

# Air Force Sergeants Association



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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).

### **ON "THE HILL"**

**In our July 20, 2007 AFSA Newsletter (Volume 2, Edition 26) we had the following article in our "On The Hill" section:**

"On July 16, 2007, AFSA's Chief Executive Officer, CMSgt (Ret) Richard Dean, submitted a recommendation to the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warrior. The commission is co-chaired by Former Senator Bob Dole and Former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. Chief Dean recommended Health and Human Services (HHS) temporarily handle the case management responsibility of the Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA). HHS currently has a program in place in the civilian sector. In the civilian sector HHS has case managers who will ensure patients receive all of the benefits available to them. They work with other government agencies in providing benefits, including the Social Security Administration's disability claims program.

Chief Dean expressed confidence in an improved DoD/VA disability rating program with the support of HHS. This will allow VA and DoD to continue focusing on improving communication between the two agencies. HHS's support will also allow the VA to continue to focus on improving their claims processing times. HHS has the resources, knowledge, and experience necessary to provide the support needed for our returning wounded warriors to maneuver through a complex disability claims program."

**On July 30, 2007, The President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors (PCCWW) submitted their final recommendation. In their final report to President Bush, the PCCWW**

recommended the DoD and Department of VA develop a corps of Recovery Coordinators, often called case managers, in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). The USPHS is an organization within HHS. The Recovery Coordinator will work with the wounded service member to ensure they receive all benefits and services available to them.

There were only six recommendations made to the President. The PCCWW wanted to ensure the recommendations as a whole would be actionable. Recommendations that did not need to go through the legislative process were directed to DoD and VA for implementation. Senator Dole and Secretary Shalala joined other members of the commission to summarize their recommendations in a video presentation available on the PCCWW website.

You can watch the Commissions video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZMlgellq8w>

You can view the full report to the President at [http://www.pccww.gov/docs/Kit/Main\\_Book\\_CC%5BJULY26%5D.pdf](http://www.pccww.gov/docs/Kit/Main_Book_CC%5BJULY26%5D.pdf)

If you would like to know more about the President's Commission on Care for our Returning Wounded Warriors, visit [www.pccww.gov](http://www.pccww.gov).

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**COSPONSOR NUMBERS RISE:** Several bills currently listed on our legislative summary have new cosponsors.

### **Compensation and Benefits**

**H.R. 89** -- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Combat-Related Special Compensation Act (38)

### **Reserve Component Issues**

**S. 648** -- Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and **H.R. 1428**, Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA), The National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act (14) and (26)

### **Education Issues**

**S. 644** -- Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and **H.R. 1102**, Rep. Vic Snyder (D-AR), Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement & Integration Act of 2007 (16) and (69)

**H.R. 1330** -- Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA), Extends time limit for use of education assistance by Selected Reserves (41)

**H.R.81** -- Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. (R-MD), Bartlett Montgomery GI Bill Act (2)

**S. 22** -- Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA). Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. (19)

**S. 723** -- Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act of 2007, A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes. (1)

### **Retiree Issues**

**H.R. 303** -- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), The Retired Pay Restoration Act (140)

**H.R. 690** -- Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), Lowers minimum retirement age (105)

**H.R. 1222** -- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act (92)

**H.R. 1223** -- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Keep the Faith With the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act (72)

**H.R. 343** -- Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of 2007, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B. (8)

### **Veteran and Survivor Issues**

**S. 326** -- Sen. Lincoln (D-AR) and **H.R. 2234** -- Rep. Farr (D-CA), The Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2007. (28) and (79)

**H.R. 784** -- Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), accelerates SBP's age 70, 30 years "paid up" provision to October 1, 2007. (114)

**S. 935** -- Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and **H.R. 1927** -- Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), repeal the requirement for reduction of SBP by DIC. (39) and (67)

**H.R. 1115** -- Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA) and **S. 659** -- Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), provide for death gratuity for certain members to be payable to a parent, brother, or sister. (30) and (6)

**H.R. 1589** -- Rep. Brown (R-SC) -- This bill reintroduces the Military Retiree Survivor Benefit Equity Act. (69)

## Health Care

**H.R. 579** -- Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX), Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, (178)

**H.R.1527** -- Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), The Rural Veterans Access to Care Act (11)

NOTE: Number of co-sponsors (#) is current as of 1500hrs, 03 Aug 07. Updates will be provided (as applicable) via our Capitol Hill Update line. You can also get up-to-date information from the Library of Congress at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

## **TOTAL FORCE NEWS**

The Professional Airmen's Conference is fast approaching and seating for meal events has begun.

Beginning 8:00 am (ET) August 10, 2007, registrations for the 2007 PAC can only be accepted by calling Member and Field Relations at 1 (800) 638-0594 or (301) 899-3500 and not by using the registration system on AFSA's web site – [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org). When calling Member and Field Relations, please make sure you have a valid credit card available.

Walk-in PAC registrations will be accepted on site beginning August 17.

Attendees registering after August 10, 2007, need to be aware that for meal events with assigned seating, they will be placed in vacant seats or at overflow tables and may not be able to be seated with near friends.

This message also appears in the PAC registration area of the web site.

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The 2007 Professional Airmen's Conference is rapidly approaching. Orders are being approved, travel arrangements are being made, days are being counted, and Airmen from all over the world are getting ready to take part in this annual event. Are you? If you, or your unit, have questions as to how the Air Force views professional development conferences, see below.

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### MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION C

FROM: AF/CVA  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

SUBJECT: Air Force Sergeants' Association 2007 Professional Airmen's Conference

The Air Force Sergeants' Association (AFSA) will hold its annual Professional Airmen's Conference 19-22 August 2007, at the Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort and Convention Center, Orlando, Florida. The following guidance is provided for this event.

The *AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference* is a professional development conference sponsored and conducted by AFSA in support of the Total Air Force. It includes major conference addresses, forums, and individual military conferences. The speaker lineup includes government, Department of Defense (DoD), and Air Force senior leaders, as well as academicians, authors, and subject-matter specialists. Conference attendees will receive a certificate documenting their participation. Registration information and a schedule of events are available online at [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) or by calling 1-800-638-0594.

The Information Exposition will be held in conjunction with the conference and located in the Exhibit Hall of the Caribe Royale All-Suites Hotel and Convention Center. Representatives from numerous wings and Air Force support agencies will be on hand to discuss their individual missions and to provide information to attendees. There is no admission charge or AFSA membership requirement for those attending the Information Exposition, but those attending must register.

All Air Force enlisted personnel may want to take advantage of this opportunity. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Community Relations & Public Liaison Directorate, OASD(PA)/CRPL, has determined this professional development event complies with DoD community relations guidance. Commanders and organization supervisors must approve the attendance of employees at the AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference and Information Exposition based on mission requirements and DoD regulations. Under AFI 65-601, V011, Budget Guidance and Procedures, para. 4.42, military personnel and civilian employees may only attend conferences at government expense if it is part of an authorized training program or directly related to the attendee's official duties. This means that official attendance is authorized for those who are actually carrying out official duties in connection with the event (e.g., making a presentation, receiving an award, supporting a display, etc.) or attending to receive professional development training. Military personnel may also ask to attend in a Permissive TDY status, in accordance with AFI 36-3003, Military Leave Program, Table 7, Rule 24. Conference fees are a personal expense for those attending in PTDY status, as well as those who attend in their personal capacity.

The Headquarters Air Force point of contact is CMSgt Marcus Snoddy, who can be reached by e-mail at [Marcus.Snoddy@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:Marcus.Snoddy@pentagon.af.mil) or by phone at 703-695-0498 or DSN 225-0498.

Arthur J. Lichte  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Assistance Vice Chief of Staff

# MEMBERSHIP HAS REWARDS

## Privacy Assist/Identity Theft Program

Go to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) and click on the "Privacy Assist" icon or call Bank of America at (800) 516-9561

## Verizon Wireless

Go to [www.afsahq.org](http://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](http://www.afsahq.org) to open your accounts and find out more.
- If you have questions please call 1-888-580-0041 or e-mail: [customer care@afsabankingcenter.com](mailto:customer care@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

## GEICO AUTO INSURANCE & SERVICES

### GEICO Eligibility and Options

- Persons of all grades can apply.
- Special percentage-off discounts in most states to qualifying members.
- Lowest rates to "safe" drivers.
- Choice of payment plans.

### Other GEICO Services

- Homeowners Insurance.
- 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](http://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](http://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.

## AFSA/Bank of America Credit Card

- 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](http://www.afsahq.org) and click on the Bank of America icon.
- Plus: PRIVACY ASSIST—the MBNA identity theft protection service.

## Scholarships

Go to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) and click on the "AFSA Education" icon

## Capitol Hill Update **Hotline**

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