



AFIO NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

Co-Presidents

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FEB MEETING -- WED MAR 11, 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: LCDR Damon Runyan, USN (Ret.)

**On the Christening and Commissioning of the USS New Mexico (SSN-779)
(Biography attached, FYI)**

FEBRUARY RECAP:

Very good attendance this month. Present were: Al BAYE, Cap BEADLE*, Pete BOSTWICK, Joe CANTERGIANI, Tom DYBLE, John ELIAS*, Mike and Lynn FORD, Ken MOORHEAD, Ron PAGE, Hamid RAD, Sam SHAW, Sgt Ferris SIMMONS (APD)*, Rich SULLIVAN, Joe and Jean YARDUMIAN. (* indicates Guest).

Sgt Simmons provided a good deal of insight into current APD (Albuquerque Police Dept) challenges and successes. While everyone knows APD is now operating under an agreement with the Dept. of Justice stemming from perceived use-of-force issues, it is clear that the APD is no more or less challenged than many other Law Enforcement agencies around the country. Even acknowledging APD problems, Sgt Simmons provided a solid reminder that most police officers—here and elsewhere—are professionals truly dedicated to the credo of “Serve and Protect.” These are men and women who routinely put themselves in harm’s way to protect the rest of us. In too many instances, their duties require them to be as combat-ready as those of us who have served in the military. Demographics and economics have all but obliterated the bygone emphasis on, and opportunities for, the “community policing” approach that once put officers into the community on foot or bicycle, interacting with ordinary citizens and, by their presence, providing both the perception and reality of a shield against criminals. Sgt Simmons’ accounting of current conditions in the City of Albuquerque put into perspective the effects of shrinking budgets, assaults on department morale, a persistent gang presence, expanding drug use, and systemic failures to deal with impaired drivers. We appreciate Sgt Simmons’ professionalism and dedication, and the opportunity to hear about APD today. It was a lively dialogue.

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

We are moving forward! We have received two submissions from Prof. Gilfeather’s National Securities Studies Program and UNM, and are waiting input from the ROTC program. The deadline for all input is 30 March. The intention is to have all papers rated by 5 April, allowing us to make the award at the April meeting (SAVE THE DATE!!!).

Respectfully submitted, Co-Presidents Pete Bostwick and Mike Ford