

Note from AFA President -- PAK-FA, Latam, Def spending, ROTC

AFA members, Congressional staffers, Civic Leaders, and DOCA members, back in January I told you about the first reported flight of the Russian Federation's fifth-generation fighter, the PAK-FA. The attached 74 page briefing, dated 2 Mar 10, by David Markov and Andrew Hull is full of interesting pictorials, facts and figures. It's a large file (over 5 MB). And ... all should know that it is gleaned from unclassified sources. I again repeat what I said last January. Do you think the Russians will stop at building 187? How many do you think they will sell to their customers? You can find the piece at: <http://www.afa.org/edop/2010/PAK-FA'sFirstFlighton29JAN10REV5.pdf>

Secondly, GEN (R) Barry McCaffrey has done a fascinating report on Latin America and the United States to be presented on 11 June at Ft. Benning. [You may recall that GEN McCaffrey was CINC SOUTH ... as well as the "drug czar."] To interest you in the piece, the United States is more interdependent with the Americas than many Americans realize. We obtain more crude oil imports (52% of U.S. imports) from this region than from the Persian Gulf, which only provides 13%. You can find the piece on our website at: http://www.afa.org/edop/2010/WHINSEC%20Latin%20America_US_June-11-2010.pdf

Retired Air Force Lt Col Arthur MacFadden, an AFA member, has written an op-ed that appeared in the Chattanooga Times Free Press regarding the competition between domestic and defense spending. You can find the piece at: http://www.afa.org/edop/2010/gun_butter.pdf

Finally, I have recommended an insightful, new website to you before and will do so again now. It's called Second Line of Defense. <http://www.sldinfo.com/>

I check the website for updates frequently as the Senior Editorial Advisor, Robbin F Laird, has deep experience in analyzing defense issues – with time at Center for Naval Analysis and Institute for Defense Analysis. A few of the pieces which caught my attention:

- An interview with Mike Rinn, VP and Director, Airborne Laser Testbed: <http://www.sldinfo.com/?p=8563>
- An op-ed by Jack Wheeler calling for an end to the ban on ROTC at some of America's most elite universities: <http://www.sldinfo.com/?p=7874>
- A slide show depicting the C-17s carrying M-ATVs into Afghanistan: <http://www.sldinfo.com/?p=7563>
- An interview with LtCol Dehner, USMC, about the new helmet designed for F-35 pilots: <http://www.sldinfo.com/?p=9192>

For your consideration.

Mike

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