

### And the Winner Is ...

"The nation that's going to win [the next war] is not the one with the biggest army. It's not necessarily the one that has the most tanks or longest range artillery systems. The one that's going to win is the one with the best air force. ... It doesn't mean that airpower is pre-eminent, but it does mean it is equally as critical as land and maritime power, and if you don't have it, you will lose."—*Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, USAF Chief of Staff, remarks to an AFA audience, May 26.*

### Bad Bottom Line

"The Air Force's projected force structure in 2030 is not capable of fighting and winning [against capabilities developed by rivals]. ... While near-peers have most of these capabilities today, advanced air and surface threats are spreading to other countries around the world."—*New US Air Force study, "Air Superiority 2030 Flight Plan," released June 1.*

### Unleash the Hounds

"[To deal with cyber threats] we should take a look at the old-fashioned militia model that lets ordinary citizens come to their country's aid. This could be through the traditional National Guard ... but it could also be separate. In this theater of operations, it really doesn't matter how someone's hair is cut, or whether they can't or just won't do push-ups for you, or if they just like to sleep in until noon. A cybermilitia is worth exploring."—*Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), remarks to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, June 6.*

### Other Than That....

"I think that [NSA turncoat Edward Snowden] actually performed a public service by raising the debate that we engaged in and by the changes that we made. ... What he did—the way he did it—was inappropriate and illegal. ... I know that there are ways in which certain of our agents were put at risk, relationships with other countries were harmed, our ability to keep the American people safe was compro-

mised."—*Former Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., remarks on CNN's "The Axe Files" with David Axelrod, May 30.*

### Breedlove Calculus

"We need to be careful not paint them [the Russians] as 10 feet tall, because they're not, and if we overstate, then we lose credibility. ... They may not be 10 feet tall but they're pretty close to seven feet tall."—*USAF Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, recently retired as NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, interview with the Wall Street Journal, May 3.*

### Not as Crazy as Canceling it

"I don't think it's a wild idea. I mean, the success of the F-22 and the capability of the airplane and the crews that fly it are pretty exceptional. I think it's proven that the airplane is exactly what everybody hoped it would be. We're using it in new and different ways, and it's been spectacularly successful, and its potential is really, really remarkable. And so going back and looking and certainly raising the idea—'Well, could you build more?'—is not a crazy idea."—*Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, USAF Chief of Staff, on congressional move to consider restarting F-22 production, remarks to an AFA audience, May 26.*

### Lure of the Thunderbirds

"It [the Thunderbirds air demonstration team] is our No. 1 recruiting tool. It gives them [members of the audience] a sense of pride in their military and their country, and I think now we need that more than ever."—*Retired USAF Col. Pete McCaffrey, former Thunderbirds pilot, on the recent crash of a Thunderbirds F-16, Associated Press, June 4.*

### Confucius Says ...

"In the South China Sea, China has taken some expansive and unprecedented actions that have generated concerns about China's strategic intentions. ... Unfortunately, if these actions continue, China could end up erecting a Great Wall of self-isolation."—*Secretary of Defense Ashton*

*B. Carter, address to the Asia Security Summit in Singapore, June 4.*

### Comrade Chic

"Kalashnikov is a global brand. We are certainly justified in thinking that clothes and souvenirs with our symbols will be in demand, as much as our primary products."—*Vladimir Dmitriev, marketing chief for the Kalashnikov firearm manufacturer in Russia, New York Times, June 6.*

### Look at the Scoreboard

"They are a very weak enemy. Our al-Qassam soldiers hear them shouting in fear when they attack. War is about how religious you are—the al-Qassam soldier knows he is going to heaven so he fights to the end. The Israeli soldier wants to go back to his girlfriend."—*Hamas spokesman "Mostafa," referring to the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, in Foreign Policy, June 7.*

### Tim Finnegan Meets the VA

"It's a problem that should have been addressed years ago, as it has caused needless hardships for thousands of people who had their benefits terminated and their world turned upside down. ... We simply cannot have men and women who have sacrificed for this country see their rightful benefits wrongfully terminated because the VA mistakenly declares them dead."—*Rep. David Jolly (R-Fla.), after revelations that the VA had mistakenly classified 4,200 live veterans as deceased, statement, May 25.*

### "Provocative and Destabilizing"

"We would consider an ADIZ [air defense identification zone] ... over portions of the South China Sea as a provocative and destabilizing act which would automatically raise tensions and call into serious question China's commitment to diplomatically manage the territorial disputes of the South China Sea. We urge China not to move unilaterally in ways that are provocative."—*Secretary of State John F. Kerry, remarks during state visit to Mongolia, June 5.*