



## ANG Selected Force Awareness Training (SFAT)

### NO FEAR ACT

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## Refresher Training



**Facilitator:** Locate information regarding local area incidents to share and discuss in the 'Let's Talk' portion, if available.

**Read:** Welcome to your No FEAR Act refresher training.



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# OVERVIEW

- Definition
- Purpose
- Protection Laws
- Violation Reporting
- Talking Points

**Facilitator:** Introduce the topics to be discussed.

**Read:** We will be discussing the following topics:

- What is the definition of the No FEAR Act?
- What is the purpose of the act?
- Who does the act protect?
- What are violations of the act?
- Commander's Talking Points



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# DEFINITION

On May 15, 2012 Congress enacted the  
“Notification and Federal Employee  
Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002,”  
Which is now known as the No FEAR Act.

### Facilitator:

**Read:** One purpose of the Act is to “require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws.” To this end, the No FEAR Act requires that all federal agencies train employees about the rights and remedies available to them under the Antidiscrimination Laws and Whistleblower Protection Laws applicable to them.



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# PURPOSE

- Inform employees of their rights and protections available to victims of discrimination
- Require Federal Agencies be accountable for violations

### Facilitator:

**Read:** It is the policy of the Government of the United States to provide equal opportunity in federal employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex (to include sexual harassment), age, national origin, and physical or mental disability, and to promote the full realization of equal employment opportunity through a continuing affirmative program in each executive department and agency. The policy of equal employment opportunity applies to, and must be an integral part of every aspect of personnel policy and practice in the employment, development, advancement, and treatment of civilian employees of the Federal Government.

There are two main purposes to the No FEAR Act. The first is to inform employees of their rights and protections under the act. Those rights include:

- Protected classes from discrimination
- Whistle blower protection

The second purpose is to require all Federal Agencies to be accountable for violations. All agencies are required to submit reports and provide information of violations.



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# PROTECTION LAWS

Antidiscrimination laws protect the following 10 classes:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- Sex
- National Origin
- Age
- Disability
- Marital Status
- Political Affiliation
- Sexual Orientation

### Facilitator:

**Read:** The United States and its citizens are best served when the Federal workplace is free of discrimination and retaliation. In order to maintain a productive workplace that is fully engaged with the many important missions before the Government, Congress noted that it is essential that the rights of employees, former employees and applicants for Federal employment under Federal antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws be steadfastly protected. Congress also stated that agencies cannot be run effectively if those agencies practice or tolerate discrimination.

### Read:

Antidiscrimination laws protect various classes. The No FEAR ACT has 10 protected classes:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- Sex
- National Origin
- Age
- Disability
- Marital Status
- Political Affiliation

- Sexual Orientation

Individuals cannot be discriminated based solely on these classes.



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# PROTECTION LAWS - CONTINUED

- Whistle Blowers cannot be retaliated upon by any level of supervision/Chain of Command for reporting a violation
- Individuals will not receive reprisal for participating in protected activities

### Facilitator:

**Read:** A federal employee authorized to take, direct others to take, recommend or approve any personnel action may not engage in reprisal for whistleblowing – *i.e.*, take, fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take a personnel action with respect to any employee or applicant because of:

Any disclosure of information by the employee or applicant that he or she reasonably believes evidences:

- \* A violation of a law, rule or regulation,
- \* Gross mismanagement,
- \* Gross waste of funds,
- \* Abuse of authority, or
- \* A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

If you believe that you have been the victim of whistleblower retaliation, you may file a written complaint (Form OSC-11) with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel:

**(Provide this information to your audience)**

1730 M Street NW.  
Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036-4505

or online through the OSC Web site -- [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov)



## Unlawful Discrimination or Harassment

- **Anti-harassment:** Harassment includes unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical or visual, which creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile work environment or that unreasonably interferes with job performance.
- **Sexual Harassment:** This includes practices ranging from direct requests for sexual favors to workplace conditions that create a hostile environment for persons of either gender, including same sex harassment.

### Facilitator:

**Read:** Harassment or unlawful discrimination of any type toward personnel in the US Air Force will not be tolerated. It is essential we treat all individuals fairly with dignity and respect. All personnel have the right to perform to his or her full potential and not be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and age.

Sexual Harassment deserves special mention. Sexual harassment includes one or more unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or other unwelcome physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature where:

- (1) submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment;
- (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that individual; or
- (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a reasonable individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or

offensive work environment.



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### Zero Tolerance For Unlawful Discrimination or Harassment

- It is the policy of the United States Government, the Department of Defense, and the Air Force, not to condone or tolerate unlawful discrimination, to include sexual harassment, of any kind.

#### Facilitator:

**Read:** Zero Tolerance policy ensures that once unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment is alleged, immediate and appropriate action will be taken to investigate/resolve the allegations and ensure any proven unlawful be

The Air Force is committed to providing a work environment where military members and civilian employees are treated with respect and dignity. Harassment of any person based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, reprisal or any other category protected by law or policy will not be tolerated. Harassment by anyone, including harassment by any manager, supervisor, work leader, co-worker, or contractor is strictly prohibited. Violators face the possibility of removal from employment or other appropriate disciplinary action. Behavior stops. Further, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any Airman, military or civilian, who engages in unlawful discriminatory practices.



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# VIOLATION REPORTING

- All violations should be reported to your EEO office manager
- Violations of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability must be reported within 45 calendar days of occurrence

### Facilitator:

**Read:** If you think you have been subjected to retaliation, contact the Complaints Examining Unit at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel at 1-800-872-9855 to file a written complaint, or visit [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov) to learn more.

If you feel you have been discriminated against in violation of antidiscrimination laws, contact your EEO counselor. You may also contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission about filing a complaint at 1-800-669-4000 or visit [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov) to learn more.

If you are alleging discrimination based on marital status or political affiliation, you may file a written complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC). Alternatively (or in some cases, in addition), you may pursue a discrimination complaint by filing a grievance through installation's administrative or negotiated grievance procedures, if such procedures apply and are available.

If you believe that you have been the victim of unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or reprisal for participating or supporting Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws, you must contact an EEO counselor within 45 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory action, or, in the case of a personnel action,

within 45 calendar days of the effective date of the action, before you can file a formal complaint of discrimination with the Air Force.



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# Let's Talk...

- Organization POCs
- Hot Topics
- Open Discussion

**Facilitator:** For this slide, commanders/first sergeants would use gathered data and discuss issues as they relate to their organization.

**Discuss:** Who the POC's are within your organization, and any hot topics as it relates to the subject, to include recent violations.

Open the floor to group discussion.



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# REFERENCE

PL 107-174, Sec 202 – *Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002*

### **Facilitator:**

**Read:** For more information, you can use this references or contact your EEO representative.



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# CONCLUSION



The policy of equal employment opportunity applies to, and must be an integral part of every aspect of personnel policy and practice in the employment, development, advancement, and treatment of civilian employees of the Federal Government.

No matter what our background, where we live, or when we started our careers in the AF, we have one huge thing in common ---- The MISSION. We cannot afford to let Equal Opportunity or Retaliation issues impede our operations or mission imperatives. Our Equal Opportunity posture directly contributes to the AFSO21 pillar of Respect for our People. The Air Force of the 21st Century will be leaner and more diverse and respect will be what sees our people through the difficult times. Respect for ourselves will ensure our SERVICE to others.



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