Antenori, Raytheon, Army Intelligence, Space Force, CIA, data centers (24 October 2026)

Nice bunching, yes? A rabbit hole where linking dots might result in a thread or two.

I'm sending this email to a group of about a dozen people, some of whom know some of the others, some who as far as I know are correspondents only with me. Share at your discretion.

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Since learning recently, belatedly, that Fort Huachuca is the designated center for Trump's Space Force, some of us have wondered, Why here?

The answer to that, in part, may be that before John Ratcliffe became head of the CIA last year, as head of National Intelligence he was instrumental in having the Space Force (located in DOD) designated as an intelligence agency, one of the eighteen or so under his purview. Presumably it now is jointly overseen by Hegseth and Ratcliffe. FH, national center of Army Intelligence/Space Force as intelligence agency.

I first became aware that the SF was stationed at FH during public objection to expansion of the Babacomari Solar Field and siting of an associated BESS unit between the Fort and Whetstone, an objection based mainly on public concern that the expansion and technological upgrade might be connected to an as-yet unannounced future data center.

[NB: It's since been pointed out to me that the Babacomari site is also in easy access of major existing transmission lines.]

Wondering about the proposed solar expansion so near the Fort (which at present has only a small data center) made me wonder how much of the much-discussed but as yet minimal DC growth in Cochise County might be related to the defense industry, a question given more weight when coupled with CC Board of Supervisors chair Frank Antenori's rah-rah advocacy for data centers in the county, given his 20-year employment as a program manager and on-going advisory status for defense industry giant Raytheon and, prior to that, his campaign literature statements about how he much-appreciated Raytheon equipment while serving as a Green Beret in the Mideast.

In his (let's call it) aggressive promotion of DCs, Antenori has made a number of assertions that run the gamut from misstatement to fabrication. For example, he said a number of times that no DCs had been approved in CC, but then public inquiry turned up an application for one south of Wilcox approved by Antenori and his fellow GOP Supes in 2025.

(Back-walking by Antenori and fellow Supe Kathleen Gomez's ignorance-as-defense stance has since obfuscated that process, and the DC is still unbuilt, but the fact of approval remains.)

A very recent application for another DC south of Willcox brings up another glitch in the chairman's credibility. Although he has repeatedly insisted to constituents that any DCs in the

county would be "small" (200 MW or less in industry-wide usage), the new proposal is for a 1.5 GigaWatt facility. It will be at least interesting to see how he worms his way past that in the permitting process since there seems to be nothing in the flimsy DC ordinance recently adopted by the Supes that would allow permit denial on grounds of size.

Cochise County has long been dominated by Fort Huachuca, financially as well as in more subtle ways. The county's principal employment base, it is also the principal impetus behind Sierra Vista, the largest urban sprawl in the county and plausibly the main reason for the incipient death of the San Pedro River biosystem. Its aircraft have increasingly dominant command of county airspace, and its current and retired personnel are frequently noted as the main source of a pervasive army town mentality.

Supervisors chair Antenori and vice-chair Crosby, both veterans, frequently allude to what they unabashedly perceive as a bottom-line necessity to protect the Fort from threats of downsizing (on environmental or strategic grounds, especially). One way or another, they overtly salute the military prominence.

It's difficult (for me, at least) not to think that Antenori's cheerleading for team DC is directly connected to MAGA Trump allegiance and to the Trump administration's nationwide push for DC growth and related survelliance techno-culture as essential for "national security" (a POTUS-SCOTUS rubric for ICE arrests and deportations, extra-judicial killing of Caribbean fishermen, tariffs on Canada and other allies, the border wall, relaxing of Congress-approved sanctions against Russia, sell-off of public lands resources, and the imperial executive in general).