

April 11, 2008

AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, Civic Leaders, and DOCA Members, three subjects for you to consider today.

C-17s - one of the decisions the Department of Defense made this year is to let the C-17 production line close. In our view this is a major mistake. In AFA's 2008 Statement of Policy, we called on the Administration and the Congress to keep the line open. Thankfully, the Congress has added aircraft to each of the last few year's budgets. Two items of support I would offer you: (1) An AFA briefing - on our website - for you to help make the case to civic groups and the press [http://www.afa.org/EdOp/global_mobility.pdf]. Secondly, a letter signed by 32 Directors of the AFA Board, was sent to Secretary Gates urging him to reconsider closing the C-17 line. The letter is also on our website: http://www.afa.org/EdOp/c-17_Ltr.pdf

10 National Security Challenges for the Next Administration. AFA, as a non-profit, cannot be involved in any political race - national, state, or local. We have historically ... and continue to ... work both sides of the aisle on national security and Air Force issues. The paper I have provided is my list of 10 national security items that I believe to be the most prominent for the next Administration. It is my own personal opinion ... and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Association. I am sure your list will be different ... will include some of mine and will add some. You can find the paper on our website at: http://www.afa.org/EdOp/10_Challenges.pdf

Tanks. Simply put there is a budget battle going on in Washington ... with lots of moving parts. However, this is not about supporting our troops ... it is about priorities. Take a look at this slide on our website: <http://www.afa.org/EdOp/tvsa.pdf> It tells a story that should be heard. This nation has over 7,000 tanks. It only sent about 400 to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom ... and continues to drive 6000+ more for training and exercises. It seems to us that we should use some of the money that is going to the Army to maintain and operate this force ... and eventually to modernize this force ... for the Air Force's recapitalization programs. Secondly, it takes lots of people for the Army to train for the armored mission, lots more to maintain the tanks, and even more for the depots and to support the logistics system for these tanks. These are people that could be used to put into Army missions in Iraq ... where the Air Force is holding down over 6,000 jobs ... that belong to the Army. These have been euphemistically called "In lieu of taskings." Once again - this is **NOT** about supporting our troops. This is all about money and priorities ... and the best way to do the job at hand ... and position the nation for the future.

For your consideration.

Mike

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