

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

**Resolution No. 216: Support for the United States Air Force
Origin: North Carolina
Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security**

WHEREAS, People are the United States Air Force's top priority and the Air Force is the world's premier aerospace force because its great people—active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian—continue to serve selflessly as a total force under increasingly difficult circumstances; and

WHEREAS, In order to grow the force, recruiting and retention are among its highest priorities and to continue attracting and retaining dedicated men and women the Air Force recognizes that it must continue its efforts to improve pay, benefits, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001 the Air Force has executed thousands of airlifts, moving millions of tons of cargo and passengers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and then New Dawn; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force simultaneously provided top cover and weapons on target with more than a hundred-thousand sorties supporting those same operations; and

WHEREAS, Air Force aeromedical evacuation crews surged to complete over a hundred-thousand of patient movements; and

WHEREAS, On the home front, Air Force fighter, air refueling, and early warning aircraft have flown thousands of sorties supporting Operation Noble Eagle; and

WHEREAS, To meet the challenges of adversaries at home and abroad, Air Force strategy calls for a capabilities-based approach to defense planning which enables the service to answer a broad range of challenges posed by potential adversaries, while also developing the capabilities it needs for the future; and

WHEREAS, In assessing existing and potential adversaries' capabilities against our own, the Air Force is developing task forces for a variety of mission requirements, from strategic response to homeland security, for example, Global Strike Task Force, which describes how we will operate in an anti-access scenario is the next step in the journey to fully achieve Air Force missions, while also opening doors to adaptive and innovative operational plans and relevant organization structure; and

WHEREAS, Continued investment in the core competencies of aerospace power—aerospace superiority, global attack, precision engagement, information superiority, rapid global mobility, and agile combat support—will continue to be the key to preserving the Air Force's ability to respond to threats to America's national security whenever and wherever they occur; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion urge the Congress to appropriately support the United States Air Force's commitment to attract, retain, and train quality people and to mold them into an expeditionary aerospace force capable of flexibly responding to threats to America's national security; to enhance readiness through its continued focus on total force integration and the integration of air and space systems; and to build and implement a transformation and modernization program that will maintain America's dominance in air, space, and cyberspace well into the 21st century.