



Air Force Association **Top Issues for 2011**

The following recommendations for the federal government are drawn from the Air Force Association's 2011 Statement of Policy, "An Air Force at the Edge," adopted by the delegates to the AFA National Convention on Sept. 12, 2010, in National Harbor, Md. The full text is available at www.afa.org/AboutUs/PolicyIssues.asp.

1

SUPPORTING OUR AIRMEN

- The strength of the Air Force is found in the men and women who serve. The Air Force Association supports them and honors their service.
- AFA is especially proud of Air Force men and women—active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian—for their sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

2

CARING FOR VETERANS AND RETIREES

- Tricare is an earned benefit that meets the unique demands of military service. As a nation, we must always maintain our promise to care for those who served.

3

RECAPITALIZING THE AGING FLEET

- Make a swift and binding decision to allow rapid production of new tankers.
- Continue modification of the C-5B/Cs; gain the flexibility to retire the older C-5As; keep the C-17 production line open.
- Make a full commitment to the F-35 program, ensuring a rapid production rate.
- Develop procedures for Remotely Piloted Aircraft on their eventual beddown and operations within the US.
- Develop and acquire new long-range strike assets by 2020.
- Retain CSAR as a core Air Force mission and field a replacement CSAR helicopter.

4

SECURING SPACE AND CYBERSPACE

- Fully fund and support space situational awareness, space protection programs, and assured access to space.
- Invest steadily and strategically in space capabilities and recognize the US must retain clear superiority in this critical mission area.
- Focus on developing the next generation of cyber security experts and capabilities and be able to quickly inject new technologies into key enclaves to secure the network and support the mission.

5

STRENGTHENING THE NUCLEAR MISSION

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

6

INVESTING IN AIRPOWER

- Develop a national industrial policy to attract and maintain an experienced workforce.
- Promote early learning in foundational studies, including science and math, to stimulate development of the next generation of engineers, scientists, and technicians.