



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well it is hard to believe that Spring is finally here. Now we start our annual Spring Cleaning ritual. The annual ritual in Washington DC has begun with the delivery of the FY 2010 budget to Congress. With a new President and Cabinet on board, it will be interesting to watch show downs begin.

A few weeks ago, a Senator released some very interesting numbers on the growth of budgets from 2008 to 2009. He cited the numbers based on the sub-committee which was responsible for the appropriation. These numbers are on a slide on the AFA website. You can find it here: <http://www.afa.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/IssueBriefs/budgetstats.pdf>

Another area of concern that was being addressed by AFA President Mike Dunn. AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, Civic Leaders, and DOCA members, one of the (dumber) ideas floating around Washington these days is to cancel the AF's replacement rescue helicopter – designated Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) – X. The logic behind this idea is that other assets can do the mission, and therefore, the DOD does not need specialized assets.

This logic is ably disputed with an op-ed written by former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen (Ret) Michael E. Ryan [see: [http://www.afa.org/EdOp/2009/edop\\_32609.asp](http://www.afa.org/EdOp/2009/edop_32609.asp)]. Gen Ryan argues that the CSAR mission area is not a "pick-up" game; AF CSAR forces have rescued over 3000 people in CENTCOM's Area of Responsibility since 9/11; and CSAR is a very complicated and dangerous mission ... for which we need ... a ready, trained, and dedicated force.

In a recent panel discussion of AFA's Mitchell Institute at the National Press Club, a similar question was asked to the panel. I thought Gen (Ret) Gregory S. Martin's answer deserves your attention. He said that there are a lot of experts on CSAR ... but none of them are in positions of authority. He (Martin) has commanded CSAR forces and understands a little bit about the mission. If you are interested in rescuing people who have been shot down, then you need a dedicated force ... one that is trained, equipped, and properly sized to be available to rescue people who become isolated behind enemy lines. You don't know where you will have to go ... you may have to go into the mouth of the tiger; you may have to shoot your way in or out ... but it is the American military ethos to **not** leave people behind.

Since I also commanded a group with two CSAR squadrons in it ... if only for just a short period of time ... let me add that my units saved lots of lives "in peacetime." They were scrambled, often in the middle of the night, to go to some faraway places. The crews, to include the PJs, were the most professional of any I saw during my career. They were deployed over 200 days per year and saved hundreds of civilians in their assigned area. Further, in Iraq and Afghanistan, our present enemies don't exactly have POW camps. They don't bother to follow the Geneva Conventions. They torture and kill their captives. To quote Gen (Ret) T. Michael Moseley, former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, " ... to protect our people – not just Airmen, but those of all Services – it is a moral imperative that we field a new system." That is why the CSAR – X was and still is the #2 acquisition priority (behind KC-X) of the Air Force. For a transcript of the Mitchell Institute event, go to: [http://www.afa.org/Mitchell/presentations/031809CAFinCrisis\\_tnx.pdf](http://www.afa.org/Mitchell/presentations/031809CAFinCrisis_tnx.pdf)

For the latest Mitchell Institute study [Combat Air Forces in Crisis], go to: [http://www.afa.org/Mitchell/Reports/CAF\\_0309.pdf](http://www.afa.org/Mitchell/Reports/CAF_0309.pdf) For those of you interested in Blogging on this issue, visit our blog site, [Air Force Association Blog](http://www.afa.org/Blog).

For your consideration. Michael M. Dunn President/CEO

Finally another area that members must watch is the Fighter Aircraft Many of you know that the Chief of Staff Air Force wants more F-22's. This is not likely to happen as SECDEF is pushing the F-35. I ask you all to do your research and let's send the "bright one" in Washington, DC notice that they don't have a clue what is best for the Air Force. Semper Fi,& Go Air Force Jack

**EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY CADETS  
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Left to Right: Judy Church, AFA Secretary, Cadet Kelly Maloney, Cadet David Mandel; Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education, Cadet Lazir Abalza, Jr, Joseph Sutter, AFA Chairman of the Board, Cadet Timothy Sattler, Jim Lauducci, AFA Vice Chairman for Field Operations, Cadet Jacob McCoy, Steve Lundgren, AFA Treasurer.

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## CHAPTER UPDATE NEWS

For fifteen years Dave and Marguerite Cummock have worked to keep your chapter viable. We need your assistance to continue that viability.

Dave had a tumor in his brain that was removed in April. The surgery went very well, however the doctors found malignancy in his blood and he is fighting the Cancer battle with everything he has.

Dave has held every office in the chapter more than once. He also was the State President and the Region President when the change was made. He has also served at the National AFA in a number of positions.

I have been putting together this newsletter for many years as well as holding every chapter office from President to Treasurer—and also was the Treasurer for the state of Florida. I have resigned from that position for obvious reasons.

Obviously we need to put all our energy into Dave's health.

I hope a few of you will step forward and help our chapter—I know that Jack Howell would appreciate all the help he can gather.

Thank you.

Marguerite Cummock



Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Air Force Cadets raised the flag to begin a day of fun at *Wings and Wheels* at Spruce Creek Fly-in in Port Orange.

Since 1997 this event has been held every year—it is a fun day for the residents of all ages. Classic Car display—Airplanes on display—spot landing contest—food tent—merchandise for sale—events for the kids (of all ages).

Proceeds from the event are given to local schools, and various charities in the area.

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# FLIGHT PLAN



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With link to McCarthy Chapter Website  
Or go directly to  
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