

# AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION® Fighting for Air

June 13, 2012

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Charles D. Connor  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20004-1725  
Phone: (202) 785-3355  
Fax: (202) 452-1805

14 Wall St.  
Suite 8C  
New York, NY 10005-2113  
Phone: (212) 315-8700  
Fax: (212) 608-3219

[www.LungUSA.org](http://www.LungUSA.org)

The Honorable Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donley:

We commend you on the adoption of Air Force Instruction (AFI) 40-102, Tobacco Use in the Air Force. This AFI will be crucial to reducing and preventing tobacco use in the Air Force, and consequently improving the health and readiness of all airmen.

As you well know, tobacco use is a significant public health problem for the Air Force – indeed, the entire Department of Defense. And it is not simply an inherited problem. More than one in seven (15 percent) of active duty personnel begin smoking after joining the service. Tobacco use compromises an airman's health, fitness and readiness for duty while also costing DoD and Veterans' Affairs money in healthcare costs and lost productivity. This is no doubt why you issued this AFI, and why steps like this one are so important.

We appreciate that AFI 40-102 takes several steps towards implementing recommendations contained in the Institute of Medicine's report *Combating Tobacco Use in Military and Veterans Populations*, including addressing tobacco-free workplaces and facilities, curbing tobacco use in training programs and strengthening options available for tobacco users who want to quit.

The American Lung Association enthusiastically concurs with the goal of the AFI, which is "a tobacco-free Air Force." We salute you on this unprecedented investment in the comprehensive health of your airmen and their families, and hope other military branches will follow your lead. As a provider of cessation services for many of your bases, we look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other matters related to airmen's lung health.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Connor  
President and CEO

Cc: Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)  
General Norton A. Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff  
Lieutenant General (Dr.) Charles B. Green, Air Force Surgeon General