

By Robert S. Dudley

## Breedlove on Force Cuts

"I have seen some of the preliminary plans or results [for US forces in Europe], ... and we're looking at at least reductions of our F-15 force in Europe. ... I believe our force levels in Europe are about right, even absent the latest developments in Ukraine, and that we should take a knee and make no permanent reductions to our existing force structure. In fact, we may need to add additional rotational forces to cover the sustained, persistent presence that we are now envisioning. ... We should now pause and determine, 'Should we continue with any of the program reductions that are in the plan for Europe?'"—**USAF Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, commander of US European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Pentagon news conference, June 30.**

## As Reported in "Duh!" Magazine

"Public optimism about the potential outcome of these negotiations has not been matched, to date, by the positions they [Iranians] have articulated behind closed doors. ... There remains a discrepancy ... between Iran's professed intent with respect to its nuclear program and the actual content of that program to date."—**Secretary of State John F. Kerry, on Iran's push to develop nuclear arms, op-ed, Washington Post, June 30.**

## Straight Talk, Petro Style

"We must be united, because we are fighting to free our land from dirt and parasites."—**Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko, referring to his war on Russian-backed rebels, Reuters, July 1.**

## Breedlove on Mother Russia

"For the last 12 to 14 years, we've been looking at Russia as a partner. We've been making decisions about force structure, basing, investments, et cetera, et cetera, looking to Russia as a partner. Now what we see is a very different situation."—**USAF Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, commander of US European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Pentagon news conference, June 30.**

## Japan Steps Out

"During the 67 years since the constitution of Japan came into effect, the security environment surrounding Japan

has fundamentally transformed and is continuing to evolve. ... No country can secure its own peace only by itself. ... It is important for the [self-defense forces] and the United States armed forces to respond seamlessly in close cooperation to a situation where an attack occurs against the units of the United States armed forces currently engaged in activities which contribute to the defense of Japan. ... To date, the government has considered that 'use of force' ... is permitted only when an 'armed attack' against Japan occurs. However, ... in the future, even an armed attack occurring against a foreign country could actually threaten Japan's survival. ... The government has reached a conclusion that ... when an armed attack against a foreign country that is in a close relationship with Japan occurs, and as a result threatens Japan's survival, ... and when there is no other appropriate means available to repel the attack, ... use of force to the minimum extent necessary should be interpreted to be permitted under the constitution."—**Japan's reinterpretation of its pacifist constitution to allow its forces to engage in collective defense operations, released by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 1.**

## Learning Disabilities

"They also can't do calculus after the first week. [The learning of the honor code] is an educational and developmental process. Some take longer than others, and some don't get it. ... We don't like it when people don't make it, but some people aren't fit to be here. Part of the process of the academy is we find people who aren't suitable to be lieutenants in the Air Force, and so we identify that, and they leave. And it's a tiny minority of our cadet wing. We'd like to think we're perfect, but we're not."—**Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, superintendent of the Air Force Academy, on a recent cheating scandal that resulted in expulsion of 11 cadets, Air Force Times, June 27.**

## Get the Net

"In the United States today, the names Apache, Comanche, Chinook, Lakota, Cheyenne, and Kiowa apply not only to Indian tribes but also to military helicopters. Add in the Black Hawk, named for a leader of the Sauk tribe. Then there is the Tomahawk, a low-altitude missile, and a drone named for an Indian chief,

Gray Eagle. Operation Geronimo was the end of Osama bin Laden. Why do we name our battles and weapons after people we have vanquished? ... Because the myth of the worthy native adversary is more palatable than the reality—the conquered tribes of this land were not rivals but victims, cheated and impossibly outgunned. ... Perhaps [critics] outraged by the [NFL's] Redskins name could turn their letter-writing pens on the Defense Department next."—**Boston Review editorialist Simon Waxman, op-ed in Washington Post, June 26.**

## Musk Theorem Meets ...

"I don't understand what's taking so long. The Falcon 9 obviously works. It's not as though the Air Force is changing the design of the rocket. They're really just learning about it. That's what the certification process is. So I don't understand why it should take so long to learn about the rocket. That doesn't make sense to me."—**Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, on the difficulty of getting his company's Falcon 9 approved for USAF launches, Defense News, June 28.**

## ... Pawlikowski Corollary

"Mr. Musk is a very successful entrepreneur. I think what you're seeing reflected in his comments is his approach to life. I don't take it personally for the Air Force because I think that's in [his] nature—he's been very successful in a number of areas in taking on the culture. I understand why the process that we use is frustrating to him, but I can also tell you: I'm not going to be the first SMC commander to lose a satellite on a launch."—**USAF Lt. Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski, then head of Space and Missile Systems Center, or SMC, Defense News, June 28.**

## Bring Back Hulagu Khan

"The jihadists ... continue to consolidate their grip on Sunni Iraq. ... Welcome to the new Middle East caliphate, a state whose leader is considered the religious and political successor to the prophet Mohammed and is thus sovereign over all Muslims. The last time a caliphate was based in Baghdad was 1258, the year it was conquered by the ravaging Mongols. Now the jihadists aim to do the ravaging."—**House editorial, Wall Street Journal, June 29.**