

Note from AFA President -- Why AF's Fail part 2, Hearings, and Op-ed

Thursday, July 24, 2008

AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, and Civic Leaders, I received a lot of mail on AFA's policy briefing on Why Air Forces Fail (http://www.afa.org/EdOp/AF_Failure.pdf). I challenged several of those who were critical to produce their own briefing ... and shortly thereafter, I received two briefings from the Air Force. We put them on our website - you can find them at: http://www.afa.org/edop/Why_Air_Forces_Fail_1.pdf and http://www.afa.org/edop/Why_Air_Forces_Fail_2.pdf

The reason I am so interested in this subject - is that I see some of the same signs today that have occurred in the past. The nation relies upon the AF, assumes the AF will always be there, and needs a strong AF. But, this can't happen without sustained investment over a long period of time. If you want to use the briefings for civic groups, contact Chet Curtis at: CCurtis@AFA.org for a Powerpoint version.

Secondly, both Mr. Donley and Gen Schwartz testified this week before the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) ... in their confirmation hearing. While we could not listen live, the SASC did put the answers to advanced questions on the web. You can find them at: [Warning - they are fairly long - about 44 and 35 pages respectively]

<http://armed-services.senate.gov/statemnt/2008/July/Donley%2007-22-08.pdf>

<http://armed-services.senate.gov/statemnt/2008/July/Schwartz%2007-22-08.pdf>

Thirdly, I sometimes send you links to op-eds that are interesting ... or provocative. This one, by AIR FORCE Magazine's Editor in Chief, Robert S. Dudley, is one of the best I have seen. In it Mr. Dudley posits that failure is an option ... as history often shows. And to presume success is perhaps the greatest mistake that defense planners can make. Finally, Mr. Dudley makes the point that recognition of a potential failure is the first step towards preventing it. The editorial will come out in the August AIR FORCE Magazine - but we have put it on line for you to see now - and share with others.

<http://www.airforce-magazine.com/MagazineArchive/Magazine%20Documents/2008/July%202008/0808edit.pdf>

For your consideration.

Mike

Michael M. Dunn, Lt Gen (Ret)
President/CEO