

Note from AFA President – Advocacy

Thursday, February 19, 2009

AFA Members, Congressional staffers, Civic Leaders, and DOCA members, the Chairman of the Board for AFA - Joe Sutter, the Vice Chairman for Field Operations - Jim Lauducci, and I - this past week -- made calls on the Hill to new members and to staff. Needless to say they were focused on many items ... including the stimulus package - which is 50% larger than the defense budget for last year.

What we told them is best encapsulated in a letter that the Board of Directors sent to President Obama. You can find the letter on our website at: [http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/Notes/President\\_Ltr\\_Feb09.pdf](http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/Notes/President_Ltr_Feb09.pdf)

The members had lots of questions for us. Central among them were: the status of the F-22, the status of the KC-X, the status of CSAR-X, the location of the AF's Cyber Numbered Air Force, the location of the AF's Global Strike Command, and the reinvigoration of the nuclear enterprise.

A couple of articles for your review. The first is by Robert Kagan - who argues now is not the time to cut defense spending. A link to the piece is on our website at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/02/AR200902020202618.html>

A second article is in the Atlantic, by Mark Bowden. It is a softer piece about air dominance in general - but it is remarkable in that it tells of the issue in a human-interest manner. The author cites the fact that the last American soldier killed by an enemy aircraft occurred in 1953. You can find it at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200903/air-force>. [Caution: it is long - 15 pages on my printer.] Even though it is very good ... I challenge you to find very small errors in it. One such error is when the F-15 was fielded - it was not in the Carter Administration as the article says ... but the Ford Administration. And I found several others ... to include the fly-away cost numbers. But ... all in all, the piece is educational.

For your consideration.

Mike

Michael M. Dunn  
President/CEO