

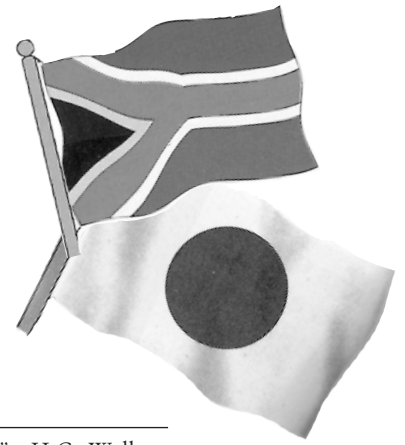


FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



www.foothillsforum.org

MAY 2007



"Human history more and more becomes a race between education and catastrophe"—H.G. Wells

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

CAPT. Eric Esswein is a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service assigned to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Denver Field Office.



Eric has responded to a wide range of domestic and international emergency response events including assignments as team leader at the 2001 World Trade Center attack and the U.S. Capitol anthrax attack. He deployed to Taiwan at the height of the SARS pandemic and to the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami in Thailand. CAPT. Esswein has served numerous international occupational health assignments including four assignments developing occupational health capacity in South Africa and as a team member for a World Health Organization mission to the Baltic States following their independence in 1993.

Eric earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in environmental health/toxicology and public health/industrial hygiene. He is board

RESPONDING IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTY TO BIOTERRORISM, SARS AND THE TSUNAMI

CAPT. ERIC ESSWEIN

TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club

certified in industrial hygiene and was selected as the 2004 Industrial Hygienist of the Year by the American Industrial Hygiene Association, Rocky Mountain Section. In his 17 year career with the USPHS he has received numerous awards including the Outstanding Service Medal, the Commendation Medal and the Secretary's Award for Heroism/Exceptional Service. He lives in Conifer with his fiancée Jessica Urban.

In recent years, terrorist events, emerging infectious disease and especially natural disasters have conspired for unprecedented responses from public health professionals to protect

public, as well as worker health. Given what appears to be an ever increasingly uncertain state of affairs in the world, it is not unlikely that comparable emergencies and disasters will occur requiring more complex responses. When this occurs, emergency responders will be confronted with unique challenges demanding tenacity, inventive efforts and the necessity to make decisions in atmospheres of considerable uncertainty where "roadmaps" are non-existent. The focus of this presentation will be to describe and discuss the circumstances, the responses and an emergency responder's perspective along with some of the lessons learned while protecting worker and public health during three extraordinary domestic and international emergencies and disasters: as a first responder to the anthrax attack on the U.S. Capitol in 2001, protecting hospital workers in Taiwan at the height of the SARS pandemic in 2003, and assessing site hazards and developing guidance and public health controls for international disaster victims identification teams and a convergence of public volunteers and at the Wát Yan Yao morgue in the Phang Na Province of southern Thailand following the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2005. ■

APRIL MEETING REVIEW

By Michelle Maguire, Guest Junior Editor



Born and raised in San Francisco, California, Senior Defense Policy Analyst **Charles Peña** is currently living in Arlington, Virginia with his wife and seven year old daughter. Mr. Peña has written several books, the latest of which is

Winning the Un-War: A New Strategy For the War on Terrorism. He has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *the Chicago Tribune* and has also made appearances on high profile shows such as *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Lester Holt Live*, *The McLaughlin Group*, *Market Watch*, *Hardball*, and the *NBC Nightly News*.

Charles Peña began his presentation by making it clear why the current war in Iraq is a "un-war." Using the term "war on terrorism" makes the enemy seem monolithic, and misrepresents the civil war in Iraq. Peña explained that terrorism is a strategy and not a war that can be won. Great Britain recently announced they will no longer use the term "war on terror," although it is unclear how they will refer to the conflict in Iraq.

Peña outlined three strategies to get out of Iraq and ultimately win this "un-war." His first strategy was to build up homeland security. To do this, the United States must accept that we cannot live risk free. As Peña explained, it is impossible to stop all attacks. Americans should not sacrifice their Constitutional freedoms in order to gain a temporary and false sense of physical security. Rather than spend billions of dollars trying to end terrorism, "America needs

to be more cost effective towards homeland security."

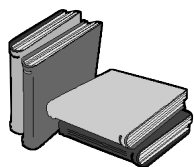
Peña's second point was to go after the people who actually attacked the U.S. on September 11th. In the fall of 2001, America did the right thing by going after Bin Laden in Afghanistan; however, we changed our objective mid-stream by deciding to invade Iraq in March of 2003. Had we focused our military efforts in Afghanistan, America would have demonstrated to the world that we had "our eye on the ball". The war in Iraq caused America to lose sight of the 9-11 attackers and led the Islamic world to suspect that our motive is to acquire greater access to oil. Attempting to establish a strategy for the war, the government continues to mirror-image Iraq, evaluating what America would do if we were in their situation. However, Iraqis are not Americans; they have their own sense of national pride and view American troops as occupiers. According to Peña, Islamic countries do not hate us just because we are Americans, but they disagree with our foreign policies and don't understand why we are killing innocent people rather than going after the ones who attacked our country.

Lastly, Peña argued that America must end interventionist policies and stop policing the

world. We have nothing to fear; no country will attack the largest, most powerful nuclear arsenal in the world without expecting a strong fight back. Our nation spends over \$500 billion a year on our military, more than all of the other countries in the world combined. Clearly, we can afford to feel secure. If America were to stop intervening in the affairs of other nations, there would be less blame cast against the United States. The United States spends \$2 billion annually aiding the nation of Israel, which leads to the perception that we are choosing sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since our intervention has not solved this historic struggle, we continue to be blamed for its failure. Likewise, going into Iraq and staying there for as long as we have is an "unnecessary intervention."

Peña explained that no matter how hard we try to win the war on terror; no matter how many terrorist we kill, if we do not change our foreign policies, there will be more recruits willing to attack America and we will end up going down a losing path.

About the author: Michelle Maguire is a sophomore at Golden High School who is enrolled in Advanced Placement United States History and attends the International Foothills Forum regularly. ■



NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Second Chance: Three Presidents and the Crisis of American Superpower*, Perseus Publishing, 2007. One of America's distinguished commentators on foreign policy, the former National Security Adviser offers a reasoned but unsparing assessment of the last three presidential administrations' foreign policy. Spanning less than two decades, these

administrations cover an important turning point in history: the period in which the U.S., having emerged from the Cold War with unprecedented power and prestige, managed to squander both in a short time. This is a tale of decline. George H.W. Bush helped ensure that the Soviet Union expired peacefully, that Germany was reunified and that an international coalition expelled Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. "America's unique political influence and moral legitimacy were not strategically applied to either transform Russia or

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

pacify the Middle East.” Clinton was bedazzled by the notion that globalization would bring an end to world conflict. Brzezinski awards Clinton good marks for successfully enlarging NATO, but argues that Clinton badly erred in failing to achieve an accord between the Israelis and Palestinians. Brzezinski barely mentions George W. Bush but directs his wrath against the neoconservatives surrounding the President. With regard to the Iraq war, the author notes that the war’s “only saving grace is that it made Iraq the cemetery of neocon dreams. Had the war been more successful, America by now might be at war with Syria and Iran.” The author sharply reprimands all three Presidents for squandering American power. By the end, he even issues presidential report cards with marks of B for the elder Bush, C for Clinton, and a dismal F for George W. Bush. Critics of the book note that the author tends to exaggerate the ability of American presidents to guide world politics, particularly in the Middle East. Nor does the author adequately acknowledge that the source of the current mess in the Middle East antedates the past three presidencies. In many ways, the problem of the Middle East can be traced to the administration Brzezinski himself served. (Sources: Publisher’s notes, Jacob Heilbrunn, *An F for W*, *New York Times*, April 8, 2007.)

Roberta Wohlstetter, *Pearl Harbor: Warning and Decision*, Stanford University Press, 1962. It would be reassuring to believe that Pearl Harbor was just a colossal and extraordinary blunder. What is disquieting is that it was a supremely ordinary blunder. In fact, “blunder” is too specific: our stupendous unreadiness at Pearl

Harbor was neither a Sunday morning, nor a Hawaiian, phenomenon. It was just a dramatic failure of a remarkably well-informed government to call the next enemy move in a cold war crisis. When the author started her historical research she confronted a puzzle that to some seemed like a conspiracy. Unlike classic military surprises, the U.S. had received ample intelligence that the Japanese were prepared to attack the Hawaiian base. The U.S. did have intelligence that Pearl Harbor was a potential target, but other intelligence suggested Siberia, the Panama Canal, or the Philippines. The author drew the conclusion that the U.S. failed to anticipate the attack on Hawaii, because intelligence analysts could not distinguish the information that really mattered. The amount of data was large, sometimes incomplete, and often conflicting, what Wohlstetter called “noise.” The presence of a large variety of threats makes intelligence analysts lean more strongly to the familiar ones rather than the more likely. Contrary to the instincts of many in the intelligence community, the best intelligence analysis requires judgment and imagination, not simply the largest data set. The lessons of this book are timeless and some have thought that they foretold the findings of the 9/11 Commission. Contrary to the views of many so-called realists, nations do not always act from rational calculations of self-interests. Many thought that Japan would never attack the U.S. and many Japanese politicians raised objections to such an attack. Hallway chatter during the Air Force review of Roberta’s manuscript indicated that some officials strongly recommended burning it. Several years later, the book was published by Stanford University Press, and subsequently won the Bancroft Prize (1963). Some other descrip-

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tions of the attack on Pearl Harbor, in part based on Roberta’s book, include David Kahn’s *The Code Breakers*, and the movie *Tora Tora Tora* which provides a sugar coated overview of the action on both sides of the attack. (Sources: *Wall Street Journal*, January 9, 2007, *Alumni Bulletin of the Rand Corporation*, Spring 2007, and reviewer comments.) ■

ATTENDANCE AT APRIL PROGRAM

The April meeting was attended by 217 people of which 131 were members and 86 were guests.

P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602

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The Foothills International Forum is a non-profit organization which meets to provide a forum for those in our community wishing to keep abreast of developments in international relations and to discuss them on a regular basis with those having similar interests.

For more information, call Larry Hendrix 303-463-4690. ALL FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED.

DIRECTIONS to Mount Vernon Country Club: Exit I-70 at Genesee Park (Exit #254). Go North on Mount Vernon Country Club Road. Staying on the paved road and curving to the right. The Club entrance will be on your left, 1.1 miles from the I-70 exit.

DINNER AT 6:00 PM in the main dining room at Mount Vernon Country Club is optional. Reservations have to be made no later than the Sunday before the event. Call Mt. Vernon Country Club at 303-526-0616 and ask for seating with the Foothills International Forum. Cost of dinner will be collected by the Club.

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DUES: Information can be sent to: Bruce Glenn, P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602.

Student memberships: \$5; Individual memberships: \$30; Family memberships: \$45; Supporting memberships: \$75; Contributing

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memberships: \$100; Patron memberships: \$250; Corporate memberships: \$400.

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