

# BLACKSTONE POST



The  
Voice of  
Blackstone  
Security



The Secret to Our Success is in Our People

FALL, 2011

"A bowl full of Awesome"

## Blackstone Helps Support Troops at Community Managers' Trade Show

Organizers are calling the 2011 Arizona Association of Community Managers (AACM) Trade Show a success and Blackstone Security was there to help it along.

"It was a bowl full of awesome," commented Linda Lang, AACM president and CEO. "Our annual trade show is a way of showcasing our Affiliate Partners and showing our appreciation for their support."

The theme of AACM's Seventh Annual Phoenix Trade Show was "Vega\$ in the Valley". It featured 139 booths and was attended by



"(l-r) Chris Craig, Mary Beth O'Neal and Tony Browe give a booth visitor the Blackstone experience during the AACM Annual Phoenix Trade Show"

about 1,000 patrons. It was held October 14 at the Glendale Renaissance Hotel. It was the first of two AACM trade shows in Phoenix and Tucson. Each vendor's booth featured activities ranging from ring tosses to blackjack tables to roulette wheels. There was even a Vegas-style wedding chapel, a Houdini-style escape artist, a convincing lounge singer and several sightings of Elvis in various shapes and sizes.

The event also was an opportunity to support AACM's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Care Package Drive which sends care packages to

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The "33 Award"

## Blackstone Employee of the Year Award Named for "The 33" Who Died during 911

Employees of the Year at Blackstone will now have an honor bestowed upon them that will carry a legacy of dedication, service and a willingness to give the last full measure in the performance of duty.

The "33 Award" is named for the 33 private security officers who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with sworn police officers, firefighters and other first responders who gave their lives assisting civilians trapped in the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. It was the most infamous attack on America since Pearl Harbor, and it was the largest loss of life in a single incident in the private security industry in the U.S.

Blackstone President and CEO Dan Swindall said the security officers standing watch that day have gone largely unheralded by the mainstream media, but their families and others in the security industry will always remember their sacrifice.

"Even though little has been reported in the media about those 33 private security officers who gave their lives that day, all of us must remember them. Naming our Employee of the Year Award in their honor is an ongoing tribute to their bravery and sense of service."

Blackstone's first recipient of the "33 Award" will be selected during the first quarter of 2012. Blackstone Executive Vice President Jeanne Croft is credited with coming up with the idea to name the award after the 33 security officers.



### Post Orders

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## POST ORDERS

Dan Swindall, President & CEO

### Conferences are Good Investments

As a business owner, I am constantly looking for ways to not only keep up with the competition, but to get ahead when I can and maintain that lead. I do that by investing in Blackstone. New hires are an investment, the same as employee development activities and employee appreciation programs.

A major investment that is often overlooked, however, are conferences, seminars and trade shows.

Security has been a rapidly growing industry ever since 911. As such, the advances in training, technology and legal implications have been growing and developing at a breakneck pace. One of the most effective ways of keeping pace with these developments is to attend forums that showcase these advances and interact with the people and organizations behind them. That's why Blackstone attends and participates in local, regional and national conferences, seminars and trade shows.

Blackstone sponsored booths at the Arizona Association of Community Managers in Glendale and Tucson earlier this year because it is part of our corporate citizenship. And not only do we need to know what's happening in our back yard, but we also need know the people who are making those things happen. That's academic.

This is also about Branding. We are letting people know who the International Conference is a way of getting information straight from the source.

The security industry has been growing steadily in the face of economic fluctuations because the one constant in the world is that people want and need asset protection, personal protection and crowd control. In a down economy everything becomes more valuable. We know this at Blackstone. Interacting with our counterparts, sponsors and customers at conference focal points increases our perspective and sharpens our focus on current issues and the situations we will face in the future.

It's all about preparation. And we believe that attending events where the decisions are made, technology is introduced and legislation is discussed, keeps Blackstone in the vanguard of the security industry in the Southwest.

### Mission Accomplished

## ASIS 2011 Seminar Earns Superior Rating from Blackstone Attendees

Blackstone administrators and are giving high marks to the ASIS International 57th Annual Seminar and Exhibits, saying the annual gathering makes available the best of everything the security industry has to offer, from cutting-edge technology to industry expertise.

Blackstone President & CEO Dan Swindall took a contingent on a mission to Orlando to attend the seminar and explore new technologies in equipment and software that would help improve Blackstone's services to its clients. Everyone said the mission was accomplished. The team returned with a new scheduling system and a number of transportation and communications options. And while conferences of this size feature many social distractions, Blackstone's team took care of business first.

"We definitely accomplished our goals," said Blackstone Director of Operations Mary Beth O'Neal. "We obtained a lot of good information on equipment and that's where we purchased our Valiant Scheduling System. We knew we needed one and we met with the president of that company. We looked at communication devices such as cell phones, two-way radios with DeTex capabilities and GPS tracking systems." O'Neal said the team looked at state-of-the-art card access systems and golf carts. "Golf carts do so much more now and we have a greater variety of card access systems to refer to our clients," she said.

Blackstone's team was among more than 20,000 security professionals from 104 countries that attended the seminar,



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### Team Blackstone [www.blackstonesecurity.com](http://www.blackstonesecurity.com)

#### PHOENIX

##### Corporate – Division 32

Dan Swindall – President & CEO  
Jeanne Croft – Executive Vice Pres.  
Mary Beth O'Neal – Dir. of Operations  
Bill Richards – Quality Control Mgr.  
Mitzi Hagan – Human Resources Mgr.

#### TUCSON

##### Division 34

Tony Browe – District Mgr.

#### ALBUQUERQUE, NM

##### Division 42

Shana Kohlman – District Mgr.

#### EL PASO, TX

##### Division 52

Vanessa Polanco – District Mgr.  
Cynthia Trujillo – District Sales Mgr.

### Great Quotes:

"Free men have arms; slaves do not."

*Sir William Blackstone*

*English Jurist and Blackstone's namesake, 1723-1780*



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**Hot in Arizona**

# Chili Cook-off to Benefit Fallen Security Officer Fund

Dust off those old chili recipes because the Arizona Private Security Professionals' Association is holding a Chili Cook-off as a fundraiser to support the Arizona Security Officer Memorial Fund, a non-profit arm of APSPA that provides assistance to the families of security officers who die in the line of duty.

Blackstone President Dan Swindall said Blackstone will sponsor one booth at the APSPA main event on March 10 at the Glendale Renaissance Hotel. "Individual employees or employee teams may enter the competition," Swindall said. "Employees may be

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## ASIS *Continued from Page 2*

the Cadillac of security conferences world wide. The seminar was Sept. 19-22 at the Orange County Convention Center. Covering more than 230,000 square feet, 731 companies exhibited a wide array of security solutions. Leading-edge innovation in access control, IP-based video surveillance and explosion detection were among those demonstrated, as were new and enhanced service offerings.

"The trip was a complete success," says Blackstone Executive Vice President Jeanne Croft. "It was very interesting to see all the new equipment available to us, such as camera monitoring and iPhones that could handle client information and lead look-ups for generating new clients. We also looked at a less expensive T-3 that was smaller and had a lot more options, and we got a new contact for T3 repairs."

More than 130 senior security executives from a dozen countries participated in the CSO Roundtable events, which included a personal briefing with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. This was the first ASIS Seminar attended by a DHS Secretary.

Also more than 200 education sessions were held on topics ranging from workplace violence, mobile security and crisis management offered practitioners a wealth of opportunities to gain new knowledge, best practices and strategies in security management.

Tony Browe, Blackstone's district manager in the Tucson Division, is the company's expert on workplace violence. Browe said the ability to pick up new knowledge about ways to operate safely was the big attraction for him. "Education, pure and simple," Browe said. "We met with a number of vendors and discussed their products and how those products affect our side of the business. We also learned how those products and services could increase our productivity and help increase the safety and well-being of our guard force."

ASIS President Raymond T. O'Hara said ASIS 2011 surpassed all expectations. "From the packed session rooms to the bustling show floor, it's clear that the ASIS Seminar and Exhibits is the place for security practitioners to find the tools and education needed to excel in the global marketplace."

## Trade Show *Continued from Page 1*

American troops serving in Afghanistan. Blackstone's booth featured a roulette wheel which determined how much Blackstone donated to the Holiday Care Package Drive. The event produced \$2,200 and a "trailer-full" of items to send to the more than 67,000 troops still serving in Afghanistan during Christmas and the New Year.



**AACM Operations Manager Laurel Chamberlin (center left) and AACM President/CEO Linda Lang (center right) are flanked by two Las Vegas showgirls who attended the 7th Annual Trade Show**

"We had six lucky winners on our wheel at the AACM Trade Show," said Blackstone Executive Vice President Jeanne Croft. "We will be donating \$50 each in their names to AACM's Operation Caregiver which supports our troops."

The winners at Blackstone's booth were:

- Ron Anthony, District Supervisor, City Property Management Company, Phoenix, AZ
- Matthew Searcy, Community Manager, City Property Management Company, Phoenix, AZ
- Joel Romero, Assistant Manager, Lighthouse Management, Goodyear, AZ
- Suni Johnson, Director of First Impressions, Planned Development Services, Inc., Phoenix, AZ
- Evelyn Shanley, Community Manager, Vision Community Management, Phoenix, AZ
- Michael Pertile, Community Accountant, Vision Community Management, Phoenix, AZ

"Blackstone is happy to support the communities we serve whenever we get the opportunity," Croft said. "To be able to support our communities and our troops at the same time is an added honor because Blackstone is a Veteran-Owned Small Business."

Founded in 2003, AACM is a professional association dedicated to promoting a positive understanding of community associations and the contribution of professional management services in the development and maintenance of high-quality neighborhoods. AACM now includes 70 of the leading Community Management companies in Arizona as well as 280 Affiliate Partners who provide a variety of services to Arizona communities.

## Enforcement up, violations down

# El Paso Sector Unveils Fiscal Year 2011 Statistics

**El Paso** - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) today released year-end data on fiscal year (FY) 2011 border enforcement and management efforts, highlighting trends that reflect the Administration's ongoing commitment to securing the border and facilitating legitimate trade and travel through targeted operations, enhanced partnerships and unprecedented deployment of personnel, technology and infrastructure along the border.

"In 2011, CBP made important contributions to our nation's



A sheriff's deputy reviews border issues at an A.S.S.I.S.T. meeting attended by Blackstone.

homeland security and economic vitality," said CBP Commissioner Alan D. Bersin. "These numbers illustrate the investments made by CBP to improve border security, increase efficiencies and facilitate the flow of legal travel and trade through our nation's

borders and land ports of entry."

In the El Paso Sector, the volume of apprehensions of undocumented immigrants made by agents of the U.S. Border Patrol declined to 10,345 in FY 2011. For FY 2010, the number of recorded apprehensions was 12,251. The volume of apprehensions in the area has declined steadily since 2006. In 2010, El Paso was ranked as the nation's safest city with a population over 500,000.

This latest FY 2011 apprehension total for El Paso Sector pales in comparison to previous years, including the all-time record set in 1992 when more than 312,000 apprehensions were recorded.

"This reduction of apprehensions can be attributed to the hard work of the men and women of the El Paso Sector and their success in executing the National Border Patrol Strategy," stated Chief Patrol Agent Scott A. Luck. "This strategy allowed the Border Patrol to utilize and place into practice the right mix of technology, infrastructure and personnel to apprehend those that illegally enter the United States. This decline in criminal activity has greatly contributed to the increase in the quality of life for border communities within the El Paso Sector."

Though apprehension figures continue to drop in the El Paso Sector, agents in West Texas and New Mexico continue to face other challenges in the form of smuggling of human cargo and criminal activity across the southern border. A "risk-based" approach utilizing actionable intelligence is proving successful in addressing these challenges, yet there is still work to be done. The continually changing methods that the Transnational Criminal Organizations have had to adopt is an indicator of our success in adjusting to these challenges and serves as third-party indicators of a well-planned and executed strategy.

## CBP Makes Huge Pot Bust at NM Port of Entry

**Santa Teresa, NM** - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the Santa Teresa port of entry in October seized 655 pounds of marijuana in a single action. A 33-year-old Las Cruces man was arrested in connection with the failed smuggling attempt.

Officials said it was one of the largest single seizures made by CPB during the year. "This is a huge amount of marijuana to be removed from a passenger vehicle," said Jesus Chavez, acting Santa Teresa Port Director for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. "The vigilance of CBP officers working at the Santa Teresa port combined with the various layers of enforcement we employ all led to this seizure."

The seizure was made when a 1994 GMC van entered the port from Mexico. A CBP officer at the primary inspection station selected the vehicle for a secondary exam. CBP officers used a "Buster" density meter and received high readings consistent with hidden contraband when checking the ceiling of the van. CBP



The 328 bundles of marijuana seized by CPB officers in NM in October can be seen through the hole in the van's roof.



International

## UK Security Firm using Parrots as “Guard Dogs”

**Telford Shropshire, UK** - A security firm in the UK is using two parrots as “guard dogs” after they learned to “bark.”



Elvis and Cilla

The MP Guarding security company in the UK has some highly unconventional security guards in their employ! Their specially trained, dedicated security detail duo of Elvis and Cilla have been on duty at the MP Guarding security company, in Telford, Shropshire, UK for the past year and work mainly for treats and love.

You see, Elvis and Cilla are green-winged macaws who learned how to bark like a dog from a neighbors Scottish Terrier that would bark often. Hearing their two parrots bark (...with a Scottish brogue?) Elvis and Cilla’s owners, Trevor and Louise Bate, had the idea of using the birds as guard dogs at their security firm and it has paid off!

“FAAA-BOO-lous!”

The good news is that Elvis and Cilla aren’t always barking like dogs and apparently can be quite affectionate and friendly parrots, asking for kisses, greeting the family when they walk in the door with a ‘hello.’ According to the The Sun UK, the macaw pair love treats so much that when given one they use the word ‘FABU-LOUS.’

“They’re part of the family, so I thought it was fair to include them in the family business,” Louise Bate told the Metro UK.

## Pot Bust *Continued from Page 4*

the van. CBP drug sniffing dog “Murphy” searched the vehicle and gave a positive alert for drugs.

CBP officers continued their examination and X-rayed the van which identified an anomaly in the ceiling of the vehicle. They drilled into the ceiling and removed a green substance which tested positive for marijuana. CBP officers located a hidden compartment in the ceiling of the van. They removed 328 marijuana-filled bundles from the ceiling.

National

## Seattle ‘superhero’ arrested, accused of assault

**Seattle (AP)** - Instead of the bad guys, it was Seattle’s most prolific self-styled superhero that ended up in handcuffs.

Police officers arrested the 23-year-old man who calls himself Phoenix Jones after he was accused of assaulting several people with pepper spray. He was booked in county jail on four counts of assault, police said.

“Our message has been the same from the beginning, if you see something that warrants calling 911, call 911,” said Seattle police spokesman Det. Mark Jamieson. “Just because he’s dressed up in costume, it doesn’t mean he’s in special consideration or above the law. You can’t go around pepper spraying people because you think they are fighting.”

But Jones, who wears a black mask with yellow stripes and a bulging muscle bodysuit, said he was only trying to stop a street brawl.



This 2011 AP photo shows Seattle superhero Phoenix Jones during a patrol of Seattle’s Capitol Hill neighborhood.

Jones has been the most public face of a group of vigilante crime stoppers to show up in Seattle in the last couple of years. His exploits have garnered much media attention, and he’s had a camera crew trailing him in recent months.

On the police report, the officer wrote that Jones “has had a history of injecting himself in these incidents. Recently there have been increased reports of citizens being pepper sprayed by (Jones) and his group.”

The report goes on to say that although Jones “has been advised to observe and report incidents to 911, he continues to try to resolve things on his own.”

On his Facebook page, Jones has nearly 4,400 friends, and says that he’s married to a woman with the name, PurpleReign, another masked vigilante.

Police weren’t buying his Phoenix Jones handle, however. He was booked under Benjamin John Francis Fodor.



**Employee of the  
Quarter  
Division 32 - Phoenix**

**Steven Erickson**

It doesn't take long for Steven Erickson to get noticed. That's why after only two years in the security industry and little more than a half-year with Blackstone, Erickson is the Employee of the Quarter for the final quarter of 2011 in the Phoenix Division.

And it's been well earned. Blackstone Director of Operations Mary Beth O'Neal lauds Erickson for his regularity and promptness and says the client knows they have a winner.

"Steve works in Maricopa for a homeowners' association community," O'Neal said. "He has done a great job there and is praised often by the client. In the six months he has been with us, he has never called off or been late. He has helped us out at special events. He works closely with the police department on any issues, per our client's request."

Erickson is an Upland, Calif. Native who says working security gives him a sense of satisfaction and community awareness. "I get to make a difference in the community where I work and I leave each day knowing that I did a good job," Erickson says.

Erickson relaxes by playing golf and engaging in other shooting sports, though he declines to give his average or handicap in either. But he does share his philosophy on residential security.

"We must give the public the peace of mind that they and their property are protected," Erickson says. "And the feeling that they live in a safe neighborhood with people who care."

Erickson and his wife, Lorraine, have two daughters; 22-year-old Trisha and 23-year-old Allana. Now we know why you place a high premium on residential security, Steven. Congratulations and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador.



**Employee of the  
Quarter  
Division 34 - Tucson**

**Natalia Woolfolk**

With Blackstone Field Supervisor Natalia Woolfolk, what the client sees is what the client gets. And what the client gets is a dedicated, efficient and loyal security officer that goes the extra mile in the performance of her duties. That's why Natalia is closing out the year as the Employee of the Quarter for Division 34 in Tucson.

"Natalia has been a rock for me," says District Manager Tony Browe. "She is steady, dependable and trustworthy. She has often volunteered to go in on her own time to fax paperwork to me when I'm in my Phoenix office or out of state. I appreciate her so much and I am not the only one. She has the trust and admiration of the Guard Force as well."

Born in Hermosillo, Mexico, Natalia has been with Blackstone for two years of the seven-and-a-half years she's been a security officer. She's good to Blackstone because Blackstone is good to her, and it starts at the top. Natalia says what she enjoys most about Blackstone is the treatment she gets from Browe.

"He always tries to accommodate our needs and if he can't he'll explain why," Natalia says. She adds that interacting with her coworkers is what she enjoys most about her job. "We have people from many diverse backgrounds; they all have an interesting story."

An avid pool player, Natalia knows all the angles on the felt and on the job. She especially knows the angle that gives people the right to feel safe. "I believe in law and order," she says. "It is our duty not only as security guards, but as human beings, to make people feel safe."

Natalia and her life partner, MJ, have been together for eight years. "She's a wonderful woman," Natalia says.

You're not so bad yourself, Natalia. Congratulations and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador!

**Private Security Plays a Role**

## Property Crimes Drop in El Paso

**El Paso** - The number of property crimes in El Paso continues to decrease as part of an overall decade-long downward trend in crime, and a spokesman for a police task force is crediting Blackstone and other private security companies for contributing to this trend.

Officer Stephen Plummer, a member of the El Paso Police Auto, Burglary & Theft Prevention Task Force, said the popularity of private security has grown in direct proportion to the city's rapid growth, and private businesses and public agencies increasingly see private security as a resource.

"I believe a lot of apartment complexes, businesses and government agencies are taking advantage of private security," says

Plummer. "This is a fast-growing community and the police department can train new officers only so fast. We have good officers but we can't do it all by ourselves. Private security is a wonderful tool."

In 2009 El Paso's property crime rate was 24.99 percent lower than the rest of the state and 0.8 percent lower than the national average. That helped El Paso's 2010 ranking as the nation's safest city with a population in excess of 500,000 even though it is just across the border from Juarez, Mexico. Juarez is known in law enforcement circles as the murder capital of the world because of the presence of drug cartels. Projections for 2012 indicate El Paso's crime rate will be less than it was in 2009.



**Employee of the  
Quarter  
Division 42 - Albuquerque**

**Patrick Durr**

Patrick Durr could very accurately be described as a man of few words. There are those who talk and those that do. Patrick is in the latter group. That's why after two years on the job, he is the Blackstone Employee of the Quarter for the final quarter of 2011 for Blackstone's Division 42 in Albuquerque.

The Santa Fe native is no stranger to the New Mexico way of life, and he has well-honed skills as a first responder. Patrick is a 10-year veteran of the Santa Fe County Fire Department where he is a Fire Captain. He is dedicated to public service and has a no-nonsense attitude about protecting the assets of Albuquerque. He is also outspoken about his employer. "I enjoy working for Blackstone and I have pride in putting on my uniform every day," he says flatly. "I like coming to work and working with the people at the Old Santa Fe Trail Building."

Not only does Patrick enjoy his assignment with the National Park Service, apparently he is very popular with the park service staff, according to his supervisor, Shana Kohlman. "Everyone at the National Park Service seems to really like Patrick and also feel he does a great job," Kohlman says. "He responds to after-hour alarms at NPS and they all appreciate that he arrives in a timely manner and secures the building with no issues."

Kohlman says Patrick was selected as Employee of the Quarter because he is dependable and has a relentless sense of duty. "Patrick is a dedicated and hard-working man," Kohlman says. "He displays professionalism on and off duty. Patrick has been such a blessing to Blackstone and I hope he continues to stay with us and work hard."

Patrick's "walk-the-walk" attitude leaves very little to be said, except congratulations, Patrick, and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador. Keep up the good work. The boss has noticed you.

## Property Crimes *Continued from Page 2*

Plummer said private security has contributed greatly to the reduction of burglaries, shoplifting and auto thefts. Recent numbers released by the police show auto thefts were down from 2,753 in 2008 to 1,318 by December 2011.

Plummer said law enforcement and private security regularly exchange information on expectations and interaction. The city benefits when they cooperate.

"The number of private security companies has grown tremendously," Plummer said. "The last thing criminals want is a professional witness. They know security guards are trained observers and will call the police. Different security companies have different levels of expertise, but we do not ask security guards to try to stop any criminal activity such as a bank robbery or a burglary. That's when we want them to call us, and they do."



**Employee of the  
Quarter  
Division 52 - El Paso**

**Jesus Favela**

Jesus Favela believes in persevering until you reach your goals because it's never too late to realize your dreams. That's why this energetic sexagenarian closed out the year as Blackstone's Employee of the Quarter for Division 52 in El Paso.

Jesus provided unofficial security at the Friedman Recycling Center for five years before signing on with Blackstone a year ago. Blackstone District Manager Vanessa Polanco realized that no one knew the property as well as Jesus and decided to put him through the paces of training and get him licensed as a security officer.

"He always wanted to be a licensed security guard so when we assumed the contract we decided to give him a chance," Polanco said. "He was a bit nervous at first but he passed the tests with flying colors. He was really excited. This really boosted his confidence."

Jesus is dedicated to his job because it is a family affair. His two sons are employed by Friedman. But that's not the only reason Jesus enjoys his work. "I am also learning how to operate company vehicles, machinery and other tools," he says. "For example, if a water pipe breaks, I call a supervisor and he or she tells me exactly what to do to fix the problem. If the same thing happens again, I already know how to fix the problem."

Polanco says the owners of the plant are brothers and are very pleased to have the family connection with the Favelas. "People feel really safe and the plant manager is very proud of Jesus as well," Polanco says.

A native of Chihuahua, Mexico, Jesus says people have a right to feel safe whenever they see a security officer in uniform. "If the company employees see me around all the time, they will know that I am taking care of their property, the company's property, and the people, themselves."

Jesus and his wife, Norma, are the proud parents of three adult children; Irene, Roberto and Cesar. Congratulations, Jesus, and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador.

### Great Quotes:

"The public good is in nothing more essentially interested, than in the protection of every individual's private rights"

*Sir William Blackstone  
English Jurist and Blackstone's namesake, 1723-1780*



## Happy Anniversary!

### Blackstone Employee Anniversaries

Businesses are judged by the people who represent them. Besides being trained to provide excellent client service, our employees are trained to be ambassadors of Blackstone, its clients and the private security industry. We go the extra mile for our employees so they go the extra mile for our clients. Employee recognition and retention are priorities at Blackstone, because the secret to our success is in our people. That is why we celebrate the service milestones of the people listed below.

#### One Year

Jesus Favela - El Paso	Gary Mills - Phoenix
Emilia Lopez - El Paso	Kendall Nolan - Phoenix
Alvin Dudney - Phoenix	Francisco Peinado - Phoenix
Jeffrey Fisher - Phoenix	Richard Smith - Phoenix
Diane Gonzalez - Phoenix	Carmen Wallace - Phoenix

#### Five Years

Shana Kohlman - Albuquerque	James Emerson - Phoenix
Patrick Blair - Phoenix	Berneta Jacket - Phoenix
Tyler Croft - Phoenix	

#### Six Years

Al Mosley, Jr. - Phoenix

## COOK-OFF

*Continued from Page 3*

assisted by relatives.”

Contestants should call the office for registration information. Swindall, who is chair of the APSPA Board of Officers, said the cook-off is good, competitive fun and is meant to support a worthy cause. “Just about everybody loves to cook and chili could probably be classified as the official dish of the Southwest,” Swindall said. “This is the region known for chili, and I’m looking forward to learning who the best cooks are in the company.”

The March event will be the first Arizona Security Officer Appreciation Day Chili Cook-off. It will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Participants should register by February 10. The event will feature raffles and a silent auction.

“Everyday security officers throughout the state face many of the same bad guys as law enforcement,” Swindall said. “When one of them goes down the impact on their families is just as devastating as the impact on law enforcement families. This is more than a social event. It is an opportunity to contribute to taking care of our own. I urge as many Blackstone employees as possible to enter the contest, and then show up on March 10 to cheer for our representatives.”

All Arizona DPS licensed security officers are automatically eligible to receive benefits from AZSOMF. There are no membership fees or dues required. The March event is open to the public with a \$5.00 cover charge.

## Demand for Private Security Services in Mexico up 40 Percent

**Monterrey Mexico** – Demand for private security services in Mexico rose 40 percent this year compared to 2010 amid continued high levels of drug-related violence, an official of an entrepreneurs’ group said.

Arnulfo Garibo, president of the National Confederation of Private Security Entrepreneurs, or CNESP, which comprises some 150 companies, said recently that demand for these services has increased since 2009, especially in northern and central Mexico.

He said the states of Baja California, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Guerrero, Jalisco, Tamaulipas, Michoacan, Veracruz, Puebla, Sinaloa, Coahuila and Durango and the Federal District (Mexico City) were the federal entities where demand for these services was highest.

The hiring of bodyguards surged 70 percent this year, which ‘represents more than 19,000 (private) close protection officers nationwide’, Garibo said.

He added that demand increased for security services for people, real estate and merchandise in transit, especially in areas where urban crime gangs and organized criminal networks are especially well established.

Private security services, including access control, risk analysis and the sale, installation and maintenance of electronic security products, have been particularly effective in preventing crimes on highways in the violence-racked northern and central states.

As a result of the protection provided for cargo trucks, for example, Garibo said CNESP affiliates avoided between 400 and 500 highway robberies in 2011, equivalent to a 70 percent decrease in that crime compared to last year.

A surge in violence by criminal gangs has fueled the growth of the private security industry, which has expanded by 50 percent over the past five-and-a-half years and now represents 2 percent of gross domestic product, according to that sector’s own figures.

The rise of the private security industry also has occurred in the context of widespread corruption among local law enforcement personnel.

Hundreds of Mexican state and local police have been arrested in recent years on charges of collusion with drug cartels and other organized-crime elements. In some cases, army soldiers have disarmed the local police as part of investigations into alleged illegal activity.

President Felipe Calderon militarized the struggle against Mexico’s heavily armed, well-funded drug mobs shortly after taking office in December 2006, deploying tens of thousands of troops and federal police to drug-war flashpoints.

(Source [www.privatesecurityofficer.com](http://www.privatesecurityofficer.com).)

## Blackstone Security is a Proud Member of:

