

## **Talking Points**

First, Secretary Gates is well within his rights to fire Secretary Wynne and Gen Moseley. Every senior civilian and military official knows they serve at the pleasure of the President and the Secretary of Defense.

During the tenure of Secretary Wynne and General Moseley, great things were happening in the Air Force—advances in cyber, special operations, air dominance, ISR, space, and medevac missions ... among others.

General Petraeus has been pleased with Air Force performance in Iraq and Afghanistan. The public doesn't know that the majority of terrorists in both countries are being killed by Air Force airpower. Almost the entire fleet of UAVs – some 88% -- are forward-based and being used in innovative ways. There is a B-1 airborne over Afghanistan 24/7. The Air Force has embraced change like no other Service.

### **There is more to this story**

We believe there is more to the firings than meets the eye

The Air Force has taken more than 100 steps to improve nuclear surety since last year. And ... while we have not seen the investigative report, according to every press release on the subject, it was the Defense Logistics Agency which released the ICBM parts to Taiwan – not the Air Force.

Additionally, General Moseley is not in the chain of command – his principal role is to provide military advice to the President, Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council.

As Secretary Gates tells it, he based his actions, in large part, on an investigative report prepared by ADM Kirkland Donald. We need to see a sanitized version of this report. Sec Gates has an obligation to show what it was that justifies such drastic action.

There's a much bigger issue here, and that has been the advice provided by General Moseley and the support for him by Secretary Wynne.

Like Billy Mitchell, both Secretary Wynne and Gen Moseley have been outspoken in pointing out the Air Force needs to recapitalize and modernize

the fleet – the average age of Air Force aircraft 30 years ago was 8 years old and now it is 25 years, a trend that will not be reversed without action.

Pilots are now flying aircraft their fathers and grandfathers flew. Airplanes are breaking in half in-flight. More airplanes have been grounded with age-related maintenance problems than ever before.

Secretary Wynne and General Moseley have called for an additional 20 billion dollars a year to recapitalize the fleet and warned that the Air Force is in danger of becoming obsolescent.

Secretary Gates has accused the Air Force (and all the Services) of planning for the next war, but that is what you have to do with air forces because you cannot produce the aircraft needed when you need them. History is replete with lessons of air forces that failed because they did not plan ahead.

Like Billy Mitchell, America should heed the message of Secretary Wynne and General Moseley. It is apparent to us that the Department of Defense did not appreciate the military advice nor the warnings they were getting.

We also believe the Administration should listen to the message – not shoot the messengers. There's a much bigger issue here, and that is Air Force ability to meet the needs of the nation now and in the future.

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