

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's presentation was by Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Dipoma, 512 RQS/CC

Commander of the Air Force 512th Rescue Squadron



The 512th Rescue Squadron is based at Kirtland Air Force Base and without getting too specific, we can say that they fly helicopters; and they are very good at what they do. Lt. Col. Dipoma's has been a helicopter pilot for a few years. He has participated in the Marine Corp helicopter pilot exchange program and that involvement included a couple of deployments to Iraq. He has flown helicopters at the Air Force Special Operations Command; and has been a military advisor to a few foreign militaries in South East Asia and other in-conflict parts of the world. Some of his more civilized activities include being based in Alabama where he had an opportunity for some post-graduate work and where he began his quest for a PhD. All of that was before transitioning back into the maybe less civilized area of New Mexico, as Commander of the 512th Rescue Squadron. Lt. Col. Dipoma's presentation today was a discussion about 'leadership'. When one thinks of leadership skills, a couple of techniques come to mind. The commanding style of the "Go do that now!", versus the 'Reverent Leadership' style that comes from a following based on trust. Any type of leadership, but most particularly the one established by trust, requires that the leaders understand and know themselves first. If you are true to yourself, and if you are genuinely interested in becoming the best at whatever you want to accomplish, learning just who you are is the most important function of leadership; and gaining that knowledge will probably take a lifetime. There are those times when life's experiences result in a definitely more clear picture of who is looking back from the reflection in your mirror. Some of those experiences are more traumatic than others, and it is likely that the degree of trauma does not really relate to the resulting amount of personal discovery. But, the working through the heart pounding times probably does bring a more profound sense of accomplishment along with it. For Lt. Col. Dipoma, in terms of learning about leadership, the most beneficial of all his experiences were the times he was an advisor to foreign militaries. Lt. Col. Dipoma's ultimate success with the foreign militaries was the result of a learned understanding that the 'standard' leadership techniques have very little effect on a group of people who have no legal requirement to follow any of your instructions. And even less effect when those folks actually have such a dislike of the United States, that they are very unwilling to even listen to beneficial advice. Lt. Col. Dipoma's and his team were wise enough to know that the ultimate goal was not to make sure that the foreign personnel followed exact orders; nor was it for the foreign personnel to acknowledge that they were accepting advice from a perceived adversary. The ultimate goal was simply to achieve the needed results. The US team determined what actually motivated those particular military folks was prestige. They gauged success by the amount of prestige and recognition that was gained. In this specific case, the desired project results was for the foreign military to learn how to fly helicopters at night so that they could provide proper security for their area, and so that they could conduct needed night time military raids against the enemy. By slightly changing the written goal and by providing a specific identity patch, that could be worn by those who successfully completed the night vision goggle flight training program, the local military became committed to getting the proper training. The leadership in this case was simply getting to know the subjects and determining the proper incentives to guide them to success. Regarding the 'know thyself' aspect of a good leader: Lt. Col. Dipoma was also kind enough to share with us the story of a traumatic event that provided shape to the current Mr. Dipoma. In 2006, he was in a helicopter crash that was caused by the unintelligent actions of the pilot (not him). He tried, too late, to recover from the pilot's bad decisions. The copter hit the ground, then tumbled end-over-end into a jungle 300 meters from the place of impact. The insight learned in the few seconds before, and the time during the event, has provided the current Lt. Col. Dipoma, with a personal understanding of himself, and confidence that he will use throughout his lifetime. He was able to walk away from the crash scene, but only for about 15 minutes until the adrenaline wore off. At that point he would need assistance because walking on his two broken legs and two broken feet was no longer a desirable option. Thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Dipoma for taking the time to speak with us today. A lot can be learned from listening to the Lieutenant Colonel, but probably even more benefit can be gained from listening to the non-military, just a good human being, Nicholas Dipoma.

- ◆ THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 31ST IN HONOR OF THE MEMEORAL DAY HOLIDAY !!
- ◆ Lots of pertinent information in today's bulletin. Please be sure to read all 4 pages.

- ♦ **Very sad news!** We have been told that Van White passed away this past Sunday. Our condolences and our prayers to Van's family. We will advise when we have more details about plans for services.
- ♦ Thanks to the Golf Event Committee Chairman Jerry Becker and all who assisted in pulling off another successful, even though windy, event. And thank you to the hole sponsors whose contributions provided some great prizes and helped defray event costs:
 - Troy Otero - Groundhog Excavating
 - Jay Weingardt - The Fitness Super Stores
 - Wayne Pollack - People's Flowers
 - Phil Houser - Document Solutions
 - Robert Biernacki - Waterquest Landscaping
 - Mike Skolnick - Excalibur Realty
 - Brock Carter - Safety Counseling
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 - Stan Byers - Byers & Sellers Real Estate
 - Chris Fogel - Aspirion Accounting & Consulting
 - Soren Thomsen - TEMA Contemporary Furniture
 - Klint Hall - Lobo Wealth Strategies
 - Randy Baker - DRB Electric
 - Terry Roberts - Rocky Mountain RV & Marine
- ♦ In June, we will hold elections for a new Board of Director member. Qualifications to run include being an EAGA member for at least one year and having a current good standing status. If you are interested in running for the position, or if you would like to nominate another member, please contact any current board member, or Robert Biernacki (Robert@waterquest.com), Mario Hernandez (eagaed@gmail.com) or Nick Minetos (nminetos@hotmail.com) as soon as possible.
- ♦ EAGA Summer Bash will be July 9th at the home of Pat and Marybeth Maloy. More details as we get closer to the date. There is still time to join the Bash Committee. Contact Dan Mowery or Pat Maloy to help out.
- ♦ Jeff Sakamoto - Heritage Hotels & Resorts is providing another discounted rate at many of their properties. Please see page four of this bulletin, or contact Jeff (505-212-9128) for more details

Business Leads:

None noted today

Reciprocity:

Thank you to Doug Stewart for a recent purchase by his company.

Thank you to Wayne Pollack for the referral of an employee.

—Damian Lusch - Rich Ford

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez

Phone: 505-239-0259

email: hernmar129@yahoo.com

Postal mail: 8100 Wyoming Blvd NE; Suite M-4 #345; Albuquerque, NM 87113

- ◆ First announcement of a prospective new member:
TNJ Group of Companies
Representative: Tushnar N Patel
Category: General Contractor
Sponsor: Jim Asperger

- ◆ First announcement of a prospective new member:
Farm Bureau Financial Services—La Cumbre Agency
Representative: Stephan Slota
Category: Insurance and Financial Services
Sponsor: Michael Skolnick

- ◆ Second announcement of a prospective new member:
Sandia Office Supply
Representative: John Nicolaides
Category: Office Supply
Sponsor: Jeff Sakamoto

If you have an objection to any of these companies becoming a member, or if you have any information that you feel should be considered during the application review process, please contact Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper, (jdzipper@comcast.net - 505-259-5959), as soon as possible.

Badge Board Greeters

May 31st	No Meeting—Memorial Day holiday
June 7th	Lou Ridges—Retriever Merchant Services
June 14th	Mike Deveraux—Document Imaging of the Southwest
June 21st	Tom MacMahon—Sun Quest Advertising
June 28th	Robert Biernacki—Waterquest Landscaping
July 5th	No Meeting—4th of July Holiday
July 12th	

Upcoming Speakers

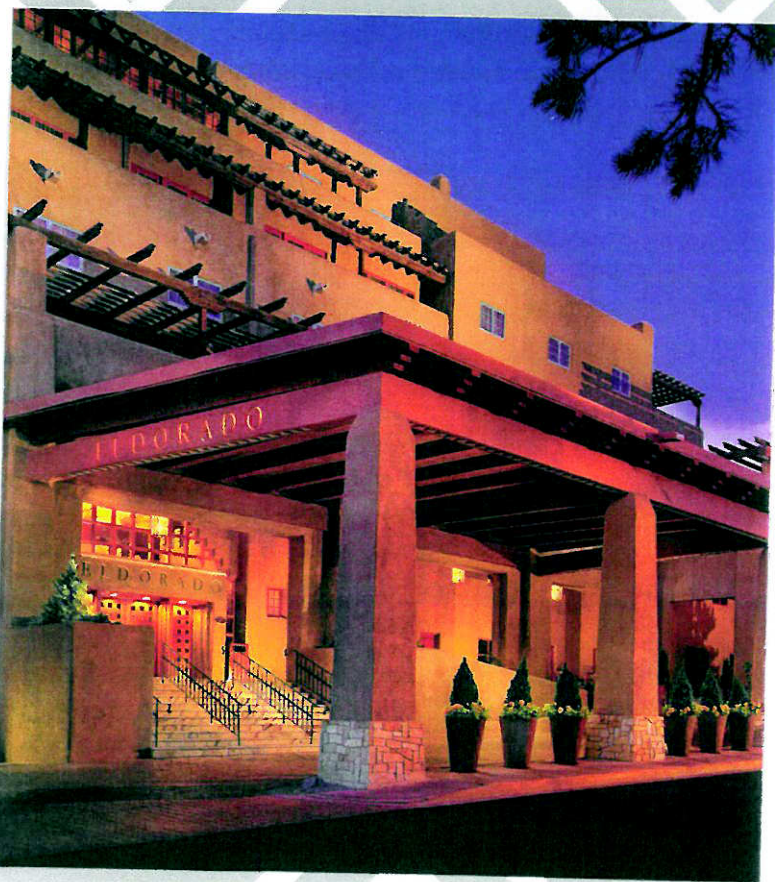
May 31st	No Meeting—Memorial Day holiday
June 7th	
June 14th	Tom MacMahon - Sun Quest Marketing
June 21st	Jack Thompson - Legacy Mortgage
June 28th	Chez Steel - Century Bank
July 5th	No Meeting—4th of July Holiday
July 12th	Julia Gabaldon—Quality New Mexico

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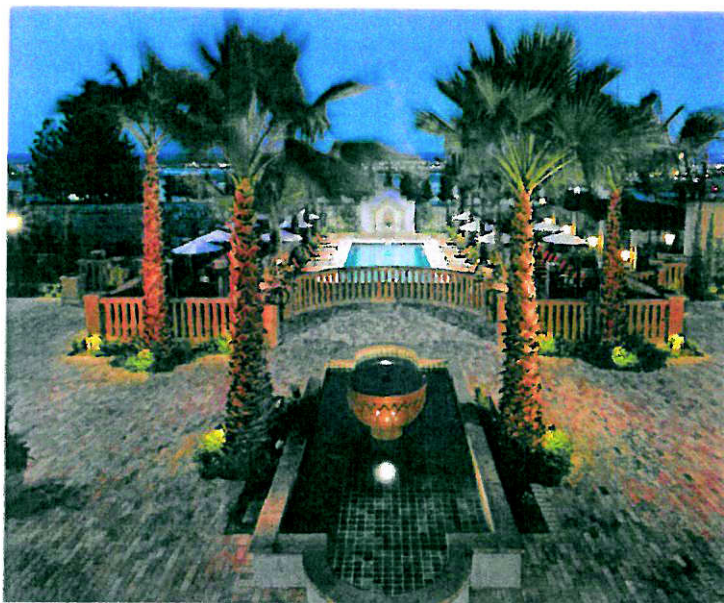
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