

Association For Intelligence Officers

The Tom Smith New Mexico Chapter

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

505-898-2649
foreigndevil@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER MEETING

**Our normal meeting schedule will resume on
Wednesday September 12, 2012**

New Meeting location:

"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: COL Roger Knight, USA (Ret) *****

OUR SPEAKER

We are pleased to welcome to our ranks COL Roger Knight, USA (Ret), a Special Forces Officer with a varied and distinguished background. In addition to various CONUS assignments, COL Knight served in Germany, Vietnam, and Iran. His career postings include Infantry, Airborne, Armor, and leading a Special Forces A-Team in Vietnam, in addition to being a Master Parachutist and having earned parachute wings from China, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia and Burma. We look forward to hearing about COL Knight's experiences at this meeting, and for those interested in "the rest of the story," we'll post his full Bio on the website

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Chapter Dues (to refresh everyone's memory; this is a précis from the June Newsletter): We have survived for years with annual chapter dues of only \$10.00. This topic generated much discussion at the meeting...and our Treasurer has been warning for some time that our dwindling bank account would soon be insufficient to support the Scholarship Fund, let alone pay for the luncheons of speakers, visitors and scholarship awardees. The members therefore voted unanimously to **increase the annual dues to \$25.00 per person**, beginning with the 2012-2013 membership year.

CURRENT ISSUES

The state of the world, let alone our own country, is essentially unimproved since the last listing of Intelligence issues. Syria, Iran, Israel, Egypt and Libya still have top billing in that part of the world, and the chaos fostered

by radical Islamists remains a critical issue (e.g., Salafi destruction of 2 historic Sufi shrines in Libya, Muslim Brotherhood ascent in Egypt, Iran sending troops to aid Syria's Assad). In other regions, Yemen remains an open sore, Wahabists are agitating against moderates in Timbuktu, and the Taliban are regaining traction in Afghanistan. Burma recently experienced (more) tribal violence against Muslims in Rakhine state along the border with Bangladesh, the jihadists in the southern Philippines continue to hold sway in Mindanao, and the southernmost provinces of Thailand are subjected to increasingly violent attacks by Malay-based Muslims. These are, of course, only the sketchiest examples of what looks like a growing wave of global unrest.

Here at home, the distinction between terrorist and criminal acts is becoming more blurred as disaffected, mentally ill, or fringe elements plan to bomb, shoot or terrorize their neighbors or towns. A small group of extreme right-wingers was even uncovered recently among active duty Army personnel on a US base. Kudos to Law Enforcement for their alertness to such threats, and for preempting numerous plots in progress. The Intelligence Community, meanwhile, is being drawn further into domestic issues, stirring a growing sense of unease about governmental intrusion into our private lives. They're walking a fine line, and one they have historically been reluctant to cross. I have great confidence in the ability of professional Intelligence personnel to observe and uphold Constitutional principles and limits, but there are disturbing signs that agencies whose primary responsibilities are in enforcement, but who are consumers of Intelligence, may not have the same respect for those principles. It behooves all of us with professional backgrounds, and who appreciate the dangers of overstepping Constitutional boundaries, to be alert to the abuse of authority at any level of government.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the continuing vigilance of the Intelligence Community, which remains on the job 24/7, assessing threats to our national security and getting the right assets in motion, on a timely basis, to confront them. Ain't it great we can count on something, these days?

See you all at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Bostwick
Chapter President