

**Air Force Association  
Wright-Patterson Chapter  
Jul 2018 Legislative Updates**

**Ohio State Updates - Provided by State Representative Rick Perales' Office and  
GONGWER, Jul 9, 2018**

**Ohio House Bills:**

- 1. HB 24 - BUDGET UPDATE** (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property, to make appropriations and otherwise provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs, and to declare an emergency. Signed by the Governor (3/30/2018; Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: Immediately) ENACTED
  
- 2. HB 38 - AGGRAVATED MURDER** (Greenspan, D.) To provide that purposely causing the death of a first responder or military member is aggravated murder and to require an offender to serve the prison term imposed for felonious assault on a peace officer, investigator, first responder, or military member consecutively to the prison term imposed for any related offense. Committee Hearing in Senate Judiciary (4/10/2018; CONTINUED)
  
- 3. HB 48 - WAR RELICS** (Schaffer, T.) To prohibit a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association from being sold or otherwise disposed of, or destroyed, relocated, removed, altered, or otherwise disturbed, except under certain circumstances. Committee Hearing in House Criminal Justice (6/20/2017; CONTINUED-AMENDED)
  
- 4. HB 75 - PROFESSIONAL LICENSES** (Gavarone, T., Merrin, D.) To establish an expedited process to grant a professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/15/2017; CONTINUED (No testimony))
  
- 5. HB 158 - MILITARY TRANSFERS** (Perales, R., Craig, H.) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. Committee Hearing in Senate Finance (3/20/2018; CONTINUED)
  
- 6. HB 192 - VETERAN COMMISSIONS** (Miller, A., Anielski, M.) To permit county veterans service commissions to elect to add two members to the commission, one who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one who is a military spouse. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/21/2018; CONTINUED SUBSTITUTE)
  
- 7. HB 194 - LICENSE PLATES** (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards and to modify the law that governs the nonprofit corporation organized to operate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus. Signed by the Governor (3/30/2018; Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: In 90 days) ENACTED

- 8. HB 202 - AWARENESS DAY** (Thompson, A.) To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day." Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (4/17/2018; **REPORTED**)
- 9. HB 233 - FIREARMS** (Becker, J.) To enact the "Decriminalization Effort For Ending Notorious Deaths (DEFEND)" to provide an opportunity for a concealed handgun licensee or qualified military member to avoid guilt for carrying a concealed handgun into a prohibited place if the person leaves upon request, and to penalize as disorderly conduct failing to leave upon request or returning with a firearm. **Referred in Senate (9/20/2017; Government Oversight & Reform) Passed in House (7/6/2017; 64-31)**
- 10. HB 238 - VETERANS WAIVER** (Retherford, W., Brenner, A.) To establish the Veterans Fee Waiver Program. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (9/20/2017; **CONTINUED** (No testimony))
- 11. HB 254 - POW/MIA FLAG** (Wiggam, S.) To enact the POW/MIA Remembrance Act requiring the POW/MIA flag to be displayed at certain buildings operated by the state on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans' Day. Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (5/15/2018; **REPORTED** (No testimony))
- 12. HB 272 - HUNTING LICENSES** (Householder, L., Kick, D.) To allow a landowner's grandchildren of any age to hunt or fish on the landowner's property without obtaining a hunting license, deer permit, wild turkey permit, fur taker permit, fishing license, or waterfowl hunting permit, and to allow certain partially disabled veterans to receive a free license, permit, or wetlands habitat stamp. Committee Hearing in House Energy & Natural Resources (2/13/2018; **CONTINUED**)
- 13. HB 295 - DOG REGISTRATIONS** (Goodman, W.) To exempt certain disabled veterans from paying a dog registration fee when application is made to the county auditor that includes proof that the dog is an assistance dog. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (10/24/2017; **CONTINUED**)
- 14. HB 414 - To designate July 16 as "National Atomic Veterans Day" in Ohio.** Calendar for Coming Session in House (5/15/2018) Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (2/28/2018; **REPORTED** (No testimony))
- 15. HB 434 - LICENSE PLATES** (Sweeney, M., Perales, R.) To create the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the "Coast Guard Cross" license plates. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (1/24/2018; **CONTINUED**)
- 16. HB 468 - MILITARY LEAVE** (Perales, R., Boyd, J.) To grant full-time state employees paid leave for the purpose of attending medical examinations and appointments provided through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/21/2018; **CONTINUED** (No testimony))
- 17. HB 523 - ABUSE REPORTING** (Lanese, L., Perales, R.) To establish animal abuse reporting requirements, to require the Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program to be notified when a person serving in the armed forces is investigated for child abuse or neglect or domestic violence, and to modify the laws regulating counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists. Committee Hearing in House Community & Family Advancement (5/23/2018; **REPORTED**)

**18. HB 558 - DOG FEES** (McClain, R.) To exempt certain disabled veterans from paying a dog registration fee when application is made to the county auditor that includes proof that the dog is an assistance dog. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (5/23/2018; **CONTINUED** (No testimony))

**19. HB 603 - HIGHER ED TUITION** (Perales, R.) To grant residency status for in-state tuition purposes at state institutions of higher education to all military service members who are on active duty and to their spouses and dependents. **Referred in House (5/15/2018; Higher Education & Workforce Development)**

**20. HB 636 - VETERAN RESIDENCY** (Ramos, D.) To exempt veterans from the three-month county residency requirement to be eligible for financial assistance from the county veterans service commission, if the veteran has relocated to the county from another Ohio county, state, or United States territory after the Governor or President of the United States declares a disaster or emergency. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (5/23/2018; **CONTINUED**)

**21. HB 696 - MILITARY AFFAIRS** (Perales, R.) To establish the Office of Government and Military Affairs, and to authorize the Office to make loans to defense or NASA communities and grants to defense or NASA communities, defense or NASA support organizations, and certain state institutions of higher education. **Introduced in House (5/22/2018)**

## **Ohio Senate Bills**

**1. SB 81 - FIREARMS** (Terhar, L.) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces and retired and honorably discharged veterans, to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience, to permit a licensee to renew a concealed handgun license at any time before the expiration of the license, and to require the Attorney General to monitor the number of license fees waived and cap the total amount allowed to be waived at \$1.5 million. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (3/21/2018; **REPORTED** (No testimony))

**2. SB 107 - VETERAN IDENTIFICATION** (Tavares, C.) To provide that any nondriver identification card that is issued to a veteran who is disabled or blind may be issued without an expiration date. Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (2/20/2018; **CONTINUED SUBSTITUTE**)

**3. SB 116 - MILITARY TRANSFERS** (LaRose, F., Williams, S.) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (5/23/2018; **SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD**)

**4. SB 170 - COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSES** (LaRose, F.) To require the Director of Public Safety to seek approval from the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement a temporary pilot program regarding the waiver of the skills test for a commercial driver's license that applies to present and former military personnel. **Signed by the Governor (5/2/2018; Signed: May 5.** **SB 190 - VETERAN PAID LEAVE** (Hoagland, F.) To grant full-time state employees paid leave for the purpose of attending medical examinations and appointments provided through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (5/15/2018; **CONTINUED** (No testimony)) **ENACTED**

**4. SB 190 - VETERAN PAID LEAVE** (Hoagland, F.) To grant full-time state employees paid leave for the purpose of attending medical examinations and appointments provided through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Committee Hearing in Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (5/15/2018; **CONTINUED** (No testimony))

**5. SB 213 - ECONOMIC PROGRAMS** (Schiavoni, J.) To enhance economic and employment opportunities and improve local infrastructure in Ohio by providing additional assistance to workforce development and employment programs; establishing a revolving loan program for small businesses seeking to expand operations; extending job tax credits to smaller businesses; enabling expanded participation in public sector contracting by smaller companies; enhancing support for child care centers; funding additional local infrastructure and public transit; authorizing tax incentives for hiring military veterans, for donating money to local programs assisting distressed communities, or for improving distressed property; exempting the homes of disabled veterans from property taxation; terminating the income tax deduction and reduced tax rate for business income; and to make an appropriation. **Referred in Senate** (11/15/2017; Finance)

**6. SB 215 - PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** (Skindell, M.) To create the Ohio Pharmaceutical Assistance Program in the Department of Insurance to provide assistance with the cost of prescription drugs for certain seniors, the disabled, veterans, and certain persons who are covered under a Bronze Health Plan sold in the Health Insurance Marketplace established by federal law. **Referred in Senate** (11/15/2017; Insurance & Financial Institutions)

**7. SB 318 - ARMED FORCES** (Dever, J.) To urge the President and Congress of the United States, and the Secretary of Defense, to authorize the recruitment of individuals with disabilities for service in the Armed Forces of the United States. Committee Hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (1/24/2018; **CONTINUED**)

**8. SCR 8 - MISSILE DEFENSE** (O'Brien, S., Eklund, J.) A resolution to urge the United States Missile Defense Agency to select Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ravenna, Ohio, as the preferred site for a future east coast Missile Defense system. **Passed in House** (1/24/2018; 91-0)

## AFA Updates/June 28, 2018

### Keith's Congressional Corner

*"Our space program has done so much to bring us together because it gives us the opportunity to be the kind of nation we want to be, the kind of nation we must always be—dreaming, daring, and creating."*

President Ronald Reagan

This legislative update took a retro rocket turn in focus when President Trump boldly went where no one has gone before and announced last week, "I am hereby directing the Department of Defense and Pentagon to immediately begin the process necessary to establish a Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces... We are going to have the Air Force and we are going to have the Space Force separate but equal. It's going to be something."

*"When it comes to defending America, it is not enough to merely have an American presence in space. We must have American dominance in space."*

President Donald J. Trump

AFA is encouraged by the focus on space by our political leaders. Space is an invaluable warfighting domain, and the United States must maintain its superiority. Congress agrees but did not establish a Space Force in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019's legislation. In FY 2020, funding is expected to take a plunge from its current high orbit, and resources will be more constrained. A new service would certainly stretch the tightening defense budget. It is crucial to understand how a new Space Force would interact and leverage existing organizations. Funding sources and costs should first be analyzed as a new Space Force requires a major restructuring of the world's best Air Force. Our sister services will also be affected. At least these will likely not be the new 'Space Force' uniforms: [Story and Space Force Uniform Here.](#)

The US Air Force has funded and maintained 90 percent of our nation's military space assets and in its FY 2019 budget request, sought an 8% increase in space funding, the second straight year of significant increases to the space portfolio. We are already the best in the world at space, and with congressional oversight and adequate on-time funding, we can maintain that space superiority. With skepticism on both sides of the aisle during this election year, we can expect the beginning of a drawn out deliberate process between DOD and Congress and little more than a broad proposal this year. Then, it will realistically take a few years to stand up the new force.

With oversight of the Air Force's air and space superiority, the Senate marked up its version of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) putting it on schedule to be completed by Congress' August recess. Both the Senate and House versions included additional funding for increased end strength but also funded JSTARS aircraft the Air Force did not request. Neither bill included language to establish a separate Space Force and neither bill authorized enough fighters for the US Air Force to meet our nation's long term requirements for air superiority.

Moving to other orbits, AFA participated in a military healthcare executive leadership group meeting earlier this month with VADM Bono, Director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA), to discuss TRICARE, changes to TRICARE Retiree Dental, and DOD's new electronic health records program.

Finally, AFA sends all its best wishes for a safe and joyous Independence Day with your families and friends on July 4th. On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square. On July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by celebrating with bonfires, bells, and fireworks. We have not forgotten the sacrifices many made for the freedoms we enjoy on the 4th of July and every day. It's not about fireworks and parties--although that's what makes it so much fun.

## **Air Force Highlights**

Space Force: Go Slow, Learn From Army Air Corps  
BreakingDefense.com | 22 Jun 2018 | by David Deptula, Dean, The Mitchell Institute

The stakes are high for President Trump's [nascent Space Force](#) because a poorly integrated service is a price America cannot afford to pay. This means a careful, thoughtful, conditions-based approach must be followed to assess if and when an autonomous military space organization will provide the best path forward. [Read more.](#)

Six Down To Earth Questions We Have About Trump's Space Force  
TheDrive.com | 18 Jun 2018 | by Joseph Trevithick

President Donald Trump has directed the Pentagon to set up a dedicated Space Force as an independent, sixth branch of the U.S. military. It's a move that reflects the growing importance of American assets in space to any future operations and the subsequent need to be able to protect them from any kind of threat, but a significant

number of questions about how the U.S. military will implement this order remain unanswered. [Read more.](#)

Proposed Space Force Would Pull Expertise From All Service Branches  
USNI.org | 18 Jun 2018 | by Ben Werner

The White House's proposed military Space Force would likely rely heavily on existing personnel from inside the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Army, plus a host of other intelligence agencies, experts told USNI News on Monday.

The Space Force was announced by President Trump on Monday. Trump's directive doesn't provide mission specifics, but [the language](#) suggests the Space Force would be charged with protecting both commercial and government assets in space.

"As space becomes increasingly contested, the demand for the Department of Defense to focus on protecting U.S. space assets and interests also increases. At the same time, the rapid commercialization of space requires a traffic management framework that protects U.S. interests and considers the private sector's needs," the directive reads. [Read more.](#)

Trump says he's directing Pentagon to create a new 'space force'  
Washington Post | 18 Jun 2018 | by Sarah Kaplan and Dan Lamothe

President Trump said Monday that he would direct the Defense Department and the Pentagon to create a new "Space Force" — an independent sixth branch of the armed forces.

Trump has floated this idea before — in March, he said he initially conceived it as a joke — but has offered few details about how the Space Force would operate.

Trump said Monday that the branch would be "separate but equal" from the Air Force.

Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would oversee its creation.

"It is not enough to have an American presence in space, we must have American dominance in space," Trump said, adding that he didn't want to see "China and other countries leading us." [Read more.](#)

Study: To fix Air Force pilot shortage, look to contractors — and forget about warrant officers  
AirForceTimes.com | 18 Jun 2018 | by Stephen Losey

The Air Force should make greater use of contractors to bolster its pilot training capabilities as it works to fix its festering [pilot shortfall](#) once and for all, according to a new report released Monday.

But, researchers from the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies argue in their paper titled "Protecting the 'Pipeline': Overcoming the Air Force's Pilot Shortage," reviving the long-defunct [warrant officer program](#) would do nothing to fix the [shortage of pilots](#), and Air Force leaders should reject the idea. [Read more.](#)

#SpaceForce takes Capitol Hill by storm • What is the true cost of space programs? • Space budget deep dive  
SpaceNews.com | 21 Mar 2018 | by Sandra Erwin

The internet has been [having fun](#) with [President Trump's talk of creating a military space force](#). The president's

riff captured the public's imagination, spawning memes and jokes about starship ninjas gearing up to fight the nation's wars in space.

But the reality is far more boring and complicated. Before anyone rushes to design storm trooper helmets and uniforms, there is a congressionally mandated review under way — led by Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan — that will lay the groundwork for what comes next for the military's space forces that are now part of the U.S. Air Force. [Read more.](#)

National security warrants focus on space — but not a separate Space Corps  
defensenews.com | 27 Oct 2017 | by Keith Zuegel

Secretary of Defense Gen. Jim Mattis wrote Congress declaring, "I oppose the creation of a new military service and additional organizational layers at a time when we are focused on reducing overhead and integrating joint war-fighting functions."

Reorganizations are costly and time prohibitive, and Congress should first detail how a separate Space Corps would improve space capabilities while saving taxpayers' money. [Read more.](#)

#### TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan (TRDP)

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan (TRDP) will be ending on December 31, 2018. Retirees currently enrolled in or eligible for TRDP will have the option to secure dental coverage through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). The Federal Benefits Open Season is Nov 12 – Dec 10, 2018. *Note: Retirees will not automatically be enrolled in the new program this Fall.*

## AFSA's Legislative Platform

*The Legislative Platform serves as the blueprint for AFSA's testimony and lobbying efforts, in addition to responses dictated by day-to-day events. Each area designates Association-approved initiatives but this list is not all inclusive.*

This platform of legislative targets will be used as a "blueprint" for testimony and lobbying efforts, in addition to responses dictated by day-to-day events. We have seven major focus groups listed below.

Within those generalized focus groups which are the Association-approved initiatives we will list a few main targets; as we win approval for one of those targeted areas we will remove that ticket item and add another from our on-going support list. This list is not all inclusive and will be modified as dictated by the situation and events. Understanding our Nation's fiscal situation, success in each of these areas will not always be defined by what is gained, rather the level of benefit preserved or gaining a portion of our objective.

### AFSA's SEVEN MAJOR FOCUS GROUPS

- **MILITARY HEALTHCARE**
- **VETERANS/RETIREE BENEFITS**
- **CARING FOR SURVIVORS**
- **MILITARY BENEFITS & PROGRAMS**
- **AIR NATIONAL GUARD & AIR FORCE RESERVE**
- **EDUCATION**
- **SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS**

- Improve access to earned military health care benefits; enhance existing coverage/services and resist future fee increases.
- Improve access to VA healthcare thereby ensuring the nation fulfills its obligation to care for those “who shall have borne the battle.” Enhance the disability claims and appeals process; ensure ancillary programs, services, etc., remain fully funded
- Fight to eliminate the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)/ Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) offset of annuities for survivors of service members who died of service-connected causes
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector via full military pay raises IAW current law and protect or enhance related benefits like leave, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), bonuses and special pays while protecting funding for commissaries, base exchanges, dependent schools and family support programs
- Fix the complex reserve duty status system (e.g., 12304b situation) without reducing compensation value as well as reducing the Guard & Reserve retirement compensation age from 60 to 55
- Support legislation that promotes future success through the use of hard-earned education benefits, like Tuition Assistance, MyCAA, Montgomery or Post 9/11 GI Bill and ensure that these programs remain relevant and fully funded for them or any dependents whom their benefits may have been transferred
- Continue to seek increasing eligibility of concurrent receipt for military retirees; protect the voting rights of military service members and their eligible family members; and repeal or further modify the Former Spouse Protection Act

### **ON-GOING SUPPORT ITEMS**

- Resist TRICARE fee increases, pharmacy co-pays and authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and longterm care premiums
- Require TRICARE to provide Chiropractic benefit for all beneficiaries, regardless of location
- Support efforts to reduce the VA claims and appeals backlog
- Ensure adequate VA healthcare funding and improve access to quality care
- Support expansion of specialized VA clinics targeting female veteran’s healthcare needs
- Extend the VA Caregivers Act to full-time caregivers for Veterans of other eras • Expand concurrent receipt legislation to include ALL military retirees
- Promote and enhance transition programs and employment opportunities for Veterans
- Improve access to affordable child care and encourage payment policies that accommodate military lifestyles (i.e., accommodate periods of leave, offer tax breaks)
- Seek adjustments to allowances to better reimburse members for expenses they incur for housing and government-directed PCS moves
- Establish a catastrophic leave program; allow military members to transfer their annual leave to other military members
- Support educational and employment opportunities for military spouses
- Provide a full accounting of POW/MIAs from all past and future military actions
- Guard the American flag from purposeful acts of physical desecration
- Pursue changes in Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) to provide overseas military retirees with full exchange/commissary benefits and postal services
- Credit all post-9/11 active duty service toward Guard/Reserve early retirement
- Remove the annual cap on inactive duty points that can be applied towards retirement
- Acquire Tuition Assistance (TA) program benefits for Air National Guardsmen and Dual Status Technicians & enhance Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-SR) benefits
- Authorize reimbursement for military duty-related travel of at least 50 miles
- Permit the full receipt of DIC and Survivor Benefit Plan without an offset
- Allow SBP recipients to remarry after age 55 without losing their entitlement
- Allow survivors of military retirees to draw the full, final month’s retired pay
- Protect the current military Tuition Assistance (TA) program and enhance its use
- Resist reductions in Post 9/11GI Bill benefits
- Allow use of the Post-9/11 GI bill for previously taken courses when periodic repeat is required for professional purposes
- Ensure full funding of the Impact Aid Program