

### Dept. of Understatement

"The use of that weapon for that [ISIS] complex is an outstanding idea. ... Strategically, you're looking for an effect for a wider area. Plus, the blast effect of the weapon itself ... sends a certain psychological message to your opponent and enemies who are watching."—**Retired USAF Gen. T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley, former Chief of Staff, on use of GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb to wipe out terrorists in Afghanistan, military.com, April 28.**

### Go Ahead ...

"Our revolutionary forces are combat-ready to sink a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier with a single strike."—**Official North Korea Workers' Party *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper, April 23.**

### ... Make My Day

"The weapons that North Korea would put against the *Carl Vinson* strike group are easily defended by the capabilities resident in that strike group. If it flies, it will die."—**Navy Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., head of US Pacific Command, House Armed Services Committee, April 26.**

### Maximus Rex

"The [2013 US-Iran nuclear deal] fails to achieve the objective of a non-nuclear Iran. It only delays their goal of becoming a nuclear state. This deal represents the same failed approach of the past that brought us to the current imminent threat we face from North Korea. The Trump administration has no intention of passing the buck to a future administration on Iran."—**Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, *The Hill*, April 23.**

### Wish List

"We hope we can get F-35s. We have been waiting for updated F-16s for too long. Their time has gone. If we buy them now, in 10 years' time they'll be no use. ... We will submit our request to the US to purchase jets

in July. We hope the US understands our needs."—**Wang Ting-yu, head of Taiwan legislature's future and national defense committee, *South China Morning Post*, April 27.**

### Well, If They Insist

"Every single ISIS fighter that's left in Mosul is either going to be killed or going to be surrender. ... We're not seeing a tremendous number of those [surrenders]. A lot of the foreign fighters are very hardcore and they came here to die. They're not surrendering. They're fighting to the death."—**USAF Col. John L. Dorrian, spokesman for the anti-ISIS coalition, remarks to reporters, April 28.**

### Quantity Vs. Quality

"The future security environment is going to demand more Navy, a bigger Navy, but, I'll tell you what, if I build 355 of today's ships, and operate under today's concepts, and project them forward to the mid-2020s, that's probably not the force that's going to be decisive and able to protect America from attack and promote our interests around the world."—**Adm. John M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, remarks at the Brookings Institution on the need for a Navy based on highly advanced technologies, April 27.**

### The Strong Horse

"I turned to the right and looked into an adjoining room. Osama bin Laden stood near the entrance, at the foot of the bed, taller and thinner than I'd expected, his beard shorter and hair whiter. He had a woman in front of him, his hands on her shoulders. In less than a second, I aimed above the woman's right shoulder and pulled the trigger twice. Bin Laden's head split open, and he dropped. I put another bullet in his head. Insurance."—**Former Navy Sr. Chief Petty Officer Robert O'Neill, member of SEAL Team Six that in 2011 killed Osama Bin Laden, quoted in *The Independent*, May 1.**

### The Strong Pigs

"It is likely their movement disturbed a herd of wild pigs, which inhabit the area as well as the nearby cornfields."—**Sheikh Anwar al-Assi, Iraqi chieftain, on how three ISIS fighters were mauled to death by boars, UK's, *The Times*, April 26.**

### Droning On

"In Somalia, Yemen, and Pakistan, it's clear that drones are creating more enemies than the US claims to ever kill. Drones are quickly turning the general population—many of whom the US would classify as the 'good guys'—against America. ... For every so-called 'bad guy' killed by a drone strike, there will be another person who witnessed that strike and who is motivated to assume the newly dead adversary's antagonism."—**Michael Shank, professor at New York University, quoted in *The National Interest*, May 1.**

### Expect Confrontation

"We will engage with Russia diplomatically. We'll do so where we can, but we're going to have to confront Russia where what they are doing is contrary to international law or denying the sovereignty of other countries."—**Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis, remarks to reporters in Kabul, Afghanistan, April 24.**

### The Law of Attraction

"The nature of the fight against ISIS will change into an intelligence war. Defeating ISIS militarily deprives them of territory and prevents them attracting and recruiting foreign fighters. This in turn discourages foreign fighters from staying in the so-called Islamic State and they will eventually try to escape or surrender. However, the threat foreign fighters can still pose upon returning to their countries should not be underestimated."—**Masrour Barzani, security chancellor for Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government, *The Guardian*, April 26.**