MISSION DEBRIEF

Dr. David R. Mets (BS, USNA; MA, Columbia University; PhD, University of Denver) is a professor at Air University’s School of Advanced Airpower Studies. He studied naval history at the US Naval Academy and taught the history of airpower at both the Air Force Academy and West Point. While on active duty, he was a pilot and once commanded an AC-130 squadron in Southeast Asia. On another tour in Vietnam, he was an aircraft commander for more than 900 C-130B sorties. Dr. Mets is the author of Master of Airpower: General Carl A. Spaatz (Presidio, 1988) and three other books.

Dr. Mike Thirtle (USAFA; MBA, MS, Wright State University; MPhil, PhD, RAND Graduate School) is a consultant with the RAND Corporation in Washington, D.C., where he helps clients improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their organizations. He is also on the adjunct faculty of Cardean University, an on-line MBA program. He previously served as director of consulting at the National Data Corporation and as a senior consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers. A graduate of Squadron Officer School, he served on active duty in the Air Force, working in the flight, research, development, and integration of precision-guided weapons for the F-15. Dr. Thirtle continues to serve his country as an officer in the Air Force Reserve.

Col Thomas A. Drohan (USAFA; MA, University of Hawaii; MA, PhD, Princeton University) is commander and permanent professor of military strategic studies at the United States Air Force Academy. He previously served as a visiting researcher at the Institute for International Policy Studies in Tokyo and in several capacities with the 23d Wing/43d Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, North Carolina; the Department of Political Science at the Air Force Academy; and the 33d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan. The author of several articles and essays, Colonel Drohan is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

Col Douglas J. Murray (BA, Georgetown University; MA, PhD, University of Texas at Austin) is permanent professor and head of the Department of Political Science, as well as chair of the Social Sciences Division at the United States Air Force Academy. He previously served in Plans and Policy at Headquarters European Command, as vice dean of the faculty at the Air Force Academy, in the Secretary of the Air Force’s Staff Group, and as chief of the Operational Intelligence Branch in Udorn, Thailand. A graduate of the National War College, Colonel Murray is coeditor of The Defense Policies of Nations: A Comparative Study (Johns Hopkins, 1994).

Col Dennis M. Drew, USAF, retired (BA, Willamette University; MS, University of Wyoming; MA, University of Alabama), is professor of military theory, strategy, and doctrine and associate dean of the School of Advanced Airpower Studies (SAAS), Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He previously served as dean of SAAS, director of Air University’s Airpower Research Institute, and chief of the Warfare Studies Division and the Strategy and Doctrine Branch at Air Command and Staff College. In 1992 he retired from the Air Force with the rank of colonel. He is the author of a number of books, book chapters, monographs, and journal articles. Professor Drew is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

Maj Gen Charles D. Link, USAF, retired (BS, Troy State University), is a member of the Senior Executive Service and director of the Developing Aerospace Leaders Program Office, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters US Air Force, Washington, D.C. He served as the senior advisor to the chief of staff and the deputy chief of staff for personnel concerning developing aerospace leaders, including the conceptualization, planning, resourcing, acquisition, and implementation of new leadership-development programs for the total force. Prior to his retirement from the Air Force in 1997, he served as assistant to the chief of staff for the National Defense Review at Headquarters US Air Force. Later, he provided consultant services for several Washington-area policy and security firms and was employed by Fox News as its military consultant. Before assuming his current position, General Link was president of the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

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Lt Col Eric Ash (USAFA; MA, Gonzaga University; MS, California State University, Stanislaus; PhD, University of Calgary) is the editor of Aerospace Power Journal and chief of professional journals at the College of Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He previously served as the commander of both the 34th Education Squadron and the 34th Training Squadron at the United States Air Force Academy and as a B-52 instructor and evaluator electronic warfare officer. He is the author of Sir Frederick Sykes and the Air Revolution, 1912–1918 (Frank Cass, 1999). Colonel Ash is a graduate of Squadron Officer School and Air War College.

Lt Col John M. “Jay” Fawcett Jr., USAF, retired (USAFA; MBA, Cornell University), is a contractor supporting the commander of the US Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Formerly a division chief with the JFACC Operations Division, 505th Command and Control Evaluation Group at Hurlburt Field, he retired from active duty in 1998. His articles have appeared in Airpower Journal, Air Chronicles, and Parameters. Colonel Fawcett is a graduate of Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

Capt Alisen Iversen (BA, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale) is a flight commander at the Aerospace Basic Course, Squadron Officer College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Her former assignments include executive officer, Propulsion Directorate, San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Kelly AFB, Texas; and chief, internal information, Office of Public Affairs, San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Kelly AFB, Texas. She also deployed as chief of public affairs, Headquarters Communications Zone (NATO), Zagreb, Croatia, for Operations Joint Guard/Forge. Captain Iversen is a graduate of Squadron Officer School.