

Note from AFA President -- Wash Metro Accident, Senate hearing

AFA Members, Congressional staffers, civic leaders, DOCA members, this week's news has highlighted a major catastrophe in Washington DC. One metro train rammed into another, killing 9 and injuring 80. Among those killed was Maj Gen (Ret) David F. Wherley, Jr. and his wife Ann. General Wherley's last duty assignment was Commanding General, District of Columbia National Guard. [Bio: <http://www.ngb.army.mil/ngbgomo/library/bio/954.htm>] On 9/11 he was the Commander, 113 Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, MD. His wing's aircraft were some of the first to arrive on the scene over Washington and the Pentagon on that day ... and they kept watch for many months afterwards. And ... like the rest of our great ANG - still protect us today. We will all miss General Wherley and Ann.

Coverage of the metro crash was wide/varied. Most recent articles point out that the age of the metro fleet is **unacceptable** at an average age of **19 years**. [The actual car involved in the crash was put in service in the 1970s]. Compare those numbers with the age of the Air Force fleet - which averages almost 25 years old ... with some of its air vehicles which were put in service in the 1950s. And ... I would point out the most DC metro cars can coast to a stop when their motors quit ... and they *seldom* have people shooting at them ... like the Air Force faces. For a pictorial on the age of AF aircraft - see this link (then click the comparison medium): <http://www.afa.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Contrast/default.asp>

Or - for a combination of varies mediums: [http://www.afa.org/EdOp/edop\\_2-11-08.asp](http://www.afa.org/EdOp/edop_2-11-08.asp)

Last week I had the opportunity to "testify" in front of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense. Lest you think I was grilled like senior Air Force officials ... I was one of 17 people to testify ... and we were limited in our time. I thought you might like to see my oral remarks [[http://www.afa.org/EdOp/2009/Oral%20Statement1--SAC-D--18\\_Jun\\_09.pdf](http://www.afa.org/EdOp/2009/Oral%20Statement1--SAC-D--18_Jun_09.pdf)].

For your consideration.

Mike

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