



ASSOCIATION FOR



THE TOM SMITH NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

Dick Callaghan
President

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

New Mexico Chapter
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UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

We will meet at 1130 hours on Wednesday, 14 May. See the Members Only section for location details.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER FOR MAY 2008

The Commander of nearby Kirtland Air Force Base had been scheduled to be our guest speaker, but because of his Air Force responsibilities he has had to postpone his presentation until our June meeting.

As of press time, Bob Clark was working to arrange for a substitute speaker.

RON CUELLAR

Since our last meeting, Pete Bostwick has been in contact with Chapter Vice President, Ron Cuellar, who is responding very well to the cancer treatment he is receiving in Texas. Ron remains in good spirits and enjoys keeping abreast of the activities of our Chapter.

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING OF 9 APRIL

Our April luncheon meeting saw some 30 members and guests in attendance. That turnout attests to the effectiveness of the Chapter's recent promotional efforts by Bob Clark, Jerry Monahan and Dick Callaghan.

As many of you are aware, Jerry Monahan has been using Public Service Announcements in the local print media to advertise our Chapter. He includes his phone number in those ads so readers can call him for additional information. Jerry reports that those inquiries have increased over the past few months. At the same, Bob Clark has been mailing out recruiting letters to a cross section of government, business and social contacts he has in the Santa Fe and Albuquerque areas. Included

**INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATIONS
DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
US MARSHALS SERVICE
US POSTAL SERVICE
US COAST GUARD
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE
OFFICE
NATIONAL IMAGERY
AND MAPPING AGENCY
MARINE CORPS INTELLIGENCE
AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE
NAVY INTELLIGENCE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY

in Bob's mailing list are New Mexico residents who are members of AFIO National but have never contacted our Chapter. Chapter President, Dick Callaghan, annually sends out personalized AFIO calendars with promotional posters and informational brochures to New Mexico's law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

We can report that ten new members have joined our Chapter so far in 2008 because of those promotional efforts described above.

DICK CALLAGHAN

President Callaghan opened the April meeting by calling on long-time Chapter member, Bill Young, who led the membership and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Dick then called for a moment of Silence, continuing, Callaghan welcomed our luncheon guests – inviting them to stand and be recognized. They were: Gary Georgia, a retired Albuquerque Police Department detective with 18 years experience in the department's intelligence unit. Detective Georgia is considered an expert on motorcycle gangs; Ruby Baca, an FBI Special Agent assigned to Sandia National Labs; Deborah A. Meeks-Nixon, training and awareness specialist at the Department of Energy's Counterintelligence Training Academy (CITA) at Kirtland AFB; Richard Schlimme and Donald J. Fingleton, both instructors at Kirtland's CITA.

Next, Callaghan turned the podium over to Bob Clark who explained how with the help of Ruby Ellen Smith, he had begun mailing out recruiting letters to retired FBI Special Agents – inviting them to join our AFIO New Mexico Chapter.

Bob Clark then called on Chapter Treasurer, Jean Yardumian, who reported that as of 9 April, 2008, our bank balance stood at 2,936.16. Jean also reminded us about the annual Chapter dues and suggested that members pay the \$10.00 fee at our upcoming May or June meetings since we are taking a Summer Break this year during the months of July and August. The yearly Chapter dues are delinquent if not paid by 1 August.

GUEST SPEAKER

Following the Treasurer's report, Bob Clark introduced our distinguished luncheon speaker, Bruce Held. During his CIA career, Mr. Held was a clandestine operations officer and served as a Chief of Station in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Upon his retirement from CIA, Sandia National Labs recruited him to be their Chief of Counterintelligence. While at CIA, Mr. Held was honored with the Intelligence Commendation Medal for "Tenacity and extraordinary accomplishments during a period of hostilities".

In his opening remarks, Mr. Held said that he had great respect and admiration for one of our esteemed Chapter members, the late Sam Papich. Sam was a legend within the nation's intelligence

community where he served as the FBI's Chief Liaison Officer to Central Intelligence. Sam's exceptional interpersonal skills produced a relatively smooth working relationship between the country's two premier security agencies during the height of the Cold War era – when cooperation was most needed. In an aside, our speaker reported how he had represented CIA at Sam's internment in Butte, Montana, his boyhood home.

Continuing, Mr. Held reminisced about how New Mexico is a place of great historical significance to the Russian People. Wartime Santa Fe was -- in the eyes of many Russians -- a place where their espionage service, the NKVD, had its finest hour.

Despite the U.S. Army's overwhelming security screen and the compartmented nature of the work within Los Alamos, itself, the NKVD took every thing they needed. The Army's security screen extended from Los Alamos into Santa Fe where it is believed the city's landmark hotel, La Fonda, was taken over by Army Intelligence – with agents manning the front desk, restaurants and even the bell hop and housekeeping positions.

Despite all the extraordinary wartime security measures to protect the Manhattan Project, Soviet Intelligence is believed to have operated a popular drug store in downtown Santa Fe that may have served as a kind of command post for their NKVD operatives.

Mr. Held views this wartime Soviet espionage success in Santa Fe as probably the greatest intelligence coup of the twentieth century, and he believes that in its own way it marked the beginning of the Cold War.

The speaker went on to describe two summer days in 1945 when key atomic secrets from Los Alamos were passed to Harry Gold, an American working as a courier for the NKVD.

On Saturday, 3 June 1945, David Greenglass, a machinist and Communist sympathiser working at Los Alamos, passed atomic bomb blueprints and his own sketches to Harry Gold as they walked past each other on the Paseo de Peralta bridge in Santa Fe. The next day they met in Albuquerque at 209 N. High Street, an apartment leased by the NKVD. The meeting began with the exchange of torn pieces of a Jello box to assure each person's bona fides. Later analysis of Soviet message traffic to Moscow revealed that master atomic spy, Julius Rosenberg, was also at that meeting.

Our speaker explained how during the war years, Soviet intelligence transmissions to Moscow used one-time pads for encoding messages. That system is unbreakable when used once. For a short interval toward the end of the war, the Soviet Embassy could not get supplies from Moscow and used up all of their one-time pads. Having to use these pads multiple times permitted our side to decode the Soviet transmissions and confirm the details of the NKVD's full court press to take what they needed out of Los Alamos.

EDWARD LEE HOWARD

Bringing us fast forward to the 1980's, Mr.Held reported on a modern-day spy story with New Mexico connections. In 1985, Edward Lee Howard was working as an economist in Santa Fe with the State's Legislative Finance Committee when he saw an opportunity to elude Federal surveillance and take off for Moscow.

Mr Howard was a former CIA officer forced to resign in 1983 after he failed a polygraph examination. He was also known to have a serious drinking problem. Unfortunately for our side, he was being trained at CIA to take over a critical project in Moscow when he was terminated.

That project involved tapping into a cable line from a soviet research complex to the Ministry of Defense. Howard's job would be to remove a manhole cover on a Moscow street once a month and attach a recording device to the communications cable beneath the street.

Although under 7x24 surveillance by the FBI in Santa Fe, Howard was able to set up a dummy in the passenger side of his car and roll out of the front seat while his wife was maneuvering the car around a sharp curve on a secondary street that also had heavy foliage. He then made his way to Moscow and spilled the beans to the KGB on the manhole project. After his escape, the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board criticized the CIA for its hiring , screening and dismissal of Mr. Howard and the FBI for allowing him to elude agents while he was under 7x24 surveillance.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

At the May meeting Joe Cantergiani will present the draft of the annual intelligence scholarship we will be funding at the University of New Mexico. He is E-Mailing the comments he has received from the members based on the draft he E-Mailed earlier.

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