

Note from AFA President -- Principles of Airpower, Arms Control

AFA Members, Congressional staffers, Civic Leaders, DOCA Members, we have recently developed a briefing on the Principles of Airpower. A hearty thanks to Col (Ret) Phil Meilinger for his assistance in developing it. I would ask you to comment on the briefing ... so we can improve it. Send your thoughts to Chet Curtis at: CCurtis@AFA.Org

You can find the briefing on our website at: http://www.afa.org/edop/2009/Principles_of_airpower.pdf

Secondly, President Obama was in Russia this week. He and the Russian President signed a preliminary agreement on a new nuclear arms control agreement. This will begin serious negotiations. However, I worry about the preliminary agreement because it starts with the number of warheads and launchers ... and does not seem to derive from strategy. I also worry that DOD is not yet finished with its Nuclear Posture Review - which defines the strategy from which we derive the numbers of weapons, etc. I also would like to hear the views of the Joint Chiefs, the Commander of STRATCOM, and others. This is an area in which we should all pay attention ... because it is absolutely critical to our security. To help add clarity to this issue, Keith Payne [no slouch in Arms Control circles] wrote an op-ed that appeared in the Wall Street Journal. In it he points to many areas of concern. I especially liked his concluding quote/warning from Winston Churchill: "**Be careful above all things not to let go of the atomic weapon until you are sure and more than sure that other means of preserving peace are in your hands.**"

You can find a link to the op-ed on our website at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124693303362103841.html>

For your consideration.

Mike

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