

Hello fellow patriots,

I'd first like to thank all of you who came to the "meet-n-greet". Those whom I greeted ranged from twenty-somethings getting their first taste of the patriot movement, to retired military/police officers.

We ate, drank, talked about the issues that concern us and about what we'd like to do about them. It was a frank and open discussion where all participated and no one was 'shut down' because of their opinions. It truly was a meeting of free men in a free country. I was proud to be in attendance.

To those who hadn't visited our website I explained the meaning of our unit designation and the history of the unit's flag and patches (I brought a few along for everyone to see). I also brought along a copy of the NMS (National Militia Standards) which we will use as merely a guide in helping us organize (you can view and download a copy on the website www.northidaho21lightfoot.org).

I'll try to summarize, to the best of my recollection, some of the questions that were asked of me about the unit in particular.

"Is this some sort of secret, underground, neo-nazi army type thing?"

No, just the opposite in fact.

We are like-minded, patriotic, law-abiding citizens of the great state of Idaho, who feel that it's time to stand up for what we believe. We will prepare to protect and, if needs be, defend our families, communities and the liberties fought for by our founding fathers.

I feel that the first and biggest mistake most militias make is to be secretive about their existence. I know people, myself included, are afraid of what the police powers (state and federal) have done to innocent patriotic Americans. But forming a secret, private militia is the worst thing we could try to do.

-First, the police and the public would view you, not as their friends and neighbors... their allies whom they could call on in an emergency, but as a threat. What people don't know and understand, they fear.

-Second, the police (state, fed or both!) will be compelled to investigate you to make sure you aren't a threat. And as was seen in the 1990's, when paid informants couldn't find any evidence of wrongdoing, they made some up. They needed to justify their long and expensive investigation. It's sad but true.

No, that is not the right path. I feel we should do the opposite. I will be the interim liaison officer with the local county sheriffs departments. I will invite them to send a representative to our meetings or training sessions. I will also be sending out a press release (in the local papers) to let our friends and neighbors know what we stand for, what we are doing and why. No one should fear us. As I stated more than once at the meetup, "not only are we not doing anything illegal, we aren't doing anything wrong". The county sheriff should know that we are HIS friends and neighbors as well, and that if there were an emergency he could call upon us for help.

I remember not too long ago here in Bonners Ferry, the Kootnai river was flooding and volunteers were needed to fill and stack sandbags to keep the river from overflowing and damaging property. Where was the militia? What would the local citizens feelings be toward the county militia if we were out there lending a hand?

In a snow/ice storm, shouldn't the county sheriff be able to call on the militia to help clear downed

trees off of roadways so that emergency vehicles can pass?

If the electricity were out we could direct traffic, check on shut-ins and the elderly and disabled, carry water, chop wood... Whatever is needed of us, we would be there.

"Will we train or is this just some debating society?"

Did you know there are two militias in our area right now (publicly, at least)?

One is the United States Militia Association in Blackfoot, Idaho. They concentrate mainly in the southern part of the state, Boise and such. They are an unarmed militia (which doesn't make any sense to me) whose goals seem to be in the area of political action. Anyone who has been a member of the John Birch Society (myself included) knows how far that's gotten us.

The second is the Militia of Montana, which, to the best of my knowledge, is pretty much just a bookstore. Don't get me wrong, knowledge is power. More power to them. But I'm not here to sell you anything.

We will be a fully functioning and armed fighting force. Anything less is not a true, Constitutional militia unit. I think we need to organize and train along the lines provided by the NMS and other fine work done by already established militias in other states. Training is key. We cannot help anyone if we are disorganized and undisciplined. I know some of you have prior experience in fields that are vital to a "well regulated militia". We need instructors.

We also need a command structure. We need leaders.

I have studied military tactics and history, U.S. history, the Bible and Bible Law. I have gathered the proper gear, uniform and weapon in preparation for an unknown future. I have studied Patton, Sun-Tzu, Rommel and Mao Tse-tung. For the past ten years I have been, to borrow a phrase from the Army, "a Militia of One".

But, as I said at the meeting, "I'm not that guy". I'm not qualified to lead this unit. If asked to, I will refuse.

We need someone with military experience. Preferably a retired army officer. Someone who knows the proper way to lead a military unit. Barring an officer, the next best would be a high ranking enlisted man with combat or infantry leading experience.

If you would like to be considered for any of the following posts, let me know and I will advance your names at the Unit Founding Meeting and we will put it to a vote. In the militia, officers are voted in every year. You must have the respect and confidence of your men if you expect them to follow you. This is not regular Army.

CO - Commanding Officer - rank, Captain

Executive Officer - 2nd in Command - rank Lieutenant

- Disseminates written communication (orders) to subordinate units, handles administrative duties, serves as Public Relations Officer

Intelligence/Communications Officer - rank Lieutenant

- Maintains and administers the Rapid Alert System, supervises the counterintelligence program and operational security systems, maintains the security of encoding/decoding systems, supervises intelligence gathering activities, analyses and reports intelligence information.

Operations/Training Officer - rank First Sergeant

- Establishes and enforces training standards, tailors training to specific missions, coordinates with the Intelligence Officer and develops the Threat Assessment Folder, planning of operations under C/O's directions.

Supply/Logistics Officer - rank Master Sergeant

- Responsible for the acquisition and accountability of all supplies and material, supervises all logistical support activities including: transport, evacuation, and medical, supply service and management.

We will also need squad and platoon leaders (sergeant and master sergeant, respectively).

I will try to print more of your questions and my answers in my next email.

Also, from what people said at the meeting, Sunday (afternoon) seems like a good day to get together for training. But the weekend I wanted to do the "Founding/New Recruit" meeting, Sunday is Mothers Day, and where would we be without our mothers. So, if it's agreeable to everyone I would like to hold the meeting on the Friday before, May 8th, at the same time, 6-8pm. Please forward me a head count of who will be attending as I might need to get a bigger room next time. RSVP, ASAP, please.

Thanks and God bless,

Jeff Stankiewicz

North Idaho 21st Battalion of Light Foot