



# Air Force Association **Top Issues for 2009**

The following recommendations for the federal government are drawn from the Air Force Association's 2009 Statement of Policy, "Air Force Airpower: Year of Decision," adopted by the delegates to the AFA National Convention on Sept. 14, 2008, in Washington, D.C. The full text is available at [www.afa.org/AboutUs/PolicyIssues.asp](http://www.afa.org/AboutUs/PolicyIssues.asp).

# 1

## **Support the Nuclear Enterprise**

- Restore discipline and confidence to the Nuclear Enterprise and ensure excellence through vigilance, support, and a comprehensive plan.

# 2

## **Support Our Nation's Airmen**

- Tailor Air Force manning to be sufficient to support 10 air and space expeditionary forces, or AEFs.
- Get the CSAR-X aircraft in action and saving lives.
- End the practice of assigning Airmen to serve in place of ground forces, return them to their specialties, and focus them on meeting the growing demand for airpower.
- Compensate, equip, and man the Guard and Reserve in consonance with their increased contribution to the Global War on Terror.

# 3

## **Recapitalize the Aging Fleet**

- Speed acquisition of F-35 fighters and fund a full force of 381 F-22 fighters to prevent a future fighter shortage.
- Do whatever is needed to end further delays in acquisition of much-needed new aerial tanker aircraft.
- Continue to focus on increasing both numbers and capability of UAV systems and enhancing Air Force and Army cooperation in this vital area.
- Allow the Air Force to manage and modernize its fleet and rid itself of many aging low-value, high-cost aircraft.

# 4

## **Secure Space and Cyberspace**

- Modernize and fully fund vital space and cyberspace systems and ensure their security, as they are essential to every operation and will only grow in importance.

# 5

## **Strengthen the Foundation**

- Invest in technical education to bolster a foundation the nation needs for defense.
- Expand national programs encouraging the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Recognize the importance of research and development to future national well-being.

# 6

## **Invest in Air Force Capabilities**

- Support the Air Force need for an additional \$20 billion a year in funding for modern weapon systems.
- Immediately raise basic (non-war) defense spending to 4.5 percent of gross domestic product, and, over several years, raise the nation's defense commitment to 6 percent of GDP.