



Region and State Presidents

Shane Barker
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Support



Government Relations - What We Do



- **Support legislative initiatives important to the Air Force and its members, both present and retired.**
 - Cultivate positive working relationships with Members of Congress and their staffs.
 - Serve as an information resource for Members of Congress and their staffs.
 - Promote issues through the Air Force Caucus.
 - Advocate for issues important to AFA in coordination with the Air Force's Legislative Liaison office.
 - Promote and coordinate AFA members' grassroots efforts.
 - Take the AFA message to Capitol Hill directly through office visits.



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Government Relations - What We Do



- **Air Force & AFA Councils develop policy recommendations and legislative initiatives the GRL team helps implement.**

- *Air National Guard*--comprised of officers, enlisted members and civilians who serve (or have served) in the Air National Guard.
- *Civilian*--comprised of civilians from the Air Force's major commands, operating agencies and direct reporting units.
- *Company Grade*--comprised of officers from the Air Force's major commands, operating agencies and direct reporting units.
- *Enlisted*--comprised of the twelve recipients of the Outstanding Airmen of the Year Award and senior enlisted members appointed by the Air Force to advise them.
- *Reserve*--comprised of officers, enlisted members, and civilians who serve or have served in the Air Force Reserve.
- *Veterans & Retiree*--comprised of both Air Force veterans and retirees who served on active duty, in the Guard and Reserve, and/or as civilians in the defense establishment.



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The Military Coalition

AFA has been very involved in this consortium of 34 military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations with the shared goals of:

- Maintaining a strong national defense provided by recruiting and retaining skilled and highly capable personnel in the seven uniformed services
- Maintaining uniformed services compensation and benefits at levels sufficient to attract and retain professional uniformed servicemembers
- Representing the interests of the entire uniformed services community, including members' families and survivors, and responding to assaults upon the compensation and benefits earned by members of that community through years of dedicated service
- Educating the public on the extraordinary demands and sacrifices associated with a career in uniformed service, and the need to maintain a similarly unique system of compensation and benefits to attract and retain the kinds and numbers of high-quality personnel needed to meet the Nation's short- and long-term defense requirements.



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Congressional Engagement Strategy



•Individual meetings

- Conveys customized information to high-value individuals.

•Lunch Briefings

- Educates a broader audience upon topics of broad applicability. Provides the perfect opportunity to coordinate with SAF/LL

•Joint TMC Subcommittee Hill Visits

- Often with HASC and SASC Personnel subcommittee Professional Staff Members

•New Member Visits

- Starting off on the right foot with new members and their staff

•Congressional Morning Reception

- Engenders goodwill with the Air Force and Members of Congress and their staff

•Orientation Flights

- Allow staffers to experience first-hand many of the systems we are discussing.

•Co-Dels and Staff-Dels

- Afford Members of Congress and staffers the opportunity to see AF personnel and installations first hand.



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Grassroots Efforts

- Without a robust grassroots presence backing up the Government Relations staff it is difficult to be heard in the cacophony of voices constantly storming the Hill
- Defense budgets will be increasingly constrained, making consistency of message more important than ever
- Establish and maintain liaison with local district staff – be on a first name basis
- Communicate with the Government Relations staff
- Stay abreast of pertinent issues through AFA publications, both print and electronic forms
- Work to involve other individuals who share your concerns
- Utilize tools that AFA provides, such as Capwiz
- Contact Members of Congress directly through correspondence, calls, and visits



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FY10 NDAA Success

- Cancellation of TRICARE Standard in-patient fee increases
- TRICARE “Grey-Area” coverage for Reserve Component retirees not yet age 60
- Inclusion of provisions to enhance overseas voting mechanisms for military personnel and civilians
- 3.4% active-duty pay raise
- Special compensation for designated caregivers of catastrophically ill or injured servicemembers
- Extension of TRICARE from 90 to 180 days prior to mobilization for alerted Guard/Reserve personnel

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FY10 NDAA Shortfalls



- **No expansion of concurrent receipt to Chapter 61 retirees**
- **Repeal of the SBP-DIC Offset was removed**
- **Provisions to retroactive early retirement to members of the Guard and Reserve were stripped**
- **Provisions to authorize shipment of a second personal vehicle for members on PCS orders to Hawaii, Alaska, or US territories were also removed**



AFA Supported Legislation



- **HR 3577 – The Education Assistance to Realign New Eligibilities for Dependents (EARNED) Act of 2009**
- **HR 3590 – The Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act of 2009**
- **HR 3467 – The Veterans Education Enhancement and Fairness Act of 2009**
- **S 1558 – The Travel Reimbursement for Inactive Duty Training Personnel (TRIP) Act**

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AFA Principles for Health Reform



- **Taxing health benefits of veterans or military retirees is not acceptable**
- **The VA must continue to provide unfettered, direct care to our nations' veterans, and they must not be required to carry other health insurance**
- **TRICARE for Life must continue to provide full second-payer coverage and serve as a wrap-around to Medicare Part B, regardless of any changes thereto in any national health reform package**



Weapons Systems



Major Air Force Programs Conference Outcome

	<i>\$ Change</i>	<i>R&D Total</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>\$ Change</i>	<i>Proc. Total</i>
■ EELV	-	\$26.5	4	-\$88.1	\$1,207.2
■ B-1B	\$29.0	\$177.0	-	-\$29.0	\$82.5
■ B-2	\$12.0	\$427.4	-	-\$19.8	\$308.4
■ B-52	-	\$93.9	-	-\$17.3	\$61.5
■ C-17	-	\$161.4	-	-	\$88.5
■ C-130J	-	\$201.3	4	-	\$357.6
■ C-5	-	\$95.3	-	-\$28.0	\$578.9
■ F-22 Upgrade	-	\$569.3	-	-\$158.4	\$287.5
■ F-22 Adv Pcmnt	-	-	-	-	-
■ JSF (AF)	\$215.0	\$1,956.3	10	-	\$2,048.8
■ KC-X	-	\$439.6	-	-	-
■ MQ-9	-	\$39.2	24	-	\$489.5
■ RQ-4	-	\$317.3	5	-	\$554.8
■ C-27J JCA	-	\$9.4	8	-	\$319.1
■ CV-22	-	\$19.6	5	-	\$437.3

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Questions?



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