



From the Chair...

by Mike Crocker, CPP – Chairperson

Local Chapter Members Contribute to Updating the CPP Exam

On August 30th and 31st, 2004, Houston Chapter members **Steve Brack, CPP** with AIG; **David M. Burke, CPP** with Marathon Oil Company; **Tommy Saia, CPP** with Halliburton; and **Ralph Swain, CPP** recently with Barton Protective Services joined twenty-five of their fellow CPP colleagues in Minneapolis, Minnesota to create, edit and update new questions for the CPP Exam. The process called “item writing” was preceded by a confidential submission of draft questions from volunteers for each of the CPP domains of practice. Quoting a recent report concerning the item writing process appearing in the ASIS Certifications Newsletter “Item writing participants remarked about the in-depth analysis required for the creation of exam questions and responses. They found the process to be demanding, but very rewarding.”

Chapter Corporate Security Roundtable Meets with Texas Homeland Security Director and Chairman of the TPS Homeland Security Advisory Council

The Office of the Chapter Chairperson is charged with fostering the growth of each Chapter Committee under his/her charge. Based on that charge, this Office accepted the task of facilitating a meeting in Houston, on July 13, 2004, between a dozen members of the Corporate Security Roundtable and **Judge Jay Kimbrough**, Texas Homeland Security Director, and, on August 19, 2004, between thirty corporate security directors, managers and invited security professionals and **Ben Bentzin**, Chairman of the Texas Private Sector Homeland Security Advisory Council. Both meetings focused on HB 1769 and its unintended consequences for corporate security departments. Judge

Kimbrough and Mr. Bentzin were in Houston as representatives of Governor Rick Perry’s Office. The Governor’s Office, through his representatives and staff, has extended to the Corporate Security Roundtable a welcoming hand and an open mind. Both Judge Kimbrough and Mr. Bentzin listened carefully to the concerns expressed by our Chapter’s corporate members. Each man offered advice on how best to seek administrative and legislative relief from the Texas Private Security Board, the Attorney General’s Office and the next session of the Texas Legislature. HB 1769 is seen by many corporate security directors as being over reaching, unnecessarily restrictive and creating another unjustified financial burden for businesses operating in Texas. In an effort to reach their colleagues throughout the state of Texas, on Sunday, September 26, 2004, the Houston Corporate Security Roundtable will host a reception for all Texas corporate security directors and managers. The reception is a forum for corporate representatives from all Texas ASIS International Chapters to meet and discuss HB 1769 and any other issues that impact the effectiveness of corporate security departments operating in Texas. An after action report will be provided in the December Sentry detailing the activities at the reception.

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Chapter Elections Are Only Two Months Away

Chapter Officers elections will again be held at our November meeting for the 2005 term. Those interested in seeking a Chapter Officer position may be nominated by a third party or nominate themselves by contacting the Nominations Committee Chair, **Captain Mark Curran** by phone at 713/308-9080 or e-mail at

mark.curran@cityofhouston.net.

The Value of Technology - Hype or Real?

by Roger Piper, CPP

Technology can be a good thing, but be careful with the level of trust applied to the system. One of the "blockbuster" movies that opened during the summer of 2004 involved robots turning against their creators. Current systems have similar hazards potentially looming for users, albeit, more benign.

A recent example of the above noted risk came about at a warehouse that once employed guards on a 24/7 basis. The guard service was discontinued after new cameras and security devices were installed to provide the company with an opportunity to remotely monitor and control access and egress for the facility. The installation was promoted as providing the user with "almost" real time monitoring and control features. For approximately one half the cost of a year's contract of guard service, the company was able to install the equipment and recognize a savings within the first year of operation. Future savings were as easy to calculate as a cost of living adjustment to the guard contract.

All went well with the trial period and the guard contract was terminated. Time to start enjoying the value gained with a good feeling about the level of security maintained.

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This is when the benign issues related to the technology started to be observed. Remote camera movements were delayed and "jerky". The transmission lines that were sold as capable to handle the volume of traffic were routinely overloaded, causing the systems to fail or reboot repeatedly. Systems designed to alert the fire department and police in emergencies, randomly sent signals calling out the respective departments at all hours of the day and night, without any observable cause.

The company was promised that for a little more money new transmission lines were available to improve the bandwidth issues. After multiple service repair calls the number of visits by the local first responders was eventually reduced. Assurances were given that additional security devices were available to improve the remote management and control of the existing devices. But the savings ???

One's trust in technology should be no greater than the level of risk the user is prepared to assume when it fails. Users of the future may need to worry about the robots turning on them, but the current day user needs to worry about the robotics and related security devices failing to live up to their promoted potential. Be wary of your technological reliance as it may turn against you.

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On-line application forms are available at:
<http://www.uhd.edu/admissions/application.htm>

Security Basics for Radiation Safety

By Robert Emery, DrPH, CHP, CIH, CSP, RBP,
CHMM, ARM

Executive Director, Environmental Health & Safety
University of Texas Houston Health Science Center

On July 12, 2004, ASIS Houston Chapter member Dr. Robert Emery, CPP provided an invited professional development seminar to the American Conference on Radiological Safety entitled "Security 101 for Radiation Safety Professionals". The 2004 edition of this conference was held in Washington, DC and attracted radiation safety professionals from across the country.

The terrorist attacks of 9/11/01 have served to heighten attention to security matters related to the use of radioactive materials. Radiation safety professionals (known as "health physicists") working in nuclear weapons facilities or commercial nuclear power plants are very attuned to security matters, but those serving other settings where sources of radiation may be used, such as hospitals, universities, and industry, may lack an understanding of basic security strategies. The seminar afforded an opportunity to describe basic security techniques and served to expose participants to ASIS. Opportunities for possible future professional linkages with ASIS were discussed.

Emery serves as assistant vice president for safety, health, environment & risk management for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and associate professor at the UT School of Public Health. He is also

Continued at right.

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Security Basics Continued.

the assistant director for outreach education in the UT SPH Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness.

Those wishing to learn more about the Health Physics Society can access www.hps.org. Information on the UT SPH Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness can be accessed at www.texasbiosecurity.org.



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Perimeter Security Detection Systems

By Robert Greenbaum

Considering the current state of affairs around the world and within our country, it is a major concern of the people responsible for our industrial, commercial and government facilities to detect entry onto their campuses as far away from their main structures as possible.

The most effective way to accomplish that is by using the various methods of electronic perimeter detection. Ultimately, the first barrier should be a physical obstacle such as a chain link fence. The electronic detection methods can vary from Microwave to Photo Electric Beams to Fiber Optics systems. It can generally be said that as the systems get more economical, they become less reliable and more prone to false alarms. The reduction of those false alarms is a main consideration in the design and engineering of these devices.

At the entry level the end-user has the option of long range microwave based motion sensors that operate in transmitter/receiver pairs. A radio frequency beam is transmitted between the components. The length of a zone can be as long as 600 feet, with a depth of up to 17 feet and a height of 6 feet. When that beam is disturbed it will trigger an alarm event. Because of the size and cost, false alarm reduction is at a minimum with just a few levels of sensitivity. Small or large animals could cause an alarm event.

Photo Electric Beams would be the next step up in security and false alarm reduction. Similar in configuration to the Microwave motion detectors with a transmitter/receiver array, P.E. Beams use Infrared light between the components.

Again, if the beam is broken, the device will trigger an alarm state. False alarms are reduced by increasing the amount of beams in the array or stacking the arrays. It is much less likely that a small animal or bird would trigger an alarm based on the fact that the object crossing the secured area would have to disturb all the beams simultaneously to activate an alarm. Large animals could still trigger a false alarm.

Another option for perimeter detection is the coaxial cable buried sensor system. The electronic detection is accomplished by the coax projecting an electromagnetic field above the area where it is buried. The electronics interfaced with the cable can measure the volume of that field and detect changes within it. Furthermore, that disturbance must meet a minimum volume threshold or the disturbance will be ignored. This adjustable threshold will help reduce false alarms. It must be noted that the coaxial cable does have a limited lifetime and will deteriorate after a few years.

Ultimately, the most reliable products with the best false alarm reduction are those based on fiber optic technology. Most of these systems require a physical barrier to attach to such as a wall or chain link fence. The electronic interfaces used on these systems are the most flexible and thereby allow for fine tuning far above what radio frequency or field disturbance methods permit. These components allow for field tuning of the system for specific disturbances on the fence such as climbing, lifting or cutting the fence fabric. Please note that there is no foolproof method of electronic perimeter detection and that these systems should be used in conjunction with conventional intrusion detection devices and communicators, access control point monitoring systems and most importantly, video surveillance systems for event verification



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Corporate Security Roundtable

By Chuck Hutchinson, Chairman

The Houston ASIS Corporate Security Roundtable is a committee that is composed of security professionals who hold a management position in the corporate sector. The focus of the group is to discuss specific topics that concern the corporate security managers, directors, or senior management in security.

The Corporate Security Roundtable is a forum for the security managers to meet and exchange information and strategy as it relates to the corporate environment. This committee is closed to vendors, and restricted to security management only. Membership to the committee is limited by the size, and composition of the Roundtable. The objective of the Roundtable is to establish a committee that represents a cross-section of membership.

The Houston ASIS Corporate Security Roundtable is currently involved in evaluating the impact of HB 1769, which concerns the licensing of Corporate Security Managers. This issue has an impact on all corporate security professionals.

Persons interested in being part of the Houston ASIS Corporate Security Roundtable, should forward a request to join the committee to: Chutchinson@crescent.com. Co-chairs are, **Mark Caldwell**, AIG, and **Keith Budd**, Aim Investments. Membership is limited.

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter, please contact Tom Hamilton, CPP, Newsletter Editor, at tomh@hamiltoncsi.com.



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CPP Preparation Course Planned

by Darin Dillon, CPP

A CPP preparation course is being planned for those security professionals who wish to prepare for the CPP exam. We are planning a course that will begin the first few weeks of October. Should you be interested, please contact Darin R. Dillon, CPP, (cell) 713.204.7035, (Office) 832.327.3700 ext. 19 or darin.dillon@convergint.com.



Michael Crocker, CPP
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Law Enforcement Liaison Committee

By Bill Hart, Chairman

Every month the Houston Chapter of ASIS International honors a Houston Area Law Enforcement Officer of the month. It is a small gesture to take a few moments to recognize the selfless service of those who risk life and limb for the safety and protection of each of us and our families and businesses twenty four hours a day and seven days a week. The officer, or team of officers, is selected from nominations received from the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Sheriffs Department, or other municipal, county, state, military, and federal law enforcement agencies in the Houston, Harris County, Fort Bend County, and Montgomery County area. All law enforcement officers and agents are eligible.

Selection by the committee is based upon events or service that reflects the attributes that all citizens revere in their law enforcement agents: competence, dedication, integrity, courage, and perseverance. When a selection is made the officer and his or her supervisor is honored at our monthly luncheon with a ceremony, the presentation of a plaque, and a citation, which is posted on the Chapter website.

Each officer of the month becomes eligible to be honored as the Houston Chapter of ASIS International Houston Area Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The officer selected for Officer of the Year is given a membership in the chapter, is a guest at the Houston Chapter of ASIS International Annual Golf Tournament, given tickets for a sporting event, and is the guest of the Chapter for two for a dinner at a fine restaurant.

Any chapter member or any Houston area Law Enforcement agency may nominate a candidate by contacting Bill Hart at bhart31205@aol.com or faxing to 281 873 6967 and sending a narrative describing the act or performance of the officer. Nominators are requested, but not required to attach a proposed citation for the officer.



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Do You Play the Float?

by Leland Dean

People living on the financial edge make it all work by timing when and how they pay their bills. They depend on the float, the time between when a check is written for a payment and when the money comes out of a bank account.

The “cushion” may be gone on October 28th when the new Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act goes into effect and allows a qualified digital picture of a paper check to be a legal document. Check 21 is designed to increase the efficiency and security of the national check payment system through the use of electronic image technology.

Currently, when you make a payment by check, it may be handled by several financial institutions before it actually posts to your account. On 10/28/04, any financial institution involved in this process may choose to replace your original check with a “substitute check” which is a copy made from the electronic image of the original check. Check 21 specifies that a substitute check will be the legal equivalent of the original check for all purposes, and must be accepted in the same way as the original. Instead of taking 2-4 days to clear a check, it may take no more than a day. Consequently, if you write a check in the morning, you’d better have the money in your account to cover.

The new law gives consumers a right to get speedy credit when the bank double-debits a check or pays the wrong amount. However, restrictions apply. It is similar to the current debit-card protection. A big minus, in my opinion, is that the original check has an original thumbprint, penmanship marks for handwriting analysis, and occasionally DNA. The elimination of these may diminish law enforcement efforts to further investigate. Another big minus will be the customer confusion of the regulations.

On the plus side, estimates range from a savings of \$2 billion a year from the reduction of moving, storing, clearing, and returning paper checks. Also, when the terrorist attacks in 2001 shut down air travel, billions of dollars worth of financial transactions could not be completed because the paper checks could not be delivered to the originating banks. So, Check 21 will reduce the vulnerability of the national check processing system to disruption due to weather and other catastrophic events. I will keep you posted of any changes to this act.

Leland Dean is Texas Regional Security Manager for Whitney National Bank and has been a member of ASIS International since 1987.



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Chapter Newsletter to Award Scholarships

By: Tom Hamilton, CPP, Editor and Chairman, Newsletter Committee

When the newsletter was in its planning stages, our primary goal was to make the Chapter newsletter financially self-supporting. To do so, we needed to sell a sufficient number of sponsorship ads to fully pay for all printing and mailing costs. Through the hard work and dedication of the Newsletter Committee we accomplished that goal.

Earlier this year, it became obvious that the mix of newsletter sponsorship ads sold combined with our approach to reduce publishing costs would result in excess in funding of the newsletter for this year. Therefore, in keeping with the Chapter's focus on education and supporting area law enforcement, the Newsletter Committee presented a plan to the Chapter Board to use these excess funds to award two (2) \$500.00 Scholarships to the North Harris College Law Enforcement Training Academy.

In the next few weeks, we will be sending renewal letters out to all our current newsletter ad sponsors requesting renewal of their sponsorships for 2005. Assuming that we are successful in maintaining the same level of sponsorship support and publishing cost, we will be able to continue this scholarship program in the future.

I want to take this opportunity to thank members of the Newsletter Committee for their dedication and support this year. And, on behalf of each of them express our sincere appreciation to all of our newsletter sponsors for their financial support and to the various chapter members for their editorial contributions and suggestions.

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Speaker's Corner

by Pam Duncan, Chapter Secretary

We have enjoyed another quarter of informative and enjoyable programs. Here are the speakers and their presentations:

- June 30th: **Charlie R. Pierce**, President
LeapFrog Training and Consulting
Topic — **“Speaking Bean” or “How to Prepare Your Security Budget”**
- July 28th: **Bill Strother, CPP**, Corporate Director of Security Weingarten Realty Investors, Houston, TX
Topic — **“NFPA 730: Proposed Premise Security Guidelines”**
- August 25th: **Mark Caldwell, CPP**, Director of Corporate Security, AIG-AG
Steve Brack, CPP, Manager of Corporate Security, AIG-Houston
Topic — **“The How and Why of Enhanced Security in the 21st Century”**

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chapter Chairman	Mike Crocker, CPP
Vice Chairman	Darin Dillon, CPP
Secretary	Pam Duncan
Treasurer	Bob Cascino
ASIS Foundation Rep	Steve Brack, CPP
Certifications	Karim Vellani, CPP
CPP – Certification	Steven Bourg, CPP
PSP – Certification	Open
PCI – Certification	Karim Vellani, CPP
Corp Security Roundtable	Charles Hutchinson
	Keith Budd
	Mark Caldwell
Education, Training, Seminars	Dr. Frank Williams, III
	Greg Walker, Esq, ARM
	Mike Mason, CFE, CPP
Golf Tournament	Bob Cascino
	Darin Dillon, CPP
	Bill Ewing
House of Worship	Lewis Eakins
Law Enforcement Liaison	William “Bill” Hart
Legislative Affairs	Dave Parker
Membership	Kevin Galloway
Newsletter	Tom Hamilton, CPP
Nominations	HPD Capt. Mark Curran
Placement	John Brady
Private Security Ser. Council	Posie Clinton
TCPS	Bob Cascino
Website	Mike Crocker, CPP

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House of Worship Committee

by Lewis Eakins

Due to an alarming increase in crimes being committed against churches throughout the country, it has become increasingly necessary that congregations take advantage of every opportunity available to increase the level of security for their parishioners, buildings, and vehicles.

One little-known resource that is available in the Houston area to churches of all faiths is the House of Worship Committee of the Houston chapter of the American Society For Industrial Security (ASIS). ASIS is a worldwide group of over 32,000 security professionals who either work as consultants, or are employed by major industries to include petrochemical, healthcare, government, financial, educational, and others. ASIS is also the pre-eminent certifying body for security professionals offering certifications in security management, physical plant security, and investigations.

The House of Worship Committee developed from a study that was commissioned by the ASIS Foundation to investigate the phenomenon of arson being committed against churches - primarily in the Southern states during the 80's and 90's. Between January 1995 and May 1997, according to the National Church Arson Task Force (NCATF), 429 investigations were launched pertaining to arsons and bombings of houses of worship.

The study recommended that local chapters initiate House Of Worship Committees for the purpose of providing basic security surveys for churches in their respective areas free of charge. Committee members volunteer their time to this cause.

Lewis Eakins, president of Eakins Investigative Services, is the chairman of the House of Worship Project for the Houston chapter of ASIS. He says, "it is important that professional organizations use their expertise to give back to the community. In doing so, a valuable service is rendered, and greater recognition is gained by the group."

According to Mr. Eakins, when a request is received by the committee, an appointment is made with the church leader or their designee for a site visit. The site visit involves a walk-thru of the property with questions asked about past or current security problems. The assessment focuses on lighting, doors and locks, alarm systems, money

collection and handling, and parking lot security. Information is also provided on the pros and cons of utilizing off-duty police or security officers, background checks on those who work with youth and children, contractor backgrounds, etc. A report is then generated and forwarded that outlines areas for security improvements.

Complete confidentiality is maintained. The security professional does not divulge any information relating to the results of the survey to anyone other than the designated person.

If you would like more information on this free service, you can go to the Houston chapter website at www.asishouston.org, or give Mr. Eakins a call at (713) 995-0991.

Law Enforcement and Security Management Training Seminar

by Mike Mason, CFE, CPP

The Houston Chapter of ASIS International is once again sponsoring its annual Law Enforcement and Security Management Training Seminar. The dates have been delayed until November 3 and 4 to avoid conflicting with the ASIS International Seminar in Dallas at the end of this month. Highlights of the seminar include Homeland Security, Cybercrime Investigation and Prosecution, FBI Domestic Terrorism Update, and Crime Analysis to name a few. TXDPS Bureau of Private Security in-service training will again be offered as an option. This training has a reputation of being well worth the expense to attend.

Seminar Fees

Received By October 10, 2004:

One day - \$ 75.00 Both days - \$ 125.00 for ASIS Houston Chapter Members and L.E. Officers

One day - \$ 90.00 Both days - \$ 150.00 for ASIS Houston Chapter Non-Members

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One day - \$ 90.00 Both days - \$ 150.00 for ASIS Houston Chapter Members and L.E. Officers

One day - \$ 105.00 Both days - \$ 175.00 foASIS Houston Chapter Non-Members

Treasurer's Report

2nd Quarter 2004

by Bob Cascino, Chapter Treasurer

This article finds our chapter in a healthy financial status as evidenced by the \$15,082.76 on hand as of the close of our August month. This condition exists as a result of the Chapter membership continuing to support and participate in our activities.

Chapter Dues Invoicing will be forthcoming, and prompt payment will be appreciated. The dues allow us to continue our programs for recognition of law enforcement and guest speakers, as well as funding our educational programs such as the CPP classes.

Our Website has been a significant improvement in communication for the chapter. It has been nominated to National Organization for recognition, all as a result of our supporting members. We could not do this without

the support of our chapter members and their sponsoring companies. Our Website Sponsorship Drive will be beginning in the near future as well. We look forward to each supporter continuing to donate funds for the great enhancement to our communication fund.

Once again, thank you to the chapter membership for your support and encourage your continued commitment in the future of our organization.

"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.

Newsletter Editor, **Tom Hamilton, CPP**
Layout and Design, **Bruce Rodriguez, MCSE**

If you have questions or wish to make an editorial contribution, please contact the newsletter editor by email at tomh@hamiltoncsi.com or call (281) 398-7774.



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