

Friday, July 12, 2008

AFA Member, Congressional staffers, and civic leaders, sorry to hit you with another note so soon after the last one ... but I fooled around with the Piling-On essay for too long. That essay did have a mistake in it ... P-3s are being used in Iraq to help with the IED effort. Thanks to those of you who pointed that out.

I came across some data on Air Mobility Command that I found interesting. [See: http://www.afa.org/EdOp/Airlift_in_Demand.pdf] We put the information on three slides. The first shows how much we, as a nation, have leaned on AMC to perform. [Note that the hours listed are those flown above the planned amount], the second show the age of the fleet, and the third ... was most startling to me - the impact on AMC of rising fuel costs. The cost of fuel has increased for AMC over 250% in just 5 years - almost \$200M in just this past quarter alone [as compared with the first quarter of 2007]. It is no wonder the Air Force leads DOD in devising ways to develop and use alternative fuels ... and has announced an aggressive program to begin to make almost every base "green."

Secondly, AFA found three remarkable documents on AF Space Command. The first is the posture statement of its commander, Gen Robert Kehler [<http://www.afspc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080310-023.pdf>]. The second is Gen Kehler's Commander's Guidance and Intent [<http://www.afa.org/EdOp/cgi.asp>]. And the third - and this is well worth your read - is the command's 2007 Accomplishments [<http://www.afa.org/EdOp/afspc.asp>]. I urge you to skim all three of these.

Finally, I came across an op-ed by the son of former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. It differs a bit from what I have written on the subject ... but makes the point that the Air Force has to not only fight today's war ... but also prepare for the future. I don't agree with everything he says, but it is always good to read differing views. You can find the piece at: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=27146>

For your consideration.

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