

February 6, 2008

AFA members, Congressional staffers, Civic leaders, and DOCA members, this week the Administration presented its budget to Congress. Despite some in the press saying this is a record budget ... the exact opposite is true ... This is one of the smallest wartime budgets in our history. It comes in at a bit above 3.2% of GDP.

Here are some highlights pertaining to the Air Force:

	FY09PB		FY08 enacted	
AF Total	\$143.9B	\$134.6B		
People	\$37.6B	\$35.9B	3.4% mil pay raise; 2.9% civ; 4.9% housing increase	
Readiness Increases	\$29.5B	\$33.2B	\$2.1B for fuel price growth, utilities & contract increases	
Infrastructure	\$5.2B	\$5.6B	\$54 milcon projects; eliminates inadequate OCONUS housing; support BRAC	
Modernization & Recap	\$41.0B	\$37.4B	Procures 93 aircraft (52 UAVs), 2 satellites, 4 launch vehicles & 7.7K RDT&E by \$1.8B	

Modernization:

- Funds development and advance procurement for 5 KC-X
- Funds development and advance procurement for 2 aircraft for CSAR-X
- Funds: 2 HC-130s; 4 MC-130s; 6 CV-22A, 8 F-35A, 20 F-22A (last of the buy of 183 ... but does not close the line), 9 MQ-9A Reaper, 5 RQ-4A Global Hawk; 38 MQ-1B Predator; 1 C-29A [Note: no funds for additional C-17s]

SAF/FMB Trifold is available at <http://www.afa.org/grl/pocketguide.pdf>

2nd subject - hearings before Congress. I have found that the best sources of information are when our national leaders testify before Congress. Last year I tasked one of the AFA staff members to go to the Hill, listen to the hearing, and tell me what was said. Later, I saw him at his desk ... working on his computer. When I asked him why he wasn't at the hearing ... he told me he was ... that it was playing live on his computer from the House Armed Services Committee website [and that he could both work and watch at the same time].

Turns out many of the committees provide the same service - either in real time or archived ... or both. A paper outlining how to access hearings ... and the schedule as we now know it is available at <http://www.afa.org/grl/hearings.asp>. Return weekly for an updated schedule ... and be aware ... it often changes. Also note that the first hearing is Wed of this week.

3rd Subject - CSAF reading list. Many of you saw ... in AFA's Daily Report ... the most recent list of books that Gen Moseley recommends. (it can be found at: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123084541>) What I like about the list ... is that one can actually buy the books listed. Many reading lists have books that are out of print. Also, this one is kept current ... by the Chief himself. In the past ... Gen Moseley has

actually asked me questions on several of the books ... so you guys on active duty better get started on the list !!

I, however, have one more book to recommend to you. It is called: The Looming Tower, Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright. This book is an astounding work ... detailing the rise of Al-Qaeda ... and pulling together disparate pieces of information. More importantly, the author makes it readable. It won the non-fiction Pulitzer Prize for 2007 and is now out in paperback.

For your consideration,

Mike

Michael M. Dunn, Lt General (Ret)
President/CEO