



# Air Force Sergeants Association

# FACT SHEET

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**Organization**—The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) is a federally chartered non-profit organization representing the professional and personal interests of 130,000 Air Force Active Duty (AFAD), Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and Air National Guard (ANG) active, retired, and veteran enlisted members and their families.

**Membership**—AFAD, AFRC, and ANG active, retired, and veteran enlisted members of all grades are eligible for AFSA membership. Family members (spouses, children, parents, and siblings) are eligible for membership in the AFSA Auxiliary. Other persons are eligible for associate membership. Persons meeting eligibility criteria may join simply by going online to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) or by calling (800) 638-0594 and speaking to someone in Member & Field Relations.

**Structure**—AFSA is governed by a 23-member Executive Council. On the Council are a President, Vice President, and four trustees (representing AFAD, AFRC, ANG, and retired and veteran personnel) who are elected by the general membership. There are also 14 geographical division presidents who are elected by their constituents. The Auxiliary President and former AFSA President serve as advisors to the Council. An Executive Director reports to the Council and operates the International Headquarters located in the Airmen Memorial Building in Suitland, Maryland.

**History**—AFSA was founded and incorporated on May 3, 1961, and has evolved into an organization highly respected by congressional members and Department of Defense officials. AFSA is a leading force on Capitol Hill and works closely with elected representatives and their staff members to assist in drafting proposals for legislation on issues related to military members and their families. AFSA testifies numerous times each year before House and Senate committees and sub-committees. AFSA also works closely with White House staff personnel and Pentagon officials to ensure that enlisted members' concerns are heard and acted upon.

**Successes**—Because AFSA is “on the scene” in Washington DC, it is able to act quickly as situations arise. This proximity to Capitol Hill also enables AFSA to keep its members apprised as issues are being worked, not after the fact when it is too late to bring about change. AFSA has worked many issues over the years, such as helping to initially design the Weighted Airmen Promotion System, create and subsequently improve the Survivor Benefit Plan, obtain increased military pay and housing allowances, obtain family separation allowances for military-married-to-military couples, improve dormitories for single and unaccompanied airmen, improve housing for military families, increase moving allowances, garner TRICARE for Life, and prevent the loss of commissary privileges. **Following are some of AFSA's specific achievements for each component of the Total Air Force:**

☆ **Air Force Active Duty (AFAD):** AFSA played a major role in the following gains: Targeted pay raises for enlisted, TRICARE Prime remote coverage for family members, and elimination of TRICARE Prime co-payments. Recent victories in pay include military pay raises at one-half percent above the DoD proposal; a single, higher E-1 through E-4 housing rate for those with dependents; improved housing standards for enlisted members and their families, improved dormitories for single airmen, an increase in PCS Household Goods weight allowances for all enlisted grades, and 21 days adoption leave.

★**AFRC and ANG:** AFSA gained the following victories for America's citizen airmen: An increase from 70 to 90 in the maximum number of retirement points that can be accrued annually, an extension of several special pays and bonuses, authorization for Guard members to use the commissaries year round, improved healthcare for Guard and Reserve members, an increased time period for use (from 10 years to 14 years) or the SR-MGIB, and elimination of BAH Type II when activated.

★**Retirees:** AFSA aggressively led the fight and continues to work to make the government live up to the lifetime health care promises made to retirees. Some of AFSA's victories include: the creation of TRICARE for Life, the National Mail Order Pharmacy and the Senior Pharmacy programs; and progress toward full concurrent receipt of VA disability pay and military retirement pay.

★**Veterans:** AFSA successfully worked with others to convince Congress to eliminate the age-62 Survivor Benefit Plan paid-up provision, achieved MGIB improvements, increased VA health care funding, worked for increases in the death gratuity, and has pushed the VA and DoD toward seamless transition from military to veteran status.

**Current Activities**—Some of our current actions focus on obtaining an "open window" for those who did not enroll in VEAP or the MGIB, moving the implementation of the SBP paid-up provision from 2008 to 2006, stopping the DoD's efforts to "privatize" military commissaries, providing transferability of MGIB benefits to family members, ensuring full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation for those who have earned both, fighting co-pays and higher health care costs proposed by DoD officials, and increasing household goods weight allowances for all enlisted members.

**SERGEANTS Magazine**—AFSA and AFSA Auxiliary members are kept up-to-date with *SERGEANTS Magazine*. The annual *Enlisted Almanac* edition has been praised as the definitive reference of Air Force and DoD enlisted statistics and projections.

**AFSA Newsletter** —Published each week, this newsletter not only informs members of the most recent legislative action, issues, and news that affects them, but also provides other news of interest to *The Total Air Force Enlisted Corp and Their Families*.

**Member Benefits**—In addition to having a strong, united voice on Capitol Hill, AFSA members enjoy many other benefits available only to them. The benefits include a variety of affordable health, life, and auto insurance plans, low interest rate credit cards, discounts on family eyewear, discounted travel and hotel rates, federal credit union membership, an online banking center, Apple and PC computer discounts, and many more.

**The AFSA Scholarship Program**—AFSA and the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF) conduct an annual scholarship program to financially assist the undergraduate studies of single, eligible, dependent children of AFAD, AFRC and ANG enlisted members in active duty, retired, or veteran status. The AFSA program contains a membership requirement, but there is none in the AMF or CMSAF Scholarship programs. These programs combined have awarded \$1,359,850 in college aid to deserving students.

**Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF):** The AMF sponsors several major programs to assist members in financing their children's education and in gaining college credits.

**Airmen Memorial Museum (AMM)**—The AMM stands as a tribute to the enlisted Airmen of the United States Air Force and its predecessor services. The AMM collects and preserves artifacts, tells the enlisted story, and preserves the enlisted heritage of U.S. air and space power via public education.

*AFSA promotes enlisted concerns to enhance their quality of life, assures the preservation of entitlements earned through service and sacrifice, and maintains a vigilant presence on Capitol Hill. AFSA is a partner in enlisted members' careers and their lives. Help protect your future. Be a member of your Air Force Sergeants Association.*