

By Robert S. Dudley

McCally Doctrine

"We've got some Neanderthal people in the chain of command who now are going to feel like it's not their problem anymore, but it is their problem. ... It's not just about prosecuting the crime when it happens. They need to be the ones who create a culture to make sure there's no tolerance [for sexual abuse and harassment]. ... Sexual harassment, sexual assault is still a very significant problem."—*Rep. Martha McCally (R-Ariz.), first female fighter pilot to see combat, on what would happen if commanders were relieved of responsibility for abuse cases, quoted in USA Today, Jan. 7.*

No Average Day at the Office

"This job isn't for everyone. We make life-and-death decisions every day."—*USAF Col. Timothy Haugh, commander of an RPA unit engaged in combat with ISIS in Syria and Iraq, Los Angeles Times, Jan. 5.*

Down for the Revolution

"We are in need of a religious revolution. You imams are responsible before Allah. The entire world is waiting on you. The entire world is waiting for your word ... because the Islamic world is being torn, it is being destroyed, it is being lost. And it is being lost by our own hands. ... It's inconceivable that the thinking that we hold most sacred should cause the entire Islamic world to be a source of anxiety, danger, killing, and destruction for the rest of the world. ... I am not saying the religion—I am saying this thinking. This is antagonizing the entire world. It's antagonizing the entire world!"—*Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, speech in Cairo celebrating the birthday of Muhammad, CNN, Jan. 6.*

Up in Smoke

"Rocket made it to drone spaceport ship, but landed hard. Close, but no cigar this time."—*SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, on the failure of his rocket to land on an ocean platform, Twitter message, Jan. 10.*

From the Horse's Mouth

"I'm not for the policy of attaining goals by making things worse. I think that sanctions [against Russia for its

aggression against Ukraine] must stop now. ... Mr. Putin does not want to annex eastern Ukraine. I am sure—he told me so."—*French President Francois Hollande, interview with Inter radio in France, Jan. 5.*

One View of Academies

"The service academies once had a purpose: When they were founded in the 19th century (the Air Force split off from Army after World War II), college was classics and religion for gentlemen, so it made sense to have technical training institutes for people who would be in charge of increasingly technical warfare. All the service academies have now to justify their cost and their pretensions, it seems, is their once-illustrious history. ... Service academies are feel-good hype factories that operate with virtually no accountability and little oversight, the very definition of government bloat on autopilot."—*Bruce Fleming, US Naval Academy professor of English, op-ed in Salon.com, Jan. 5.*

The White House Says, "Yes"

"If you're asking me if I'm being micromanaged, I don't know. I better go check with the White House before I answer that question. ... The metric that we should be focused on is access and whether my advice influences decisions. ... Whether someone wants to characterize the desire—the almost insatiable appetite for information about complex issues—as micromanaging, they can have at it."—*Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, remarks on Fox News Sunday, Jan. 11.*

Schwack-Count Unavailable

"We very much see ISIL largely in a defensive posture inside Iraq, that whatever momentum that they had been enjoying has been halted, has been blunted. That has stayed steady over the last couple of weeks. ... We know we've destroyed hundreds and hundreds of vehicles, artillery positions, checkpoints. We know that we've killed hundreds of their forces. ... We don't have the ability to count every nose that we schwack."—*Rear Adm. John Kirby, Pentagon spokesman, remarks to reporters, Jan. 6.*

Hardly "Remember the Alamo"

"It's important to have a clear understanding of what we ultimately seek. I don't believe that the President intended to imply the 'annihilation' of Daesh [another term for ISIS]. That is far beyond our thinking in this regard. We want to deny Daesh the ability to have safe havens either in Iraq or, ultimately, in Syria, to preclude its capacity to organize an existential threat to those countries. Annihilation requires a great deal of investment, resources, and time. The defeating, dismantling, and degrading of Daesh, and ultimately destroying the idea, is the long-term objective."—*USMC Gen. John R. Allen, special envoy for countering the Islamic State, interview with Der Spiegel, Dec. 31.*

Him Again

"The American military is exotic territory to most of the American public. ... Citizens notice when crime is going up, or school quality is going down, or the water is unsafe to drink, or when other public functions are not working as they should. Not enough citizens are made to notice when things go wrong, or right, with the military. The country thinks too rarely, and too highly, of the one percent under fire in our name."—*James Fallows, The Atlantic, January/February 2015.*

Mac's Brave New World

"We have to improve our acquisition system. ... In 1952, the Navy issued a requirement for a lightweight fighter. Two years later, the first A-4 Skyhawk flew. Four years later, the first A-4 squadron was operational, and we built nearly 3,000 of them. Compare that to the F-22. In 1981, the Air Force established a requirement for 750 Advanced Tactical Fighters. It wasn't until 2005, 24 years later, that the F-22 was first introduced, and instead of 750 jets, we bought 195. If Boeing can field a new commercial airliner in five years, if Ford can take a car from design to production in 24 months, then there is absolutely no reason that the Pentagon should take two decades to put a new fighter in the service. Things have to change."—*Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Tex.), chairman of House Armed Services Committee, remarks to American Enterprise Institute, Jan. 20.*