

For Immediate Release
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AFA's New Initiative for Wounded Airmen

Arlington, VA – The Air Force Association and its chapters have taken on a new initiative to help care for wounded Airmen as they make their way from the front line to their home. AFA Chapters around the world are participating in this effort along with the Air Force Recovery Care Coordinators to provide support to Airmen's needs while in various phases of recovery.

When Airmen are injured and returning to the United States, they are typically bereft of their belongings. They do not have personal clothing or items with them, and are unprepared for their needs as they arrive to begin medical recovery. As they find themselves in hospitals and centers distant from loved ones, this new program was created to help ease their discomfort by offering a variety of both required and congenial items. These items range from immediate small sundries, gift cards, casual clothing, bags, entertainment and technology to connection with larger support agencies for longer term support. They may also require support for family members that may arrive to assist their recovery and rehabilitation.

Three AFA chapters are implementing the first phase of this new initiative: the Nation's Capital Chapter and D.W. Steele, Sr. Memorial Chapter in the D.C. area and the Alamo Chapter in San Antonio. These three particular chapters were initially selected due to the volume of injured Airmen sent to the Army Medical Centers in their locations. These chapters, along with AFA Headquarters, are putting together packages of needed items for wounded Airmen who arrive at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD and at San Antonio Military Medical Center in San Antonio, TX.

If you would like to contribute, we are accepting monetary donations at this time. For information on corporate donations, contact Mary Ellen Dobrowolski at (703) 247-5823 or mdobrowolski@afa.org. For information on individual donations, contact Lois O'Connor at (703) 247-5832 or loconnor@afa.org. Donations can be sent to their attention at AFA, 1501 Lee Hwy., 4th floor, Arlington, VA 22209, or can be sent electronically [here](#).

"Wounded Airman have served our nation alongside the warriors of our sister services, they are injured in the same way and suffering similar challenges in recovery. This initiative is a small way for the AFA to show gratitude to the brave airmen and their families who devote their lives defending this nation," said Don Taylor, AFA National Director. "These men, women, and families have continuously supported America and faced severe sacrifices. Many more sacrifices are ahead for them. They have demonstrated strong dedication, and illustrated remarkable courage and deserve our support. This initiative is an opportunity for the AFA to show Airmen we care."

The Air Force Association is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Our mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this, we:

- EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.
- ADVOCATE for aerospace power and STEM education.
- SUPPORT the Total Air Force family and promote aerospace education.

AFA has 200 chapters nationally and internationally representing more than 105,000 members. Visit AFA at www.afa.org

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