

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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The events of September 11, 2001 changed much about the way Americans go about their business. Nowhere is this dynamic more true than at U.S. military installations. Immediately following the attacks, installations tightened security, often looking to National Guard and Reserve troops to oversee previously unmanned points of ingress and egress.

In 2003, Congress decided the skills that the National Guard and Reserve troops brought to the table could be better leveraged elsewhere. With an act of Congress, the U.S. Government approved funding to outsource access control services at select army installations. Eight companies bid for the opportunity to provide services to ten army posts. Akal was awarded a con-

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Weapons Training at Fort Hood, TX

AKAL'S LEADING EDGE

Meet Fred Bucher

When Akal set out to recruit a division director to oversee the more than 1,700 guards assigned to ten army installations in the U.S., they found the perfect person in Fred Bucher. In fact, it was almost like the job description was written with Bucher in mind.

Originally from Nebraska, Bucher joined the Army when he was 18. He retired as a Lt. Colonel after 28 years as a military policeman. Following retirement, Bucher worked for Exxon-Mobile for six years as a security director, located primarily in the Middle East. He was two weeks away from starting a job that would send him to Afghanistan when he spotted Akal's job listing on the retired army officer's web site. The fact that the job requirements were a good match with his experience, and the fact that the job was based in New Mexico where he and his family were living, made the opportunity too good to pass up.

Bucher says he's looking

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NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Team Focused On Keeping BWI Airport Safe

Each day 715 passenger and cargo flights pass through the Baltimore / Washington International Airport (BWI) in Maryland. On December 1, Akal became responsible for security at all Secure Identification Display Areas (SIDA) at the airport. SIDA are high security areas with access to airplanes and airfields.

Akal monitors close to 500 people who pass through 25 posts daily, ensuring everyone going in or out is properly credentialed. Akal is also responsible for checking vehicles passing through exterior gates.

There are about 132 Akal employees at BWI, many of them previously employed by the former security company. The team is led by Project Manager Vernita Newman, a 10-year law enforcement and TSA veteran originally from Chicago, Ill.

BWI just completed their 30-day evaluation of Akal and feedback was positive. Newman credits the high score to the smooth contract transition, as well as the company's professionalism and customer focus.

"My goal this year is to increase the level of customer focus and lay a foundation that makes us the last security contract firm at BWI," said Newman.

ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL

CSO Receives Two Awards

In November, CSO Franklyn Manning, who works at the Robert Denney Federal Building in Lincoln, Neb., was recognized as the Lancaster County / City of Lincoln Volunteer of the Month by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners and the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. He was also the recipient of the

Heart of 4H Award. Both honors were in recognition of his volunteerism and commitment to Lancaster County 4-H.

An avid horseman, Manning spends countless hours at the Lancaster County Fair each year volunteering, giving advice, answering questions and encouraging youth involved in the horse program. Manning



Frank Manning

also provides financial support, sponsoring the Manning Barrel Award at the fair.

"I enjoy seeing the young people grow up, mature and be good citizens," Manning said.

Outstanding Accomplishments

On November 25, Chief Judge John Unpingco, U.S. Marshal Joaquin L.G. Salas and Chief Marshal Lesvia Maldonado-Diaz presented certificates of appreciation to CSOs Joseph Lizama, Daniel Quinata, John McDonald, Benny Pereda, Norbert Edrosa, Frank Camacho, Barbara Benevente, Frank Tenorio and LCSO Phillip Tajeron for their outstanding support of the U.S. District Court in Guam.

In October CSO Dan Gillespie, Fourth Circuit, Charleston, West Virginia, was working his assigned post at the X-ray machine in the main lobby of the Robert C. Byrd Courthouse.

A man approached and said he was there to visit his probation officer. The man was asked to empty his pockets into a holding vessel. The man obliged, but tried to remove something he put in the vessel by mistake without CSO Gillespie noticing. CSO Gillespie asked the man what he had in his hand and the man reluctantly revealed a dime bag of drugs. The man was arrested.

CSOs at the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, N.Y., received a letter of recognition from U.S. District Judge Nina Gershon for their part in keeping one of

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L to R: CSO Benny Pereda; LCSO Phillip Tajeron; Chief Marshal Lesvia Maldonado-Diaz; U.S. Marshal Joaquin L.G. Salas; CSO Barbara Benevente and CSO Frank Camacho

In Memoriam

Akal's sincerest condolences go to Merita Dobratiqi, security guard assigned to the Arizona Department of Revenue in Phoenix. In early November, Officer Dobratiqi lost her husband, Avni, to violence. Originally from Kosovo, the couple moved to Phoenix in 1998. Officer Dobratiqi and her mother recently returned from Kosovo where they traveled to bury Avni.

New York City-based CSO Louis Arahovites passed away in early January. An Akal employee since 1999, he will be remembered for his dedication to family and his willingness to help others. During a memorial service, his parish priest said Louis was "a good man and a good soul."

All at Akal send their condolences to the Arahovites family.

Akal Officers Help Homeless Man

William Demacose was a familiar face to Security Guards William Fonoti and John Chun. The two had asked Demacose and other homeless people to leave the Honolulu International Airport any number of times. It was part of their job.

In October, after escorting Demacose away from the ticket counter, Fonoti did something he didn't usually do. He asked Demacose for his story. Demacose said he was trying to buy a plane ticket to see his family in California, but couldn't get near the ticket counter. After his shift ended, a still doubtful Fonoti escorted Demacose back to the ticket counter, where he took \$900 hidden in his jacket collar and bought a one-way ticket for Los Angeles.

Officers Fonoti and Chun didn't stop there. They knew that Demacose, who was dirty, would have problems with security when he tried to board. So Officer Chun stayed with Demacose at the airport while Officer Fonoti set out to buy him new shoes and traveling clothes. Next they took him to Sand Island State Park to

shower, shave, brush his teeth and change clothes.

Fonoti and Chun returned to the airport later that day, planning to help Demacose board the plane, but he was nowhere to be found. They searched the airport, checking out the usual homeless hiding spots. To their surprise Demacose was at the departure gate where he had been for hours, worried he would miss his flight.

"It just goes to show that if you take a little time to listen, you never know what sort of person you might find under the surface," Fonoti said.

Akal Employees Help Soldiers Get Tickets Home

When Albuquerque-based talk radio host Larry Ahrens heard that the Pentagon decided to let military personnel deployed in Iraq come home for two weeks, but would only pay for airfare as far as the east coast, he decided to do something about it. The radio station organized the Home From Iraq campaign to help soldiers pay for tickets once they landed in the states.

Akal associates immediately jumped on board to help. Employees made personal contributions and Akal made a corporate donation.

The radio station raised in the neighborhood of \$30,000 which all went to help New Mexico military people get home from Iraq.



CSO Waugh Saves Children In Burning Building

Seems courage and professionalism just come naturally to CSO Melanie Waugh.

Early in the morning of December 30, as she was leaving for work, Waugh noticed that a nearby home was on fire. After calling 9-1-1 to report the fire, Waugh went to the home to ensure that the woman who lived there and her seven children were safe. The home was by this time fully engulfed in flames and the home next door was smoldering. Waugh ran to the second home and advised the resident and her children to leave. Matters were complicated when Waugh learned that one of the children was on oxygen for a medical disorder. Waugh convinced the resident to leave and carried the child and the medical equipment to a safe location.

LCSO Michael Mergler wrote, "It is clear to me that CSO Waugh, with the welfare of the residents in mind, and with total disregard for her own safety, saved the lives of these residents. Her clear thinking, steadfast resolve, and courage are all signs of her dedication to her profession."

CSO Waugh serves at the Michael J. Dillon Federal Courthouse in Buffalo, N.Y.

CSOs Spread Christmas Cheer

For the last three holiday seasons CSOs with the Eastern District of Washington have done their part to spread cheer throughout the Federal Building in Spokane, Wash. This year they filled 200 stockings with toys and raised \$1,200 for the Union Gospel Mission, an organization that serves men, women and children in need.

The annual Christmas party was the brainchild of CSO Will Willmschen, who plays Santa each year. CSO Madison Palmer led the



L to R: CSO Tricia Madsen, CSO Will Wimschen and CSO Madison Palmer

Christmas caroling and CSO Tricia Madsen organized party logistics.

Meet Fred Bucher

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forward to the opportunities presented by his new career. His wife is glad not to have to think about moving. She is a professor at New Mexico State University, in Las Cruces. The Bucher's have two sons – the oldest is a pilot with Continental Airlines; the youngest is working to complete his doctorate in criminal psychology.



CSO's Vigilance Leads To Man's Arrest

While performing front entrance security duties at the U.S. Federal Building in El Centro, Calif., CSO Ted Whitmer was approached by a man who asked to speak to someone with the FBI.



Giovanni Reina, Site Supervisor; CSO Whitmer and USMS Inspector Robert Tejada, COTR

Whitmer received permission to send the man to the second floor of the building, but, upon running the man's fanny pack through the X-ray machine, discovered a fully loaded weapon. CSO Whitmer telephoned the FBI office and asked for assistance. Before arresting the

man, FBI agents found a knife, a tire knocker and several rounds of ammunition.

CSO Whitmer was recognized for an excellent job following protocol by Akal Site Supervisor Giovanni Reina and USMS Inspector Robert Tejada.

Outstanding Accomplishments

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Judge Gershon's law clerks and the law clerk's elderly parents comfortable during the recent blackout. The law clerk and her parents were forced to spend the night in the courthouse and the CSOs helped make everyone comfortable. "My law clerk does not know the names of all the CSOs who assisted her that afternoon and evening, but please extend my deepest appreciation to all of the men and women on duty at that time for their professionalism, and for their caring and concern for my law clerk and her parents," wrote Judge Gershon.

CSOs Danny Bell, Jim Bowen, Ray Hernandez, John Hubbard, Tony Rutledge,

Charlie Simmons, Steve Crowe, LCSO Frank Runnels and Site Supervisor Randy Harris were praised for their role in a special protection assignment this past November. The CSOs, together with the USMS, Ft. Worth Police Department, Federal Protective Service officers and the USMS Special Response Team, provided security for 16 judges in attendance at a ceremony naming the Fort Worth Federal Courts Building as the Eldon B. Mahon Federal Courts Building. Due to weather the location was changed at the last minute. CSOs and USMS personnel provided personal escorts to the judges for several blocks as the ceremony was moved indoors. U.S. Marshal Randy Ely called the detail "a tremendous success," and praised all the personnel involved for their professionalism and attention to detail during planning.

Army Contract Frees Up Soldiers For Other Duties

continued from front

tract for eight of them – Ft. Lewis, Wash.; Ft. Reilly, Kan.; Ft. Hood, Texas; Ft. Stewart, Ga.; Ft. Campbell, Ky.; Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky.; Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, N.C.; and Anniston Army Depot, Ala.

Following the contract award, Akal had 90 days to recruit, hire, train, equip and deploy more than 1,700 officers, including management, which, according to Gurutej Khalsa, was no small feat.

To date, feedback from the Army Installation Management Agency has been favorable, Bucher says, because Akal is enforcing a much stricter standard. In fact, Akal guards at Ft. Hood uncovered more unauthorized items in one weekend than had been discovered in the previous year.

"The Army has a professional, focused guard force now instead of soldiers whose mission was not guarding nor were they trained to guard," Bucher said. "The installations are much happier about that."



Physical Agility Testing at Fort Stewart, GA

"We got the contract in October and were deployed by January 3. We started early at a couple of installations so the soldiers could go home for Christmas," said Gurutej.

Retired Army Officer Fred Bucher was named Division Director. Bucher has four project managers reporting to him who are responsible for overall guard operations at specific groups of installations. The project managers are then supported by a chief of guards at each installation.

According to Bucher, Akal is responsible for access control at the installations, which is different than law enforcement. Access control involves manning access points and monitoring who and what gets on and off the post. Installations can have as few as four and as many as 15 access points, depending on the size of the post.

Bucher credits the heroic efforts of the project managers – Rick Durham at Ft. Hood, Jim Kenoyer at Ft. Lewis / Ft. Riley, Rob Mauk at Ft. Campbell / Blue Grass Army Depot, and Jerry Lemke at Ft. Stewart / Anniston Army Depot / Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal – for the success of the contract start-up.

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Editor: Sat Nirmal K. Khalsa, Chief Executive Officer

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PO Box 1197

Santa Cruz, NM 87567

Phone: 505.753.7832

Fax: 505.753.8689

Email: akal@kiit.com