infrastructure to deter, assure, and provide stability.

PARTNER TO WIN TODAY'S WAR

The Air Force makes a unique and critical contribution to combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Since 2001, more than 71 percent of active-duty Airmen have deployed. Many thousands of members of the Air Force Reserve and

Air National Guard have done the same. In addition, there's growing numbers of Air Force members who are supporting joint operations from the United States. This includes RPA and ICBM operators, intelligence personnel, medics, maintenance technicians, etc. Airmen today are deployed in 63 locations in the Middle East. The Air Force averages well over 300 sorties per day over Iraq and Afghanistan--around 10,000 per month. These include close air support, armed reconnaissance, and ISR sorties, as well as almost all airlift and air refueling missions.

AFA offers its gratitude to all of our troops engaged in war zones, but it is especially proud of the Air Force for the essential contributions it brings to Joint and Coalition warfare. These include not only traditional air actions such as close air support and mobility operations, but Airmen also can be found performing ordnance disposal, convoy security, security police work, and more. AFA fully supports the proposition that the nation's Airmen should be ready to play any role, anywhere in the world, to help win today's wars.

Since the surge of US military operations in Iraq in 2007, USAF units have flown 105,000 close air support sorties there and in Afghanistan, with dramatically short response times. It has expanded responsive, persistent ISR capabilities, increasing Remotely Piloted Aircraft orbits this year to 45, with more in store.

It has transported some 70,000 patients from the Middle East, improving survival and recovery rates. It has operated 55 satellites to give US forces continuous positioning, navigation, communications, weather, and imaging information.

In addition, USAF has more than doubled the size of Air Force Special Operations Command's Aviation Advisory Corps, a key unit for training, advising, and assisting in development of partnership aviation capabilities. Air Force officials have commanded half of the 14 Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan.

AFA agrees that more can and should be done to bolster USAF's contributions to the nation's battle with terrorist foes and irregular forces. USAF must continue to build partnerships with other air forces to bolster international cooperation.

AFA calls on the Administration and Congress to provide political and financial support for relevant Air Force initiatives in the following areas: base access agreements to mitigate anti-access challenges in crucial regions; innovative means to project power when overseas bases are threatened; development of a Light Attack/Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft and Light Mobility Aircraft, vital to training with a broad array of foreign air forces; enhanced training for command

and control forces able to adapt to the needs of any combatant commander or joint task force.

We applaud the DOD's effort to improve joint USAF and Navy operations through the Air-Sea Battle concept, enhancing our integration and cooperation in countering increasingly advanced anti-access threats, though we would like to see more details on this potentially significant project.

DEVELOP AND CARE FOR AIRMEN, FAMILIES
Airmen and their families are what make USAF a world-class organization. AFA believes that they deserve world-class support from Congress and the American people.

The overall programmed Air Force end strength comes to roughly 690,000 total persons--332,800 active-duty Airmen, 71,400 Reservists, 106,700 Air National Guardsmen, and more than 182,000 civilian personnel.

Today, the active-duty component is the smallest in Air Force history, and with budget cuts, it may continue to shrink. To reach its goal of 332,800 active Airmen, USAF will have to shed some members. This will force the service to employ involuntary separation and retirement programs. This is a difficult step for the Air Force, and AFA calls on Congress to work with OSD to find the funding and create the legislative authority to help the Air Force ease into its goal.

Two decades of sustained combat operations has imposed extraordinary demands on them. The Air Force is developing a wide range of support measures, ranging from expanded child care through home health care. In an attempt to promote resiliency, encourage mental health, and reverse the increased rates of suicide, the Air Force is providing support to our most at-risk Airmen by providing additional suicide prevention training to all supervisors in career fields with elevated suicide rates. In addition, mental health providers are based in primary care clinics across the Air Force to counsel patients who may not otherwise seek care in a mental health clinic because of the perceived stigma.

The Air Force established a new Resiliency Division to take the lead and develop an overarching Air Force Resiliency Roadmap. The establishment of a Deployment Transition Center (DTC) and the Chaplain Corps Care for the Caregiver provide valuable decompression, reintegration, and resiliency training for those exposed to significant danger and stress in combat zones.

Health Care: AFA opposes any effort to diminish TRICARE benefits to current or retired Airmen. TRICARE is an earned benefit that meets the unique demands of military service. AFA recognizes that TRICARE fees and co-pays cannot

remain fixed at current rates in perpetuity and would support mechanisms that would fix increases based on the Consumer Price Index and cost of living increases. AFA believes this is a reasonable financial path.

Guard and Reserve: With Air Force personnel deployed to more than 135 locations worldwide on an average day, the Service relies heavily on its Guard and Reserve components. The Air Force needs continued Congressional support for its active, Guard, and Reserve associate organizations.

Veterans: This Association recognizes the obligation we have to those who have served and sacrificed on our behalf. The unemployment rate for separated Iraq and Afghanistan veterans averages 13 percent nationally. In addition, an in-depth study of former service members who live on the streets revealed that veterans are much more likely to be homeless than other Americans. The survey, conducted in January 2009, showed 1 in 6 homeless is a veteran.

AFA salutes the Air Force for its support of Airmen's families and our wounded warriors and for establishing a center for transitioning out of combat. AFA encourages employers to hire returning veterans and take advantage of the skills they possess. We also support HUD, Veterans Affairs, and the Labor Department's efforts to reduce these high rates of homelessness among veterans.

MODERNIZE AIR AND SPACE ASSETS

We have no doubt that the Air Force must modernize and recapitalize air and space inventories if it is to continue to be effective against global competitors. In many ways, this is the USAF's most pressing problem.

Weapon systems have been worn out by two decades of sustained combat operations. They, for the most part, are now aged and expensive to repair. At the same time, tight budgets make it difficult to buy even essential items. The proverbial "hard choices" have never been harder or more numerous.

Taking the fiscal situation into account, AFA advocates the strongest possible push to modernize and recapitalize vital air and space systems. In that, we underscore and agree with the Air Force's own top priorities for modernization of its equipment.

Tanker Modernization: The Air Force simply must succeed with a timely acquisition of new KC-46 aerial refueling aircraft to replace its Eisenhower-era KC-135s. AFA welcomes the recent selection of a contractor to build these tankers, and looks forward to the final award of a contract in coming months.

The tanker fleet makes it possible for USAF to move supplies, strike over great distances, and keep combat aircraft operating over a battle space. In short, it is the basis of US power projection.

This Association urges Congress, in the strongest possible terms, to recognize the vital nature of this acquisition and give it unqualified support. The KC-135 is old and increasingly hard to maintain. The KC-46 is the first step in a major effort to recapitalize the aging fleet. We must remain vigilant in procuring the full number of this platform.

AFA believes the KC-46 will revolutionize our ability to employ tankers and will ensure the Air Force's future ability to provide Global Vigilance, Reach, and Power.

Fighters: The F-35A fighter is the centerpiece of USAF's plans not only for future precision attack operations but also for a major portion of its air superiority operations. We urge Congress to recognize the critical nature of this project and provide strong support for what could prove to be a very long production run.

The F-35 will ultimately supplant USAF's legacy fourth-generation fighters. This dependence increases the importance of a robust production rate sufficient to replace fighters aging out of the fleet. A recent Air Force decision—which AFA supported—to retire almost 250 legacy fighters makes an adequate production rate all the more critical.

The F-35 procurement rate is insufficient, making a fighter shortfall inevitable. AFA urges an Administration and Congressional commitment to a higher production rate to at least prevent a fighter deficit at any given time and to provide aerospace control to ensure both air sovereignty and air defense.

However, the Air Force has wisely begun several projects to mitigate the danger of any further delays in fielding the F-35. Of most significance: a focused service life extension program for some fourth-generation F-16 fighters. USAF plans to begin design and development of structural and capability modifications for the F-16 Block 40/42/50/52 fleet. ***AFA believes extending the life of the F-16 is the right thing to do until the F-35 production rates matures. This will help mitigate a fighter shortfall in the future.***

Airborne ISR Systems: As wars in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrate only too well, the power to know what is happening in a battle space can be, and often is, more important than greater firepower. The Air Force plans to expand its persistent airborne ISR capabilities and develop systems that can operate even in contested environments.

AFA believes that the Administration and Congress should give strong backing to the Air Force's modernization plan, which runs this year to

\$8.2 billion. It fully supports the demands of Joint commanders for more ISR capability. It allows the service to keep up maximum orbits by the end of 2013.

RPA's are integral to daily operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Demand for these aircraft, and the instant ISR data and firepower they provide to air and ground commanders, is on the rise. The Air Force is doing a great job managing these assets and developing the policies, training, and operational capabilities of this force.

The plan would also support extension of life for the U-2 Dragon Lady as the RQ-4 Global Hawk continues development. This extension enables a measured reduction of the U-2 program as RQ-4 aircraft become operational. All of this merits full support.

Long-Range Strike Systems: AFA believes the US must maintain traditional capabilities to hold at risk any significant target on Earth's surface with conventional ordnance. In practical terms, this means we must move forward, quickly, with development and acquisition of a new long-range bomber and associated systems.

Today's fleet of B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers is highly capable for certain missions, but all of them—even the newest of the B-2s—are getting old and have mission limitations. These weaknesses will only increase as potential adversaries strengthen their counters to American airpower. We have to recognize the challenges of long distance operations and the future danger of sophisticated defenses. This requires us to advance our capabilities by another generation, at least.

To this end, the Secretary of Defense announced that the Air Force will invest in a new long-range, penetrating, and nuclear-capable bomber capable of both manned and unmanned operations. A major goal is to develop affordable, long-range penetrating strike capability that delivers on schedule and in quantity. It will use proven technologies and provide "room to grow" for system technologies.

AFA applauds the Administration's decision to start funding the planning for this family of long-range weapons and urges full Congressional support to ensure the new aircraft will be ready well before the current B-52 and B-1 bomber fleets go out of service.

Space Satellites and Launch: More than at any time in history, US power hinges on a robust, reliable, and responsive US space enterprise. It provides US forces with communication, navigation data, imagery, warning, weather updates, and more. It is the basis of precision warfare.

The Air Force provides most of the support for this network—systems, personnel and ground stations, and other infrastructure in this vital space network. In turn, such assets provide global awareness. The Air Force must be able to maintain

space superiority and that requires improving current technologies, developing new ones, and protecting them from threats and environmental danger.

America's superiority in space is not a birthright. USAF needs to secure production of critical satellites and devise a replenishment strategy. Old US satellites are already performing beyond their intended life span and will begin to fail soon. The US has no choice but to replace them. It is necessary to renew the investment in the Advanced Extremely High Frequency Satellite, Wideband Global SATCOM Satellite, and Global Positioning System programs. **AFA urges Congress and the Administration to fully fund these projects as they are the key to maintaining space superiority and global awareness.**

The same is true of Air Force plans to purchase Space-Based Surveillance equipment and the Space Fence, and to modernize its Joint Space Operations Center.

Space lift is another critical space component. AFA applauds the Air Force's stunning achievement of 76, as of June 11, 2011, consecutive successful launches since 1999. Still, space lift is costly and complex. To help lower launch costs, the Air Force has devised a plan to procure each year a total of five Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle boosters, so as to gain economies of scale and stable production.

The Air Force has added an investment of \$3.5 billion to fund this program. **We believe that, if Congress is interested in lowering the cost of space activities, it will support this plan.**

RESTORE ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE

Many acquisition issues can be traced to unstable funding, schedule delays and charge orders for DOD weapon programs in recent decades. AFA is proud of Air Force leadership's desire to restore excellence to the field of acquisition. We are heartened by calls to shore up the nation's private defense industrial base.

Acquisitions: Ultimately, the health of the Air Force hinges on its ability to bring under control acquisition costs and delivery times. We strongly support the Air Force's injection of greater rigor and transparency in its processes.

Further, we agree unequivocally with its strong push to stabilize requirements, make realistic cost assessments and provide stable program funding.

We agree with USAF leadership's view that acquisition improvement begins with an experienced professional workforce. This cannot be achieved overnight. However, USAF has so far hired more than 2,000 personnel into the acquisition workforce and continued contractor-to-civilian conversions. It has created 11 new program executive officer positions, to better increase focus on program execution.

Beyond personnel changes, the Air Force has generated and put in place some 75 efficiency initiatives that range in scope and impact throughout the acquisition enterprise. This has already begun to bear fruit.

Example: A recent consolidation of various base-year, contingency, and Foreign Military Sales contracts into a single negotiation, thereby taking advantage of scale economies. With the savings, USAF was able to procure two additional C-130s.

It has proposed the Evolutionary Acquisition for Space Efficiency (EASE) concept to drive down costs, lower technical risks and achieve efficiencies through block buys of satellites. This requires and should receive Congressional assent.

The work is far from over. The Air Force will be trying to expand its acquisition work force by some 7,000 positions over the next five years, focusing on program management, cost estimation, financial management, and systems engineering.

Congress, for its part, should free the Services to take innovative steps to economically procure new systems, including multi-year contracts. ***AFA supports the use of multi-year contracts to ensure predictable and cost effective aircraft and satellite procurement programs.***

Aerospace industry: Providing the Air Force with high-quality, effective, and reasonably priced weapons and other types of systems requires a strong industrial base. The aerospace industrial base is a strategic military asset, creating an annual positive trade balance of some \$53 billion.

Even so, the defense industry is no longer the great "Arsenal of Democracy" that churned out vast quantities of aircraft, tanks, warships, guns, and other materiel to help win World War II. As a result of America's massive post-Cold War military drawdown, the defense industry has contracted and consolidated.

Today, the US can count fewer than 10 major aerospace companies, down from more than 50, that are capable of competing for large programs. DOD must make the investments necessary to ensure that the industrial base maintains the skills, the capacity, and the technologies to reliably and affordably meet the defense needs of our nation in the decades ahead. It should also provide resources to restore the industry's once-aggressive science and technology development ethos and the rapid transition of innovative technology into operational systems.

AFA strongly urges DOD and Congress to work together to establish a strategic plan to identify the elements of a robust defense industrial base and the steps, to include funding, needed to maintain that robustness.

INITIATIVES OF SPECIFIC INTEREST

Cyber Warfare: AFA believes the Air Force must play a leadership role in ensuring

US military security and freedom of action within the cyber domain.

In response to the growing threat, the USAF named Air Force Space Command as lead major command for cyberspace. The mission of 24th Air Force, its operational arm, is to operate and defend the Air Force portion of DOD's network and to provide full spectrum capabilities to the Joint war fighter in, through and from cyberspace. The Air Force is recruiting and training a force of cyber experts to face the challenges that lie ahead.

AFA applauds the Air Force's vision for creating the 24th Air Force to provide trained and equipped cyber forces to the Joint force. However, the US government needs to go further to establish the cyber realm as a military domain. Title X of the US Code identifies air (and by extension, space), land, and sea as legal domains of US military operations. AFA believes it is time for Congress to bring cyberspace under the Title X tent, so that military planning may proceed in an orderly fashion.

Air Superiority: USAF's ability to seize and hold command of the air will always dominate its thinking, as this is the prerequisite for all other military operations against a serious foe. In most cases (Afghanistan and Iraq are exceptions), air dominance must be wrested away from an opponent.

AFA supports two critical programs aimed at extending this capability in the USAF fleet.

First, USAF has embarked on a program to maximize the capabilities of the fifth-generation F-22 Raptor, the top fighter in the world, and its weapons. This is inarguably wise, given the small number of F-22s (178) on hand. Also on tap: improvement in its Suppression of Enemy Air Defense capabilities.

Second, the Air Force seeks to accelerate the procurement of the F-15E AESA radar modernization program, funding 88 radars and electronic protect software upgrades by 2016 to keep our legacy platforms viable well into the future.

Electronic Warfare: This Association supports USAF's efforts to re-establish itself as a world leader in electronic warfare and electronic combat. Partly because of the promise of stealth technology, USAF has allowed EW capabilities to wither. Service leaders now recognize USAF must return to EW as a war-winning capability.

The Service has begun to increase research and development efforts to produce EW equipment and training. Select electronic warfare enhancements include upgrades to the EC-130H Compass Call fleet, more mission crew simulators to increase training, EW pods for MQ-9 Reapers, and air-launched jammers.

EDUCATION—THE FOUNDATION

Education is the foundation of a prosperous and secure society. And science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in particular is critical to the protection and

sustainment of our way of life. America is dependent on technology for every aspect of its national defense, infrastructure, banking, commerce, public safety, healthcare, and education.

AFA remains concerned that American students fare poorly in STEM assessments when compared to many of their international peers. In a 2009 comparison to the 34 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), American students were assessed as statistically significantly below the OECD average in mathematics. That performance—in a critical STEM area—is inconsistent with our need to develop a strong pool of high school and college students to enter the technical workforce we must sustain.

We are equally concerned with another troubling trend: The aging of our technical workforce. A 2009 study showed the average age of the broad U.S. aerospace and defense industry as 45, and one top U.S. aerospace firm reported its aerospace engineers' average age was an even older 54.

AFA views the confluence of these three circumstances with alarm: A growing dependency on technology, poor performance by our youth in STEM education assessments, and an aging workforce. We support the development of a comprehensive national strategy for addressing all aspects of this challenge, to include STEM education. We are concerned that there are already a multitude of STEM initiatives that may be uncoordinated and therefore duplicative. We are also concerned that insufficient resources are being made available in schools and educational systems to address the STEM education challenge.

And as cyber continues to influence every aspect of our society and security at an accelerating rate, AFA recognizes the need to build more professionals in this area. AFA's national high school cyber defense competition, CyberPatriot, is already highly successful, recruiting nearly 700 teams to the 2010-2011 competition. We encourage others to follow our example and to develop programs that can similarly educate, excite, and motivate students to further pursue studies and careers in cyber and STEM.

Education continues to be a vital part of AFA's mission and we urge continued attention to the future need for STEM professionals by government, industry, and AFA's peer organizations. AFA remains vigilant and active in advocating for education programs that focus on the promotion of STEM studies, such as DOD STARBASE, grants and scholarships, Visions of Exploration, CyberPatriot, and others.
CONCLUSION

The American public expects its defense forces, including its Air Force, to be the best in the world. Our Airmen are constantly tasked with

operations and missions around the world. When US armed forces go to war, Americans expect them to prevail. We must provide our brave men and women the equipment they need—in sufficient quality and numbers, and at the time they need them—to protect our nation.

The Air Force is the smallest it has been since before World War II, aircraft are aged, equipments outdated, and a wide range of modernization projects are needed. This will not be easy to accomplish if budgets shrink, but our national security and, ultimately our prosperity, depend upon an exceptional military.

In upholding our mission, the members of the Air Force Association will continue to work actively and aggressively to educate the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense; and supports the United States Air Force, the Air Force family, and aerospace education.

“Honor Flight” trip by Milt Markowitz

One of the highlights: Milt & former Senator Bob Dole



“Honor Flight” is an organization that provides trips to Washington D.C. for all World War II veterans at no cost to them. It's a program that started just a few years ago and has now offered these flights to thousand of veterans, nationwide.

I made this trip in May. Seventy-five of us had a briefing on earlier in May in Stuart, up in Martin County, where we met our caretakers. Each traveler gets one caretaker whether he or she needs it or not. We did our trip one week later. We boarded a charterer Boeing 737 out of West Palm Beach, flew to Baltimore-Washington Airport and started touring from there. Along with the caretakers was a doctor, people who handle wheels and folks to help with meals. Wheels chairs were provided for those requiring them. About twenty of us did need that support.

We got to the Arlington National Cemetery by noon for the changing of the guard ceremony. Then it was off to

the Air Force Memorial, the Marine Memorial, the World War II and the Navy Memorial. We were conveniently transported by buses and between stops we were fed. At every airport, there were throngs of people, waving flags, and thanking us all for our service. It was quite heartwarming.

To contact "Honor Flight" in southeast Florida, Call (772)781-2212. If no one answers, leave a message. They'll get back to you. Check them out at www.honorflightself.org

DAY IS DONE:

Mr, Russell Castaline- In May we lost Mr Castaline, AFA member and World War II Veteran & pilot . Many will remember him as the very enthusiastic person with a warm personality who spoke at one of our dinner meetings about his exciting experiences with the Flying Tigers. He will be buried at Bushnell Cemetery in Tampa near his family.

Ms. Josie Anton- News reached us in a few days ago that Ms Anton, World War II Veteran and one of the first young women to join the Women's Army Corp had passed away. Until she fell a few weeks ago, she was attending meetings and was tireless in her work for Gold Coast Women Veterans Group, the Jewish Veteran Group and a few other veteran groups she belonged to. For the last three years, Josie has graciously present the Women Veterans' ceremonial holiday wreath at the AFA sponsored Wreaths Across America at the South Florida National VA Cemetery in Lake Worth. It has been an honor knowing this lovely lady. VSM.

AFA Benefits

AFA Announces 2011 Spouse Scholarships
AFA provided four education scholarships of \$2,500 each to assist spouses of Airmen as they pursue college or graduate degrees. These special scholarships, based on academic achievement, recommendations and community involvement, are awarded to spouses of Airmen from Air Force active duty, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve. Click here for more information including recipient information. http://www.afa.org/media/press/spouse_scholarships_2011.asp

Summer at the Air Force Memorial

Your Air Force Memorial has great events free to the public, including Air Force Band concerts, wreath laying ceremonies, and July 4th fireworks. Visit www.airforcememorial.org

MODEL AIRCRAFT - The chapter has a wholesale account with an aircraft model distributor. We can get you a model of a plane that might have special memories for you or a loved one and that you would be proud to display. The chapter makes a few dollars on each model sold, but with shipping and taxes included, you can still have one for far less than the normal retail cost.

At the June dinner meeting, Ms. Helen Snapp, a WASPS and World War II Veteran was delighted at winning the raffle, which like the ones being sold by the chapter, was a beautiful model of a B17. We were all happy when she won especially when she mentioned she had an occasion to fly B17 during the war.

Please let me know what you are looking for and, if available, I will get a price for you.

Milt Markowitz 561-499-0583 markf84@att.net

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