

# Air Force Association TOP ISSUES for 2014

*The Air Force Association is especially proud of Air Force men and women—Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, 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.
- Encourage more federal involvement supporting veteran transition workshops and call for new incentives for employers to hire returning veterans and take advantage of the skills they possess.
- Oppose the raising of TRICARE fees at medical inflation rates, which exceed the annual cost of living adjustments to retired pay. TRICARE is an earned benefit that meets the unique demands of military service.

## **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.
- Urge the Administration and Congress to commit to keeping the F-35 program on track and, if possible, at a faster and more efficient production rate.

## **SECURING SPACE AND CYBERSPACE**

- Recognize the Air Force must play a role in gaining and maintaining cyber superiority, by ensuring access and freedom of maneuver in cyberspace and by developing active defenses and offensive capabilities.
- Invest steadily and strategically in space capabilities and recognize the US must retain clear superiority in this critical mission area.

## **STRENGTHENING THE NUCLEAR MISSION**

- Urge our national leaders to support programs and policies for future improvement of our nuclear deterrent.
- 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, and just as importantly, the nuclear support equipment and infrastructure.

## **INVESTING IN AIRPOWER**

- Encourage Congress to end sequestration and strengthen USAF air, space, and cyber forces by investing adequate funds in training to avoid increasing mission risk.
- Support the KC-46A, C-17, and C-5M programs to provide systems that will ensure the Air Force's future ability to provide Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power. The KC-46A will revolutionize our nation's ability to employ tankers.
- Support all reasonable initiatives that will further capitalize on the caliber of this Total Force team.
- 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.

