

AKAL SECURITY NEWSLINE

W W W . A K A L S E C U R I T Y . C O M

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AKAL'S LEADING EDGE

9th Circuit Court Security Now Under Akal's Watch

In October 2000, Akal took over court security for the U.S. Marshals Service 9th judicial circuit, a territory that covers nine western states, including Alaska and Hawaii. This September, Larry Homenick was brought on board as 9th Circuit Contract Manager after 29 years with the U.S. Marshals Service in Denver, Colorado.

"I worked with Akal for several years before retirement," said Homenick. "I was always impressed with their approach, responsiveness and the way they treated their employees. These factors helped



9th Circuit Contract Manager
Larry Homenick

me decide to go ahead and retire and join Akal."

Homenick is responsible for the good relationship between Akal and the Marshals Service, often acting as middleman

between the Marshals Service's District Office and Akal corporate headquarters. Homenick's short-term goal is to educate the 739 CSOs in the 9th Circuit on the AKAL philosophy and way of doing business.

"Many CSOs are gun shy of new contracts," said Homenick. "My challenge is to educate them as to how they can expect to be treated."

Homenick is something of a celebrity. While at the U.S. Marshals Service, he was responsible for the capture of Chris Boyce, upon whom the Robert Lindsey book *Falcon and the Snowman* was



At the Los Angeles Federal Courthouse: CSO Willie Armstrong, CSO Patricia Arico, CSO James McPherson, CSO James Dimas, CSO Mike Shields, CSO Mike Strain

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NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Santa Fe Officers Head Back To School

Akal officers in northern New Mexico are working to ensure students at four different secondary and post-secondary schools stay safe and sound.

Under the guidance of Harold Sanchez, Safety and Security Coordinator, Espanola Valley High School set up cameras to monitor hallways, common areas, parking lots and campus entrances. "Closer monitoring of activities allows us to be more responsive to overall student safety," said Gurujivan Khalsa, Santa Fe Branch Manager.

The College of Santa Fe, a liberal arts college, has been an Akal contract since January 1999. Under the direction of Yvonne Russell, College of Santa Fe Dean of Students, five Akal officers provide 24-hour a day security for the approximately 5,000 students who live on campus or attend classes.

Northern New Mexico Community College, a long-standing Akal contract, recently added an additional security officer to their Espanola campus.

Akal officers responded immediately with additional security to the Santa Fe High School when an after-hours arson fire destroyed the school's administration building in October. "There have been no additional incidents since," said Khalsa. "We continue to work closely with the school administration."

CLIENT PROFILE

National Hispanic Cultural Center Opens In Albuquerque

On October 22, the new National Hispanic Cultural Center opened in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Of particular interest is the center's art gallery featuring fine art from world-renowned Hispanic and Latin artists.

A host of dignitaries were on hand for the grand opening, including Phillip de Borbon, Crown Prince of Asturias, visiting from Spain; Gary Johnson, Governor of



Former New Mexico Governor, Bruce King; Albuquerque Sales Manager Curt Pena and Alice King



Albuquerque Sales Manager Curt Pena with Felipe De Borbon, Prince of Spain, Crown Prince of Asturias

New Mexico; and Jim Baca, Mayor of Albuquerque.

Akal provides 24-hour a day security, with two officers on-site at all times — one patrolling the building exterior, the other the interior. The officers assigned to the Hispanic Cultural Center went through a two-month long interview process before being selected for the job.

"Our officers are usually the first point of contact with the public, making them ambassadors for the hispanic cultural center as well as for Akal Security," said Curt Pena, Albuquerque Sales Manager. "They have to be very knowledgeable about what's happening at the center, as well as the security needs of the post."

CLIENT PROFILE

Pacific Design Center

The Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, California, is the west coast's largest facility for fine furnishings, with 150 showrooms featuring furniture, fabrics, flooring, wall coverings, kitchen and bath fixtures, lighting, art and accessories for homes, offices, restaurants and healthcare facilities. In addition, the 16-acre facility is host to a myriad of special events including private

parties, fundraisers, concerts, lectures, film screenings, and continuing education seminars for design professionals.

Akal has provided 24-hour a day on-site security since August.

Since members of the entertainment industry frequent the Pacific Design Center, "the security officers have to have interpersonal skills to effectively do their

job even when dealing with celebrities," said Dan Hoyt, Los Angeles Branch Manager. "They have to look and act professional. They can't be star struck."

According to Hoyt, Akal has been successful at the Pacific Design Center due in large part to the solid working relationship they have with the center's Security Manager, Jesse Gutierrez.



Outstanding Accomplishments

In July, a severe thunderstorm dumped several inches of rain and hail on Aberdeen, South Dakota, flooding the underground parking area and the electrical transformer room at the Federal Building. Building Services personnel worked to pump water out of the electrical room when they were notified by Akal CSOs that water was shooting out of the telephone conduit that runs between buildings. By the time Building Services personnel arrived, LCSO Thomas Richards and CSOs Coralee Harr, Robert Overbay and Dala Mandel "had their jackets off and were working to mop up the water pouring into the telephone room," said Brenda Haar, Buildings Manager, General Services Administration, Rapid City, South Dakota. John Whitelock, Chief Deputy, U. S. Marshal said, "I have always believed that South Dakota has one of the best CSO contingents in the nation. I would stack our CSOs up against the best of the rest anywhere, anytime."

There's no getting anything by CSOs at the U.S. District Courthouse in White Plains, New York. From February to October, in four separate incidents, CSOs Joseph Occhicone, Frank Esposito, Herman Kraus and Joseph

Greico detected and confiscated well-hidden, illegal weapons while on duty at the magnetometer at the courthouse lobby security station.

CSO Robert Sumlin received a letter of gratitude this past

October from District of Columbia Grand Jury member Patricia McCrimmon.

Mrs. McCrimmon, who suffers from severe claustrophobia, feared she wouldn't be able to commit to grand jury duty at the Carl Moultrie Courthouse because the only way to the courtroom was through locked doors, secured stairwells and elevators. For three weeks, CSO Sumlin personally escorted a frightened Mrs. McCrimmon to the courtroom, first up the stairwell, then eventually on the elevator until Mrs. McCrimmon felt comfortable riding the elevator alone. "Officer Sumlin accomplished what several

medical professionals and years of therapy could not," said Mrs. McCrimmon. "I will be eternally grateful to CSO Robert Sumlin who went above the call of duty."

According to U.S. Marshal Robert McMichael, Site Supervisor Tom Daniels was instrumental in the successful expansion of the Court Security Program at the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and Courthouse in Atlanta, Georgia, to 24-hour a day, 7-day a week coverage. "CSO Daniels worked many late hours and weekends and was instrumental in fostering solutions to problems," said McMichael.

CSO Charles "Spike" Witcher was honored by Chief Judge Phil Gilbert of the Southern District of Illinois 7th Judicial Circuit for his fifteen years of service to the Court Security Program. CSO Witcher received a plaque and certificate of commendation during a reception hosted by Judge Gilbert.

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New Los Angeles Branch Manager

Dan Hoyt joined AKAL in August as the Los Angeles Branch Manager, responsible for 70 officers. Hoyt, formerly with Burns International Services Corporation, has been in the industry for 21 years.

A native of Massachusetts, Hoyt enjoys astronomy, music ("I play a little guitar.") and sports, especially boxing. We are delighted to have Dan's leadership at Akal's Los Angeles branch.

Akal Makes The List

Once again, Akal made the Bank of America and Arthur Anderson-sponsored list of New Mexico's 100 largest privately held companies.

Akal's 16th place ranking, based on revenue, has climbed every year since first appearing on the list more than seven years ago.

Officers of the Month

The following officers have been named Officer of the Month at the Akal office in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

- August 00 - Pedro Bustillos**, Account Manager for Santa Fe City Parking
- September 00 - Orlando Martinez**, Assistant Post Supervisor at Espanola Valley High School
- October 00 - Teresa Finney**, Post Supervisor at College of Santa Fe
- November 00 - Kevin Sweeney**, City of Santa Fe Transfer Station



CSO Herron Kraus, CSO Joseph Occhicone and CSO Frank Esposito

OTHER AREAS IN THE U.S.

Akal Brings On New Director Of Commercial Operations

Ed Norton, C.P.P., was hired in October as Akal's new Director of Commercial Operations. Prior to accepting the position, Mr. Norton was the Corporate Loss Prevention and Safety Manager for Ft. Lauderdale-based Car Spa, Inc. in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ed Norton spent 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, specializing in law enforcement and security before being recruited by American Protection Services (APS) to manage their Las Vegas office. While at APS, Norton increased weekly security hours 142 percent in five years. He then went to work for Pinkerton and was responsible for moving their

Nevada operations from an 8-percent loss to a solid profit in a year-and-a-half.

His secret for success? Stay positive and focus on the two Ps – perseverance and patience.

"I tell our officers all the time that a lot of getting ahead is being patient with our customers and keeping our noses to the grindstone," said Norton.

Ed Norton has been married to his wife, Victoria, for 35 years. He has two sons and two grandchildren, ages 4 and 10. Outside of family and work, his passion is golf. "I play golf every chance I get," said Norton. He's also a scratch bowler and loves to jog.

Outstanding Accomplishments

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Officer Elton Williams of Albuquerque, New Mexico,

received a card and an Albertson's gift certificate from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Contreras after detaining the driver of a car who backed

into the Contreras' car during a Scorpions hockey game. "Thank you very much for your great work, for being there when most needed. You don't know how much you are appreciated," wrote the Contreras.



U.S. Marshal Terrence Delaney, Robert Starke, CSO Charles "Spike" Wicher, Chief Judge Phil Gilbert of the Southern District of Illinois.



NOTEWORTHY NEWS

A Partnership Built To Last

Akal has partnered with Coast International Security (CIS) of Surfside Beach, California since 1996, acting as subcontractor on two large government contracts – the Ronald Reagan building in Washington, D. C. and the U.S. Army's Kwajalein Missile Range in the South Pacific. CIS contracts represent about \$10 million of AKAL's total revenue.

Recently, Akal agreed to play a larger role in the partnership, taking responsibility for administrative functions such as accounting and personnel support, allowing CIS to streamline their headquarters operations. In turn, Akal hopes to reap the benefits of business development opportunities due to CIS' excellent relationship with government agencies. Akal and CIS are working closely together to pursue new contracts.

New Faces In The Crowd

Alfredo (Fred) Rodriquez, retired Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, joined Akal in July 1999 as a CSO with the Middle District of Georgia. CSO Rodriquez is active with the Big Indian Creek District Cub Scouts in Houston County.

CSO Bob Greer joined Akal in October after retiring as an internal affairs sergeant with the Springfield, Missouri police department. His coworkers for 26 years described Greer as fair, respected for his ethics, objective and caring.

Officer Jerry Astorga joined Akal as Officer-In-Charge at Central Park Forest, a housing complex in Phoenix, Arizona. Officer Astorga recently moved to Phoenix from California to be close to his children and grandchildren.

In September, Akal took over the security contract at the 202 East Earll building in Phoenix, Arizona. **Jason Topete**, a Phoenix native, was brought on board as the afternoon security guard. Officer Topete is working on his degree in marketing at Phoenix College.

9th Judicial Circuit Court Now Under Akal's Watch

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based. The sequel, *Flight of the Falcon*, is the story of Boyce's escape and recapture by Homenick 18 months later. More recently, Homenick was responsible for security during the Oklahoma bombing trial in Denver.

Homenick has two sons, 19 and 22. Both attend San Diego State University.

AKAL SECURITY NEWSLINE

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