

By Robert S. Dudney

## Gas About CAS

"What you read about the Air Force not caring about CAS is nonsense. ... The facts do not support the accusations. ... [USAF's critics] forget that the A-10 was not designed for CAS [but for] direct attack of armor and interdiction—and not CAS. ... We like to label things. We call B-52s strategic bombers but we have used B-52s for CAS. I had A-10s doing road reconnaissance, airfield attacks, Scud hunting, and interdiction. ... The Air Force has done a thorough analysis. What else does Congress want?"—*Retired USAF Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, on political backlash against planned A-10 retirement, National Defense Magazine, March 9.*

## The Enemy of Our Enemy

"Iran's regime is as radical as ever. ... The ideology of Iran's revolutionary regime is deeply rooted in militant Islam, and that's why this regime will always be an enemy of America. Don't be fooled. The battle between Iran and ISIS doesn't turn Iran into a friend of America. Iran and ISIS are competing for the crown of militant Islam. ... In this deadly game of thrones, there's no place for America or for Israel. ... So when it comes to Iran and ISIS, the enemy of your enemy is ... your enemy."—*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speech to Congress on Iranian nuclear matters, March 3.*

## Art of the Bad Deal

"My friends, for over a year, we've been told that no deal [with Iran] is better than a bad deal. Well, this is a bad deal. It's a very bad deal. We're better off without it."—*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speech to Congress on emerging US-Iran nuclear agreement, March 3.*

## Just Deserts

"Our hope is that diplomacy can work. And I believe, given our success on the interim agreement [with Iran], we deserve the benefit of the doubt to find out whether or not we can get a similarly good agreement with respect to the future."—*Secretary of State John F. Kerry, on talks to halt Iran's nuke program, interview broadcast on ABC's "This Week," March 1.*

## Snowden's Conditions

"[Edward] Snowden is ready to return to the States, but on the condition that he is given a guarantee of a legal and impartial trial. He is thinking about it. He has a desire to return, and we are doing everything we can to make it happen."—*Anatoly Kucherena, Russian lawyer representing NSA turncoat Edward Snowden, quoted in Politico.com, March 3.*

## If Only

"The atmosphere was that we were going over there to provide the firepower necessary to bring the North Vietnamese to their knees. It was the only war in town, and it was going to be over with tomorrow. Boy, were we wrong."—*Retired USAF Brig. Gen. Keith B. Connolly, who was an F-100 fighter pilot at the start of Operation Rolling Thunder in Vietnam, Stars and Stripes, March 1.*

## Professional Wet Work

"[The killers selected] a very complex technical means, demanding the participation of a large number of people with a high level of preparation. I want to emphasize this because it is very important. The ordinary basic training of the special forces of the GRU [Russian military intelligence] would not be enough for something like this. It must have been a really professional team."—*Andrei Soldatov, expert on Russia's special services, on the skill of the assassin team that murdered dissident Boris Nemtsov, Radio Free Europe, March 2.*

## The Grieving-Mother Count

"When mothers start seeing sons come home dead, when that price goes up, then that domestic support [in Russia] begins to shrink. ... If you don't have something that gives muscle to the diplomacy, to the economic aspect, then it's not going to be as effective."—*Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander of US Army Europe, Associated Press dispatch from Berlin, March 3.*

## The 30 Percent Solution

"Our female officer applicants currently comprise only about 25 percent

of our applicant pool. I'm one who thinks we ought to be able to do better. Let's go for it. Let's try. So we are setting an applicant pool goal of 30 percent. We want our officer accession sources to go after a 30 percent female applicant pool in the future."—*Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, remarks to Center for a New American Security, March 4.*

## Russia as Standard Bearer

"We're not seeing the same bipolar world we had between capitalism and communism. But we are seeing a new bipolar world, I think, where you have democracy versus authoritarianism, and Russia now is really carrying the mantle for authoritarian regimes."—*Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), remarks on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program, March 2.*

## Of Bombers and Dollars

"I'm afraid they're [USAF] heading down a path here where they have set themselves up politically to not succeed. They've come out with these cost estimates that are surprisingly low, and they seem to be doubling down on the idea that they can build this bomber cheaper than the last one."—*Todd Harrison, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, on the relatively low projected cost of the Long-Range Strike Bomber, Washington Post, March 2.*

## Whose Boots?

"Somebody's boots have to be on the ground. We've got some 3,000 boots on the ground [in Iraq] today. Let's not suggest that we don't. ... We're going to have to have some people in there, providing advice, and those are boots on the ground."—*Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio), interview broadcast on CBS's "Face the Nation," March 1.*

## Advice from The K

"Serious attention must be given to the lagging modernization of our strategic forces. ... The United States should have a strategy-driven budget, not a budget-driven strategy."—*Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, remarks to Senate Armed Services Committee, Jan. 29.*