



ASSOCIATION FOR



THE TOM SMITH NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

Dick Callaghan
President

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2008

New Mexico Chapter
TEL 505-992-1338
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UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

We will meet at 1130 hours on Wednesday, 9 April.
Log onto the Members only page for location.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER for APRIL 2008

The speaker for our April meeting will be Mr. Bruce Held. Mr. Held is Chief of Counterintelligence at Sandia National Laboratories, where he reports directly to the Laboratory Director.

Prior to becoming a Sandian, Mr. Held was a clandestine operations officer in the Central Intelligence Agency where he received the Intelligence Commendation Medal for "tenacity and extraordinary accomplishments during a period of hostilities".

Mr. Held served three times as a CIA Chief of Station in Asia, Latin America and Africa. He also served as Special Assistant to Anthony Lake, National Security Advisor to President Clinton, and as Special Assistant to George Tenet, the Director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Held holds an M.S. in Monetary Theory from the London School of Economics and a B.S. in Economics from the University of Minnesota. On the Foreign Service Institute scale of '0' to a maximum of '5', Mr. Held speaks and reads Japanese at the '4' level, French at the '4' level and Mandarin at the '2' level.

Mr. Held was born in 1952. He and his wife, Lani, have been married 29 years. They have three children ages 21, 17 and 10.

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING OF 12 MARCH

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Dolph Saenz led the members in a prayer, asking that our country, our families and our military forces continue to receive God's protection and blessings.

Next, President Dick Callaghan called for our luncheon guests to be introduced. They were: James and Connie Brose from Houston, TX, guests of Ruby Smith; Judy Mead, a retired Sandia Labs scientist and guest of Phil Mogen; Ronald Page, a retired FBI Special Agent; and William Riddle, a former computer science manager specializing in technology improvement planning at the Department of Defense, and currently a web-site developer. Following these introductions, Dick announced that Ron Page, Judy Mead and Bill Riddle had recently joined AFIO National and were joining our Chapter at today's meeting. We are delighted to have them as members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jean Yardumian, provided the members with a financial summary for the period 1 January to 12 March 2008. Our Chapter's bank balance as of 12 March was \$2,992.31. Within this balance is \$600 donated by members toward our Scholarship Fund for a deserving University of New Mexico (UNM) student in intelligence studies. (Joe Cantergiani is currently working with UNM officials to formalize this scholarship.)

672 La Viveza Court, Santa Fe, NM 87501-8905

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE
OFFICE
NATIONAL IMAGERY
AND MAPPING AGENCY
MARINE CORPS INTELLIGENCE
AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE
NAVY INTELLIGENCE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY

CHAPTER PRINTING

President Dick Callaghan reported how the company that printed our stationery could provide the same service to other Chapters. Dick believes that we are probably the only group within AFIO that has personalized stationery. Dick suggested posting the availability of this printing service on our WEB-SITE to enable other Chapters to contact the printer. Callaghan also said that other Chapters were free to use the same gold AFIO imprint as we do on all of our stationery.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Vice President Bob Clark had tentatively scheduled the Kirtland Air Force Base Commander to be our speaker, but because of other commitments, he had to postpone his visit until the May meeting.

We want to thank Chapter member, Tom Dyble, who stepped up to the plate and volunteered to be our substitute speaker for the 12 March meeting. Tom delivered a fascinating report on Morris Childs, often referred to as “Our Man in the Kremlin”, one of the FBI’s very successful operatives during the height of the Cold War.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Tom Dyble is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He served 22 years in the USAF, retiring in 1993 as a lieutenant colonel. Eight of those years were in HQ USAF assignments in R&D and Intelligence. Initially, he worked for the Director of Air Force Laboratories as the program element monitor for the Air Force High Energy Laser program. Later, he served on the staff of the Special Assistant for the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) program. His intelligence assignment was on the staff of the Director of Estimates as an all-source analyst for Soviet technology programs.

OPERATION SOLO

Todd K. Hulsey, a Supervisory Special Agent at the FBI’s Albuquerque Division, spoke to us at the 13 February meeting and, in his presentation, highlighted the FBI’s successful undercover operation during the Cold War period that targeted the Communist Party/USA. Tom Dyble provided us with additional information about that Cold War FBI success in going against the American Communist Party by summarizing a book, written by John Barron, a retired senior editor at Reader’s Digest, called Operation Solo: The FBI’s Man in the Kremlin; published by Regnery Publishers, Washington, D.C.

Operation Solo tracks the career of Morris Childs, principal deputy to American Communist Party Chief, Gus Hall.

Born in Kiev around the turn of the century, Moishe Chilovsky, (Morris Childs) fled to the U.S. in 1910 to escape the Czar’s secret police. At the Chicago Art Institute, Moishe, now Morris Childs, was influenced by radical leftist students and joined the United Communist Party of America when he was only 19. His party membership earned him a trip to Moscow in 1929 to attend the Lenin School for Revolutionaries. Returning to the U.S., he served on the Central Committee of the American Communist Party.

In the 1950s Morris was recruited by the FBI and at this time was the principal American Communist Party intermediary to the Soviet Politburo, whose members genuinely liked and trusted him.

From 1958 to 1977, Morris completed 52 missions under FBI control into the Soviet Union and other Communist countries. Because he was completely trusted and held in such high esteem by the Soviet Politburo, these missions saw Morris being given access to sensitive position papers on Soviet politics and the thinking of the top leadership which he then translated and passed on to the FBI. For more than 20 years, Soviet leaders, including Nikita Khrushchev, Leonid Brezhnev and Yuri Andropov treated Morris as an intimate friend.

Tom Dyble closed his presentation with a brief overview of some of the key reports that Morris provided to his FBI handlers under Operation Solo:

- a) The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis apparently traumatized Soviet leaders due to the resolve of President Kennedy and the suicidal recklessness of Premier Khrushchev.
- b) Following Pres. Kennedy's assassination, Morris was in Moscow and was privy to a high level KGB briefing for the Politburo that reviewed how before, during and after the time Oswald lived in the Soviet Union, the KGB never used him as an agent or informant. Morris believed they were telling the truth.
- c) The Sino-Soviet split was real with the possibility of a nuclear exchange not out of the question.
- d) Henry Kissinger relied on Morris's reports during Chinese-U.S. negotiations and the Salt Talks with the Soviets.
- e) Pres. Reagan and CIA director William Casey knew the Soviet economy was collapsing based on information in the Solo reports.

PHIL MOGEN

We want to recognize and commend long-time Chapter member and former Chapter President, Phil Mogen, who for a period of time was one of the FBI Special Agents responsible for the overall success of Operation Solo.

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President – Dick Callaghan
1st Vice President – Ron Cuellar
2nd Vice president/Programs – Bob Clark
2nd Vice president/Public Relations – Jerry Monahan
Secretary – Brendan O'Donovan
Treasurer – Jean Yardumian

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