

COMMUNITY COMMENT FOR AUGUST 14, 2013

This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

I just recently read an article by David Depfula. He is a retired Air Force 3 Star General and was the Commander of the No Fly Zone over Iraq in 1998 - 1999.

His article titled "America's No-Fly Zones. He says this Administration has decided to cut back our Air Force in the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. \$42 billion was axed from the military this year and \$492 billion over the next ten years. He goes on to say that these cuts damage our combat readiness and therefore our security. This author then points out that in the Air Force alone more than 30 squadrons have been grounded, their air crew and maintenance and training personnel, all graduate schools for combat aviators have been cancelled.

Mr. Depfula points out that we need constant preparation and training to maintain the Superior advantage we have had in the air. According to this article our Air Force has been ready at all times which is necessary to support and protect America's security interests.

He said that providing for the common defense is our Government's No 1 job. The deficit spending elsewhere, sequestration and ignoring this problem looks like Washington has forgotten their obligations. He also said combat readiness doesn't have a constituency, except for the entire nation; when fighting needs to be done.

Now a comparison from 68 years ago, General Curtis LeMay in 1945 spoke to the Ohio Society and he said "It is beyond my powers of description to picture to you the difference between the bomb blackened ruins and the desolation of our enemy's cities and the peaceful Ohio cities and landscape, untouched and unmarred by war. I can only say to you, if you love America, do everything you can do to make sure that what happened in Germany and Japan will never happen to our country. Our preparedness for war should be the measure of our desire for peace. The last war was started by air power and finished by (air power). America, if attacked must be able to take the initiative immediately.

I leave you with a point to ponder: Don't you think its the responsibility of every member of Congress and our Executive Branch to make sure our Military Capacities are maintained for us, our children and grandchildren.

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