

# 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

# Akal's Southern California Business Shows Dramatic Growth

**Akal has seen a 62 percent increase in business in the Los Angeles operations over the last two years. Southern California is the largest market for security services in the U.S. The state's economic crisis is forcing more government agencies to consider outsourcing security services. Akal has become a leader in security for city and county agencies, bringing quality security services at a value price.**

The simple explanation for the region's growth is a focused and aggressive approach to developing new business opportunities.

So far the strategy seems to be working. In the last year, the Los Angeles office has secured three large contracts – Ventura County (includes the General Service Agency, County Health Agency and County Medical Center), Riverside Department of Public Social Services and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in San Bernardino.

"We're paying close attention to what's available in LA and southern California," said Tony Perez, California Regional Manager. "Tie that approach to a best quality standard, and we knock the socks off our clients."

Since Perez came on board in June 2002, he has utilized his depth of experience in law enforcement built over his 30

years in the U.S. Marshal Service to make inroads with a variety of clients.

"Most people in security came out of law enforcement. Part of the reason we've been successful is that when I contact the Director of Security, we have a common bond. We understand each other," Perez said.

Perez has been targeting his sales efforts at the entertainment industry, large California-based corporations and state, county and city government organizations. And according to Perez, it hasn't been a hard sell.

"Akal has an excellent reputation for doing what we promise the

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L to R: Frank Alvarez, Branch Manager National Division; Capt. Matt Beatty, Supervisor; Capt. Reuben Davalos, Supervisor; Al Irwin, Branch Manager Los Angeles County; Adrian Tibbs, Recruiter; Adriana Montes, Scheduling and Payroll; Sat Kaur Khalsa, Office Manager; Laura Gaytan, Records Specialist



## Akal Provides Security At Pojoaque Pueblo

This spring Akal began delivering security services to the Pojoaque Pueblo, the homeland of a centuries old culture based 15 miles north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Akal provides a vehicle patrol for about 20 locations, including pueblo merchants, a commercial loading dock, a golf resort, a mobile home park and a large apartment complex. A second Akal officer provides night-time security at a high-traffic convenience store / gas station. Akal also provides security for the Cities of Gold Casino and Hotel.

“This is an interesting contract because we deal with a lot of different cultures and ethnicities,” said Gurujiwan Khalsa, Santa Fe Branch Manager.

Lead Officer Sergeant Vincent Huck and his team work closely with the Pojoaque Pueblo Police Department and the property management company.

In addition to security services, Akal provides a daily traffic report to local police. The report has served as an effective tool for dramatically reducing vandalism and other crimes.

### CLIENT PROFILE

## K9 Teams Score In Honolulu

**Honolulu is one of the only major airports that contract their airport security K-9 teams. Since Akal already was managing security at Honolulu International Airport, they assumed management of the existing five dog teams.**

The thirty-five K9 teams assigned to major airports across the country are evaluated on a regular basis during a series of stringent exercises conducted by the United States Air Force (USAF). During the evaluation, explosives are placed throughout the airport, in luggage and on airplanes and

K9 teams are sent out to find them.

In the most recent evaluation the five Honolulu K9 teams did exceptionally well. In fact, they scored a perfect score. Only four other teams based in two cities did as well.

*Congratulations Honolulu!*



K-9 unit at Honolulu Airport

## CSOs Handle Outburst In Utah Court

United States Attorney Paul Warner, District of Utah, had high praise for CSOs Fred Tedesco, Roy Orton, Kent Hedenstrom, Del Badham, Dan Jensen, Dave Sparkman and LCSO Jack Hanham for their handling of an incident during a sentencing hearing in July.

After a violent outburst during the hearing, the defendant had to be restrained.

“In my 15 years in federal court, I have never seen a

finer display of professionalism,” wrote Warner.

U.S. Marshal Randall Anderson added his praise. “I was at our headquarters in Washington, D.C., and our Director, Ben Reyna, made mention of the incident to the Deputy Director and numerous U.S. Marshals who are members of his Advisory Committee. He was very complimentary and proud of how everyone performed,” Anderson said.

## Heroic Officer Helps Avert Disaster

Meet Johnny Auguste, one of our most heroic officers.

During a routine badge check at his post at the El Paso International Airport, he noticed a tanker had started weaving from side to side and he immediately ran to the driver’s door. To his surprise, he found that the driver was having a seizure as the tanker careened down the road. Without hesitation CSO Auguste opened the door and grabbed the steering wheel to control the vehicle. Once he gained control of the tanker he reached for the keys and shut off the engine. CSO Auguste phoned patrol and EMS immediately.

It was CSO Auguste’s keen observation and quick reaction that saved the driver’s life and the lives of others. If the tanker had continued any further it would have crashed into an Airline jet.

His brave and extraordinary act will always be remembered.

## Here She Is, Miss Inland Empire...

CSO Madison Palmer, Eastern District of Washington, and his wife, Rose, are the proud parents of a potential future Miss America.

In March, Atiya Palmer, 21, was crowned Miss Inland Empire as part of the Miss Spokane Scholarship Organization Pageant. A student at Washington State University, Palmer won \$6,500 in scholarships and was eligible to compete in Tacoma for the Miss Washington crown this past July.

The Palmers are grateful to the CSOs and U.S. Marshals Service of the Eastern District of Washington for their support.



ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL

# Outstanding Accomplishments

**In May, CSO John McIntire,** while at his post at the Los Angeles federal courthouse on Spring Street, noticed an unoccupied vehicle parked in a no parking zone at the front of the building. After determining the vehicle had been stolen, McIntire notified the Los Angeles Police Department. The driver of the stolen vehicle eventually returned to the car and was arrested for grand theft auto.

**In early June, CSO Jerry Young, while walking his perimeter post at the Mark O. Hatfield Courthouse in Portland, Oregon,** identified a man wanted by the U.S. Marshals Service for a pretrial violation. CSO Young notified the Duty Deputy and the man was taken into custody.

**Paul Thornton, Performance Auditor, City of Phoenix Fire Operations Center,** presented Officer Rona Verdugo with a

certificate of appreciation for her role in stopping an intruder banned from the city's fire department facilities. Officer Verdugo stopped the intruder and escorted him off the premises.

**In July, Texas-based Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF)** honored OIC Joe Honyumtewa as Officer of the Month. Special Agent Bob Shoemaker with BNSF made the presentation.

**Chief Judge Marilyn Patel, U.S. District Court in San Francisco, California,** recently wrote to Acting U.S. Marshal Tom Klenieski to express her



Paul Thornton, Performance Auditor for City of Phoenix Fire Operations Center and Officer Rona Verdugo

thanks to CSOs George Rogers, Paul Fedelin, James Faxter, Michael Seybold and Dave Winn for their work during a reception for Judge Charles Breyer this past May. The CSOs, together with U.S. Marshals Leonard Boyer, Mike McCloud, Jonathan Brown and Mark Thomson, assisted with parking, escorted the judges and their spouses and provided security during the reception.

**U. S. Marshal Patrick McDonald, District of Idaho,** wrote to commend CSO Marvin Miller for his alertness.

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Special Agent Bob Shoemaker from BNSF, OIC Joe Honyumtewa

## CSOs Arrest Man Who Threatened Federal Judge

This past June, CSO Larry Sobkowich was instrumental in the arrest of a man who made verbal threats directed at Senior District Judge.

Early in the day, CSO Sobkowich was advised by U.S. Marshal Larry Bobnick that the judge had received two threatening phone calls in his chambers at the Brien McMahon Federal Building in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the caller would most likely attempt to enter the building.

Several hours later, Sobkowich observed a black truck pull up to the side entrance of the federal building. The driver pointed at Sobkowich, threatened him and pulled around to the front entrance. By the time Sobkowich arrived at the front entrance, another CSO had asked the man to produce identification. The man produced a passport and began making verbal threats against the judge, the President and Vice President of the United States.

CSO Sobkowich, with assistance from CSO James Lyons, handcuffed the man and escorted him to the Marshal's office. The suspect was detained on five charges.

# Fleeing Suspects Stopped By Alert CSOs

**CSOs Harlowe Jahelka and Cory Ness, Ninth Circuit Western District of Washington, received letters of appreciation for their work in stopping two suspects fleeing from an auto accident.**

In April, CSO Ness, just off duty, was walking to his car. CSO Jahelka was at his post outside the federal courthouse in Seattle. Both witnessed a vehicle hit four other cars at an intersection during rush hour traffic. A Washington State Patrol Trooper also witnessed the accident, but

before he could turn his car around, the driver and passenger exited their vehicle and ran. The trooper shouted and CSO Jahelka tackled the female driver on the street. CSO Ness stopped and restrained the male passenger.

The CSOs later learned that the vehicle had been stolen and was

responsible for a number of other accidents a few blocks away.

U.S. Marshal Eric Robertson presented the CSOs their letters of appreciation in a ceremony on June 16.



CSO Harlowe Jahelka, U.S. Marshal Eric Robertson and CSO Cory Ness

## Northern California District Celebrates

In August, the Northern District of California celebrated the 20-year anniversary of the CSO program with a luncheon. Many CSOs and retired CSOs attended.

Following the luncheon, Acting Marshal Thomas Klenieski recognized Akal Site Supervisor Paul Lee, CSO David Banda and CSO James Hicks for their 20 years of dedicated service with certificates of appreciation.

### Outstanding Accomplishments

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While on duty at the basement post of the U.S. Courthouse in Boise, CSO Miller observed two construction employees in a secure area. CSO Miller screened the two employees, issued proper ID badges and determined they had entered through an open venting system tunnel. He notified the Marshals Service of the building security breach, which was then corrected.

"It takes CSOs like Marvin Miller to protect the Federal Judiciary and enhance the building security," wrote McDonald.

### CSO Ira Cudd while on his normal rounds saw a substantial water leak near our building.

He notified Operations on the hand held radio and an operator went to the location. The operator was able to find another valve to shut down the water leak so repairs could be made later that day.

Thanks to your guard, Ira Cudd for a job well done.

### Lead Court Security Officer Leticia Hernandez, U.S. District Court in Yuma, Arizona, received a certificate of commendation for her attention to detail on February 26. LCSO Hernandez was stationed at the Command and Control Room, monitoring the security cameras. She recognized a man walking by the courthouse as one of Yuma County's Most Wanted from photos she had seen in the Yuma Daily Sun, and notified the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The man, wanted for a probation violation, was questioned and arrested without incident.

### Visitors to Honolulu wrote a Honolulu newspaper to praise Akal Security at the Honolulu Airport.

Mr. and Mrs. Capen of Palo Alto, California, arrived at the airport and soon got separated.

"As soon as I said 'I can't find my husband,' a kind lady from Akal Security immediately went into action," wrote Mrs. Capen.

One Akal associate looked for Mr. Capen, while another called the Capen's son who was at the airport to pick up his parents. The family was quickly reunited.

"What we try to do here is extend our courtesy to those in need and really promote the *Aloha Spirit*," said Captain Gary Loo, stationed at Honolulu Airport.

### Three Akal Officers were recognized for their role in stopping an escape attempt

at the DHS-Immigration and Customs Enforcement El Centro Service Processing Center in El Centro, California. Each of the officers received an award of appreciation from the DHS.



LCSO Leticia Hernandez



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS

# CSO Receives Award For Bravery

On April 25, CSO Jerry Rhea, Fourth Circuit, Baltimore, Maryland, received an award from U.S. Marshal Johnny Hughes for bravery and marksmanship shown on the night of October 18, 2002.

CSO Rhea, on his way home after completing his duties at the federal courthouse, was behind a vehicle stopped for a red light. A man, armed with a semi-automatic handgun, appeared on the sidewalk and began to fire at the driver of the first car. When the vehicle fled the scene,

the man fired several times at CSO Rhea, shattering the rear window of his truck. CSO Rhea returned fire and the suspect was killed. Police later learned that the suspect was attempting to assassinate a witness in a high-profile drug conspiracy and murder case in the city of Baltimore.

Fellow CSOs and federal judges commended Rhea for utilizing his past police experience and training in a stressful situation.



Front Row, L to R: Judge Catherine Blake, CSO Jerry Rhea, Judge Frederick Smalkin. Back Row, L to R: Judge Andre Davis, U.S. Marshal Johnny Hughes, Judge Walter Black, Judge William Quarles, Judge Frederick Motz.

### Southern California Business Growing...

*continued from front*

client. It's easy for me to brag about Akal, and the enthusiasm we bring to a prospective client is often the impetus that gets us in the door," Perez said.

A year of successful growth has Perez more confident than ever about the future.

"The word is out that we are aggressively conducting business in LA. People know the quality of our work. They know we provide a best-value product. We can only forecast enormous growth."

## AKAL SECURITY NEWSLINE

Editor: Sat Nirmal K. Khalsa,  
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The Akal Security Newsline is published quarterly at Akal headquarters. Letters, comments and news from employees and clients are invited.

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