



AFIO NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

Co-Presidents

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SEPTEMBER MEETING -- WED 9 SEPT 2015

“The Egg & I” -- 6909 Menaul Blvd (just East of Louisiana)

Sign In and Order Lunch: 11:00 / Pledge of Allegiance, Call to Order 11:30

Speaker: Mr. Eric Burkhart

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Intelligence, by someone who’s “been there, done that”

LOOKING AHEAD

This August Newsletter is part 1 of a catch-up campaign during our summer hiatus.

The principal reason for this edition is to give you sufficient advance notice to reserve this date for your September calendar. Mr. Burkhart is a retired CIA Officer living in Texas, where there is—remarkably—no AFIO Chapter. Texas’ void is our gain, as Mr. Burkhart has volunteered to travel here to speak to our group in September. Fortunately, Mr. Burkhart forwarded a Bio/Letter of Introduction, affording some insights into his past and apprising us of a book he has recently published. That letter is included as an attachment to this newsletter.

We have had a variety of excellent speakers over the past year, plus a very successful scholarship award, and are delighted to kick off the new AFIO New Mexico meeting year with this visit from Mr. Burkhart. You are invited to inform other Intelligence professionals in our area who may not be active AFIO members to attend this meeting. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Burkhart, next month.

OTHER INTELLIGENCE ISSUES OF NOTE

I was appalled to learn that Mr. Obama will release convicted spy Jonathan Pollard from his “life sentence” in a U.S. Federal Prison in November of this year. I suppose it would be crass to infer that there is some political basis for this, so I will refrain from further comment. I will be interested to hear what our Chapter Vice President, Rich Sullivan, might have to say about this.

Intelligence, writ large, is under great stress in these United States, especially since we must now be concerned not only with National Intelligence focused on international threats, but also with domestic intelligence, focused on growing internal threats from wannabe jihadists popping up in this country. Additionally, the extraordinary wave of anti-police sentiment, fomented by various groups aimed at pressing their own narrow causes (aided by elements of the Fourth Estate) is having a negative impact on the ability of Law Enforcement to do its job.

The view abroad is no more comforting. Iran, Syria, Russia, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nigeria, Yemen...you name it, there's unrest there that could affect us directly or indirectly. The challenges have probably never been greater, and neither has the need for more educated, experienced, broad-minded critical thinkers to populate our Intelligence agencies. I'm inclined to think that we can never meet these needs with contract personnel (as opposed to professionally trained, career-oriented folks), any more than we can meet military challenges without an adequate, trained military force.

Anyway, there's more to chew on than we'll ever have time for, but at least there's plenty of fodder to keep the meetings interesting!

Look for a follow-on Newsletter (2015-08.2) to recap our recent presentations and memorialize members who have passed away.

Respectfully submitted,
Co-Presidents Pete Bostwick and Mike Ford