

Air Force Association

TOP ISSUES for 2013

The Air Force Association is especially proud of Air Force men and women—Active, Guard, Reserve, retired, and civilian—for their sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

PREPARING AND SUPPORTING AIRMEN; CARING FOR VETERANS AND RETIREES

- Recognize military and veteran benefits are earned through years of service, sacrifice, and in many cases, personal injury and disability.
- Emphasize that TRICARE is an earned benefit that meets the unique demands of military service.
- Oppose the raising TRICARE fees at medical inflation rates, which exceed the annual cost of living adjustments to retired pay.

RECAPITALIZING THE AGING FLEET

- Recognize the vital nature of the KC-46A program and give it unqualified support. It must be fielded promptly and in effective quantity.
- Acquire a new long-range ISR/strike aircraft that can penetrate, survive, and locate adversary systems and engage them as soon as they are located.
- Recognize we need an advanced trainer platform to prepare our Airmen for conflicts and combat. We must invest in providing the necessary training equipment to adequately train our troops.
- Commit to a higher production rate of F-35s to prevent a fighter deficit.

SECURING SPACE AND CYBERSPACE

- Recognize that US power projection hinges on a robust, reliable, and responsive space enterprise. The Air Force must play a leadership role in ensuring US military security and freedom of action within the cyber domain.
- Stabilize production of critical satellites, devise a replenishment strategy, and continue to modernize its Joint Space Operations Center to preserve America's advantage.
- Advocate for fully funding and supporting space situational awareness, space protection programs, and assured access to space.
- Invest steadily and strategically on space capabilities and recognize the US must retain clear superiority in this critical mission area.

STRENGTHENING THE NUCLEAR MISSION

- Provide life extension programs that ensure safe, reliable, and secure nuclear weapons and the responsive production infrastructure to deter, assure, and provide stability.
- Sustain delivery systems and warheads for the foreseeable future, but just as importantly, the nuclear support equipment and infrastructure.

INVESTING IN AIRPOWER

- Promote the early learning in foundational studies, including science, technology, engineering, and math, to stimulate the development of the next generation of engineers, scientists, and technicians.
- Establish a strategic plan to identify the elements of a robust defense industrial base and the steps needed to maintain that robustness.
- Encourage strong, foundational aviation capabilities in our partner nations to enable successful, sustainable security within their borders and to contribute to regional stability.

