

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).

CONGRESS RETURNS APRIL 16TH AFTER TWO WEEK RECESS -- Legislative action reports will resume

WOUNDED WARRIOR UPDATE

WOUNDED WARRIOR ASSISTANCE ACT, H.R. 1538

A review of the provisions of this bill reveals tremendous effort to achieve a seamless transition of our wounded warriors from military medical treatment facilities to a veteran's treatment facility. This will help eliminate much of the stress associated with the disability process. However, there is another issue on which we would like your feedback...one associated with disability pay. We would like to see that transition become equally as seamless.

Often, with less than six weeks between notification and actual disability retirement, there is an extreme financial burden placed on our wounded warriors. For example, a wounded Staff Sergeant with six years of service receives a 40% disability rating...their monthly pay goes from approximately \$3000 (with entitlements) to less than \$950...in less than two months. Of course the Staff Sergeant can apply to VA and attempt to have the percentage (and thus the pay) increased; but, that could take an additional three to six months.

If you have experienced this, we would appreciate hearing from you. Send information regarding your situation to: staff@afsahq.org. Please do not include Privacy Act information such as your Social Security number or sensitive medical information.

CHIEF MCKINLEY HIGHLIGHTS TWO WOUNDED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Thursday, April 12, 2007 in *The Enlisted Perspective*, Chief McKinley highlighted two Air Force programs that few know about...the Survivor Assistance Program and Palace HART (Helping Airmen Recover Together). These programs are intended to help commanders provide assistance to, not only personnel wounded-in-action, seriously ill or injured, but also, their families. Combined, the programs help guide commanders through caring for and assisting our Airmen and their families from the time of injury and illness, through treatment, recovery, and if needed, a post-separation period of up to five years.

