

World

[Egypt's Identity Crisis](#)

(CFR: Steven Cook) The heady days of the revolution seem to be fading in Egypt. Everyone seems to be struggling with the complexities of the present moment. Liberals are despondent over what they fear will be a Muslim Brotherhood rout in the November elections; Islamists are confident, but have flailed tactically in an unfamiliar political environment; and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces seems to be staggering under the pressure of a political role for which they were never trained.

Local

[What the Repeal of DADT Means for Me](#)

(HuffPo: Major Casey Moes) "Although the change isn't an all-encompassing panacea for gays and lesbians serving in the military, the cruelest part of this DADT policy has come to an end: I don't have to trade my values for my service."

Defense

[Obama Proposes TRICARE Changes](#)

(AFPS: Lisa Daniel) A plan has been floated to save \$6.7 billion over 10 years by establishing "modest annual fees" for members of TRICARE-for-Life, which becomes a second-payer insurance to military retirees who transition to the federal Medicare program upon turning age 65. The change would begin with a \$200 annual fee in fiscal 2013.

[U.S. assembling secret drone bases in Africa, Arabian Peninsula](#)

(WaPo: Craig Whitlock and Greg Miller) The Obama administration is assembling a constellation of secret drone bases for counterterrorism operations in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula as part of a newly aggressive campaign to attack al-Qaeda affiliates in Somalia and Yemen, U.S. officials said.

[U.S. Expands Drone Flights to Take Aim at East Africa](#)

(WSJ: Julian Barnes) The U.S. military is deploying a new force of armed drones to eastern Africa in an escalation of its campaign to strike militant targets in the region and expand intelligence on extremists, officials said. The military has reopened a base for the unmanned aircraft on the island nation of Seychelles to intensify attacks on al Qaeda affiliates, particularly in Somalia.

Technology

[Hackers break SSL encryption used by millions of sites](#)

(The Register: Dan Goodwin) Researchers have discovered a serious weakness in virtually all websites protected by the secure sockets layer protocol that allows attackers to silently decrypt data that's passing between a webserver and an end-user browser. The study exposes serious fractures in the system that virtually all online entities use to protect data from being intercepted over insecure networks and to prove their website is authentic rather than an easily counterfeited impostor.

Opinion/Editorial/Blogs

Junior officer cage matches: blocking returns

(Ink Spots: Jason Fritz) Commentary on the Army's changes to block junior officers and institute 360 degree evaluations: "Army is about to get much more serious about evaluating its officers. It could be to get ready to cull the herd once austerity measures are put in place. It could be a response to the toxic leadership surveys. It could be some general just wanted to do it. It could be all of these. Whatever the reasoning, these are good changes and I hope the Army makes more of them."

R2P is the New COIN

(Zenpundit: Mark Safranski) R2P is not a military doctrine, but like the rise of pop-centric COIN, it will be an electrifying idea that has the potential fire the imagination of foreign policy intellectuals, make careers for its bureaucratic enthusiasts and act as a substitute for the absence of a coherent American grand strategy.

R2P is NOT the new COIN

(Ink Spots: Gulliver) R2P is a legal concept and perhaps even a prescriptive guide to state action, but it's not a military mission. What are the "R2P tasks" for military forces that aren't already covered by offense, defense, and stability operations? There may be some additional responsibilities for operational and strategic leaders, but the tactical tasks are essentially those of combat operations, peacekeeping, and peace-enforcement.

CENTCOM AOR

Congresswoman Wants Ganjgal Ambush Investigated

(MSNBC: Ed Reilly) Kathy Hochul has sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee asking for a hearing into the deaths of five soldiers killed in 2009. The four marines and one soldier died after being caught in an ambush in the Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

Assassination Deals Blow to Peace Process in Afghanistan

(NYT: Alissa Rubin) An assassin with explosives hidden in his turban was ushered into the home of Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of Afghanistan's High Peace Council and a former president, on Tuesday, embraced him and then exploded the bomb, killing him and dealing a potentially devastating blow to the effort to reconcile with the Taliban and end 10 years of war.

U.S., other donors supported 90 percent of Afghan budget over five years

(WaPo: Jason Ukman) According to a new analysis by the Government Accountability Office, the United States and other donors funded 90 percent of Afghanistan's total public expenditures from 2006 to 2010. In fiscal 2010, the Kabul government's entire domestic revenues came out to about \$1.6 billion. Since 2002, the United States has allocated over \$72 billion to the mission in Afghanistan.

U.S. sharpens warning to Pakistan

(WaPo: Karen DeYoung) The Obama administration has sharply warned Pakistan that it must cut ties with a leading Taliban group based in the tribal region along the Afghan border and help eliminate its leaders, according to officials from both countries. In what amounts to an ultimatum, administration officials have indicated that the United States will act unilaterally if Pakistan does not comply. .