

*Association For Intelligence Officers*



*The Tom Smith New Mexico Chapter*

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President

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**APRIL MEETING**

Next meeting - Wednesday, 9 May 2012

Marcello's Chophouse, Albuquerque Uptown

**11:15 AM:** Arrive, Sign in, Order Lunch      **11:45 AM:** Call To Order

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

One of the more interesting recent news items was the announcement that the Department of Defense plans to organize and field a covert Intelligence arm. This has long been bruited about, and now, acting on a study conducted by DNI James Clapper, the services look likely to get their own clandestine service. This is likely to cause some heartburn among members and supporters of the other, long established Intelligence Agency with an established history of covert ops, but I believe there are good reasons for establishing a dedicated military covert program. The Pentagon has goals and equities distinct and separate from those of the CIA, and I reckon the nation's overall security posture would be greatly strengthened by a covert military capability. There will be overlap, of course, but these forces should be complementary rather than competitive, and—ultimately—cooperation should not only be strengthened, but should become the norm. Expect lots of gnashing of teeth on the Hill as this proposal works its way through the various bureaucracies, but, personally, I hope it comes to fruition. Kudos to General Clapper (OK, Director Clapper, though he'll always be General to me) for floating the concept. As I've said before, the DNI position is fraught with pitfalls, but if anyone can make it work, my money's on Director Clapper—one of only a handful of really experienced, well rounded Intelligence professionals in this country's arsenal.

**APRIL MEETING NOTES**

We were pleased to welcome Jerry Monahan back to the meetings, as well as three guests: Thomas McGrane, Ron Panebouef, and Tom Elmhorst (hope I got all those spelled correctly). Additionally, Mike Ford, Joe and Jean Yardumian, Rich Sullivan, Al Baye, Sam Shaw and Joe Cantergiani were there for a continuation of the previous discussion of the trials, tribulations and misdeeds of a number of top DHS (Dept. of Homeland Security) Intelligence personnel. While DHS has dismissed several officials whose misconduct became media fodder, it still seems they're only the tip of a filthy iceberg. We'd be interested in knowing if anyone at our national HQ, or in Chapters closer to the flagpole than us desert rats, is also discussing these events. In any case, members or visitors who have been active in background investigations or in counterintelligence continue to provide insights into how such shoddy personnel actions can occur. If nothing else, the meetings have sure become more spirited, and we encourage wider participation by professionals who have something to add (all for non-attribution, of course).

## **THE MAY MEETING – SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS!**

We are pleased to announce that the 9 May meeting will be devoted to the 2012 presentation of the Richard L. Callaghan Memorial Intelligence Scholarship Awards. This year's successful applicants from the UNM Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program are:

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| --- Cadet Celina Gallegos   | Army ROTC        |
| --- Cadet Mary E. Bourgeois | Air Force ROTC   |
| --- MIDN Andrea Felipe      | Navy ROTC        |
| --- MIDN Steven Fitzwater   | Navy/Marine ROTC |

These young officers-to-be and their military faculty advisors have been invited to join us for lunch at Marcello's Chop House, with presentations to follow.

I cannot stress enough the hard work done not only by these cadets/midshipmen and the ROTC Faculty, but also by our dedicated, volunteer Scholarship Committee: Joe Cantergiani (Chairman), Joe Yardumian, and Sam Shaw. Thanks not only to them, but for the terrific support from AFIO National Headquarters, whose contributions to our Scholarship Fund have enabled us to provide meaningful stipends to four deserving students for three years in a row.

### **PERSONNEL NOTES:**

**Al Abbott** marches on toward his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**Brendan O'Donovan** has overcome a draining bout with cancer—due partly, I'm sure, to his wonderful, resilient attitude—and has resumed his hobby of painting. We're glad you're doing so well, Brendan, and it is still true that no one has yet been willing to try to fill your shoes as the Recording Secretary.

**Ron Cuellar**, to the best of my knowledge, continues to maintain order in and around San Angelo, TX, when he's not keeping his grandkids in line. I've been remiss about contacting him, lately, but I'm confident he has not lost his interest in current affairs or his sense of humor. We all wish you were here, Ron, to keep us thinking straight.

**Edna Fowler** is one of those octogenarians who wishes her body was still as agile as her mind. Her mobility is somewhat impaired, making it difficult for her to attend the meetings, but her interest in our activities remains keen. Of note, she is presently engaged in writing a book about her experiences...that should be interesting, if she's allowed to publish it!

See you all at the meeting on Wed May 9, 2012, at Marcello's Chop House.

Respectfully yours,

Pete Bostwick  
Chapter President