

Note from AFA President -- Friedman, Iran, Copenhagen

AFA members, Congressional staffers, Civic leaders, and DOCA members, three pieces caught my attention this week. The first, by Thomas Friedman, appeared in the NY Times. In the piece, Mr. Friedman makes the very cogent argument that the "virtual" Afghanistan is actually more of a threat than the actual Afghanistan. That is because Al Qaeda uses the web to support its global jihad ... recruiting members, sharing ideas on how to make more lethal weapons, and building stories of success. I believe Mr. Friedman is right ... we have not found a way to fight the so-called "battle of ideas" ... whereby we are capturing and killing more terrorists than are being created. Last September, at our Air and Space conference, we heard from a speaker – Chuck deCaro – who put forth ideas on how to win this battle. We know how to do it – what is needed is the organization, funding, and will to put the right tools to work. [Lest you think we don't know how to do this – just review what each political party did to each other during the last election.] You can find a link to Mr. Friedman's piece on our website at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/opinion/16friedman.html>

Secondly, several thoughtful essays were published on Iran – one in the LA Times and another in the Wall Street Journal. You can find links to them on our website at: <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-ros14-2009dec14,0,427799.story> and http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703514404574587721977133610.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Finally, as you all know, Copenhagen has been in the news. President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, SECSTATE Clinton and lots of others traveled to the Danish city to try to hammer out a deal addressing global warming [to call it global climate change is really a misnomer – in that the global climate does change]. The press is reporting very large dollar amounts being considered to be transferred to 3rd world nations to help reduce their carbon footprint. This has national security implications – in that, more borrowing will, in the future, put pressure on defense spending and according to the CBO will decrease the rate of growth of our economy. Also – not addressing global warming also has national security implications ... as historically, nations have gone to war over resources ... and many are forecasting there will be fights over water, oil, and other natural resources in the future. There are lots of articles, studies, and other information on the subject – most define well the "threat" and the science behind the threat. However, I worry when there is near universal agreement on any subject. For the anti-global warming argument, the one book I would recommend is – a novel by Michael Crichton entitled: State of Fear. In the book, which was published in 2004, Dr. Crichton weaves a plot around what he calls eco-terrorists. What makes the book unique is that he has heavily foot-noted every ecological citation – literally hundreds of them. If you are a supporter of global warming, you should read it to get a view of the other side. If you are against it, you will enjoy the book. If you haven't made up your mind, this book should be part of your research to help you decide.

For your consideration.

Mike



To comment on this, visit [AFA Blog](#). (Google account is required)