

# Verbatim

By John T. Correll, Contributing Editor

## Bravo Sierra

"Morally bankrupt, the Air Force is willing to turn a blind eye to the pressing needs of soldiers and marines at war in order to get more of its \$300-million-apiece junk fighters."—Ralph Peters, retired Army lieutenant colonel, now a syndicated columnist and TV commentator, *New York Post*, April 13.

## Another Pile of It

"The Air Force hasn't forgotten how to fight. But it only wants to fight the other services."—Peters, *New York Post*, April 13.

## More for the Ground Forces

"Following the money and resource trail leads a cynic to conclude that this Administration values the lives of its pilots more than its soldiers and marines. I speak for a generation of former ground soldiers who believe that those who do virtually all of the fighting and dying in this war should receive more attention from those who are paying for it."—Retired Maj. Gen. Robert H. Scales, former commander of the Army War College, *Washington Times*, May 10.

## The Force Is With Us

"Eighty percent of the force that any of the services have in place today will still be with us 15 years from now, so we'd better be paying as much attention to integrating what we already have as we do the thoughts about doing away with what we have and replacing it wholesale with something that fits more perfectly with the world that we live in."—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, *Heritage Foundation*, April 28.

## Stalin the Liberator

"Our people not only defended their homeland, but also liberated 11 countries of Europe."—Russian President Vladimir Putin on the Soviet occupation and annexation of Eastern Europe during and after World War II, *Washington Post*, May 8.

## Hooligan Tool of Wall Street

"Bush is a hooligan bereft of any personality as a human being, to say nothing of stature as President of a

country. He is a half-baked man in terms of morality and a philistine whom we can never deal with."—KCNA, official North Korean news service, quoting Foreign Ministry spokesman, April 30.

## Dear Leader's Domain

"For us, North Korea is a black hole."—Mohamed El Baradei, director general of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency, *USA Today*, April 13.

## Pearl Harbor Not Included

"In the past, Japan, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations."—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, apologizing in Jakarta for Japan's World War II atrocities, while back in Tokyo, Japanese lawmakers trooped to the Yasukuni Shrine, where Pearl Harbor is described as a "battle for Japan's survival," *Reuters*, April 22.

## Newer and Fewer Nukes

"I believe we should commit to retiring all our existing nuclear warheads and building a small number of new-design weapons in their place. ... I suspect that it will be a very small inventory."—John J. Hamre, former deputy secretary of defense, *Washington Post*, May 2.

## Marines Have Arrived

"What it says is that the Marines are full players at the table—that they're no longer considered officers of limited perspective and parochial concerns."—Richard H. Kohn, former historian of the Air Force, on choice of Marine Gen. Peter Pace as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April 23.

## Future Is Unmanned

"I believe the momentum is building at an extraordinary rate toward the unmanned stuff, and [unmanned systems] will be providing the majority of combat platforms within a much shorter time frame than some people would like to see or guess."—Retired Air Force Col. John A. Warden III, author of *The Air Campaign and Gulf War I* air planner, *Washington Times*, May 8.

## The Enemy Adapts

"To the seeming surprise of some, our enemies have brains. They're constantly adapting and adjusting to what we're doing. They combine medieval sensibilities with modern technology and media savvy to find new ways to exploit perceived weaknesses and to weaken the civilized world."—Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, April 27.

## Who Won the War

"The CIA was ready. We knew what to do. The US military, and I'm not denigrating their activities on the ground, but they were not ready."—Veteran CIA officer Gary Schroen, author of a book on "how the CIA spearheaded the war on terror in Afghanistan," *US News & World Report*, May 16.

## Oink

"Congress should be ashamed of itself for loading up the [bill] with unrequested money and unnecessary pork."—David Williams, *Citizens Against Government Waste*, on adding of projects such as \$20 million for a road in Mississippi and \$5 million for a fish hatchery in Montana to funding bill for war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, *Washington Times*, May 10.

## Europe With Clout

"We do feel that Europe must count as an entity, because not one of our countries alone, singly, has the kind of clout, has the kind of strength, that the United States has or that China has. And it is in the interests of the United States to have in Europe a political structure that has clout, that is capable, that is able, because you can't go it alone."—French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, *Washington Post*, May 4.

## Significant and Sufficient

"The United States maintains significant—and I want to underline significant—deterrent capability of all kinds in the Asia-Pacific region. So I don't think there should be any doubt about our ability to deter whatever the North Koreans are up to."—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, *Washington Times*, May 3.