

THE STANDARD



THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY HERITAGE PARK



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FOUR WAY TEST

In all things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH ?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

DON'T MISS !!

The Murder
Mystery
August 11
2006

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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THE STANDARD JULY 21, 2006



Wynne called the meeting to order at 7:00 and for once those in attendance complied. Al Hardstaff provided technical assistance. For a change the lovely Peter Harding

led the singing of our national anthem. Martin Harvey presented grace. Brian Humphreys introduced the guest and visiting Rotarians, including Dale Bjorgan who chauffeured Wynne to our meeting in the presidential mattress-mobile. Mike Fuller, attired from some tropical island south of Canmore, escorted guests, visiting Rotarians and club members to the buffet.

Business Meeting: While Garry Gary is away Jim Hennessey will be acting treasurer.

Our club received a thank you from the Salvation Army for the stampede breakfast.

Minute People: Asha reminded everyone of the Murder Mystery to be solved at Heritage Park on August 17. Please arrive by 6:00 p.m. because the train will leave promptly at 6:30. Sign up and sell those tickets. We need to sell a minimum of 100.

Al Hardstaff announced the casino sign up will start circulating on August 1. We host the Deerfoot Casino on Tuesday and Wednesday October 10 and 11.

Wynne left us with the express thought that "Luck is when preparation meets opportunity" and our unexpressed thought "Why does our president have a mattress on top of her vehicle?"

Darren Hafner : Credit Card Fraud

Guest Speaker

Din introduced Darren Hafner's return to discuss commercial crime.

Darren advised that debit and credit card skimming is overtaking the drug trade in profitability, although the drug trade continues. Part of the boom is due to lesser penalties and improved technology and sophistication of criminals. Organized crime is involved, with some of the money funding terrorism.

Darren had a box of tricks, including pinhole cameras in ceiling tiles and hard drive memory devices that fit over legitimate banking devices. Employees may be paid to look the other way during installation of these devices.

To protect ourselves we must always maintain confidentiality of our PIN and try to keep an eye on our credit cards. Smart cards will help until they are compromised by improved technology. The suggestion of using something called "cash" was met with skepticism by younger club members.

Martin Harvey thanked Darren.

Red Alert: The Battle Joined

This article has been sent in by Jim Hennessey on the Middle East situation:

Red Alert: The Battle Joined

The ground war has begun. Several Israeli brigades now appear to be operating between the Lebanese border and the Litani River. According to reports, Hezbollah forces are dispersed in multiple bunker complexes and are launching rockets from these and other locations.

Hezbollah's strategy appears to be threefold. First, force Israel into costly attacks against prepared fortifications. Second, draw Israeli troops as deeply into Lebanon as possible, forcing them to fight on extended supply lines. Third, move into an Iraqi-style insurgency from which Israel -- out of fear of a resumption of rocket attacks -- cannot withdraw, but which the Israelis also cannot endure because of extended long-term casualties. This appears to have been a carefully planned strategy, built around a threat to Israeli cities that Israel can't afford. The war has begun at Hezbollah's time and choosing.

Israel is caught between three strategic imperatives. First, it must end the threat to Israeli cities, which must involve the destruction of Hezbollah's launch capabilities south of the Litani River. Second, it must try to destroy Hezbollah's infrastructure, which means it must move into the Bekaa Valley and as far as the southern suburbs of Beirut. Third, it must do so in such a way that it is not dragged into a long-term, unsustainable occupation against a capable insurgency.

Hezbollah has implemented its strategy by turning southern Lebanon into a military stronghold, consisting of well-designed bunkers that serve both as fire bases and launch facilities for rockets. The militants appear to be armed with anti-tank weapons and probably anti-aircraft weapons, some of which appear to be of American origin, raising the question of how they were acquired. Hezbollah wants to draw Israel into protracted fighting in this area in order to inflict maximum casualties and to change the psychological equation for both military and political reasons.

Israelis historically do not like to fight positional warfare. Their tendency has been to bypass fortified areas, pushing the fight to the rear in order to disrupt logistics, isolate fortifications and wait for capitulation. This has worked in the past. It is not clear that it will work here. The great unknown is the resilience of Hezbollah's fighters. To this point, there is no reason to doubt it. Israel *could* be fighting the most resilient and well-motivated opposition force in its history. But the truth is that neither Israel nor Hezbollah really knows what performance will be like under pressure.

Simply occupying the border-Litani area will not achieve any of Israel's strategic goals. Hezbollah still would be able to use rockets against Israel. And even if, for Hezbollah, this area is lost, its capabilities in the Bekaa Valley and southern Beirut will remain intact. Therefore, a battle that focuses solely on the south is not an option for Israel, unless the Israelis feel a defeat here will sap Hezbollah's will to resist. This is doubtful.

The key to the campaign is to understand that Hezbollah has made its strategic decisions. It will not be fighting a mobile war. Israel has lost the strategic initiative: It must fight when Hezbollah has chosen and deal with Hezbollah's challenge. However, given this, Israel does have an operational choice. It can move in a sequential fashion, dealing first with southern Lebanon and then with other issues. It can bypass southern Lebanon and move into the rear areas, returning to southern Lebanon when it is ready. It can attempt to deal with southern Lebanon in detail, while mounting mobile operations in the Bekaa Valley, in the coastal regions and toward south Beirut, or both at the same time.

There are resource and logistical issues involved. Moving simultaneously on all three fronts will put substantial strains on Israel's logistical capability. An encirclement westward on the north side of the Litani, followed by a move toward Beirut while the southern side of the Litani is not secured, poses a serious challenge in re-supply. Moving into the Bekaa means leaving a flank open to the Syrians. It is doubtful Syria will hit that flank, but then, analysts don't have to live with the consequences of an intelligence failure. Israel will be sending a lot of force on that line if it chooses that method. Again, since many roads in south Lebanon will not be secure, that limits logistics.

SUNSHINE REPORT



Sunshine

Doug Hood announced Al and Ida Hardstaff's anniversary on July 26th and Ray Gosselin's July 23rd Rotary anniversary.

Happy Bucks



Happy Bucks

Betty Little is a new grandmother.
Asha Paul has her granddaughter at home.
Peter Harding has no grandchildren that he is aware of.

Sheriff Peter Harding: You're BUSTED!



Sheriff

Still not retired to the lecture circuit past president Peter Harding rounded up the following reprobates: Sergeant at arm's Al Hardstaff who has scheduled Peter for reporter and then sheriff in successive weeks.

(1) Betty Little for being a hard act to follow. (2) Jim Hennessy for suggesting that Walter's shorts made him look like he was riding a chicken. (3) Walter Zuk, whose shorts made him look like he was riding a chicken (4) Norm Haines for continuing to bow to past president Peter. (5) Surinder for cutting off Peter in the parking lot. (6) Joan Bedard for saving a table spot for her imaginary guest. (7) Din Peerani for tailgating in a sport coat. (7) Alec who narrowly avoided a red card for backing into Peter in the buffet line. Alec claims to have been provoked. An internal investigation has been launched. All club members who read lips may be asked to testify. (8) Mike Fuller for wearing socks with sandals. (That is no good mon)
(9) Wynne for doing her Marilyn Monroe thing too early in the morning.



50/50 JACK POT



50/50

Zuzana picked one of Wynne's arms' length of tickets, who picked the 3 of hearts.



Red Alert: The Battle Joined

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Israel is caught on the horns of a dilemma. Hezbollah has created a situation in which Israel must fight the kind of war it likes the least -- attritional, tactical operations against prepared forces -- or go to the war it prefers, mobile operations, with logistical constraints that make these operations more difficult and dangerous. Moreover, if it does this, it increases the time during which Israeli cities remain under threat. Given clear failures in appreciating Hezbollah's capabilities, Israel must take seriously the possibility that Hezbollah has longer-ranged, anti-personnel rockets that it will use while under attack.

Israel has been trying to break the back of Hezbollah resistance in the south through air attack, special operations and probing attacks. This clearly hasn't worked thus far. That does not mean it won't work, as Israel applies more force to the problem and starts to master the architecture of Hezbollah's tactical and operational structure; however, Israel can't count on a rapid resolution of that problem.

The Israelis have by now thought the problem through. They don't like operational compromises -- preferring highly focused solutions at the center of gravity of an enemy. Hezbollah has tried to deny Israel a center of gravity and may have succeeded, forcing Israel into a compromise position. (continued on page 4)

Red Alert: The Battle Joined

continued from page 3

Repeated assaults against prepared positions are simply not something the Israelis can do, because they cannot afford casualties. They always have preferred mobile encirclement or attacks at the center of gravity of a defensive position. But at this moment, viewed from the outside, this is not an option.

An extended engagement in southern Lebanon is probably the least likely path. More likely -- and this is a guess -- is a five-part strategy:

1. Insert airmobile and airborne forces north of the Litani to seal the rear of Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon. Apply air power and engineering forces to reduce the fortifications, and infantry to attack forces not in fortified positions. Bottle them up, and systematically reduce the force with limited exposure to the attackers.
2. Secure roads along the eastern flank for an armored thrust deep into the Bekaa Valley to engage the main Hezbollah force and infrastructure there. This would involve a move from Qiryat Shimona north into the Bekaa, bypassing the Litani to the west, and would probably require sending airmobile and special forces to secure the high ground. It also would leave the right flank exposed to Syria.
3. Use air power and special forces to undermine Hezbollah capabilities in the southern Beirut area. The Israelis would consider a move into this area after roads through southern Lebanon are cleared and Bekaa relatively secured, moving into the area, only if absolutely necessary, on two axes of attack.
4. Having defeated Hezbollah in detail, withdraw under a political settlement shifting defense responsibility to the Lebanese government.
5. Do all of this while the United States is still able to provide top cover against diplomatic initiatives that will create an increasingly difficult international environment.

There can be many variations on this theme, but these elements are inevitable:

1. Hezbollah cannot be defeated without entering the Bekaa Valley, at the very least.
2. At some point, resistance in southern Lebanon must be dealt with, regardless of the cost.
3. Rocket attacks against northern Israel and even Tel Aviv must be accepted while the campaign unfolds.
4. The real challenge will come when Israel tries to withdraw.

No. 4 is the real challenge. Destruction of Hezbollah's infrastructure does not mean annihilation of the force. If Israel withdraws, Hezbollah or a successor organization will regroup. If Israel remains, it can wind up in the position the United States now has in Iraq. This is exactly what Hezbollah wants. So, Israel can buy time, or Israel can occupy and pay the cost. One or the other.

The other solution is to shift the occupational burden to another power that is motivated to prevent the re-emergence of an anti-Israeli military force -- as that is what Hezbollah has become. The Lebanese government is the only possible alternative, but not a particularly capable one, reflecting the deep rifts in Lebanon.

Israel has one other choice, which is to extend the campaign to defeat Syria as well. Israel can do this, but the successor regime to Syrian President Bashar al Assad likely would be much worse for Israel than al Assad has been. Israel can think about occupying Syria but it can't do it. Syria is too big and the Arabs have learned from the Iraqis how to deal with an occupation. Israel cannot live with a successor to al Assad and it cannot take control of Syria. It will have to live with al Assad. And that means an occupation of Lebanon would always translate to Syrian support for insurgents.

Hezbollah has dealt Israel a difficult hand. It has analyzed the battle problem as well as the political dimension carefully. Somewhere in this, there has been either an Israeli intelligence failure or a political failure to listen to intelligence. Hezbollah's capabilities have posed a problem for Israel that allowed Hezbollah to start a war at a time and in a way of its choosing. The inquest will come later in Israel. And Hezbollah will likely be shattered regardless of its planning. The correlation of forces does not favor it. But if it forces Israel not only to defeat its main force but also to occupy, Hezbollah will have achieved its goals.

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**WEAR YOUR
ROTARY PIN**



The Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park Upcoming Events

- July - Hay's Breakfast (July 9)
- August— Murder Mystery (August 17)
- BBQ at Max (Date TBA)
- September - Wine Festival (Date TBA)
- October—Casino (Oct 10, & 11)