

MOAC: The Mother of All Columns

Ka-freakin' BOOM!

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Once again, I find myself writing about three of my favorite subjects: Aerial weapons, foreign policy, and silly congressional Democrats. All three to be mixed into a giggling stew of funness.

The GBU-43/B dropped in Afghanistan last week had precisely the desired effect (GBU = guided bomb unit). It killed a bunch of bad guys – 93 at last count, broke lots of their stuff, and injected the fear of hearing a C-130 flying overhead deep into their murderous minds. From that perspective, the cost of delivering 21,000 pounds of good-old American Whoop-ass was extremely cost effective.

The weapon dwarfs what we in the 48th Fighter Wing delivered from our superb F-111F fighter jets during Operation Desert Storm from the operations base in Saudi Arabia. The first weapons were dropped on hardened Iraqi Air Force aircraft shelters to knock out any jets hiding in them. The 2,000 pound GBU-10s were laser-guided and tossed in pairs from a 4-g pull-up AT NIGHT. It was, shall I say, a very interesting delivery method. It was frightening to say the least, but effective. Later, after air supremacy was achieved, the usual load was four GBU-12 500 pound LGBs that were one at a time on enemy tanks. In one case, it was a small herd of enemy goats. But that's another story...

The largest weapon we had was developed specifically for deep penetration of underground enemy bunkers and command centers. The GBU-28 used the same guidance laser guidance system as the previously-mentioned weapons but was turned from the barrel of a 5" naval gun. It weighed 5,000 pounds and was a challenge to carry because of the heavy load on one wing, so a 2,000 pound bomb was carried on the other wing for balance. Lieutenant Colonel Dave White was awarded a Silver Star for his supersonic "special delivery."

The largest weapon we had delivered up to now was a “daisy cutter” of about 10,000 pounds which was kicked-out of a C-130 to blast a dense forest into a helicopter landing zone. The blast was above-ground and pretty effective. Later, the technology was developed with more effective explosives which became the GBU-43 MOAB (Massive Ordnance Air Blast) which pulverized the bad guys last week with tremendous overpressure.

While the weapon and its technology are very significant, the very fact it was used is more so. If one listens to mainstream news media (I do not), you hear the buzz phrase “new sheriff in town” referring to President Trump. The fact that Trump has relieved battlefield commanders from stupid (and lethal for our troops) rules of engagement means that American warfighting will be done to win, and win bigly. Diplomatic patty-cake playing has therefore been de-emphasized significantly.

Cuddly communist countries like North Korea have taken notice. Or, more importantly, North Korea’s chief enabler, Communist China has taken notice and conveyed its disapproval of Kim Jung Un’s pugnacious, bellicose behavior. China turned-back several North Korean ships loaded with coal even after they had arrived at a Chinese port for off-loading of cargo. That was a slap in the face to Kim.

With America’s new-found assertiveness and clear willingness to fight properly and effectively when necessary, and to protect allies like South Korea, the diplomatic algorithms have a whole new set of variables tossed into the mix. International relations are complex, and stability is desirable. After all, it makes diplomacy lots easier even if it costs lives. Just look at how successful the United Nations has been at protecting people.

Now we have a president who is ready to negotiate, or fight. It’s the adversary’s choice.

Out of all this came the Democrats’ responses to the use of a very effective weapon. If there was a conservative Saturday Night Live, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) would surely figure as the butt of many skits and rightfully so.

Her reaction to the use of the MOAB was truly odd: “As is the case with every part of Trump’s foreign policy, we are all trying to understand: What is the policy? If we can’t figure out what it means, it’s sort of hard to make that message.” (TV interview aired on Fox News Channel)

Huh? This woman is a senator? Okay, here’s what it means. President Trump is listening to the right people. He is taking action which is not factoring-in political implications like the Obama administration almost solely did. Trump is listening to the people who actually know how to be effective in warfare and, thus, diplomacy: his general officer staff. Political hacks have never fared well in telling generals what to do. Ask Susan Rice and Valerie Jarrett.