

AFSA NEWSLETTER

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*Protecting and defending the quality-of-life benefits for the "TOTAL AIR FORCE"
Enlisted Corps and their families since 1961*

This is the electronic version of one of AFSA's news publications. It is updated on a regular basis and is posted on the AFSA website (Editor's Note: No issue published during the Annual Professional Airman's Conference, Thanksgiving, week, Christmas/New Years Holiday period).

WOUNDED WARRIOR UPDATE

HOUSE PASSES WOUNDED WARRIOR ASSISTANCE ACT

On Wednesday, 29 March, the House passed H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warriors Assistance Act of 2007. This legislation is intended to ensure wounded service members a seamless transition from the military to the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is the result of a cooperative effort between the House Armed Services Committee and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

BUYER HONORS FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR

Washington D.C. – House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Steve Buyer made the following statement today in honor of America's former prisoners of war, on the occasion of National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, April 9.

"America owes a deep and abiding debt of gratitude to those men and women taken captive by enemy forces and forced to endure great physical and mental hardships. Their sacrifices on behalf of the nation they served symbolize the profound fidelity of American servicemembers down through the years.

To these courageous patriots, I offer our thanks and promise that we in Congress shall never forget what you have endured in the cause our very freedoms. Your strength showed the unconquerable character of the American spirit.

On behalf of my colleagues, I look forward to working in the 110th Congress on a bipartisan basis with Chairman Bob Filner to ensure that we continue to return the honor of your service with a strong system of veterans' health care and benefits for the veterans of your war and for those who may follow in your exemplary footsteps."

OTHER NEWS

ROLL CALL: This week's Airman's Roll Call focuses on three key Air Force priorities: 1) Fight and win the war on terrorism; 2) Develop and care for our airmen; and 3) Recapitalizing and modernizing our Air Force. You will find the full article by going to:

<http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-070329-006.pdf>.

LINK CONNECTS GUARDSMEN, RESERVISTS TO EMPLOYER SUPPORT NETWORK

American Forces Press Service

A new link on the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) web site leads reserve-component members to one of some 900 volunteer ESGR ombudsmen. Users go to link on www.esgr.mil, explain the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act type problem they're having, and provide contact information. ESGR then assigns an ombudsman who contacts the service member...usually within 48 hours. Ombudsmen work with the service member and their employer, first trying to resolve the problem through informal mediation. If that proves unsuccessful within 14 days, the ombudsman will refer the Guardsman or reservist to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Officials said the new online USERRA Complaint Request provides a new avenue for providing ESGR services to reserve-component members who need them. "While Guardsmen and reservists have always been able to email us from the website, the USERRA Complaint Request allows them the opportunity to initiate an ombudsman case online at any time of the day or night," said Philip T. Pope, ESGR's acting executive director. "The online request will complement the customer service center in making ESGR more accessible to Guardsmen and reservists serving all over the world." Reserve-component members also can continue to use ESGR's customer service center at 800-336-4590 to initiate a request.

Related Sites:

[Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve](http://www.esgr.mil)

(<http://www.esgr.mil/>)

NFL PLAYERS DONATE SAT/ACT STANDARD POWER PREP PROGRAMS TO ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

Note: AFSA does not endorse the organization sponsoring this donation and does not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.

Through the Victory Sports Group (VSG) sponsorship, and NFL players associated with VSG, military personnel can obtain SAT/ACT Standard Power Prep program(s) for only shipping and handling costs. The SAT/ACT Standard Power Prep programs normally cost \$199.00. The sponsorship will last through the 07 school year which ends July 1, 2007.

Details about the Donation Sponsor are available by clicking on:

<http://www.military.com/military-report/free-sat-act-software-for-military-families>

<http://education.military.com/timesaving-programs/free-sat-and-act-test-prep-program>

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Privacy Assist/Identity Theft Program

Go to www.afsahq.org and click on the “Privacy Assist” icon or call MBNA at (800) 516-9561

Verizon Wireless

Go to www.afsahq.org and click on the “Verizon” icon or call Verizon at (866) 784-8296

AFSA Banking Center

- Earn higher rates on your deposits and enjoy all the convenience and flexibility of on-line banking—plus the benefits of traditional banking with the AFSA Banking Center. Developed exclusively for AFSA, the High-Yield Money Market Savings Account, Checking Accounts, and Certificates of Deposit offer great rates and you can choose from a wide variety of superior banking services, including online bill payment.
- Log on to www.afsahq.org to open your accounts and find out more.
- If you have questions please call 1-888-580-0041 or e-mail: customercare@afsabankingcenter.com.

Auto Rentals

- Alamo: Code 93804 (800) 354-2322
- Hertz: Code 0010635 (800) 654-6511
- Enterprise: Code: 16WAFSA, PIN: AIR (866) 279-9963

AFSA/Marsh Affinity Insurance Programs

Marsh Affinity: (800) 882-5541

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GEICO Eligibility and Options

- Persons of all grades can apply.
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 - Lowest rates to “safe” drivers.
 - Choice of payment plans.
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 - Customized Insurance on almost any type of vehicle.
 - Vehicle storage and other services.
 - AFSA/GEICO: (800) 368-2734

Discount Travel & Vacations

Carlson Leisure Travel Services:
(866) 428-7448 or www.afsahq.org

Inglewood Travel Consultants:

- Individual or group and pleasure trips.
- Call AFSA/Inglewood Travel at (301) 858-0230, (410) 451-8470 or (800) 873-6446.

AFSA/MBNA Credit Card

(800) 789-6262, or
www.afsahq.org

Pentagon Federal Credit Union

- Offers a variety of professional services to AFSA members such as various saving and checking options, auto financing and buying services, and much more at more than 20 locations worldwide.
- Call PFCU at (800) 247-5626.

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- Platinum MasterCard available to qualifying members.
- Credit lines up to \$100,000.
- Automated account information.
- Call AFSA/Bank of America: (800) 789-6262 or log on to www.afsahq.org and click on the Bank of America icon.
- Plus: PRIVACY ASSIST—the MBNA identity theft protection service.

Capitol Hill Update Hotline

(800) 638-0594 (dial 400 at the prompt)
Call any time

Scholarships

Go to www.afsahq.org and click on the “AFSA Education” icon

Inglewood Travel Consultants

- Individual or group and pleasure trips.
- Call AFSA/Inglewood Travel at (301) 858-0230, (410) 451-8470 or (800) 873-6446.