

Note from AFA President -- 2010 Budget, Afghanistan x 2

AFA Members, Congressional staffers, civic leaders, DOCA Members, this week I ran across perhaps the best document I have seen to date on the FY2010 budget. It is a CRS document [warning - it is very large - over 70 pages] that is very readable. It has lots of great info in it ... and I want to highlight just one of many useful facts. Note the chart on page 5 [document page 5, not PDF page 5]. AFA's view is that we as a nation spend a minimum of 4% of GDP on defense in the base budget. This chart tells you what we get if we did that through 2012. You can find the document on our website at: <http://www.afa.org/edop/2009/R40567.pdf>

Secondly, one of you sent me a series of pictures of what it is like on the ground in Afghanistan. We put the pictures on the web. [Note: the file is very large and will take time to download]. A few points on these pictures. I am told they are pictures of the Spanish Army in the country - not the US Army or Marines. They give you an idea of how rugged the terrain is ... and what our magnificent troops are having to endure. Finally, they are a testament as to why airpower is so important. If one wants to travel quickly, strike quickly, or do almost anything militarily in the country, you have to rely on air and space power. My favorite photo? See page six. [\[http://www.afa.org/edop/2009/CARRETERASAFGANISTAN.pdf\]](http://www.afa.org/edop/2009/CARRETERASAFGANISTAN.pdf)

Finally, I want to recommend an op-ed which appeared this week in the Wall Street Journal [\[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052970203946904574302383639301864.html\]](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052970203946904574302383639301864.html). It is written by Bing West, a former Assistant Secretary of Defense and Marine. Mr. West has spent considerable time in both Iraq and Afghanistan and looks at the countries with both a policy and operational mindset. The piece is both educational and opinion-based. If you only have time for one paragraph, read the last one - which reminds me of the movie **Charlie Wilson's War** ... at the very end of the movie - where we can spend billions to help the mujahadin defeat the Soviets ... but can't come up with \$1M for a school house.

For your consideration,

Mike

Michael M. Dunn
President/CEO

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