

By Robert S. Dudley

### Loud and Clear, Take 1

"I've heard his message loud and clear about reducing the cost of the F-35. I gave him my personal commitment to drive the cost down aggressively."—**Lockheed Martin Chief Executive Officer Marillyn Hewson, after meeting with then-President-elect, now President Donald J. Trump, quoted in dodbuzz.com, Jan. 3.**

### Loud and Clear, Take 2

"We've heard him [President Trump] loud and clear, that he's going to be looking for options [for destroying ISIS forces]."—**Gen. David L. Goldfein, USAF Chief of Staff, USA Today, Jan. 2.**

### Day of the Jackals

"This is not an organized operation that is hacking into a target. ... It's more like a bunch of jackals at the carcass of an antelope. Is it Russian? Probably some. Is it Chinese and Iranian? Maybe. ... It's much more complicated than that [i.e., a Russia-only operation]. I think that the possibility that there's more than one country involved [in cyber attacks during the recent US election] is really there."—**Former CIA Director R. James Woolsey Jr., remarks on the CNN program "New Day," Jan. 3.**

### Over the Waterfall

"This is just the start of a waterfall that's going to cascade down. We're watching the forecast [for pilot retention], and it's going to start dropping precipitously, starting at the end of this year. It will be as bad as we're seeing it in other weapons systems."—**Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, head of Air Mobility Command, on a growing shortfall of airlift and tanker pilots, quoted in Air Force Times, Jan. 5.**

### Theater of the Absurd

"Security Council Resolution 2334 explicitly condemns [the presence of Israelis in] East Jerusalem. This is not just scandalous; it's absurd. America acquiesces to a declaration that, as a matter of international law, the Jewish state has no claim on the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, indeed the entire Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem? They belong to Palestine? The Temple Mount is the most sacred site in all of Judaism. That it should be declared foreign to the Jewish people is as if the Security

Council declared Mecca and Medina to be territory to which Islam has no claim."—**Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer, on President Obama's failure to stop Resolution 2334 with a veto, The Washington Post, Dec. 29.**

### Bass Ackwards

"The current US-led coalition strategy is to secure the sovereignty of Iraq *before* decisively dealing with the Islamic State in Syria. This is precisely backwards. Rapid and comprehensive air attacks can still liquidate the capacity of the Islamic State to wage war. ... The first and most promising option is to put in place an overwhelming and focused set of attacks to crush the Islamic State in a matter of weeks—not episodic, anti-septic bombing."—**Retired USAF Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, former deputy chief of staff for ISR, USA Today, Jan. 2.**

### Power and Principles

"There might be some who say, 'Let's just unleash this military [on ISIS] and let them just go.' If that unleashing results in us backing away from our values, then the longer-term consequences ... will outweigh any short-term value. We go to war with our values."—**Gen. David L. Goldfein, USAF Chief of Staff, interview with USA Today, Jan. 2.**

### Soviet Union, Revisited

"We're most certainly not in a Cold War with Russia, because we're not fighting an ideology [i.e., Marxist-Leninist communism] that seeks to conquer the world. We're not fighting proxy wars against each other around the world. ... So that's how things are different."—**Michael McFaul, US ambassador to Russia during 2012-14, quoted in defenseone.com, Dec. 30.**

### Ship of Fools

"As I briefed the results of this study to various groups, some challenged our most basic assertion—that air superiority matters. Some even went so far as to say they didn't think the United States would need air superiority in 2030. ... Many can no longer conceive of a world in which US air superiority is not a given, where we must fight for it."—**USAF Brig. Gen. Alex Grynkeiwich, F-22 pilot who led the recent Air Super-**

**riority 2030 Flight Plan effort, op-ed in warontherocks.com, Jan. 3.**

### Distant? Dead. Close in? Dead

"I flew the F-35 [in training] against other fourth generation platforms, and we killed them and they never even saw us. If you were to engage an F-35 in, say, a visual dogfight, ... the capabilities of the F-35 are absolutely eye-watering. ... The airplane has unbelievable maneuvering characteristics that make it completely undefeatable in an air-to-air environment. So if it's a long-range contact, you'll never see me and you'll die. If it's within-visual-range contact, you'll see me and you're gonna die and you're gonna die very quickly."—**USAF Brig. Gen. Scott Pleus, director, F-35 Integration Office, quoted in businessinsider.com, Jan. 5.**

### Snowden's True Colors

"It was not the quantity of Mr. Snowden's theft [of secret material from the National Security Agency] but the quality that was most telling. Mr. Snowden's theft put documents at risk that could reveal the NSA's Level 3 tool kit—a reference to documents containing the NSA's most-important sources and methods. Since the agency was created in 1952, Russia and other adversary nations had been trying to penetrate its Level-3 secrets without great success. Yet it was precisely these secrets that Mr. Snowden changed jobs to steal."—**Intelligence expert Edward J. Epstein, on the NSA turncoat Edward Snowden's claim to be merely a whistleblower, not a spy, The Wall Street Journal, Dec. 30.**

### On the March

"Pyongyang is much further along in its missile development than most people realize. ... The liquid [fueled] engine test was astounding. For years, we knew that North Korea had a Soviet R-27 missile engine design. They re-engineered the design of that engine to double its propulsion. ... 2016 marked the year North Korea truly ramped up its WMD [weapons of mass destruction] program. I think we're going to see a flight test [of an ICBM] in 2017."—**Melissa Hanham, weapons researcher at Middle Institute of International Studies, Monterey, Calif., quoted in Reuters dispatch, Jan. 2.**