

By Robert S. Dudley

How's That Reset Going?

"I think it's [the danger of a Russian invasion of Ukraine] a reality. Of course it is. When you see the buildup of Russian troops and the sophistication of those troops, the training of those troops, the heavy military equipment that's being put along that border, of course it's a reality and it's a threat and it's a possibility. Absolutely. ... And the longer that Russia perpetuates and instigates this tension and the possibility of escalating their activity, it's going to get worse. And we have to be prepared for that."—**Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, on Moscow's massing of 20,000 troops east of Ukraine, remarks to reporters in Germany, Aug. 6.**

The Fire Next Time

"You've got a Russian government that has made the conscious decision to use its military force inside of another sovereign nation to achieve its objectives. ... They [Russians] clearly are on a path to assert themselves differently, not just in Eastern Europe, but in Europe in the main and toward the United States. ... I think this is very clearly Putin, the man himself, with a vision for Europe, as he sees it, for ... what he considers to be an effort to redress grievances that were burdened upon Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union, and also to appeal to ethnic Russian enclaves across Eastern Europe. ... He's very aggressive about it. And he's got a ... playbook that has worked for him now two or three times. And he will continue to use it. ... If I have a fear about this, it's that Putin may actually light a fire that he loses control of. ... These ethnic enclaves, there's a rising tide of nationalism. And nationalism can be a very dangerous instinct and impulse. There's a rising tide of nationalism in Europe right now that has been created in many ways by these Russian activities—that I find to be quite dangerous. ... We're looking inside of our own readiness models to look at things we haven't had to look at for 20 years, frankly, about basing and lines of communication and sealanes."—**Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of**

Staff, remarks of Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, Colo., July 24.

Kievan Understatement

"They [two Ukraine air force Su-25 ground-attack fighters] were shot down very professionally. The terrorists do not have such professionals."—**Ukraine spokesman Andriy Lysenko, heavily implying that Russian troops, rather than Ukrainian rebels ("the terrorists"), were responsible for the shootdowns, Reuters dispatch, July 23.**

If Russia Balks ...

"If you consider space a national security priority, then you absolutely have to consider assured access to space a national security priority. Given that we have a vulnerability here, it's time to close that hole. ... It is dire [if Russia refuses to sell the US its RD-180 rocket engines for US Atlas rockets]."—**Gen. William L. Shelton, commander of Air Force Space Command, remarks to Senate panel, July 16.**

Shave and a Haircut

"We will not be able to afford all of the programs that we're even doing right now if we go into sequestration the next year and that continues. That's a fact. ... We're not looking to kill programs, but we really need to shave, I think, about as much as you can off the edge. ... It's hard to argue that you might be able to get more money the next year. ... It's going to be just as hard the following year."—**Darlene J. Costello, senior DOD acquisition official, remarks to National Defense Industrial Association audience, July 23.**

Grok, Rattle, and Roll

"Smart refrigerators [run by tiny computers] have been used in distributed denial of service attacks. ... Smart fluorescent LEDs [light-emitting diodes] that are communicating that they need to be replaced ... are also being hijacked for other things. ... The merger of physical and virtual is really where it's at. If we don't grok that, then we've got huge problems."—**Dawn C. Meyerriecks, deputy CIA director for science and technology, Aspen Security Forum, July 24. "Grok" is a sci-fi term**

for comprehensive understanding on many levels.

Lost Generation

"Afghanistan and Iraq involved a huge budget surge, but all of it went to personnel, logistics, and systems that have no application in a conflict with a peer adversary. Ships, aircraft, surveillance systems, and other tools that a superpower needs were given a very low priority. In short, we skipped a defense budget cycle in order to pay for a giant nation-building and counterinsurgency exercise."—**Richard L. Aboulafia, Teal Group aircraft analyst, quoted in USA Today, July 23.**

Vickers on Terror ...

"Syria is probably the No. 1 threat—with threats out of Yemen—to the American homeland right now and elsewhere in the west. ... Foreign fighters who are Western passport holders—including Americans, a subset of that—number in the four digits."—**Michael G. Vickers, undersecretary of defense, remarks to Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, Colo., July 24.**

... and Clapper on Terror

"The terrorist threat to the United States is still very, very real. ... The terrorist threat is not diminishing. It is spreading. ... As a nation, in ... my opinion, [we] are accepting more risk than we were three years ago or even one year ago."—**Retired USAF Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper, director of national intelligence, remarks to the National Press Club, July 22.**

The Chief Stands Up

"[I am] very happy with the ethical fabric of the United States Air Force. ... Do we have incidents? Absolutely. Any organization with almost 700,000 people is going to have incidents. But we do not have an epidemic of bad ethical behavior by people across the Air Force. If you look at the numbers, that's simply not the case. ... I don't think it existed. There's a big difference between an endemic or systemic problem and bad behavior by individuals. There's a big difference."—**Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, USAF Chief of Staff, interview, USA Today, July 25.**