

By Robert S. Dudley

Chairman Speaks

"This is not a profession in crisis, though it could become that way if [problems are] left unaddressed."—*Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, on sexual assault and other discipline problems in the US armed forces, USA Today, April 2.*

The SECDEF Looks at China

"This visit was not a visit to contain China. ... I consider the Chinese as friends. We have differences. We are competitors. We disagree in areas. But we're certainly not enemies."—*Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, remarks after meeting of ASEAN nations in Honolulu, April 3.*

Triad Forever

"I'm a firm believer in the triad. I think the triad has served us well in the past and it will continue to serve us well in the future precisely because of the flexible nature of all three legs. And so long as countries either have these weapons or are trying to develop these weapons of mass destruction, I think it's important that the United States maintain that triad and maintain it strongly."—*Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, interview broadcast on National Public Radio, March 31.*

Close to You

"The development of Russian armed forces [shows] two big trends—first, strengthening of strategic nuclear forces, giving a guarantee that no one country in this world will try to attack Russia [and] second, the development of these rapid deployment forces to deal with any kind of local conflict, such as the war against Georgia, or this operation in Ukraine, or anywhere. As a result of these reforms, Russia now has absolute superiority over any country in the post-Soviet space."—*Aleksandr Golts, an independent military analyst based in Moscow, New York Times, April 2.*

Oh, You Again

"I would certainly consider a pardon, yes, but I can't say what I would do, because I don't have the informa-

tion that President Obama has."—*Former President James Earl Carter, on the question of pardoning NSA turncoat Edward Snowden, remarks to the Washington Post, New York Times, March 26.*

Best of a Bad Lot

"The results very clearly show that cutting the A-10 fleet was the lowest-risk option from an operational perspective—a bunch of bad options. And while no one is happy, especially me, about recommending divestiture of this great old friend, from a military perspective, it's the right decision."—*Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, USAF Chief of Staff, testimony before a House subcommittee, March 26.*

Extended Deployment

"I believe it's testing some kind of experimental sensor for the National Reconnaissance Office—for example, a hyperspectral imager, or some new kind of signals intelligence package. The sensor was more successful than expected, so the payload customer asked the X-37 folks to keep the spacecraft in orbit longer."—*Astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell, speculating on the long, long flight of USAF's X-37B spaceplane, IDG News Service, April 1.*

Throw Away the Key

"This is a man who received a lot of money for taking, literally, suitcases of [classified US] material and trying to sell it not only to Israel but other countries as well. And I think the Intelligence Community views it as a massive, massive betrayal."—*Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Senate Intelligence Committee, opposing early release of imprisoned spy Jonathan Jay Pollard as part of Mideast peace negotiations, The Hill newspaper, April 1.*

Among Schoolchildren

"The low-IQ US President and his country's Secretary of State John Kerry speak of the effectiveness of 'the US options on the table' on Iran while this phrase is mocked at and has become a joke among the Iranian nation, especially the children."—*Iranian Gen. Masoud Jazayeri, commenting on*

US threat to use military force against Iran, Wall Street Journal, March 31.

March of Folly

"We are standing down the US military to pre-1940 levels at a time when the United States is facing huge potential aggression problems around the world. ... This is folly, and I assure you, if we continue on this path, we will regret it."—*Retired Army Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, quoted in breakingdefense.com, March 26.*

Cool, Calm, Relaxed

"Russia is a regional power that is threatening some of its immediate neighbors—not out of strength but out of weakness. ... They don't pose the No. 1 national security threat to the United States. I continue to be much more concerned when it comes to our security with the prospect of a nuclear weapon going off in Manhattan."—*President Obama, press conference at the Hague in the Netherlands, March 25.*

A Mission, Not an Aircraft

"Close air support is not an afterthought to me, and it is not going to be a secondary mission in the United States Air Force. But close air support is not an aircraft. It's a mission, and we do it very, very well with a number of airplanes today."—*Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, USAF Chief of Staff, remarks on planned A-10 divestment, House Armed Services Committee, March 14.*

Putin on the Couch

"Mr. Putin aspires to restore Russia's global power and influence and to bring the now-independent states that were once part of the Soviet Union back into Moscow's orbit. While he has no apparent desire to recreate the Soviet Union (which would include responsibility for a number of economic basket cases), he is determined to create a Russian sphere of influence—political, economic, and security—and dominance. There is no grand plan or strategy to do this, just opportunistic and ruthless aspiration. And patience."—*Former Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, March 25.*