



ASSOCIATION FOR
INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS
THE TOM SMITH NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

Dick Callaghan
President

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
January 2008

New Mexico Chapter
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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO 4 OF OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS

**INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION
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MARINE CORPS INTELLIGENCE
AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE
NAVY INTELLIGENCE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY

In this, our first Newsletter of 2008 we want to recognize and thank several Chapter members who volunteer their time to help in the preparation of the Newsletter. They are: Jean Yardumian; Joe Cantergiani; Al Baye and Pete Bostwick. Al Baye also maintains our Chapter's membership data base and prints the envelopes we use in our mailings.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING, * New week ******

Our meeting date has changed. Please see the **Members Only** section of the website for new date.

CHAPTER WEB SITE (www.afionm.org)
Now Open For Business

Thanks to the efforts of long-time Chapter member, Sam Shaw, our web site is up and running. Sam continues to fine tune it and welcomes suggestions from the membership about additional data we might want to display on the site.

REMINDER

Please check to ensure that your membership in AFIO National is current. AFIO policy states that all local Chapter members must also be current members of the National organization in McLean, Virginia.

THE CHINESE THREAT: A WAKE-UP CALL

With so much attention and energy focused on the Middle East and South West Asia, Pentagon strategists and planners might be overlooking somewhat the continuing buildup and modernization of the Communist Chinese military. We reported recently the aggressive intelligence collection efforts by an agency of the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) here inside this country. The PLA is a financial backer to some 3,000 small to medium technical firms scattered throughout the U.S. whose main purpose apparently is to front for the collection of state-of-the-art scientific and technical research data that can be transferred to the Chinese Military.

CHINESE SUB SURFACES IN MIDDLE OF U.S. FLOTILLA

A recent report about a Naval incident near southern Japan and Taiwan underscores how the Chinese military has achieved an exceptional level of sophistication.

A 160ft. Chinese Song Class diesel-electric attack submarine surfaced at the heart of a recent U.S. Navy carrier battle group exercise in the Pacific. The Chinese submarine apparently slipped past a dozen American warships including two submarines and an electronic shield, all designed to protect this carrier battle group from hostile aircraft or submarines. It is understood that the Chinese sub sailed close enough that it could have fired torpedoes or missiles at the USS Kitty Hawk - a 1000 ft super carrier with a crew of 4,500.

This incident has forced a major re-think of Naval strategy as the Pentagon apparently had no idea that China's submarine fleet was at this level of sophistication, or that it posed such a threat.

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING of 28 NOVEMBER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Adolph Saenz took the floor to lead in a prayer of thanksgiving for the fellowship we all enjoy as members of AFIO; he also asked that our combat troops and our country be protected.

At the request of Bob Clark, the members - with a show of hands - formerly appointed Dolph to be our Chaplain. Our long-time and esteemed Chaplain Emeritus, Albert D. Rice, retired earlier this year - as most of you know.

Bob Clark then welcomed and introduced one of our newest Chapter members and our distinguished guest speaker, Edna V. Fowler, who would speak to us about the Cuban Revolution.

Edna remembers well that momentous time in the late 1950's when a small band of revolutionaries changed the course of Cuban history forever.

The time was 2:00 AM, New Years Eve, 1959, when Cuban President, Fulgencio Batista, a close ally of the U.S., hurriedly left a New Year's party to board a military plane with his family and fled Havana in the nick of time. Advance elements of a rebel force were close at his heels.

The short, plump and macho Batista had ruled Cuba with an iron fist for the past seven years and was now leaving behind the largest army he had ever commanded, some forty-six thousand soldiers, including fifteen thousand new recruits.

As incredulous as it seems today, a rag tag band of poorly equipped guerrillas - never numbering more than 2,500 - and led by a charismatic ex-baseball player were poised on New Year's Eve 1959 to seize power and take over the capital of Cuba.

Edna Fowler knows this momentous time only too well as she had just completed a five-year assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. Edna was an assistant to our Air Attaché serving as his social secretary and interpreter. She also served as VIP escort to dignitaries visiting the embassy. Edna was assigned to the Havana Embassy during the same time frame that Batista was in power.

NEW MEXICO NATIVE

As a child, Edna Fowler spent her early childhood years growing up in Eastern New Mexico near the village of Santa Rosa, until drought and an economic downturn caused her family to pull-up roots and move northwest to the high plains of New Mexico and the relatively prosperous town of Las Vegas, where her father worked as a school teacher. Graduating from secondary school in Las Vegas, New Mexico, she work several years

for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at Sandia Base here in Albuquerque. She worked in the AEC Security office reviewing FBI background investigations of potential new employees and also managed the controlled visitor access to the facility.

Having an innate sense of adventure, Edna traveled to Washington, D.C. in October 1952 and applied for an overseas federal job. With her work experience at the AEC, her security clearance and Spanish language fluency, Edna was a natural choice for assignment to Latin America, and she received a posting to our embassy in Havana.

Looking back at the Cuban Revolution, it appeared to Edna at the time that- as is so often the case - Washington may have misread the situation on the ground and not realized how vulnerable Batista was. Like the Shah of Iran, his power and support were limited to the capital city and extended only marginally to the countryside.

She believes we could have stabilized the situation and saved Batista by starting an anti-Castro movement beginning with a heavy dose of psychological warfare to counter some of the favorable press Castro was receiving in the U.S. He was viewed in some quarters here as a kind of Latin hero.

Today, Edna believes that after Castro passes from the scene, U.S. policy might still be unbending with continuing Congressional support for maintaining an embargo and discouraging most tourist visits to the Island. She cites the all powerful South Florida anti-Castro lobby as setting the tone for U.S. relations with the Island over the past 40-years and sees no change coming.

NEW MEMBER

We want to welcome aboard our newest Chapter member, Todd K. Hulsey, a Supervisory Special Agent at the FBI's Albuquerque Division.

IN MEMORIAM

President Dick Callaghan closed our meeting by calling for a moment of silence for Adolph Saenz's grandson, Christopher Alejandro Saenz, 16, who died of injuries sustained from a vehicular accident here in Albuquerque this past October.

REMINDER

Watch for your e-mail Newsletter next month. (Those members without computers will continue to receive regular mailings)

Dick Callaghan - President
Bob Clark - First Vice President
Jerry Monahan - Second Vice President/Public Relations
Brendan O'Donovan - Secretary
Jean Yardumian - Treasurer