

# 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 PROFILES

### Federal Protective Service partners with Akal

In March 2003, the Federal Protective Service (FPS), the law enforcement arm of the General Services Administration (GSA), became a part of the new Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the Department of Homeland Security.

The mission of FPS is to provide law enforcement and security services to more than one million tenants and daily visitors at federally owned and leased facilities nationwide. Tenants include all government agencies, law enforcement and military branches.

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Captain Cortino, Contract Manager J. Huckabee and Sergeant Pearman in front of the Federal Building in Chicago, IL

## AKAL'S LEADING EDGE

### Officers intervene in courthouse shooting

*The court security officers (CSOs) on duty at the federal courthouse in Corpus Christi, Texas had no reason to believe that June 21 was going to be any different than any other day – until they heard gunshots outside the front entrance of the courthouse.*

Lead Court Security Officer (LCSO) Joe Mendoza immediately contacted the command center and CSO Kevin O'Banyoun contacted U.S. Marshal Service (USMS) personnel, the Corpus Christi Police Department and emergency medical personnel. Upon arriving at the front entrance, CSOs Ernesto Elizondo, Jr., Jeff Miculka, Raul Barrera, Adrian Perez and Ed Offutt observed a person with a shotgun shooting at the courthouse. When the suspect stopped to reload the gun, the CSOs rushed him and ordered him to drop his weapon. When the suspect raised his gun to fire, CSO Perez knocked him to the ground and took him into custody.

All the CSOs involved in the incident received well-deserved letters of commendation.



## George Bender: In Memorium

George Bender, a 30-year veteran court security officer, passed away on February 21. After retiring from the St. Louis City Metropolitan Police Department, Bender worked at the U.S. Courthouse in Benton, Ill. He is survived by his son, Guy; daughter and son-in-law, Daveanna and Joe Ramsey; and two grandsons, Joey and Jake Ramsey.

## CSO of the Quarter

Court Security Officer (CSO) Gene Olson, District of Oregon, has been selected CSO of the Quarter. Olson has been a CSO since 1984.

“For over twenty years in service, Gene Olson has served with dedication to duty, attention to detail and overall excellent performance as a CSO,” wrote Site Supervisor Howard Cook.

## Akal makes headlines

This past May, Akal was featured on the pages of the Fort Campbell Courier and Clarksville Leaf-Courier. Reporter Gary Burton profiled the Akal security guards who monitor who and what gets on and off the grounds at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Burton gave a brief background on Akal and detailed the screening process for hiring security guards. Daya Khalsa, Akal Project Manager Roby Mauk and Akal Chief of Guards Jim Weatherford were quoted throughout the article.

## ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL

# Outstanding Accomplishments

**CSO Larry Ford, District of Arizona, recently won two gold medals and one silver medal** in a police pistol competition. CSO Ford has numerous outstanding marksmanship medals in pistol matches throughout the southwest. Congratulations CSO Ford.

**In 2002, Akal began providing security services at four Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) service processing centers.** Individuals in the U.S. without proper visas or documentation are detained at a Service Processing Center until their status is determined.

During a recent detention standards review at the Florence, Ariz., Service Processing Center, Akal earned a superior rating.

“This level of quality is very difficult under normal operating conditions. Yet in a very challenging operational environment you have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and



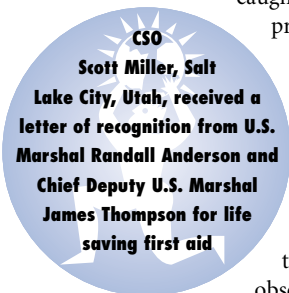
CSO Larry Ford

excelled as professionals,” wrote Officer-In-Charge David Kollus.

**While on duty at his second floor security post at the federal courthouse in Covington, Ky., CSO Lon Cook**

caught sight of a burglary in progress in a home across the street. CSO Cook promptly notified the USMS, the Covington Police Department and LCSO Donald Lynch. While the USMS and the police responded to the call, LCSO Lynch observed the suspect exiting the home with jewelry in hand. The police were notified and the suspect was arrested. Of note, the suspect was taken into custody just as the homeowner returned.

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CSO Julio Vasquez

## CSO Vasquez retires

Julio Vasquez, CSO supervisor at the U.S. International Court, New York, N.Y., retired effective July 1. CSO Vasquez served the U.S. International Court since 1986.

CSO was a New York City detective and served in the Marine Corp.

“Through his leadership, his team received a Special Acts Award in 2002 for their dedication and exemplary service during and after the tragic events of September 11, 2001,” wrote CSO John Cedo.

Vasquez will enjoy his best days in Jay, N.Y., with his wife, Helen, where he plans to hunt, fish and spend time with his grandchildren.

# Eastern District of Texas wins Outstanding District Award

This May, the court security officers (CSOs) of the Eastern District of Texas were awarded the U.S. Marshal Service (USMS) Director’s Distinguished District Award. Benigno Reyna, Director of the USMS, presented a personalized certificate and a lapel pin to each

CSO in the Eastern District at a ceremony in Tyler, Texas.

The ceremony marked a number of first-time events – the first time that the Eastern District of Texas has won the Distinguished District Award; the first time the director visited Tyler; and the first time

CSOs in the Eastern District were personally recognized.

U.S. Marshal John Moore stated that the recognition would not have transpired without the hard work and close relationship of USMS personnel and the Eastern District of Texas CSOs.

## CSOs help extinguish damaging fire

**In July, while assigned to Makaha Valley Plantation, Waiahae, Hawaii, Site Supervisor (SS) Jeri-Ann Lopes received a report of smoke coming from the sauna room in the Kiana pool area.**

While enroute to the location, SS Lopes radioed Officer Tanya Kanelailua to go to the pool. Officer Charles Mahoe monitored the radio transmission and called 9-1-1.



SS Lopes

tossing it on flames that were hot enough to burn anything around them. They continued this effort until the fire was extinguished.



Officer Tanya Kanelailua

When SS Lopes and Officer Kanehailua arrived at the pool, they were joined by the Plantation's general manager. He and Officer Kanehailua attempted to put out the fire by first using a fire extinguisher, but the fire continued to spread. Without hesitation, Officer Kanehailua and the general manager began using trash cans to scoop water from the nearby jacuzzi and

According to the general manager, were it not for the actions of the Akal officers, the fire could have been devastating. In the end, no one was injured and the property suffered minimal damage.

Hats off to Officers Jeri-Ann Lopes, Tanya Kanehailua and Charles Mahoe.

## CSOs help raise money for charity

Tim Moseley, chief deputy for the District of Wyoming, recently emailed John Pearson, contract manager, Tenth Circuit, to praise CSOs John Brubacher and Gary Odegard, Cheyenne, Wyo., for their roles in supporting the U.S. Marshals Service during a charity golf tournament. Proceeds from the event went to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Laramie County, an organization that helps children who are abused or neglected in their homes. This year through the efforts of CSOs Brubacher and Odegard, the U.S. Marshals Service was able to raise \$1,500.

"I would like to single out two CSOs who went way beyond the bounds of their duties. It (CASA) is definitely a worthwhile cause and without all of the hard work (on their own time) and support of John and Gary we would not have been able to raise as much money as we did," wrote Moseley.



## New York CSOs receive Special Acts Award

Court Security Officers (CSOs) Julio Vasquez, John Cedo and Robert Nacchio, New York, N.Y., were given a Special Acts Award by Chief Judge Gregory Carman, U.S. Court of International Trade. They were recognized for their quick response to two medical emergencies. In addition, CSOs Vasquez, Cedo and Nacchio, as well as Anthony Russo and Ernest Vallebuona received Special Act Awards for their efforts to protect court staff during and after the events of September 11, 2001.

"These exceptional men provide us with smiles, conversations, advice, guidance and, most importantly, trust in knowing that when in need, they're always there for us," wrote one nominator.

## Akal sails with Norwegian Cruise Line

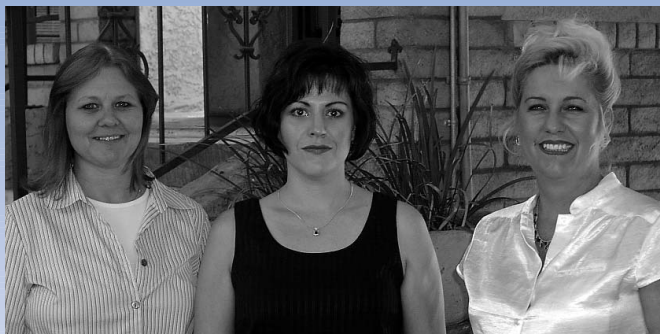
For eight Akal officers it pays to have their sea legs. When the newly refurbished Spirit of Aloha, Norwegian Cruise Line America's first U.S. flag vessel, sets sail from its home port of Honolulu for seven-day cruises around the Hawaiian Islands, eight Akal officers are on board to see to the safety and security of up to 2,000 passengers and an 800-person crew.

The 77,000-ton, state-of-the-art Spirit of Aloha is the first cruise ship to fly the Stars and Stripes in close to 50 years. It made its first inter-island cruise over the Fourth of July holiday.

## Belated thanks

In the last issue of *Akal Security Newslines* we reported that as of March 1, Akal was providing security services to the City of Tucson, Ariz. The contract was unique in that Akal had less than two-and-a-half weeks to establish a Tucson office, hire 70 guards and implement contract requirements.

We were remiss in not recognizing Cindy Lieberman, Erica



Cindy Lieberman, Erica Curtin and Shannon Guerra

Curtin and Shannon Guerra who were in Tucson providing support, as well as Frank Atcheson, Paul Sprenz, Ed Hall and Will Hodge who stayed behind in Phoenix,

pulling double duty to keep the branch office running smoothly. All of these dedicated employees were instrumental in the successful implementation of the contract.

## CSOs help new citizens

The last Friday of each month, the 32 court security officers (CSOs) who work at the U.S. District Court in Okalahoma, Okla., get ready for the rush of “soon to be U.S. citizens” and their families on hand for a naturalization ceremony. Within a span of two hours, the CSOs often clear more than 250 people through the courthouse’s main entrance.

In the midst of the long lines and language differences, CSO Patricia Johnson always finds time to help people. During a recent naturalization ceremony, when Abigail Ramirez asked Johnson for a last minute gift suggestion for her aunt, who was to become a citizen that morning, Johnson suggested a rose. Ramirez thought enough of Johnson’s suggestion that she bought two roses – one for her aunt and one for Johnson.

“On the day of the naturalization ceremony there is little time to socialize, no matter the intended purpose and yet CSO Johnson went beyond the expected assignment to demonstrate compassion to one in need,” wrote Lead Court Security Officer George Swearingen.



Minneapolis Court Security Officers

## Minneapolis CSOs observe National Police Week

During the week of May 9 – National Police Week – CSOs at the federal courthouse in Minneapolis placed a memorial wreath in the building lobby to

honor law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty.

National Police Week seeks to generate public awareness of the law enforcement profession and

honor the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers around the country.

### Federal Protective Service partners with Akal

*continued from front*

As of July 1, Akal is providing security services on behalf of FPS to approximately 150 federal buildings and offices in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. Implementation of the four-year contract involved hiring or transitioning 550 officers, outfitting them with new uniforms and purchasing 30 new vehicles and 600 new weapons.

According to Daya Khalsa, Akal was selected out of a highly competitive

bidding process because the company offered the best value.

“We were chosen for our combination of service and price,” said Khalsa. “We also offered some value added services such as a supplemental training program unique to Akal.”

Khalsa also believes that Akal’s strong management team was a factor in winning the new business. James Huckabee is the contract manager in Chicago. Ron Kissel is the contract manager in Minneapolis.

### Outstanding Accomplishments

*continued from page 2*

Had CSO Cook and LCSO Lynch been less observant, the homeowner may have had a dangerous confrontation with the burglar.

#### CSO Adrian Perez, Corpus Christi, Texas, came to the aid of an inmate being transported to the courthouse

by the Victoria County Sheriff Department. The inmate had had a seizure and stopped breathing.

Thanks to CSO Perez the inmate’s condition was stabilized until medical help arrived.

#### CSO Scott Miller, Salt Lake City, Utah, received a letter of recognition

from U.S. Marshal Randall Anderson and Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal James Thompson for giving life saving first aid to Detention Enforcement Officer Robert Rearick. When Officer Rearick began experiencing difficulty breathing he asked General Services Administration Guard Heather Treece for help. She summoned CSO Miller and together they performed CPR.

“Their prompt actions and desire to get involved are to be commended and no doubt resulted in the successful recovery of Mr.

Rearick,” wrote Messrs. Anderson and Thompson.

#### Assistant U.S. Trustee Antonia Darling, Northern and Eastern Districts of California and District of Nevada,

wrote to commend CSOs Ron Pronechen, Mark Bogdan and Bob Kaihe for finding a gun and ammunition hidden in a diaper bag by a man attempting to bring them into a meeting with creditors.

“Their alertness and quick action prevented a dangerous situation which could have resulted in tragedy,” wrote Darling.

### Doing time in “jail”



Court Security Officer (CSO) CSO Gordon McCain Gordon McCain, Issac Parker Federal Building, Fort Smith, Arkan., spent part of May 20 behind bars. Of note is the fact that he walked into jail of his own volition.

McCain’s “time served” was to benefit the St. Jude Research Hospital. His bail was set at \$500. In the end, CSO McCain raised \$725 from friends at the courthouse. Good job, CSO McCain!

### AKAL SECURITY NEWSLINE

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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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