

Association For Intelligence Officers

The Tom Smith New Mexico Chapter

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President

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NOVEMBER MEETING – Wed Nov 14, 2012

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

SPEAKER: Mr. Tim Roberts, Dept. of the Air Force Civilian

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On behalf of the Chapter, I would like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Bill Overmier for his insightful, modest, and moving account of the three years he spent as a POW in Corregidor (Bataan) and Japan. It was an honor to have him share those wartime experiences with us, and we are fortunate to have had such an opportunity. Thanks very much, Bill, and we hope to see you at more Chapter meetings.

On a personal note, I will be out of town, at a reunion of one of the Battalions of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) that was heavily involved in the vicious Ia Drang battle in Vietnam, on which the movie, "We Were Soldiers Once, and Young" is based. I will miss this good presentation, and the camaraderie that goes with our meetings, but I wish each of you a good Veterans' Day, and I salute all of you for your service.

OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Mr. Timothy D. Roberts is, as the lead paragraph of his biography says, "... the lead instructor for Security Forces Ground Combat Readiness and Airman Expeditionary Combat Skills Training for the 377th Security Forces Group, and installation deployers, Kirtland AFB, NM." That rather sparse statement does not, however, begin to do justice to his long and varied career, including with Army Special Forces. He has considerable background in fields we're all familiar with, and remains active today, not only in his position at Kirtland AFB, but as a reservist with the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) at Ft. Bragg, NC. I think it's fair to say the Chapter is in for another very informative and interesting presentation. I have asked our webmaster, Sam Shaw, to post Mr. Roberts' full bio on the website.

CURRENT ISSUES

As usual, no shortage of issues. Benghazi, anyone? The chronology of the Benghazi attack and the responses to it is disturbing, but will nonetheless be familiar to anyone who has been in combat. As those of us from the Intelligence Community know well, first reports are (almost) always wrong. But the tangled web of

communications associated with this attack, the delays in information-sharing, and the historic issues of interagency cooperation and lines of responsibility for preparation and response, seem to indicate we still have some work to do at the joint task force level. Political gobbledygook aside, I am greatly concerned about the Intelligence sharing and communications issues raised by this debacle. In addition, we should also pay attention to al Qaeda involvement with the Syrian rebels, Iranian uranium enrichment, directions in which the Muslim Brotherhood is leaning, in Egypt; Mr. Putin's predictable consolidation of his dictatorial powers in Russia (with yet to be determined consequences for the former Soviet states on the periphery), and the contrast between potentially diminished American sea power and the growth of a more assertive and capable Chinese Navy. If that's not enough for you, check out the potential for renewed unrest in Thailand (inevitable death of the ailing King and potential return of the troublesome Mr. Thaksin, the deposed and currently banished former Prime Minister); Burma's stumble on the path to openness in the Rakhine State; the nascent peace agreement of the Manila government with the long-running Muslim insurgents in the Southern Philippines; and our uneasy relations with the nuclear-armed but poorly governed Pakistani state. Ha! No end of topics to engage the Intelligence cognoscenti! Stay informed, keep your gray cells active, and look for ways to prod a lazy populace into more awareness of this country's myriad national security threats and interests.

On those happy notes, I bid you adieu until the following meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Bostwick
Chapter President

P.S. Despite the fact that our own Ron Paneboeuf has been elected to the Board of the NM Veterans Monument (congratulations, Ron!) I'm still seeking feedback from other members who might be willing to volunteer periodically at the Monument. If individual members would like to volunteer, even on an irregular basis, that would reflect well on the Chapter.