



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

March 2023

The COVID-19 Intelligence Failure: Why Warning Was Not Enough

Professor Erik J. Dahl

**Department of National Security Affairs
Naval Postgraduate School**

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

11:15 am: Registration 11:45 am: Luncheon 12:30 pm: Program
***** Big Sur Room, Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Aguajito Road, Monterey*****

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, intelligence agencies and public health experts had been warning for years about the danger of a global pandemic. But those warnings, and the global surveillance and intelligence systems designed to anticipate just such a crisis, were not enough to avert disaster. The pandemic in the United States was further exacerbated by decentralized public health systems and an aversion to scientific advice on the part of political leaders.

In his talk, Dr. Erik J. Dahl will discuss his latest book, *The COVID-19 Intelligence Failure: Why Warning Was Not Enough* (Georgetown University Press, 2023). He will explain how it was possible for the world to be surprised by a threat that we should have seen coming. He will examine the roles that both traditional intelligence services and medical intelligence and surveillance systems play in providing advance warning against public health threats, and how these systems must be improved for the future. Finally, he will argue that the lessons learned from the pandemic will be critical, not only to help us prepare for the next pandemic, but also to help us as we face other



kinds of threats. No matter the cause of the next worldwide crisis, we now know that future threats are likely to break out and go global very quickly, and intelligence and warning systems will be needed to anticipate, detect, and respond.

Erik J. Dahl is an associate professor of national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, where he is also on the faculty of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security. His research and teaching focus on intelligence, terrorism, and international and homeland security. In addition to *The COVID-19 Intelligence Failure*, Dr. Dahl is also the author of *Intelligence and Surprise Attack: Failure and Success from Pearl Harbor to 9/11 and Beyond* (Georgetown University Press, 2013). He retired from the US Navy in 2002 after serving 21 years as an intelligence officer. He received his PhD from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, and holds master's degrees from Tufts, the Naval War College, and the London School of Economics, as well as a bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

WACMB is excited to announce that *The Passport* will be delivered in a new online format, beginning in April. Watch for it in your inbox!

Academic WorldQuest Winners!

On February 11, WACMB presented the first annual Monterey County Academic WorldQuest (AWQ) competition. AWQ is a team challenge testing high school students' knowledge of international affairs. In the competition, four-person teams answered questions in six topic areas reflective of critical global and US foreign policy issues.

Congratulations to county champions Monterey High School! Team members Taylor Boothe, Sindhu Gokaraju, Eunwoo Kim, and River Valdivia, along with their coach, William Pace, will travel to Washington, DC, in April to participate in the national AWQ competition. Funds raised by WACMB through the MCGives! program will cover all the team's expenses.

Coach Pace, who teaches history and AP macroeconomics, said that the competition "has exposed [the team] to subject areas that may have been new to them. It allows them to engage in a collaborative effort that builds teamwork and comradery. Overall it was just a great experience."

Taylor Boothe is a senior who is "very passionate about history and civics," and who hopes to study history in college. Taylor loved working as part of a team, and also enjoyed interacting with the volunteers who put on the AWQ competition.

Sindhu Gokaraju, a junior who wants to study biochemistry and forensic science, commented on feeling "really disconnected from world affairs, especially with the pandemic, and this was a great opportunity to reconnect with global affairs from various perspectives."

Eunwoo Kim, a junior who plans to attend college (but is now focusing on schoolwork and sports),

(continued in next column)

said that "the topics were all interesting, because some were things I was passionate about and some were completely new."

Senior River Valdivia really enjoyed "when we could all sit down and watch each other strive to be our best academic selves." River plans to study political science with an eye toward attending law school.

Second place went to Seaside High School, and third place went to Stevenson School. We look forward to great things from all competitors next season!

Congratulations and best of luck at nationals to our county champions!

Great Decisions 2023

Great Decisions, the country's largest discussion program, continues this month. WACMB offers two groups: one solely through WACMB, and one with OLLI at CSUMB. Moderators for both groups are Boyd Haight and Linda Dilger.

WACMB Schedule

Mondays, 4:30-6:30

March 6: Economic Warfare
March 13: Politics in Latin America
March 20: Global Famine
March 27: Iran at the Crossroads
April 3: Climate Migration

WACMB/OLLI Schedule

Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30

March 7: Economic Warfare
March 14: Politics in Latin America
March 21: Global Famine
March 28: Iran at the Crossroads
April 4: Climate Migration

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations due March 26. Luncheon is at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Registration: 11:15 am

Mail form and check to:

Members @ \$36 _____

Luncheon: 11:45 am

WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942

Guests @ \$41 _____

Program: 12:30 pm

or register online at www.wacmb.org

Total \$ _____

If you wish to register using a credit card, please do so online.

The COVID-19 Intelligence Failure

Name/s _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of Vegetarian Entrees _____

Note: No refunds or credit will be given for cancellations received after the due date

Welcome to Our New Members!

Susie Brusa

Andrew Drummond

Anwar Duensing

Margaret Goodman and Jack Nachamkin

Jacqueline Henning

Reg Henry

Michael and Gloria Ipson

Brandi Jones

Victoria Kellogg

Frances Lozano

Martha Lynn

Laura Nolan

Eduardo and Holly Ochoa

Mark and Billie Carol Trabing

Maria Valentin

Dustin Wright and Erica Hashiba

LUNCHEON MENU

- Spinach Salad Dressed with Balsamic Vinaigrette
- Honey Dijon Garlic Chicken Breast Served over Toasted Almond Couscous
- Sauteed Green Beans
- Fresh Bread and Butter
- Lemon Bars with Berries
- Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade

VEGETARIAN OPTION

Bell Peppers Stuffed with Almond Couscous, Raisins, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, and Green Olives

This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Benefactor	\$1,000
Sponsor	\$500
Sustaining	\$150
Dual	\$80
Single	\$50
Student/Enlisted *	\$20

The Dual level and above include two memberships.

Make checks payable to WACMB and mail to

WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942

(Dual and above, please include both names)

OR join online at www.wacmb.org

Names/s: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*** Student rates are for full-time students at accredited colleges, universities, or graduate schools, as well as for enlisted military personnel in Grades E1 to E4.**

Vaccination Requirements

- All those attending WACMB in-person events must show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination, including a booster.
- To prove your vaccination status, you can present either your vaccination card or your State QR code. You only need to present such proof once. Your documentation will be noted, and that box will be automatically checked for future meetings.
- Thank you for your cooperation with our efforts to keep our members healthy!

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