

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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CLIENT PROFILE

Akal Supports Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

In the fall 2002, Akal signed a five-year contract with the new Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration (BCI), formerly known as Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS). Under the terms of the contract, Akal will provide security services at three of BCI's eight Service Processing Centers – the Krome Service Processing Center in Miami, Florida; the El Centro Service Processing Center in El Centro, California;

and the Florence Service Processing Center in Florence, Arizona.

Individuals in the U.S. without proper visas or documentation are detained at a Service Processing Center until their status is determined.

There are about 500 Akal employees onsite at the three facilities, which house about 300 detainees each. Security

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Akal Officers with Immigration and Naturalization Services Employees

AKAL'S LEADING EDGE

Akal Recognized for High Ethical Standards

In February, Akal was chosen as a finalist for the 2003 Better Business Bureau (BBB) Business Ethics Award by the BBB of Central / Northern Arizona. Akal was one of three finalists in the 50-99 Employees Category.



The Business Ethics Award recognizes businesses for their demonstrated high standards of ethical conduct and practices. The program was established to honor outstanding businesses whose commitment to ethical business practices helps to uphold a fair marketplace. Winners were chosen by an independent panel of judges comprised of community leaders.

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New Marshal Sworn In

Daya Khalsa and Bob Seignious were among the Akal representatives on hand at the Patrick Moynihan U. S. Courthouse in New York City on February 14 to witness the swearing in of U.S. Marshal Joseph Guccione.

Marshall Guccione was sworn in by Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. There were about 250 people at the ceremony.

Akal employee receives Seaport Antiterrorism Training

Craig Fujihara, Akal's Maritime Security Manager, was recently awarded a certificate in Seaport Antiterrorism Training, conducted at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia. Akal was the only private security company in the State of Hawaii to be invited to the training.



ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL

Outstanding Accomplishments

CSO Robert Booher and LCSO Ronald Tatro were on duty at the U. S. District Court in Burlington, Vermont, when they observed a man collapse in the adjacent post office lobby. They immediately began administering CPR. CSOs Donna Sieverding, Duane Dingler and Joseph Licker responded to maintain building security, while CSO James Lockwood contacted medical services and the Marshal's office.

In February during the early morning hours, Officer Marte was on patrol at the Deer Valley Water Facility in Phoenix when she observed an intruder. She immediately notified her partner, Officer Santos Munoz, who notified the Phoenix Police Department. The police took the intruder into custody.

A records check by the police showed that the suspect had prior arrests for burglary and narcotics.

Officer Rhonda Marte was presented with a Certificate of Commendation by Ken Lieberman, Regional Manager, Paul Sprenz, Akal Contract Manager and Chris Strand,



Chris Strand, Deer Valley Water Facility Manager, Officer Rhonda Marte and Ken Lieberman, Regional Manager



SO Melissa Ramirez, Tony Perez, Akal Regional Manager; Frank Alvarez, Akal Operations Chief; SO Norberto Gil; Peter Toscano, Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety

Deer Valley Water Facility Manager for attention on duty, keen observation and using safe and proper tactics to detain the suspect until police arrived.

Officers Santos Munoz, Sergeant Kenneth Mlcoch and Paul Sprenz were also commended for responding quickly and providing support to the Deer Valley Water Facility.

Acting US Marshal Thomas A. Klenieski, Northern District of California, signed certificates

Both Akal Officers were awarded a certificate of Excellence, an Excellence pin to wear on their uniform, and a cash bonus of appreciation.

of appreciation for CSOs in the Northern District, as well as James Baxter for their performance during war demonstrations in San Francisco.

Akal Officers Melissa Ramirez and Norberto Gil were recently recognized for their excellent work serving the Los Angeles County hospitals' security program. Officer Melissa Ramirez was working as a dispatcher at a Los Angeles County hospital, when she

received a call about a Public Safety Officer in pursuit. She was monitoring his progress on the surveillance cameras when the Officer fell down and did not get up. Officer Ramirez called for emergency medical response, turned her duties over to her partner, Officer Monica Ulloa, and left to provide immediate care to the Police Officer. She stayed with him until the ambulance arrived.

A few days later, Officer Norberto Gil was on duty at the hospital entrance screening

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Helping A CSO In Need

In January, CSOs from the Middle District of Louisiana in Baton Rouge held a lunch at the United Way to benefit Stacy Stevens, the 29 year-old daughter of CSO Robert Woods. Stevens was diagnosed with leukemia while pregnant with her second child.

The brainchild of Betty Fletcher, a nine year veteran of the Court Security program, Fletcher organized the event with support from Chief Judge Frank Polozola, U.S. Marshal Carey Jenkins, The Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, Louisiana State Police, the Baton Rouge Police Department and others to ensure the benefit was a huge success. Fletcher lost her husband to leukemia several years ago.

“CSO Fletcher understood first hand what CSO Wood’s family was headed into,” said John Kendall, LCSO. “She organized everything on her own time, including using her vacation time.”

Fletcher and her peers sold more than 1,500 meals. The benefit luncheon was a surprise



CSO Richard Rodney, CSO Sonny Garafola and CSO Betty Fletcher

for Stevens, who lives in Shreveport with her husband and daughters, 3-year-old Sarah and newborn, Sydney.

CSOs from the Middle District also spearheaded a blood drive to help with the blood products Stevens needs for her care.

Officer Jack Jones Makes The News

In early March, Sergeant Jack Jones was the subject of an article in the Albuquerque Journal. The article gave an overview of Jones’s position as Head of Security at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Barelmas, a neighborhood in northern Albuquerque, and spotlighted some of the methods he’s learned over his 15 years as a security guard to calm unruly visitors to the center or fans at the Tingley Coliseum where he also works security for concerts. The article talked about the variety of posts Jones worked his way through before being assigned to the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

The interview with Jones also gave a realistic picture of what’s involved with security work.

“Basically all we do is keep the grounds safe, watch for graffiti, make sure the employees know that they’re safe,” Jones said. “This is a high visibility post. You want the people that are driving down the street to see you, to know that there’s security on the property”

Jones was quoted as saying that he found job satisfaction knowing that the Cultural Center is safe and that people respect what he does.

Akal Supports Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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services provided are comprehensive, include moving detainees within the facilities (to meals, to recreation yard, or to the clinic for example), maintaining order in the barracks, all entry screening, and badging visitors.

Gurutej Khalsa, Akal Founder, believes Akal was chosen from among other security companies for a variety of reasons.

“Based on our experience with the CSO program and other commercial accounts, our qualifications, the personnel we proposed, Akal was the best value for the government,” said Gurutej.

Akal began providing security at Krome in September 2002 and at Florence and El Centro in January 2003.

OTHER AREAS IN THE U.S.

Akal is playing an active role in Homeland Security initiative, Operation Liberty Shield

Operation Liberty Shield is a comprehensive national plan from the Department of Homeland Security designed to increase protections for America’s citizens and American infrastructure with minimal disruption to our economy and way of life.

Operation Liberty Shield is a multi-department, multi-agency, national team effort.



Akal’s involvement in this plan includes work at ports and harbors, airports, railroads, water facilities, communication systems and immigration. We are thankful to the hundreds of men and women who are giving their full effort to supporting Operation Liberty Shield. All Akal Officers who serve in this campaign will be given pins to proudly wear on their duty uniform.

Outstanding Accomplishments

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station when he spotted a handgun inside a man's bag. The man had caused trouble before so when Officer Norberto saw him, he was on alert. He was able to take possession of the bag and contact Los Angeles County Police. The man was arrested with no harm to personnel or disruption of hospital services.

Both Akal Officers were awarded a certificate of Excellence, an Excellence pin to wear on their uniform, and a cash bonus of appreciation.

CSO Michael Waddell, District of Wyoming, received a letter of commendation

from U.S. District Judge Alan Johnson for his efforts during a difficult trial in July 2002. "Throughout the week, his record of service never faltered," wrote Judge Johnson.

All CSOs in North Texas, which includes Abilene, Amarillo, Dallas, Ft. Worth, San Angelo and Lubbock, participated in a familiarization course designed to simulate different court room scenarios. Designed by the US



During a training exercise, a CSO escorts an unruly subject from the courtroom.

Marshal service in Dallas, the course utilized Simunition weapons and role players in scenarios set up in the court rooms and chambers areas. Judicial and U.S. attorney personnel also participated as role players to make the scenarios more realistic.

The CSOs were very excited about the course. Most of them stated that this type of course is long overdue and should be done



Sword inside cane discovered by CSOs Jon Deere and Billy Reed.

on a regular basis. The members of the Judiciary family and U.S. Attorney's office concurred.

Special thanks go to US Marshal Randy Ely, Chief Deputy Tony Odom, Senior Inspector Tom

Schnieder, and Supervisory Deputy Trent Touchstone for their support and participation in this project. The CSOs of North Texas are looking forward to their next session of courses.

On the afternoon of March 14, CSOs Jon Deere and Billy Reed were working

the front lobby of the courthouse in Kansas City, when they were approached by an individual who placed a long wooden cane on the x-ray conveyer belt. When Deere and Reed checked the conveyer monitor, they noticed that the cane contained what appeared to

be a long sword. When they removed the top end handle, they found a two-foot sword in the cane. The gentlemen was detained and released to US Deputy Marshals. Reed and Deere deserve credit for their attention to detail, and for averting a potential disaster.

On his fourth day on the job in Amarillo Texas, CSO Clay Duke intercepted a small .22 caliber revolver in clothing

bound for an INS prisoner. CSO Duke had noticed the suspect watching the security setup for several days in a row. When the suspect showed up, he had a large suitcase in his hand and started to go around screening. Duke immediately stopped the suspect and directed him to place the suitcase on the conveyer for screening. That is when he found the gun. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing on the X-Ray," Duke said. "It stuck out like a sore toe."

Akal Recognized for High Ethical Standards

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"To all, thank you for your dedication and commitment to building this great company of ours and setting such standards of excellence," wrote Seva Singh, Commercial Operations.



NOTEWORTHY NEWS

St. Marie Retires After 18 Years

CSO William St. Marie retired on October 8 after 18 years as a Court Security Officer in the Central District of California. St. Marie was one of the first CSOs appointed to the program in 1984.

St. Marie joined the Riverside Police Department after his discharge from the Navy. He rode a "motor" during the time when officers had to purchase their own motorcycles.

He retired as a Captain. Following retirement, St. Marie worked at several jobs and spent some time in Las Vegas before he was appointed a CSO and was assigned to posts in Los Angeles, San Bernadino and Riverside. Coincidentally, his first assignment as a CSO was in the same building where he enlisted during WWII.

"Bill was reliable, dependable and, most of all, professional,"

said R. Sanchez, LCSO, George Brown Federal Building. "I'll miss all the great stories he told me about experiences in Riverside while growing up, being a beat cop and his adventures in life."

St. Marie leaves a career of dedication to duty, an exemplary work ethic and professionalism as a CSO. Best of luck to you, Bill!

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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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