

Note from AFA President – Aging fleet, nuclear issues, McCaffrey

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

AFA members, Congressional Staffers, civic leaders, and DOCA members, a NY Times editor called me recently ... and asked me to state simply the problem with the Air Force's aging fleet. I told him that after the Cold War ended, we stopped buying airplanes. Then, to give him a picture of the problem – I sent him the slide at this link [<http://www.afa.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/IssueBriefs/fighters.pdf>]. It focuses on fighter procurement ... but could be expanded broadly to other systems.

Secondly, our Chairman of the Board, Joe Sutter, has written an op-ed that deserves your attention. In it he postulates a range of issues facing our nuclear deterrent force. My favorite quote from the piece is: "Despite near-universal desire for a nuclear free world, this noble goal is certainly a long way off." You can find the piece on our website at: http://www.afa.org/EdOp/edop_1-26-09.asp

Finally, GEN (R) Barry McCaffrey has done a fascinating report on Mexico – based on a visit there in early Dec. [You may recall that GEN McCaffrey was CINC SOUTH ... as well as the "drug czar" ... and has a strong baseline of comparison ...] To interest you in the piece, here is a quote from it: "The Mexican State is engaged in an increasingly violent, internal struggle against heavily armed narco-criminal cartels that have intimidated the public, corrupted much of law enforcement, and created an environment of impunity to the law." You can find the piece on our website at: <http://www.afa.org/EdOp/AAR-Mexico2008.pdf>

For your consideration.

Mike

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President/CEO