

## Air Force Association

# TOP ISSUES for 2012

*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. The strength of the Air Force is found in the men and women who serve. AFA is grateful for their dedication.*

### PREPARING AND SUPPORTING AIRMEN; CARING FOR VETERANS AND RETIREES

- National leaders must make it a priority to protect troops, families, and veterans from an erosion of retirement benefits. Changes must not be made without a thorough analysis of the impacts of those changes.
- TRICARE/TRICARE For Life is an earned benefit that meets the unique demands of military service.
- Our veterans deserve the best of care; more must be done to reduce the high rates of unemployment and homelessness found among veterans.

### RECAPITALIZING THE AGING FLEET

- Recognize the vital nature of the KC-46A program and give it unqualified support. It must be fielded promptly.
- Continue modification of the C-5B/Cs; secure the flexibility to retire the older C-5As.
- Keep the F-35 on schedule to prevent a fighter deficit.
- Field a new bomber well before the current B-52 and B-1 bomber fleets go out of service.
- Ensure C-130J platform recapitalization efforts remain an Air Force priority to ensure the United States continues to provide the world's premier Special Operations aviation capability.

### SECURING SPACE AND CYBERSPACE

- Support strong Air Force role in ensuring US military security and freedom of action within the cyber domain.
- Fully fund and support 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 maintain a 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.
- Support policies for future improvement of our nuclear deterrent.

### INVESTING IN AIRPOWER

- Promote early learning in foundational studies, including science 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, to include funding, needed to maintain that robustness.



PROMOTING AIR FORCE AIRPOWER