

By Robert S. Dudley

**Breaking Faith**

"Pilots who don't fly, maintainers who don't maintain, air traffic controllers [who] don't control—leave. ... An extended CR [continuing resolution] will also negate the pilot bonuses Congress authorized, which will ... break faith with the force. ... As a service Chief, I have many obligations, but one remains paramount: Every airman we send into harm's way must be properly organized, trained, and equipped, and led to succeed in [his or her] mission. ... This is our moral obligation. A year-long CR makes meeting this obligation extremely difficult."—**Gen. David L. Goldfein, USAF Chief of Staff, House Armed Services Committee, April 5.**

**Turnabout**

"The traditional warfighting paradigm of ground forces leading the fight supported by air forces has been supplanted by a construct where air forces supported by ground forces is often a much more responsive, effective, efficient, and less costly—in terms of both lives and dollars—manner in which to conduct warfare."—**Retired USAF Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, prepared statement to Senate Armed Services airland subcommittee, Feb. 9.**

**Vlad Vs. the Impaler**

"What we need to do is understand Vladimir Putin for what he is—a murderer and a thug."—**Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), on the nature of the president of Russia, The Hill, Feb 9.**

**Top of the Pack**

"I am the first one that would like to see ... nobody have nukes, but we're never going to fall behind any country, even if it's a friendly country. We're never going to fall behind on nuclear power. ... It would be wonderful, a dream would be that no country would have nukes, but if countries are going to have nukes, we're going to be at the top of the pack."—**President Donald J. Trump, interview with Reuters, Feb. 23.**

**Hard Truth**

"No longer can the American taxpayer carry a disproportionate share of the defense of Western values. Americans cannot care more for your children's

future security than you do."—**Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis, address to NATO defense ministers in Brussels, Feb. 15.**

**Naval Confusion**

"We went from [a policy of] 'Let's not talk about gay people' to complex conversations of gender identity and bathrooms. We leapfrogged 10 years of social growth in the Navy, and people from leadership all the way down to the deck plates did not know what to make of it."—**Retired Navy Capt. Rick Hoffman, Navy Times, Feb. 4.**

**Abracadabra ... Not**

"So much of what [USAF] does is assumed capability, and the way I describe it is it's like a light switch. ... I actually don't know how lights work, ... but here's what I know. I know that when I walk into this room, I flip that switch and those lights come on. ... Much of what we do as an Air Force has become a light switch. 'I don't know how I got three bars on my GPS phone. It ... just happens. It's magic.' No, it ain't magic. It's 31 satellites being flown by airmen at Schriever Air Force Base right now. ... So here's my concern: [If] we don't put the resources against some of these key mission sets that the entire joint team relies on, those lights aren't going to come on."—**Gen. David L. Goldfein, USAF Chief of Staff, remarks at Center for Strategic and International Studies, Feb. 23.**

**The Warbot Cometh**

"The winner of the next conflict will not likely be determined primarily by the state of their technologies, but by how well a nation's military thinkers conceptualize future warfare in an integrated manner and then apply robotic systems, or warbots. ... 'Warbots' can be defined as robotic combat systems that can detect, identify, and apply lethal force to enemy combatants within prescribed parameters and without immediate human intervention. ... Most militaries continue to look at warbots as support weapons ... because it is easier to keep humans in the loop. ... Yet warbots offer tremendous potential advantages as primary combatants. They are simply more capable, cheaper, and

offer less risk to humans than manned equivalents in many, if not most, combat situations."—**US Army Col. Brian M. Michelson, senior fellow at Atlantic Council, writing in The Bridge, Feb. 28.**

**Gag Those Terrorists**

"If you can't talk, you can't fight. It's that simple. Our job is to create massive confusion in the Daesh [a pejorative Arabic nickname for ISIS] network. We are attacking their ability to command and control their forces and preventing them from executing against our Iraqi allies."—**Lt. Col. Josh Koslov, commander of an EC-130H Compass Call electronic warfare squadron, quoted in airforcetimes.com, Feb. 6.**

**Message to Beijing**

"Our long-standing policy on the Senkaku Islands stands. The US will continue to recognize Japanese administration of the islands and, as such, Article 5 [collective defense] of the US-Japan Security Treaty applies."—**Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis, joint press conference with Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada, Feb. 4. The Senkakus are claimed by both Japan and China.**

**Hope for the Hollow**

"The important thing to me is this [the Trump administration's proposed increase in DOD spending] is a clear statement of recognition that we are heading towards a hollow force. There's not just a readiness crisis. There's enormous modernization challenges, and you have trouble maintaining [operational] tempo. That's the textbook definition of a force that's heading to hollow."—**James Jay Carafano, Heritage Foundation national security specialist, quoted in defenseneews.com, Feb. 27.**

**Keep the Politics Out**

"The oath we take, and we retake every time we are promoted, is to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. By design, we don't pledge support to any particular party or any particular leader. We're an apolitical military."—**Gen. David L. Goldfein, USAF Chief of Staff, remarks to reporters in Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.**