



The Sentry



ASIS Houston Chapter Newsletter

March, 2011

“Keeping an Eye on Houston Security”

Vol. 8, Issue 1

From the Chair

By: Mike Mallon – Chairman

Greetings ASIS Brothers and Sisters!

The first few months of 2011 have been an evolutionary and stimulating time period for the ASIS Houston chapter. Your executive team began the year by aligning itself with the strategies identified by ASIS International President Ray O’Hara. These strategies can be found on the ASIS International website and provide tremendous insight into the direction our national leadership is looking to take ASIS. The chapters executive team identified SMART goals that we felt were in support of the overall strategies and we organized ourselves to achieve the stated goals.

The ASIS Houston executive board now consists of a series of councils and committees designed to more closely align the chapter with the various councils specific to the various disciplines in security. Anyone interested in participating in a specific council or committee is invited to contact the council or committee chairperson identified on the ASIS Houston website. Two of the relatively new committees to ASIS International and ASIS Houston are the Young Professionals Committee, led by SA Bruce Alpe of the FBI Houston office, and the Women in Security Committee, led by Ms. Stephani Hawthorne. Look for their introductory articles in later issues of this newsletter.

In order that our chairpersons at the council and committee level are able to consistently deliver on the needs and wants of our Houston area members, the executive committee commissioned a survey to be delivered electronically to all of the assigned members of the Houston chapter. We are interested in hearing what you have to say about *how* business is conducted on the local level and, *what* we can do to serve your goals as a member of ASIS. We ask you to help us by taking this brief survey when it hits your desktop later this month.

As always, if I can be of any particular assistance to you or your team please feel free to contact me at 832-435-0769 or by email at mikemallonjr@gmail.com

May you and your families enjoy a safe and happy *spring break*.

Golf Committee Report

By: Tom Hamilton, CPP - Chairman



The Houston Chapter’s golf committee is now in the planning stages of this year’s event. We are in search of a great venue to hold our annual fund raising golf tournament and hope to have an announcement out shortly.

The net proceeds from this event support the Chapter’s scholarship and charity donations. Our goal is to make this year’s event the best ever. To do so, we need volunteers to work with us on the committee. We have a number of tasks and projects related to the tournament that volunteers with varied interests could assist us with. If you are interested in working with this fun committee please contact Tom Hamilton at tomh@hamiltoncsi.com or call 281-398-7774. We need all the help we can get!

What’s Inside...

From the Chair.....	1
Here’s Your Chance to Get Involved.....	2
Careers in Security Committee.....	2
Investigations Committee.....	3
Legislative Committee Report.....	4
Commercial Real Estate Committee.....	5
Financial Terrorism in 2008 Economic Crash.....	5
Woman in Security.....	5
Treasurer’s Report.....	6
Texas Man Arrested for Copyright Infringement...	6
A Hidden World, Growing Beyond Control.....	7
ASIS Officer of the Month.....	10
TPSB Liaison - Board Meeting Overview.....	10

Here's Your Chance to Get Involved

By: Susan Casias - Communications Committee



Most over-achievers get a sick feeling in the pit of our stomach when we here that phrase. It's not directed at us and yet we feel like it is. It seems that if we don't volunteer for everything, nothing will get done. That's not true, it just feels that way.

With that being said, I am in need of articles for our award winning newsletter. I am reaching out to our members who are in the thin and thick of it every day. I'm talking to the person who wants to contribute and only has a little time to donate and only if they can sit in front of their computer and do it late at night, early in the morning or on weekends.

To have an award winning newsletter, we need information that will assist our peers in performing their jobs better and help keep us all safe. Tell us about the latest and greatest gadget some salesperson showed you and your boss shot down because, "it's not in the budget". Is there a rise in retail crime? How about the summers? What do we need to keep our eyes and ears open for during these months? How is unemployment affecting your business?

There are some thought-provoking questions. Please send anything you would like to see in the newsletter to scasias@digitexcorp.com. We'd love to hear from you.

Careers in Security Committee

By: Michael Przyborski

The 2011 placement committee's members will focus on the following items during 2011:

- Actively solicit career opportunities from companies in the area.
- Work with listing companies to ensure that ASIS Houston members are aware of these opportunities first.
- Utilize social media to notify ASIS Houston members of potential career opportunities.

I look forward to working in this committee.

Houston Chapter members get free access to the CPP and PSP study materials on our website www.asishouston.org.



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Investigations Committee

By: Kent Brazelton

ASIS International's Investigation Council Mission

Promotes ethical and thorough investigations by private, corporate, and government investigators by providing analyses of emerging investigative technology, techniques and trends in the federal, state, and local investigative arenas.

Investigations Committee 2011 Objectives

- Help to drive ASIS International's Investigation Council goals and resources at the local level.
- Develop a robust investigative networking group that includes investigators from private and corporate entities, government, and law enforcement. The main goal is to utilize the group's collective knowledge and investigative expertise to both educate and assist chapter members.
- Develop initiatives to increase the development of Professional Certified Investigators in the local area.
- Provide chapter members with information updates, discuss topics of interest, and report on committee activities via the chapter newsletter.

I'm excited to be involved with this new committee and look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the coming months. I would like to take this opportunity

to reach out to local investigators that would be interested in becoming involved. There are many different skills, experiences, and resources that each of us can share and I look forward to discussing possible ways each of you can contribute.

I'm sensitive to the fact that most of us are committed to many different projects in both our professional and private lives. My goal is for us to develop a quality investigative resource for the investigations committee members, as well other ASIS members. I believe this can be done and still be respectful of your time. Please contact me at 713-516-5940 or kentbrazelton@swailes.com.

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Legislative Committee Report

By: Dave Parker – Chairman

The State Legislature has a full plate this session. The primary concern is the budget crisis where state revenues are expected to fall \$15 Billion short of expenditures. A major concern is the impact on schools and education. Some legislators have expressed use of the “rainy day” funds, and DPS has suggested the use of millions which have been seized from drug cash monies. Avoiding tax increases, new fees, etc., is a major concern of taxpayers.

Redistricting is also a major responsibility of this Legislature.

Additionally we have bills introduced regarding increasing border violence, bills to eliminate voter fraud, and penalties for employing illegal aliens.

Normally when the legislature meets we in the security profession are concerned about bills affecting the profession and the industry. At this point there does not seem to be any bills of this nature, and if they do exist, they will probably take a back seat to the concerns above.

ASSIST (Associated Security Services and Investigators

of the State of Texas), TALI (Texas Association of Licensed Investigators) and TBFAA (Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association) will conduct their “Walk the Halls” program again this year on March 15th. At Each session of the legislature these professional associations traditionally make as many appointments as possible with the legislators or just drop in and visit with any concerns they may have about bills, current laws, or areas that they propose legislation for.

The TBFAA is concerned about some possible restrictions to the industry wide contract that has been in use for years, and strengthening the Private Security Board rules to cover some of the local regulations concerning alarm dealers primarily in the area of door to door sales.

This will definitely be an interesting session.

Call For Feature Articles

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We welcome contributions from our membership.



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Commercial Real Estate Committee

By: Greg Autry, CPP – Chairman

To start off, I would like to solicit other members from this sector to join this committee. I hope we will be able to bring news and information that is timely and relevant to our sector. One high interest item is information sharing for our sector and others. We are constantly challenged with getting information on possible terrorist activity that pose a threat to our facilities. In the past we have used email lists but these only go to select members and not everyone gets on “the list”. We are looking at a solution to this developed by one of our member companies.

The Seattle PD and ABM security partnered to create Seattle Shield. It consists of a searchable database for reporting surveillance related activity that is accessible by both Security Managers and SPD. Photos can be uploaded to the system as well. After talking with the developer, we have been offered the opportunity to access this system and utilize it in Houston. Houston Shield would have a separate database for the Houston area that would be available to submit and view reports. This would be particularly valuable to report incidents at our individual properties and share with everyone within the commercial real estate sector and as well as all security professionals in the Houston area. The best part is it is FREE. More information on this program will follow soon.

I welcome the opportunity to serve the chapter in this capacity. Any of our members that would be interested in joining this committee feel free to contact me.

Financial Terrorism Suspected in 2008 Economic Crash

By: Leland Dean, CPP, CFFSP, CFS - Chairman of Banking, Financial Services, and Economic Crimes Committee

The Washington Times has obtained a copy of an unclassified report from 2009 that blames the 2008 financial crisis on the actions of terrorists, hostile nations, and others. According to the report, which was written by financial analyst Kevin D. Freeman and is entitled “Economic Warfare: Risk and Responses,” a three-phased attack was launched against the U.S. economy beginning in 2007.

Freeman noted that the first phase of the economic attack was the run-up in oil prices in 2007 and 2008 that took place at the same time as the problems in the nation’s housing market. The second phase consisted of a “bear raid”

carried out by unidentified parties on Wall Street firms such as Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers, Freeman wrote. He noted that this bear raid resulted in a total collapse in credit availability and almost sparked a worldwide economic depression. The third phase, which Freeman said may be underway now, is the large amount of public debt that the U.S. government has taken on. Freeman noted that this debt could put the U.S. dollar’s designation as a global reserve currency at risk.

Freeman wrote that there are a number of parties who could have carried out an economic attack on the U.S., including Islamic terrorists, financial enemies in the Middle East, and hostile members of China’s military. Government or organized crime groups in Russia, Venezuela, or Iran may be to blame as well, Freeman wrote. Freeman cited various pieces of evidence to support his conclusion, including then -Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson’s 2008 statement that the Russians had presented a plan to the Chinese to dump their holdings of bonds by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But Paul Bracken, a Yale University professor who has studied economic warfare, has said that there is no convincing evidence that outside forces worked together to cause the 2008 financial crisis.

Woman in Security

By: Stephani Hawthorne – Chairperson



The Houston ASIS Chapter is introducing a new committee in 2011. My name is Stephani Hawthorne and I work for Tenable Protective Services as Chairman of this new committee, please welcome with me “Women in Security”. This new committee is the first of its kind in ASIS not only at a local level but at the ASIS International level. I look forward to building a strong committee, one that educates and empowers the women in the security industry.

It is not a secret that this profession has been male dominated from the beginning but each day that begins to change as more and more women join this vibrant career. There are great things that are going to be happening in 2011 with our new committee and I look forward to building a strong and lasting group of educated and professional women. Please feel free to contact me if you have interest in joining this new and exciting committee. My email is shawthorne@tenable.net and my phone number is 281-450-6674.

Treasurer's Report

By: Chris Dempster – Chapter Treasurer



As of February 17, 2011 we have 234 paid members of the chapter. At the end of February dues reminders will be e-mailed to all those members who have not paid their local dues and have not yet e-mailed me indicating they do not wish to join the chapter. If you do

not want to join the chapter, that is fine. I understand the reasons many of you have related to me for not joining the chapter; however, if you don't want to receive unnecessary e-mails from me, just shoot me an e-mail at chris@isscsecurity.com and let me know you do not want to join and I will remove you from the list for the remainder of the year.

As of January 31, 2011 we had \$8,527.58 in the checking account and \$6,332.19 in savings for a total bank balance of \$14,859.77.

KTRK Eyewitness News - ABC13 – (Houston Texas)

Deer Park, TX Man Arrested: Copyright Infringement For Profit Stopped By ICE Agents!

HOUSTON (KTRK) — A Deer Park, Texas man, Bryan McCarthy, 32, has been arrested for allegedly *illegally streaming copyrighted sporting telecasts* and *pay-per-view events* over the Internet, according to *U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE)*. He was taken into custody – March 3, 2011 at his Deer Park, Texas home by **ICE** agents. McCarthy is charged with one count of criminal infringement of a copyright. If convicted on the charge of criminal infringement of a copyright, McCarthy faces a maximum of five years in prison. Allegedly, he was the operator of *ww.channelsurfing.net*, which was seized by federal authorities on February 1.

The investigation revealed, McCarthy earned in excess of \$90,000 in profits from online merchants, who paid him to advertise on the website, according to an **ICE Report**, which added, the website had accrued 1.3 million hits. According to the criminal complaint unsealed March 3, 2011 in federal court: the seizure affidavit identified *Channelsurfing.net* was an *online portal to pirated telecasts of sporting events* of the **National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey**

League, World Wrestling Entertainment, and the Ultimate Fighting Championship. All of these organizations hold the “*copyrights*” – to the televised broadcasts of their respective sporting events. Visitors to *Channelsurfing.net* would simply click on one of a number of links to begin the process of downloading or streaming an illegal broadcast of a sporting event.

During the investigation, **ICE** agents downloaded portions of live *copyrighted telecasts* of various sporting events. The website consisted of links to various live television channels, too. According to **ICE**, McCarthy registered the *Channelsurfing.net domain name* [in December 2005]; and, operated the website until the time of its seizure from McCarty's home in Deer Park. At the time it was seized, *Channelsurfing.net* was one of the most popular websites, which stream illegal content. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7992959>

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A Hidden World, Growing Beyond Control

By: Dana Priest & William M. Arkin
Reprint from the Washington Post

The top-secret world the government created in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has become so large, so unwieldy and so secretive that no one knows how much money it costs, how many people it employs, how many programs exist within it or exactly how many agencies do the same work.

These are some of the findings of a two-year investigation by The Washington Post that discovered what amounts to an alternative geography of the United States, a Top Secret America hidden from public view and lacking in thorough oversight. After nine years of unprecedented spending and growth, the result is that the system put in place to keep the United States safe is so massive that its effectiveness is impossible to determine.

The investigation's other findings include:

- * Some 1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private companies work on programs related to counterterrorism, homeland security and intelligence in about 10,000 locations across the United States.
- * An estimated 854,000 people, nearly 1.5 times as many people as live in Washington, D.C., hold top-secret security clearances.
- * In Washington and the surrounding area, 33 building complexes for top-secret intelligence work are under construction or have been built since September 2001. Together they occupy the equivalent of almost three Pentagons or 22 U.S. Capitol buildings - about 17 million square feet of space.

- * Many security and intelligence agencies do the same work, creating redundancy and waste. For example, 51 federal organizations and military commands, operating in 15 U.S. cities, track the flow of money to and from terrorist networks.
- * Analysts who make sense of documents and conversations obtained by foreign and domestic spying share their judgment by publishing 50,000 intelligence reports each year - a volume so large that many are routinely ignored.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the top-secret world created to respond to the terrorist attacks has grown into an unwieldy enterprise spread over 10,000 U.S. locations.

These are not academic issues; lack of focus, not lack of resources, was at the heart of the Fort Hood shooting that left 13 dead, as well as the Christmas Day bomb attempt thwarted not by the thousands of analysts employed to find lone terrorists but by an alert airline passenger who saw smoke coming from his seatmate.

“Hidden” Continued on page 8



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“Hidden” continued from page 7.

There are also issues that greatly concern some of the people in charge of the nation’s security.

“There has been so much growth since 9/11 that getting your arms around that - not just for the CIA, for the secretary of defense - is a challenge,” Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said in an interview with The Post last week.

In the Department of Defense, where more than two-thirds of the intelligence programs reside, only a handful of senior officials - called Super Users - have the ability to even know about all the department’s activities. But as two of the Super Users indicated in interviews, there is simply no way they can keep up with the nation’s most sensitive work.

“I’m not going to live long enough to be briefed on everything” was how one Super User put it. The other recounted that for his initial briefing, he was escorted into a tiny, dark room, seated at a small table and told he couldn’t take notes. Program after program began flashing on a screen, he said, until he yelled “Stop!” in frustration. “I wasn’t remembering any of it,” he said.

Underscoring the seriousness of these issues are the conclusions of retired Army Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, who was asked last year to review the method for tracking the Defense Department’s most sensitive programs. Vines, who once commanded 145,000 troops in Iraq and is familiar with complex problems, was stunned by what he discovered.

“I’m not aware of any agency with the authority, responsibility or a process in place to coordinate all these inter-agency and commercial activities,” he said in an interview. “The complexity of this system defies description.”

The result, he added, is that it’s impossible to tell whether the country is safer because of all this spending and all these activities. “Because it lacks a synchronizing process, it inevitably results in message dissonance, reduced effectiveness and waste,” Vines said. “We consequently can’t effectively assess whether it is making us more safe.”

The Post’s investigation is based on government documents and contracts, job descriptions, property records, corporate and social networking Web sites, additional

“Hidden” Continued on page 9



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“Hidden” continued from page 8.

records, and hundreds of interviews with intelligence, military and corporate officials and former officials. Most requested anonymity either because they are prohibited from speaking publicly or because, they said, they feared retaliation at work for describing their concerns.

The Post’s online database of government organizations and private companies was built entirely on public records. The investigation focused on top-secret work because the amount classified at the secret level is too large to accurately track.

Today’s article describes the government’s role in this expanding enterprise. Tuesday’s article describes the government’s dependence on private contractors. Wednesday’s is a portrait of one Top Secret America community. On the Web, an extensive, searchable database built by The Post about Top Secret America is available at washingtonpost.com/topsecretamerica.


Defense Secretary Gates, in his interview with The Post, said that he does not believe the system has become too big to manage but that getting precise data is sometimes difficult. Singling out the growth of intelligence units in the Defense Department, he said he intends to review those programs for waste. “Nine years after 9/11, it makes a lot of sense to sort of take a look at this and say, ‘Okay, we’ve built tremendous capability, but do we have more than we need?’” he said.

CIA Director Leon Panetta, who was also interviewed by The Post last week, said he’s begun mapping out a five-year plan for his agency because the levels of spending since 9/11 are not sustainable. “Particularly with these deficits, we’re going to hit the wall. I want to be prepared for that,” he said. “Frankly, I think everyone in intelligence ought to be doing that.”

In an interview before he resigned as the director of national intelligence in May, retired Adm. Dennis C. Blair said he did not believe there was overlap and redundancy in the intelligence world. “Much of what appears to be redundancy is, in fact, providing tailored intelligence for many different customers,” he said.

Blair also expressed confidence that subordinates told him what he needed to know. “I have visibility on all the important intelligence programs across the community, and

“Hidden” Continued on page 10



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“Hidden” continued from page 9.

there are processes in place to ensure the different intelligence capabilities are working together where they need to,” he said.

Weeks later, as he sat in the corner of a ballroom at the Willard Hotel waiting to give a speech, he mused about The Post’s findings. “After 9/11, when we decided to attack violent extremism, we did as we so often do in this country,” he said. “The attitude was, if it’s worth doing, it’s probably worth overdoing.”

ASIS Officer of the Month Lt. Charles Hawthorne



Captain Malik Roeback, Lieutenant Charles Hawthorne, Joe Moon, CFE

On December 9th 2010, at approximately 10:15 AM, Texas Medical Center Security Officer Charles “Justin” Hawthorne was dispatched to a “man down” call on the 6th level of Garage 10 in the Texas Medical Center.

Hawthorne arrived and quickly assessed that an elderly male individual was unconscious and not breathing. Hawthorne notified TMC dispatch of the individual’s condition, requested Houston Fire & EMS, and an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) at the scene. While awaiting the AED, Hawthorne directed other field units to block off the area to protect the victim from traffic and to await for emergency personnel. After the AED was delivered, Hawthorne deployed & activated the device. The AED assessed the individual’s condition and did not administer a shock, but advised to begin CPR. Hawthorne began chest compressions until HFD/EMS units arrived, who then resumed CPR until the individual regained a strong pulse and began breathing. He was then transported to a nearby hospital emergency room where he stabilized & recovered. Security Officer Hawthorne’s decisive actions & training contributed to the life-saving efforts of the individual.

NOTE: Since this event, Justin Hawthorne underwent a selection process & was subsequently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He is assigned to the night watch.

TPSB Liaison - Board Meeting Overview

By: John Kahn, CPP, TLSC, TLPI – Chairman

Texas Private Security Board – Abridged Meeting
Minutes – October 29, 2010

Posted at ASIS Chapter 12 Website

See information Online:

<http://www.asishouston.org>

“The Sentry”

Is published quarterly and mailed out in hard copy to all ASIS International members assigned to the Houston Chapter. Once mailed it is then posted on the Chapter website. If you have questions or wish to make an editorial contribution, please contact the newsletter editor by email at s.casias@texassecurityshredding.com or call (713) 320-8019.

Newsletter Editor, **Susan Casias**

Layout and Design, **Bruce Rodriguez, MCSE**

An advertisement for Phoenix Security Academy. The background shows a city skyline. Text on the ad includes: "HOUSTON'S PREMIER SECURITY TRAINING ACADEMY!", "Now offering Level II, III, and IV certification courses.", "Your qualified applicants deserve Houston's best training!", "Also offering Level III re-certification courses.", "LOWEST RATES IN HOUSTON!", "713-689-9428", "Phoenix Security Academy", "A Subsidiary of Recovery Professionals Inc.", and "www.phoenixsecurityacademy.com". There is a logo of a phoenix and a photograph of three people in uniform standing in front of the academy building.



The Sentry

Congratulations To New Members

New ASIS Members

Jack	Adams	James	Lipscomb
Christopher	Barrows	Matt	Loux
Jonathan	Benson	Charles	Mathews
Todd	Berry	Morgan	McKay
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Matthew	Buick	Hector	Partida
Tracey	Cline	Stephen	Simmons
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