

Two Members of Region IV Receive the

In May of 2008 Barney Villa wrote to Region IV Director, Bobby Klepper, to nominate Hector Munoz-Navarro and Luis Aranda for the IABTI Distinguished Service Award. He wanted to recognize the work these men have done for the IABTI and the larger community, especially as it affected the IABTI Training Conference.

Dear Bobby:

It is a great pleasure to nominate one of your Region IV Members, Luis Aranda, for the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators Distinguished Service Award. I have known and worked with Luis for the past twenty years, he is a great asset to our community in many different ways.

Luis is currently employed as an Intelligence Research Specialist with ATF's United States Bomb Data Center, USBDC, formally known as the AENRB; Arson & Explosives National Repository Branch located in Washington, D.C. After 20 and a half years Luis a.k.a. "LOUIE" retired as a Lieutenant/Bomb Technician and CFI, Certified Fire Investigator, with the Prince George's County Fire Department, Prince George's County Maryland. During this time period he assisted with IABTI training conferences both on a local and International level. He is a graduate of the Hazardous Devices School (Class B-1-89) in Huntsville, Alabama and the National Fire Academy, Emmetsburg, MD. Luis was also assigned to TEDAC, Terrorist Explosive Devices Analytical Center located at the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Virginia, for four years. During his tenure their Luis, provided a great deal of time and effort to that cause.

Many of us have known and even worked side by side with Luis over the years. Our goals and objectives within our association are to do just that, work together. Recently, and more importantly, we realized his value to our membership when we asked for his assistance and dedication to successfully bring the Bomb Data Center's of the world together at our 2005 International Training Conference (ITC) held in Palm Desert, California. Our vision was to plan and prepare for all future International Training Conferences, a venue for the important people with roles and responsibilities' within the Bomb Data Centers to be present while our other delegates were attending the ITC, so that they could meet and confer within the ITC venue. Our goals and vision for this effort could not have been met without the support, dedication and enthusiasm that Luis and his colleague Hector Munoz-Navarro put forth to make it happen. Our Bomb Data Center members continue to meet yearly at our ITC's with the help and support of Luis, Hector, and most importantly by their agency, ATF.

Barney T. Villa
Trustee
IABTI



Luis Aranda, recipient of IABTI Distinguished Service Award.

IABTI Distinguished Service Award

Barney Villa wrote, "The vision of the board to implement the Bomb Data centers with IABTI International Training Conference is now a reality due to the work of many people. However, Hector and Luis are two key people whose work has gotten the program to where it is today."

Dear Bobby:

It is a great pleasure to nominate one of your Region IV Members, Hector Munoz-Navarro, for the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators Distinguished Service Award. I have known and worked with Hector for many years, he is a great asset to our community in many different ways.

For the past twenty nine years Hector has had combined service with the US Army and Department of Justice in several positions of great responsibility which have included; Senior Intelligence Research Specialist, Explosives Ordnance Disposal & Hazardous Devices Technician, EOD and Hazardous Devices Instructor, and Senior Military EOD Advisor.

During his tenure he has received several awards such as: Civil Service - Johnny A. Masengale Memorial Award, and Civilian Special Act Awards. While serving our country Hector received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medals, joint Serve Medal.

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Barney T. Villa
Trustee
IABTI



Hector Munoz-Navarro, recipient of IABTI Distinguished Service Award.

Barney Villa has held many positions within the IABTI including director of The Southern California Chapter, Region I Director and International Director of the IABTI. He now serves as a Trustee.