Who: This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors who want to pursue a STEM education followed by a career in the Defense, Intelligence, or Homeland Security communities.

What: Each scholarship is an award of $10,000, $2,500 for each year of a four-year academic education. Scholarships can be used to achieve education goals at the accredited school of their choice anywhere in the nation. All Freedom scholarships are STEM based. This is for a full-time student attending a four-year institution. Multiple Freedom Scholarships are available.

Requirements: Applicants must:
- Be a well-rounded, graduating high school senior who has overcome an adversity or hardship in their personal or family life.
- Attend a public or private high school in Baltimore City or one of the following Central Maryland counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, or northern Prince George’s.
- Be a U.S. Citizen.
- Have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Have a Math SAT of at least 500 or a Math ACT score of at least 18.
- Be nominated by the applicant’s school’s counselor.
- Plan to enter a field of study supportive of national defense (i.e., systems engineering, software engineering, math, cyber, information technology, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, physics, mechanical engineering, materials science, or engineering relating to IT, communications and electronics) and can apply their studies directly to the Intelligence Community, homeland security, or national defense objectives. Please note: Students who pursue a degree in other science to include pre-med, pre-law, biology, environmental, or any form of engineering not listed in this section are unlikely to be considered for this scholarship. If unsure, please email scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org to clarify.
- Stay in a field of study supportive of national defense for each of the applicant’s four years and graduate.

Maintenance: Scholarship recipients must maintain a collegiate GPA of at least 2.0 for the first year and 2.5 for all subsequent years to retain the scholarship for all four years. Recipients may change majors provided the new major is a science and engineering field of study supportive of national defense as indicated above. Recipients must submit a transcript for review at the end of each school year with a status form (to be sent to the recipient) to report how their studies are progressing to be eligible to receive the next payment as the scholarship is paid out over four years.

Ceremonies: Scholarship recipients will be notified in late February/early March, 2020. The AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter will invite recipients and their parents to an Awards Night reception and dinner honoring them in early May, 2020.

See next page for application information – what is required and the link to access the application on line.

All interested students must submit their completed applications online by December 20, 2019.
APPLICATION: Student scholarship submissions must include all of the following: (Applicants will receive email from the Scholarship Committee chair as materials are received. If applicant does not get an email, reach out to the email address above.)

1. A completed application form submitted online at https://centralmd.afceachapters.org/freedom-scholarship-application which includes general information about the applicant (sample application details the info to be submitted.)

2. A nomination letter from the applicant’s school counselor explaining why the counselor feels the applicant deserves the scholarship. Counselors should address specifically the hardship or adversity and how it has kept the student from achieving their full potential. This letter may be emailed to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org.

3. A 750-1000 word essay written by the applicant addressing: 1. How has your adversity impacted your ability to pursue college or your career goals and how would this scholarship help you overcome your adversity. 2. How your collegiate study* might prepare you for a career supporting intelligence, homeland security, or national defense objectives (*Acceptable fields of study include systems engineering, software engineering, math, cyber, information technology, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, physics, mechanical engineering, materials science, or engineering relating to IT, communications, and electronics.) (submit with on-line application).

4. A resume from the applicant detailing, at a minimum, accomplishments, work experience, and community involvement.

5. An official, certified high school transcript of completed courses and grades mailed directly from the high school to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org.

6. A copy of the applicant’s SAT or ACT scores from the testing center. Email the report that you receive from the testing center to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org. Please note: AFCEA is not listed as a site that scores be sent to. Be sure that the report has your full name on it.

7. Two letters of recommendation: one letter must be from an academic person (i.e., a school official – teacher, principal) and the second letter must be from a non-academic person (i.e., a person outside of school – clergy, a person you work/intern for, a volunteer leader, a coach). Letters from school counselors are not acceptable. Letters should be specific to this scholarship and not be letters that are for entry to a university or college. Letters may be emailed to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org. Please be sure to follow up with the persons who are emailing letters of recommendation to ensure that they have submitted them.

Note: On-line application will be available after October 7th. Thank you for your patience.