

A Russian Looks at America

"It's a mixture of disgust and sympathy. Disgust, because 99 percent of that is lies or a concoction—maybe 100 percent. As for sympathy, it's a desperate picture when a great democracy is killing itself, committing collective suicide."—**Sergey Karaganov, head of Russia's Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, giving his reaction to US obsession with alleged Russian hacking of 2016 election, *Washington Post*, June 1.**

Bad Day, Bad War

"The nature of war is all about a collision of will, fear, uncertainty, and chance. You have to ask yourself, 'How does fear play out in a world when a lot of the action is taking place between unmanned systems?' ... Surprise is going to be endemic, because a lot of the advances that the other people are doing on their weapons systems, we won't see until we fight them. And if they have artificial intelligence then that's better than ours, that's going to be a bad day."—**Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert O. Work, at Applied Physics Laboratory, breaking-defense.com, May 31.**

No Prisoners

"Our strategy right now is to accelerate the campaign against ISIS. ... We have already shifted from attrition tactics, where we shove them from one position to another in Iraq and Syria, to annihilation tactics where we surround them. Our intention is that the foreign fighters do not survive the fight to return home to North Africa, to Europe, to America, to Asia, to Africa. We are not going to allow them to do so. ... Once [ISIS fighters are] surrounded, then we will go in and clean them out."—**Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis, CBS News' "Face the Nation," May 28.**

To Separate ...

"We have to acknowledge that the national security space structure is broken. ... My vision of the future is a separate space force within the Department of Defense. ... The amputation [from the Air Force] is not going to begin tomorrow. That said, I believe reform is needed.

We must start now."—**Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), address to a space symposium in Colorado Springs, Colo., April 4.**

... Or Not to Separate?

"As we make this transition from a benign to a warfighting environment [in space], ... any move that actually ends up separating space—as opposed to integrating space ... I would argue is a move in the wrong direction. ... I would say that we ... keep that dialog open, but right now, I think it would actually move us in the wrong direction. I don't support it [a separate space corps] at this time."—**Gen. David L. Goldfein, USAF Chief of Staff, Senate Armed Services Committee, May 17.**

Pyeongyang Ptomaine

"North Korea is a clear and dangerous threat. ... As former US Secretary of Defense Bill Perry once said, We have to deal with North Korea, 'as it is, not as we wish it to be.' Now I want all of you smart people in this room to stop and think about this. Combining nuclear warheads with ballistic missile technology in the hands of a volatile leader like Kim Jong-Un is a recipe for disaster. That is North Korea as it is."—**Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., head of US Pacific Command, address to Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Tokyo, May 17.**

Naval Visions

"My sense is that we're [at] the dawn of something very substantial in terms of naval warfare—something as substantial as the transition from sail to steam, as the transition from wood to ironclad, as substantial as the advent of nuclear propulsion—in terms of what it means for naval power. ... Exponential types of growth, rather than lineal types of growth. ... There's a new dimension, the power of networking, that allows adaptive combinations to emerge. It's not all about the platforms."—**Adm. John M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, remarks to reporters, May 16.**

Little Angela, Alone at Last

"The times when we can completely count on others, they are over to a cer-

tain extent. I have experienced in the last few days, and that is why I can only say that we Europeans must really take our fate into our own hands—of course in friendship with the United States and in friendship with Great Britain—and as good neighbors wherever it is possible, ... but we need to know that we have to fight for our own future and destiny as Europeans."—**German Chancellor Angela Merkel, campaign speech to crowd in a Bavarian beer tent in Munich, widely seen as a slap at the US and Britain, May 28.**

Drive, He Said

"This is a battle between barbaric criminals who seek to obliterate human life, and decent people. ... Drive them out. Drive them out of your places of worship. Drive them out of your communities. Drive them out of your holy land, and drive them out of this Earth."—**President Trump, remarks to a summit of Arab and Muslim heads of state in Saudi Arabia, May 21.**

Buggery in Days Gone By

"I think we've airbrushed out the fact that we've beaten them [the Irish Republican Army]. By the time I was directing Naval intelligence in 1989, 1990, we had them on the ropes. Everything was infiltrated. We had informers everywhere. They were absolutely bugged. ... Effectively, they knew they could not win. We were reading intelligence, we were reading conversations they were having, saying, 'What the hell are we going to do about this?' They were absolutely out. ... Why is it that [it] is hardly recognized now?"—**Retired Royal Navy Adm. Alan W. J. West, former UK intelligence chief, on why the Irish Republican Army laid down arms in 1998, *The Daily Beast*, May 9.**

First Use

"I heard from the Russian military—and I think they are right—that, if US forces, NATO forces, are, were, in the Crimea, in eastern Ukraine, Russia is undefendable militarily ... without using nuclear weapons in the early stage of the conflict."—**Russian parliament member V. A. Nikonov, to European defense leaders at GLOBSEC forum in Slovakia, May 28.**