

Association For Intelligence Officers

The Tom Smith New Mexico Chapter

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President

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JANUARY MEETING -- WED JAN 9, 2013

WHERE: "The Egg & I" at 6909 Menaul Blvd NE (just East of Louisiana)

Sign in and order lunch at 1100 Hrs - Call to Order NLT 1145 Hrs - Adjourn at 1300

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Many thanks to Mr. Frank Dean for a very interesting talk on EMP threats (real and imagined) to our infrastructure, cars, cell phones, computers, and so forth. His background with Sandia Labs and as one of the authors of the Congressional Report on EMP gives him serious "street creds" on this esoteric subject. His principal point was that speculation about a nuclear air burst that would immobilize our entire nation is way off the mark, and he used a sledgehammer, a carpenter's hammer and a tack hammer to make the point that most known EMP threats are, relatively speaking, of the tack hammer variety...a way better illustration of his point than death by PowerPoint. He did allude, in the usual scientist's oblique manner, to work being done on delivery methods that could be more precisely targeted than the nuclear air burst. And guess what? Shortly after his presentation, a TV news story covered—you guessed it—a drone-fired missile that could be targeted at multiple sites along its flight path to discharge EMP bursts that would take out communications and power in discrete locations like cities or _____ (us military guys could fill in this blank in many ways). I was surprised, actually, to see this rendering and animation of an EMP weapon under development, but since it has become a current topic of interest, someone obviously thought it would be a good idea to float this to the public. Well, good for our scientists, and thanks again to Mr. Dean for sharing his knowledge with us.

**GOODBYE TO A TURBULENT 2012, AND WELCOME (LIKE IT OR NOT)
TO A TROUBLESOME 2013.**

My college Political Science Professor would have loved this tumult—dictatorships coming and going, Middle Eastern countries unraveling, Islamic radicals in the ascendance, Europeans rioting in the streets as though their profligate expenditures and government doles should not have been brought to their attention in their lifetimes, and a government in our own capitol that has spawned the term "ineptocracy." He would be waxing eloquent about cybernetic theory, negative and positive feedback, muddled perceptions, unintended consequences, and unrealistic expectations. While academics and analysts are spinning themselves into the overhead with theories and wishful thinking, however, we ordinary mortals are left to wonder if anyone is really at the helm of this supertanker, and what new threat might be preparing to rear its ugly head within our own borders.

It can be difficult—or at least vexing—to try to correlate unrest abroad with possible consequences for the United States. Although, in my opinion, the Intelligence Community has become bloated, and too many people hold TS/SCI clearances, I still thank God for our core Intelligence professionals, because it's unlikely anyone else in the national collection of "leaders" has the wherewithal or the wits to sort out the signals from the noise and keep us safe in an increasingly obstreperous world. Rockets raining down on Israel, weapons flowing to Hamas and Hezbollah from Libya and Iran, and a sea change in Egyptian leadership are only symptoms of broader currents seeking to undermine American exceptionalism, American power, and American influence. Iraq is stumbling on its path to stability, Afghanistan could slide right back into the Taliban abyss we had hoped to stamp out, Iran is implacable in its pursuit of some nuclear capability other than electric power, Russia has abandoned the Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, North Korea doggedly pursues development its own missile capability, and China intends not only to shut off South China Sea commerce, exploration and exploitation, but also to develop a navy that can, ultimately, exclude US naval power from the region. On top of that, everyone is watching—some anxiously, some hopefully—the decline of the US Dollar, and gold looks to become much more popular in some national treasuries.

To say these are trying times might be an understatement. Of course, there are always trying times, somewhere, but the pressures on us, here at home, seem to be multiplying more rapidly than we can absorb them. We—all of us—need to be vigilant just to preserve our freedoms and maintain some semblance of balance and leadership in stormy international seas. Radicals and misguided media can always stir the pot by grabbing headlines, but let us all remember that the real work of maintaining order and fostering progress is done by those with integrity, ingenuity, and guts, and by those who can maintain a steady course to keep the economy, and the government, on track. Heaven help us if those who are self-seeking, hungry for power, and willing to use the resources of others to achieve their own goals succeed, because the threats to all of us then become more real.

Professionals—that is, real professionals—need to stay well informed and active, to help others remain or become informed, and to assert the common sense that is so often lacking in popular discussion. Sounds like a mission for AFIO members, doesn't it?

With that, it's a wrap for 2012! I wish each and every one of you the very best in 2013 (the Year of the Snake), and hope you will all remain active in this stellar organization. We seek facts, we respect opinions, we reject propaganda, and we honor truth.

God bless you all, and God bless America,

B. E. Pete Bostwick, Jr.;
President, AFIO New Mexico Chapter