

Note from AFA President -- Heroism, AAS/SW, Book Recommendation

AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, civic leaders, and DOCA members, for most of America the war (errrr ... Overseas Contingency Operation) in Afghanistan is far away. We often forget the great acts of courage our men and women are performing daily. I ran across this piece put out by SAF/PA in Aimpoints:
<http://aimpoints.hq.af.mil/display.cfm?id=33003> The heroism it describes is stunning.

And ... it describes just one day in the lives of these great people.

Secondly, 10 days or so ago, I had the honor of attending the National Conclave of the Arnold Air Society/Silver Wings. At the luncheon, the speaker was Robert Arnold - grandson of General of the Air Force Hap Arnold. Mr Arnold gave an excellent speech - which we have on our website [at:
http://www.afa.org/EdOp/2009/phoenix_speech.pdf] My favorite part of the speech is where he describes how his father was named (bottom of page one). Secondly, at the end of the speech, Mr. Arnold quotes his grandfather:

"If the nations of the world find they cannot act in concert, our possession of power will be our only resource. Therefore, we must at all costs, maintain it. All of this [is] expensive, of course, but it is one expense that we must **not now or ever** skimp or stint. It is the price of security and the price of peace."

Finally, I would like to commend a book to you. It came out in Dec 08. It is entitled: Surviving Hell by Leo Thorsness. It is about his medal of honor winning mission flying the F-105 in Viet Nam and his six years of captivity, torture, and abuse at the hands of the North Vietnamese. Reading this will help educate you on why it is so important to have a trained, dedicated, and modern Search and Rescue force. It has the added advantage of being readable ... and short

For your consideration.

Mike

Michael M. Dunn
President/CEO

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