

May 3, 2008,

AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, and Civic Leaders, as many of you know, several AF senior officers have been disciplined in regards to the Thunderbird Production Services Contract from a couple of years ago. The DOD IG report does not recommend disciplinary action but forwarded the report to the Secretary of the Air Force for appropriate action. However, at least one member of Congress has questioned the judgment of senior Air Force leaders - both in the punishment meted out and in their individual actions.

Others in Congress - specifically the senior Senator from Utah - have expressed dismay at the misrepresentations made in some corners. Further, Senator Hatch states:

"Under the steadfast and capable leadership of Secretary Michael Wynne and General Michael Moseley, the leaders of our Air force are resolute in the defense of this country, tenacious in their support and care for the young men and women who serve under them, and dedicated to modernize the aging equipment of their force."

We are a nation at war ... in some very tough times. The successes and sacrifices of all Airmen, many times in blood, to defend this nation are a tribute to the exemplary leadership of our Air Force.

You can read the entire news release on our website at:

<http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/Notes/Hatch.pdf>

Secondly, many of you have asked why the Air Force needs "expensive" 5th generation fighters. Aside from the age of the fleet, the fact that the aircraft continue to break in unusual ways (to include an F-15 literally breaking in half last October), and increasing costs to maintain these planes ... some of which were first deployed over three decades ago ... there are many reasons -- as we look to the future - for fielding these new systems.

As a way to explain it, we have put on our website an unclassified video of the developments in Surface to Air Missiles, Air Defenses, and new fighters which will be fielded in the future. You can find the video at:

[http://www.afa.org/MPEG/Air\\_Supremacy.asp](http://www.afa.org/MPEG/Air_Supremacy.asp)

A word of warning - the video is 12.5 minutes long and - the high resolution version contains 70 Megs ... and the low resolution - 12 Megs. It may take some time to download ... and if all of you try to do it at the same time, it will take even longer. Further - for AFA Chapter leaders, I have CDs available for you to show to civic groups, chambers of commerce, the press, and others - just let Chet Curtis ([ccurtis@afa.org](mailto:ccurtis@afa.org)) know if you want one.

For your consideration,

Mike

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