

By Robert S. Dudley

A Matter of Stars

"The appointment of a four-star [general] sends a powerful message to our airmen, allies, and any would-be enemy. It speaks to our commitment and promise to our airmen and nation to ensure a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrence and global strike capability with the right level of leadership emphasis. ... Having a four-star general responsible for the world's most powerful weapons is critically important."—**SECAF Deborah Lee James, on appointment of Gen. Robin Rand as the first four-star general to head Air Force Global Strike Command, press statement, July 28.**

Air Boss Speaks

"One hundred percent of our success in Desert Storm was based on lessons learned from Vietnam, on how not to run a war. We were not going to drag that war out. We were going to fight as viciously as we possibly could and get it over with and have the least loss of life. [Secretary of Defense Dick] Cheney and [President George H. W.] Bush were both very good about letting us run the show, and it paid off. ... It really helps when you have wise politicians who know when to fight and how hard to fight. If you're going to kill somebody, you better kill 'em. And you'd better have a damn good reason."—**Retired USAF Gen. Charles A. Horner, Desert Storm "air boss," quoted in Northwest Florida Daily News, Aug. 1.**

Word From The Donald

"When you see the other side chopping off heads, waterboarding doesn't sound very severe."—**Presidential candidate Donald Trump, on the morality of US waterboarding, ABC's "This Week," Aug. 2.**

Schumer Says "No"

"I have decided I must oppose the [US-Iran nuclear] agreement. ... If Iran's true intent is to get a nuclear weapon, under this agreement, it must simply exercise patience. After 10 years, it can be very close to achieving that goal, and, unlike its current unsanctioned pursuit of a nuclear weapon, Iran's nuclear program will be codified in an agreement signed by the United States and other nations. To me, after 10 years,

if Iran is the same nation as it is today, we will be worse off with this agreement than without it. ... Better to keep US sanctions in place, strengthen them, enforce secondary sanctions on other nations, and pursue the hard-trodden path of diplomacy once more, difficult as it may be."—**Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), top Democratic leader, statement issued Aug. 6.**

Obama Says "Yes"

"Congressional rejection of this deal leaves any US Administration that is absolutely committed to preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon with one option: another war in the Middle East."—**President Barack Obama, at American University, Aug. 5.**

Peace In Our Time

"[President Obama] is carrying on in the finest tradition of Neville Chamberlain."—**Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), comparing Obama, in his dealings with Iran, to the British Prime Minister long reviled for appeasing Adolf Hitler, AP dispatch, Aug. 6.**

Why Russia Is Worst

"We have a nation [Russia] that has used force to change internationally recognized boundaries. Russia continues to occupy Crimea. Russian forces now are in the Donbass in eastern Ukraine. So this nation has used force to change international boundaries. And this is a nation that possesses a pretty vast nuclear inventory and talks about the use of that inventory very openly in the past."—**USAF Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, on scale of Russian threat, on PBS NewsHour, July 29.**

Airpower Vs. Caliphate

"In my opinion, this is not the same fight as it was when it started, and I look at that based on the effects that we have had on [ISIS]. ... Air strikes have gone a long way to degrade [ISIS]' ability to mount large offensive attacks, as well as reducing their ability to openly control towns and cities, where they so often inflict terror on those civilian populations."—**USMC Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Killea, chief of staff of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve**

against Islamic State, DOD press briefing, July 31.

Gracious Sakes

"Sadly, the Army that stayed cohesive in Iraq and Afghanistan even after losing 5,000 dead is now being broken ... by an ungrateful, ahistorical, and strategically tone-deaf leadership in Washington. ... Other services suffer reductions and shortages. But only the Army breaks. Someone please tell those of us who served why the service that does virtually all the dying and killing in war is the one least rewarded."—**Retired Army Maj. Gen. Robert H. Scales, well-known Army apologist, Washington Post, July 31.**

False Sovereignty

"I believe those [Chinese] facilities [on the Spratley Islands] are clearly military in nature. They are building ports that are deep enough to host warships and they're building a 10,000-foot runway at Fiery Cross Reef. A 10,000-foot runway is large enough to take a B-52, almost large enough for the space shuttle. ... They're building revetted aircraft hangars at some of the facilities there that are clearly designed, in my view, to host tactical fighter aircraft. Certainly, those islands ... extend a surveillance network that could be in place with radars, electronic warfare capabilities, and the like. ... China is changing facts on the ground ... essentially, creating false sovereignty ... by building man-made islands on top of coral reefs, rocks, and shoals."—**Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of US Pacific Command, remarks at Aspen Security Forum, July 24.**

RPAs in Air Combat?

"The SAB [Air Force Scientific Advisory Board] found that both the MQ-9 and RQ-4 [remotely piloted aircraft] could be modified in specific ways to provide utility in contested environments at various levels of [threat]. There's about 3,000 pounds of payload capacity on most of those platforms. You could put quite a few additional systems on to them; they have the size, weight and power to be able to run these systems."—**Werner J. A. Dahm, SAB chairman, on preparing defenseless RPAs to survive in a hostile air environment, flightglobal.com, Aug. 4.**