

## CLOSE AIR SUPPORT WITH AND WITHOUT THE A-10 WILL US TROOPS GET THE HELP THEY NEED?

A Seminar on Supporting US Ground Forces in Combat,  
Fighting Effectively in Future Wars, and  
Acquiring Effective Hardware at Affordable Prices

Sponsored by  
the **Straus Military Reform Project** and  
the **Project On Government Oversight**

Time: Friday, November 22, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Root Room  
1779 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington DC

Please RSVP to [winslowwheeler@msn.com](mailto:winslowwheeler@msn.com) or [erosenkranz@pogo.org](mailto:erosenkranz@pogo.org); seating may be limited.

The seminar will be “on the record.”

### 9:30 – 10:30: **Close Air Support: How Important Is This Mission? What It Takes to Do it?**

Moderator: Danielle Brian, Executive Director, Project On Government Oversight

30 minute presentation by combat aviation designer [Pierre M. Sprey](#),

followed by a “Skeptical Push Back” question from aviation journalist [William Sweetman](#), Senior International Defense Editor at Aviation Week & Space Technology, asking about aviation technology and its combat application,

followed by general discussion with the audience.

10:30 - 10:45: Break

### 10:45 - 11:45: **Close Support, Maneuver, Combined Arms and Winning the Ground Battle.**

Moderator Danielle Brian, Executive Director, Project On Government Oversight

30 minute presentation by former DOD Director for Air Warfare [Charles E. \(Chuck\) Myers](#),

followed by “Skeptical Push Back” from former DASD and Col. [Mark Gunzinger](#) (USAF) of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments asking about the relative importance of tactical versus strategic bombing,

followed by general discussion with the audience.

12:00 – 12:45: Break for lunch – Provided.

12:45 – 2:15: **Combat Insights from the Troops on the Ground and the Pilots in the Air.**

Part 1, 45 Minutes:

Moderator: [Lt. Col. Greg Wilcox, USA, ret.](#)

One or more ground combat unit leaders will describe their recent combat experience receiving close air support from various platforms, including drones, high speed-high altitude fighters and bombers and A-10s. Each will briefly discuss what helped most; what didn’t—and what made the difference.

Questions/Discussion from audience.

Part 2, 45 minutes:

Moderator: John Tillson, Vietnam Veteran (armored cavalry), Pentagon Insider

Two A-10 pilots with multiple deployments to Afghanistan and/or Iraq will address their combat experiences: what worked and what didn’t; what characteristics an effective close air support platform should have—and what aspects of the plane are most essential.

Questions/Discussion from audience.

2:15 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 3:30: **Lessons Learned from Today and History: Keeping the A-10 in the DOD Inventory. What Would Be a Real Improvement?**

Moderator: Winslow Wheeler, Director Straus Military Reform Project

Joint presentation by former DOD Director of Operational Test & Evaluation [Thomas Christie](#), Pierre Sprey and Chuck Myers and discussion with the audience.

3:30 and Beyond: General discussion between interested audience members and seminar presenters on the day’s findings and follow-up actions.