

Association For Intelligence Officers

The Tom Smith New Mexico Chapter

B.E. "Pete" Bostwick, Jr.
President

Tel: 505-898-2649
Email: foreigndevil@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, 10 November 2010

Marcello's Chop House, 2201 Q St, Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87110-2055
(505) 837-2467

11:00 AM: Lunch - order from the menu

11:30 AM: Call To Order

President's Corner:

First, please note the change of venue for the luncheon. The Tamaya location apparently didn't appeal to the members, so we'll try something closer to the heart of the metro area. I'm indebted to Mike Ford for suggesting Marcello's Chop House, which is located in the new ABQ Uptown center, and which Jerry Monahan and his wife checked out for us.

Once again, to my chagrin, I will be unable to attend a meeting. My apologies to all, and I hope you will attend this meeting and show your support for the Chapter. This brings me to a key point....

I highly encourage all NM Chapter members to attend this meeting, as Vice President Jerry Monahan is going to begin a dialogue on the future of the Chapter. People attend these meetings (or don't) for various reasons, and I'm very interested in gaining insight into what factors members consider when deciding whether or not to show up. Our declining attendance is cause for concern, so I've asked Jerry to begin gathering information on which we can base proposals for where to go from here. I've put together a short questionnaire for everyone to take a look at, and I'd appreciate it if every member would take a few minutes to respond to this survey. Straight-from-the-shoulder feedback would be appreciated. ALSO – If you have other input on Chapter issues, please feel free to address it to me, or give it to Jerry Monahan or our Treasurer, Judith Mead.

On the Intel side, the recent discovery of IEDs made from printer toner cartridges, and intended for air shipment from Yemen to U.S. targets, validates in dramatic form the fact that the War on Terror is far from over. Kudos to the Intelligence services (especially, perhaps, those of the U.K.) and to law enforcement for swift and effective follow-up. Additionally, continuing discoveries of foreign-born American citizens who blame the U.S. for perceived wrongs against other countries or religions, and who intend to do this country harm in retaliation, are going to be a growing problem for our nation. We cannot afford to let down our guard.

The situation in Iraq defies stabilization, and the outlook for Afghanistan remains a toss-up. Iran is jogging along toward a nuclear capability that will be inimical to Middle East peace prospects, while Hugo Chavez and his South American acolytes are in the market for advanced weapons systems and more control of their countries' wealth generators. Closer to home, Mexico remains mired in wars with the cartels, with the attendant spread of civilian casualties and brutal murders of politicians, police officers, and rival drug gangs.

In broad terms, there is no shortage of issues for experienced Intelligence Officers to sink their teeth into, and to try to offer context and background to a largely uninformed public. We have not made any serious efforts to engage, professionally, in public education or dialogue. Something to think about...?

If you have any questions, please contact Vice President Jerry Monahan in my absence, at 242-9857.

Looking Ahead:

If you're up for it, I would like to have a meeting on Wed 8 December, to stir up some holiday spirit, acknowledge those members who are no longer with us, and kick around the schedule for next year. If there is general agreement on a get-together at that time, I'll begin working on it as soon as I return from the east coast in mid-November.

Personnel Matters:

Ruby Ellen Smith now finds it more difficult to get around. We may not have the pleasure of her company at our monthly meetings. She is well but not very mobile, and her daughter is looking after her. We continue to wish Ruby the best.

Edna Fowler may not be able to drive at the moment, but she remains interested and engaged, as always. If anyone lives near her Los Ranchos neighborhood at El Pueblo and Rio Grande Blvd, and can offer her a ride, I know she would appreciate it.

Ron Cuellar remains well informed and interested, and maintains a high level of awareness of international and US national security affairs. His health is better than one might expect and his inimitable sense of humor remains intact.

Brendan O'Donovan seems to be recovering well, and our thoughts are with him as he resumes his activities.

Respectfully yours,
Pete Bostwick