

Association For Intelligence Officers

The Tom Smith New Mexico Chapter

Pete Bostwick
President

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CHAPTER NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2009

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There doesn't seem to be any shortage of national security issues for us to discuss, but let me toss out a current problem for your consideration.

I think we should be very concerned about the debate over how to approach the conflict in Afghanistan. I recognize that there are both political and military considerations, and neither offers a clear-cut path to success. But I do believe the course we choose will have major, long term consequences for our country. Gen McChrystal deserves great credit for providing a straightforward assessment, but the outcome of the Afghanistan debate is uncertain.

One element of the overall situation, in my opinion, muddies the debate over potential courses of action. I ask you to think about the use of the term "insurgency" to characterize Taliban activity, because I believe it's incorrect. Those of you who may have followed COIN Ops (or been involved in them) know that an insurgency is essentially a rebellion against a lawfully constituted government. In other words, insurgencies have traditionally been regarded as internal conflicts. The continuing rebellion in the southern Philippines and the (hopefully) concluded Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka are only two of many current examples. My point is that the Taliban are only one element of a wider radical Islamic focus on terrorizing and destroying those who do not agree with their jihadist views. This is not a conflict restricted to Afghanistan; it has a global reach and is, in fact, a war against a multifaceted movement for whom we Americans are only one of many targets. Look around the globe and see how many places you can identify where Islamic terrorists pose a current threat.

This is not to say that we should shoulder the responsibility for countering these threats on our own. We should not, but neither should we shy away from providing a leadership role in a shared effort to counter this threat. Consider, if you will, the possible outcomes of a US withdrawal from Afghanistan. This is not a counter-insurgency issue; it is a counter-terrorism issue that knows no borders. Perhaps we can kick this around.

Respectfully, Pete Bostwick

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you all for paying your dues. I appreciate the response to my request to get your dues in for this year. There are only a few folks who have not yet paid and I hope to contact them. Remember, dues for next year should be paid before July 1, 2010. Thanks again for your response.

Judith Mead, Treasurer

OCTOBER MEETING

Our next Chapter luncheon will be **at 11:30 am on Wednesday, 14 October**. We will again meet at the **Calico Cantina/Vernon's Steak House** on the west side of 4th Street, about ½ mile north of Osuna. The address is 6855 4th Street and our meeting place is the back room behind the package store.

NEW MEMBER

We want to welcome aboard our newest Chapter member, James Brockway. James' intelligence background was the U.S. Air Force, where he served some 12 years. His specialty was electronic intelligence.

2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

This year's Fall Symposium will be the first AFIO has hosted outside the Washington, D.C., area for some time. This Las Vegas, NV, event is to be co-sponsored by the Department of Energy, and features presentations on atomic weapons testing and airborne reconnaissance platforms such as the Predator – currently deployed in the Middle East. The convention will be headquartered at Harrah's Hotel from 13 to 16 October 2009. Most of the scheduled field trips will be to facilities in and around Nellis Air Force Base.

As he has done on four previous occasions, long-time Chapter member, Jim Hoffsis, will be representing our Chapter at this national event, and we look forward to hearing his report on this very special AFIO Symposium.

CHAPTER MEETING - September 2009

President - Pete Bostwick

Beginning our Chapter luncheon promptly at 11:30 am with the Pledge of Allegiance and a brief prayer, Pete said that he wanted to tighten up future Chapter meetings where a speaker is given the spotlight almost immediately and allowed to complete his or her presentation while we are eating and before any other Chapter activities take place. Pete noted that with this kind of luncheon format in place, our guest speakers can return to their workplace without undue delay, if they so wish. Bostwick continued by laying out some ideas to energize our Chapter by attracting new members from Santa Fe and Los Alamos. He suggested we consider participating periodically in meetings of the Council on International Relations, based in Santa Fe. He said this group boasts a membership of some 700 professionals, from education, science, business and intelligence. Pete is a member of the group himself. He believes that establishing a foot-hold with such an organization can only increase the visibility of our AFIO Chapter here in New Mexico.

Todd Hulsey

Next, Pete reported that our Chapter's 1st Vice President, Todd Hulsey, has been sent on temporary duty to Saudi Arabia by the FBI. Following that assignment, Todd is going to be reassigned from Albuquerque to the FBI Field Office in El Paso. Supervisory Special Agent, Todd Hulsey, is the first active duty FBI Special Agent to have joined our Chapter and he will be sorely missed. One of Pete's priorities will be to fill the position of 1st Vice President.

Treasurer, Judith Mead

Our new Treasurer, Judith Mead, reported that our bank balance as of 31 August stood at \$2512.21. Judith also reported that all prepayments for the cancelled June nite-out banquet had been returned, and that she has ordered new checks for the Chapter account. Judith then passed out rosters listing members with Chapter dues fully paid-up, and proceeded to collect dues from those members who were still delinquent.

Current Events

Following up on Pete Bostwick's ideas for a more robust Chapter, Sam Shaw suggested that blogs pertaining to high visibility national security issues could be posted to our web site. A strong public response to these blogs would be a positive community outreach. Sam also suggested that selected blogs could also be submitted to the local media.

Edna Fowler

Edna added that a local organization called the Albuquerque Council on Foreign Relations might also be worth contacting for potential new Chapter members.

2nd Vice President, Jerry Monahan

Jerry advertises our Chapter meetings each month in the local media via Public Service Announcements. These ads have prompted fairly regular queries from the public, whereby Jerry is asked for additional information on our organization. We should note that Edna Fowler and Todd Hulsey joined our Chapter after seeing one of Jerry's announcements.

Issues in the News

As he outlined in last month's newsletter, Pete Bostwick sees a myriad of on-going policy debates and military/security issues that members might address at upcoming meetings:

- a) Who will have oversight of intelligence personnel overseas? b) Our interrogation of enemy combatants; c) Status of Homeland Security; d) Our intelligence capabilities vis a vis Afghanistan, Russia (Chechen and South Ossetia), Burma (North Korea involvement), Indonesia (Jemaah Islamiyah), South Thailand (insurgent violence and domestic political unrest), China and India (economy and politics), Mexico (drugs and border violence).

In his closing remarks, Pete asked the members to email or call him with their ideas about the direction our Chapter should take.

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Pete Bostwick - President

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Jerry Monahan – 2nd Vice President, Public Relations

Brendan O'Donovan – Secretary, Newsletter

Judith Mead - Treasurer