

Note from AFA President -- China, Afghanistan

AFA members, Congressional Staffers, Civic leaders, and DOCA members, I have three op-eds to bring to your attention. The first is by Randy Schriver, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, East Asia ... and senior country director for China in DOD. He points out trends he sees in the People's Liberation Army - and their development of a first-rate military. [Yes - that's their formal name ... and they swear an oath, like our military does ... except theirs is to protect the Communist Party ... and not their Constitution ... and their Air Force is called: The People's Liberation Army Air Force - go figure]. Mr. Schriver's observations are measured ... and I think balanced. See this link on our Education and Opinion page: http://www.washtimes.com/news/2009/aug/12/peoples-army-not-standing-still/?feat=home_commentary

Secondly, I commend to you two op-eds on Afghanistan. The first is by Bing West, former Assistant Secretary of Defense, combat reporter, and Marine. He reports on the ground and has both policy and operational experience. He should be read and digested. You can find a link to his piece on our website at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203946904574302383639301864.html>

The second piece on Afghanistan that caught my interest was written by David Miliband, Foreign Secretary in the UK [SECSTATE equivalent]. In his piece he outlines three steps he believes necessary to rebuild Afghanistan. A link to his piece can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/6044570/Three-vital-steps-to-rebuild-Afghanistan.html>

For your consideration,

Mike

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