

Note from AFA President -- Afghan Metrics, McChrystal, Budget

AFA members, Congressional Staffers, Civic Leaders, DOCA members, last week two briefings on Afghanistan crossed my desk. The first was from CSIS (<http://csis.org/publication/afghan-war-metrics>); the second was from Brookings ([www.brookings.edu/afghanistanindex](http://www.brookings.edu/afghanistanindex)). Both briefings describe a set of metrics in order to measure progress or non-progress by our forces in Afghanistan ... and both briefings are quite complicated. I'd ask you to draw your own conclusions, but ... I remain concerned that counter insurgency is a contest of wills ... and if we tell the world ... and the enemy ... that we will be leaving soon, it puts our will into question.

Secondly, I was at a NC AFA state meeting 10 days ago, and a few of the participants had not seen the Rolling Stone piece on GEN McChrystal. I told them I would send it to all our members ([http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/17390/119236?RS\\_show\\_page=0](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/17390/119236?RS_show_page=0)). It is a rather long piece ... and I urge all of you to read it carefully. Civil-military relations are so important that all of our citizens should be aware of the limitations we put on our military.

Finally, I wrote to you over one year ago, expressing concern about our rising budget deficit ([http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/Notes/Notes\\_3-12-09.pdf](http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/Notes/Notes_3-12-09.pdf)). Two weeks ago, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ADM Mullen, stated that the budget deficit was the "biggest threat to our national security." You can find a short Youtube video of CJCS at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrJ1qzG0Ewk>. [Note: the reporter is in error when she states: "The current defense budget deficit is the biggest threat ..." – instead it's the budget deficit.]

For Your Consideration,

Mike

Michael M. Dunn  
Lt. General (Ret.), USAF  
President/CEO  
Air Force Association



To comment on this, visit [AFABlog](http://AFABlog). (Google account is required)