



AFA Statement



For Immediate Release
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Congress, It's Time to Pass the Defense Budget

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Air Force Association (AFA) has been out-front in advocating that Congress finally pass the full fiscal year 2018 Defense Appropriations bill to properly fund the Air Force. Current appropriations expire at midnight tonight, January 19th, and for the fourth time, Congress is seeking to punt their responsibility with another Continuing Resolution (CR).

While it is their constitutional requirement to fund the world's pre-eminent Air Force at the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1st, this was the ninth year in a row that Congress abrogated its duty through partial year appropriations. Haphazard budgeting stalls the growth of the Air Force, which is necessary to conduct all of its missions, prevents starting new programs that the warfighters require, and wastes precious taxpayer resources.

At best, Congress will pass a short-term CR that funds the government for a brief time. However, a government shutdown is looming if appropriations are not passed by tonight. Especially because we are a nation at war, AFA is disheartened at the politics and disregard of our military.

The Air Force has unprecedented readiness issues already, and further budget delays risk aerospace superiority. The cost of losing aerospace superiority, something the US has possessed since the Korean War, jeopardizes the success of future military operations and unnecessarily endangers soldiers on the battlefield.

AFA strongly urges Congress to level off from this dangerous descent of inaction by passing a full fiscal year 2018 Defense Appropriations bill immediately. Declining to do so prevents the Air Force from getting contracts finalized this fiscal year.

The world is too dangerous to risk future delays in adequately supporting the millions of service members, civilians, veterans, and military families who serve or have served our great nation.

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.

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