

BLACKSTONE POST



The
Voice of
Blackstone
Security



The Secret to Our Success is in Our People

SPRING, 2016

Meetings had a “Blue Collar” Feel

Managers’ Summit 2016: Honing the “Blackstone Edge”

Sometimes when Blackstone’s cadre of district managers convenes for the company’s annual Managers’ Summit, the repartee can be lively and spirited with a number of juicy topics on the meeting’s menu to whet the appetite.

Still other times, managers must adopt a hard-hat mentality, roll up their sleeves and dive in up to their elbows in topics that, while lacking a sustained appeal, are still vital to the operation of a successful company. And so it was for the managers at Blackstone’s 7th Managers’ Summit, held earlier this spring when 21 of the company’s district managers, sales professionals, schedulers, technicians and account managers gathered at the company’s Phoenix Headquarters to plot a course for the next year.

Blackstone President & CEO Dan Swindall said the nose to the grindstone approach was due to a systems upgrade that impacted the company’s scheduling and payroll operations. “The system



Phoenix Director of Operations Ken Vandiver leads a discussion at the Managers’ Summit.

programmers gave us just three weeks before they changed the entire process that was the foundation of our entire scheduling and payroll systems,” Dan said. “It is imperative that everyone at Blackstone is able to get a grasp of the new system because it is at the heart of our operations.”

Phoenix Operations Director Ken Vandiver and Dallas Division Manager Bobby Holley took turns explaining the changes in the system. Vandiver said each district manager had developed their own ways of interpreting how the system

changes were applied. This was wreaking havoc with Blackstone’s billing and payroll operations.

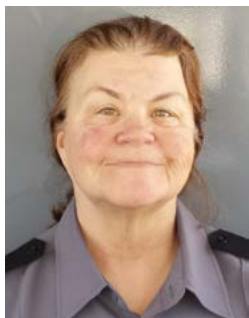
“It was to the point that everyone was doing their own thing,” Vandiver said. “Now everyone is doing it the same.” Vandiver said bringing everyone together at least once a year is valuable because of the adage “long distance relationships never last.”

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Self-Motivated, Mission Driven

Pat Benoy of Dallas is Blackstone’s 2015 Officer of the Year

Dallas – Patricia Benoy from Blackstone Security’s Division 53 office in Dallas has been selected Blackstone Security Services’ 2015 Officer of the Year.



Patricia Benoy

The veteran of more than 20 years in the security industry said the award was unexpected and that she was honored to receive it. “I didn’t expect anything like this would happen to me when I took the job,” she said. “I feel really honored to be selected.”

Bobby Holley, Blackstone’s manager of the North Texas Region, said Division 53 was surprised at the selection mainly because of the short time (18 months) it has been operating. “But at the same time it came as very little surprise that Security Officer Benoy would have been selected due to her daily performance and the way she sets the example for others,” Holley said. “I am so proud of her and so are the other security officers in the division.” Holley added that the client she is working for offered his congratulations also.

A Dallas native, Pat has worked for several security companies but says none are as good as Blackstone, because Blackstone genuinely cares about its employees. She recounts an episode when her adult daughter, her only child, was in the hospital seriously ill with pneumonia, a stomach infection and blood clots. Doctors had to put her daughter in an induced

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POST ORDERS

Dan Swindall, President & CEO

C-Suite Execs Can Still Learn from Educators

This column originally appeared in C-Level Magazine, which targets corporate executives.

For those of us who have not been in a coma for the past two years, we have seen it in newspaper headlines: “Bay area school districts focus on security issues”, “Millikin University boasts full police force”, Compton to District Security Guards: “Go Ahead, Bring your AR-15s to School”.

Everywhere you looked near the start of school this year, school districts who didn’t have security were adding it, and those who already had security were adding to it.

We are basically a reactive society and in the past many school districts reflected this by taking corrective action only after a negative occurrence in their respective districts. The negative occurrence justified the expenditure of funds to improve the situation. After all, some people think if nothing bad happens, no fix is needed.

At least 74 school shootings have occurred since Sandy Hook. These additional tragedies have forced school districts to take a good hard look at preventive maintenance when it comes to school safety. I know some educators read this magazine, so this is not a knock on them. This is an offering of kudos for taking a proactive stance to keeping their schools safe. They’ve gotten out of the “it won’t happen here” frame of mind and adopted the more urgent “before it happens here” way of thinking.

This is also a reminder that even those of us in the corporate sector who have been out of school for decades can still learn a thing or two from educators. I have broached the subject of employee and patron safety in the past and I don’t mind repeating myself when it comes to workplace safety. I think what gets past a lot of people’s thought processes is that Sandy Hook and the 74 school shootings since then are actually acts of workplace violence. As such we must heed and emulate the many educators who are now implementing precautionary measures before an act of violence occurs on their campuses.

In an article that appeared on the website of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) three days after the

Sandy Hook shootings, W. Barry Nixon, executive director of the National Institute for the Prevention of Workplace Violence was quoted as saying, “The first statement I heard from Sandy Hook was that ‘I never thought it could happen here’. Accept the possibility that violence can occur in your workplace. The odds may be against it, but don’t be in denial that it can’t happen.” The article, written by Roy Maurer, was titled, “Connecticut School Shootings Focus Conversation on Workplace Violence Prevention”.

Most experts agree there is no panacea for preventing workplace violence, but two entities that should be involved in developing any prevention plan are human resources and your security officers. Human resources should be engaged in the training of employees to recognize and react to threats of workplace violence. Even if HR does not head up your workplace violence training, that department should have a say in the plan that is developed. We’ve all heard case histories about former employees who felt they were wronged by being fired or downsized. They return to the work site and wreak havoc with a gun before turning it on themselves. HR can play a significant role in mitigating this occurrence by conducting the separation process with respect and dignity, according to SHRM.

Since Sandy Hook, workplace violence is largely associated with an active shooter and much of the training has revolved around that scenario. The state of Missouri recently enacted a law that requires all school districts to participate in mandatory live active shooter drills, which could include bodies of dead and wounded students strewn throughout classrooms and hallways. The drills may include local police and other first responder, but teachers and staff are required to participate. Such drills are not unheard of in the corporate sector, which must deal with a variety of forms of workplace violence.

OSHA says on its website that workplace violence “ranges from threats and verbal abuse to physical assaults and even homicide”. OSHA also reports that almost 2 million workers nationwide are victims of some form of workplace violence annually, and those are only the reported cases.

Here’s the deal, if have not experienced any acts of violence, consider yourself among the fortunate. But don’t get lax. Heed the words of SHRM member Susan Heathfield, a management and organization development consultant who specializes in human resource issues: “Whether tragedy strikes close to home or nationally, people depend on their employer to mitigate the sorrow and impact of it,” Heathfield said in the Maurer article. “And employers can do this.”

Only if we pay attention. We’ll see you next time.



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Stormy Weather

Houston Provides a Lesson in Safety During Adverse Weather

By Tony Browe, Houston District Manager



Tony Browe

Houston – As you all are aware, the Houston area recently experienced a catastrophic amount of rain causing widespread flooding. This historic rainfall was also accompanied by a number of small tornadoes in the area which disrupted efforts to assist some. The tragic consequences of the storms has resulted in a confirmed 12 people dead, with the latest body being found 3 weeks after the rains ended.

Our guard shack situated next to the Dam at Lake Houston was hit by a small tornado during the storm and luckily no one was injured. The Control Center for the dam had its roof torn off in places, and vehicles damaged and moved across the yard, and the guard shack had the windows blown out. Those windows were thickened safety glass and behind metal shutters. The force of the wind still took them out. Still we consider them to be extremely blessed compared to others.



This road sign makes an almost sarcastic understatement as a semi is partially submerged on the Beltway 8 feeder road. Houston Chronical.

This is not a simple story to report the weather to you. As Blackstone Security grows and expands its footprint to other locations across the United States it is important to re-

a commitment to our clients. They have trusted us to secure their staff and facilities...and that trust is not something to be taken lightly. In the case of storms like those that recently occurred, there are always those individuals who take the opportunity to loot businesses that have been damaged and/or lost power. What about the possibility of a staff member or customer of a client who is injured on site and we aren't there to help? If possible we still need to try to make our way to the locations and do our job. Is it great news...no. But is it the right thing? Yes.

The million dollar question is what do we mean "if possible"? I have had the good fortune of working for Blackstone Security for 9 years now. I've been as close to Dan Swindall in that time as anyone and I can tell you that when he says "safety first" he means "SAFETY FIRST!" It isn't just lip service. We must always weigh the safety of our staff against the task at hand. If you get hurt or stuck somewhere you aren't helping anyone.

Your district manager and supervisors can't make it out and check every road to see what the status is. We need you to give an honest assessment of your situation, checking in often, and telling us what is happening. I stress the word honest as any exaggeration good or bad can



Residents use any means available to evacuate their flooded homes. Houston Chronical.

member how spread out we are, with differing climates, different laws, and different issues to consider.

Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma have their massive sandstorms called haboobs. Albuquerque and Colorado have blizzards and freezing rain. Dallas is firmly entrenched in Tornado Alley, and of course Houston has its floods. As we open offices in other states the issues will vary there too, and so it's important that we reiterate our view points from time to time.

It is important to remember that we have



Air mattresses were used as makeshift rafts to get to safety. Houston Chronical.

result in decisions being made that harm rather than help...and could wind up putting even more people in danger. Check your moral compass and get your head straight before reporting.

Whether you are on site or on your way you need to try to fulfill your duty assignments if possible. Stay safe. Keep us well advised. Maintain contact not only with us but your client as well. Assist when and where possible. But regardless of the situation we need you to STAY SAFE.

From the very top to the bottom there is no member of Blackstone Security's management team that feels for one second your safety is secondary to a few hours profit. You are our most valuable asset.



Alexander Metz

**Officer of the Quarter
Division 34 – Tucson**

Tucson, Arizona – Alexander Metz has been selected Blackstone Security Service's Officer of the Quarter for Blackstone's Division 34 in Tucson, Arizona. Born in Tucson, Alexander has a bachelor of science degree in Digital Entertainment and Game Design.

Alex is new to the security industry, having been with the company for just short of three months. However, he is a quick study and knows how to immerse himself in his work. "I really like Blackstone's standard of quality and commitment to safety," he said. "I love having the opportunity to help keep people safe."

Ron Skyrn, Blackstone's district manager for the Tucson office, said Alex had a basic knowledge of security when he was hired and went into training to hone his skills a few months ago. He said Alex has demonstrated great leadership and great customer service.

"He did such a great job on his first assignment the vice president of operations for the client sent a letter to Blackstone's executive vice president commending Alex's work ethic," Skyrn said. "He is an asset to this division and I believe good things will happen in the future."

Alex's philosophy about the security industry speaks volumes about why he is the Officer of the Quarter in Tucson: "I believe there is no greater honor than being able to make someone feel that I am there for them," he said. "Especially in today's world."

When Alex is not standing post, he enjoys playing video games, attending church events and listening to music.

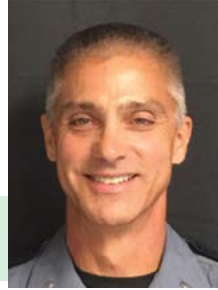
Congratulations, Alex, and thanks for being a Blackstone ambassador.

JA Voted Most Impactful Nonprofit

JA You're Hired!, Blackstone Score Again

Phoenix – Blackstone Security Services once again joined a throng of local businesses in participating in the Arizona Junior Achievement's JA You're Hired! Challenge, an annual event that seeks to prepare high school students for the rigors of job hunting and hone their interpersonal skills.

Nearly 300 business professionals descended upon the Phoenix Convention Center on April 13, 2016 to work with almost 450 students from 16 area high schools in a networking session that simultaneously exposed students to how to be comfortable in conversations with strangers while extracting information from them. Students are scored on a variety of professional qualities such as networking, interviewing and dress.



Anthony Robert Collins

**Officer of the Quarter
Division 52 – El Paso**

El Paso, Texas – Congratulations to Anthony Collins for being selected as the Officer of the Quarter for Blackstone Security Services' Division 52 in El Paso, Texas. A native of Lawrenceville, Georgia, the Marine Corps veteran is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve with a total of 30 years of security experience in the military and in civilian life. Anthony has been with Blackstone just short of a year. He is the Officer in Charge of security at El Paso International Airport.

During his military service Anthony was cited for good conduct, overseas deployment, and meritorious service. He also received six letters of appreciation and three achievement medals. He was an ordinance instructor and a basic and advanced leader instructor. He left military service as a sergeant first class. Anthony's military service has served him and Blackstone well. He represents one of the many military veterans District 52 District Manager Vanessa looks for because of their leadership qualities, discipline and attention to detail.

Polanco said Anthony has done a lot in his short time at the airport. "He has brought structure and discipline to the site with his military background," she said. "The client is very pleased with his work and he has even received compliments from TSA, Border Patrol and the El Paso Police Department. The airport is a very important and prestigious post that takes a very disciplined person with great integrity to make sure security is done correctly and with high standards."

Anthony says he enjoys his co-workers and ensuring that the client's needs are achieved. "I believe it is every person's given right to have protection of person and property at all times and at any location," Anthony said.

Anthony enjoys outdoor activities and sports. He and his wife, Anais, have four children. Congratulations again, Anthony. And thanks for being a Blackstone ambassador.



Blackstone Corporate Communications Consultant Art Gissendaner (R) networks with a student at JA You're Hired event.



Richard Murray

**Officer of the Quarter
Division 53 – Dallas**



Dallas – Richard Murray is described by his district manager as a “natural leader” because he is quick to take the initiative and sets the tone for his fellow guards to follow at all times “during his tour.” In a nutshell, that’s why Richard is the Officer of the Quarter for Blackstone Security’s Division 53 in Dallas.

“Security Officer Murray conducts himself in a very professional manner when dealing with the client and visitors as well as being responsive to the client’s needs,” said Bobby Holley, regional manager of Blackstone’s North Texas Region 53. “Security Officer Murray takes ownership of his post and his shift on a daily basis and will be one of the first to assist with training new guards or providing additional support for special requirements of the client.”

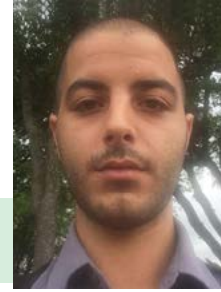
Richard Murray is a native of Allen, Texas and earned the rank of staff sergeant in the U.S. Army. He is a 15-year veteran of the security industry, spending the past 14 months with Blackstone. Richard’s current post is in Wylie, Texas. He started as a guard on a temporary gate.

“Security Officer Murray was always quick to notify the chain of command of any issues he discovered as a result of poor site conditions and bad weather during much of his assignment,” Holly said.

Richard said what he likes the most about Blackstone are the people he works with. What he enjoys most about his job are the people he interacts with. His philosophy on the security industry: “Security should be taken more seriously.”

When he’s not standing his post, Richard enjoys spending time on the links, working out at the gym and going to the movies with his wife, Teresa. The couple are the proud parents of three adult children.

Congratulations, Richard. And thanks for being a Blackstone ambassador.



Tyler Allotta

**Officer of the Quarter
Division 54 – Houston**

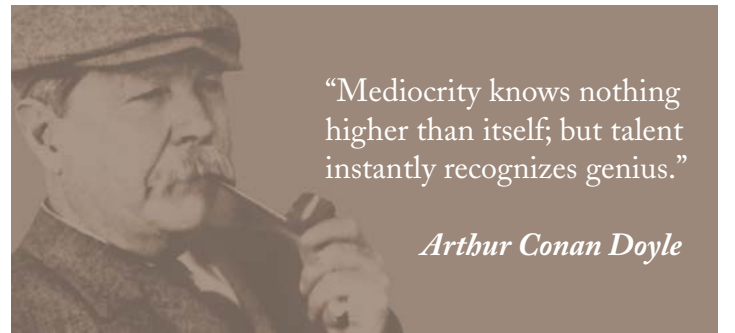


Houston – For his first year in the security business, Houston native Tyler Allotta isn’t wasting any time learning the business of security. That’s why the security officer/rover is the Officer of the Quarter for Blackstone Security’s Division 54 office in Houston.

Houston District Manager Tony Browe made Tyler a roving guard not only to learn the business, but to meet other people. Browe said Tyler responded immediately. “He likes the feeling that he is making a difference at work and isn’t just a drone,” Browe said. He’s been able to experience a lot of different sites and meet a lot of people that he wouldn’t have in his old job.”

Browe continued saying that Tyler has come on board and helped him in a lot of ways after understanding that the moves were to his benefit. Browe said he moved Tyler around because he is very competent and eager to work. “Once he realized that I moved him to new and troubled sites because I trusted him to do the job the right way, his whole perspective of the job changed,” Browe said. I feel that being new to this industry he has a lot to learn, but he already has a lot to offer He can be a key piece to the Blackstone puzzle if he continues to grow.”

Congratulations Tyler. And thanks for being a Blackstone ambassador.



“Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself; but talent instantly recognizes genius.”

Arthur Conan Doyle

You’re Hired Continued from Page 4

Prior to the event, students participate in 10 in-classroom lessons. Overall, 1,200 students received the in-classroom curriculum related to the JA You’re Hired Program. JA reached more than 97,000 students last year with programs to help them succeed.

This is the fourth consecutive year Blackstone has sent representatives to the event and sponsored a student with a donation. “This is an amazing event,” said Blackstone Corporate Communications Consultant Art Gissendaner. “I am so impressed with the eagerness of these students to learn. You can see it in their eyes and their body language. JA does an excellent job preparing these students for life outside the classroom.”

Katherine Cecala, Junior Achievement of Arizona president, commended Blackstone and the other partners who participated.

“Through the participation of Blackstone Security and hundreds of other community partners, these students were able to put their work-readiness skills to the test at this year’s JA You’re Hired,” Cecala said. “We hear time and time again how powerful it is for the students to meet members of the business community face-to-face and gain valuable experience.”

Also in May, JA received the inaugural IMPACTful Non-profit award given by the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce’s IMPACT Awards. The award carries with it a donation of \$1,500.



The Changes of Attitude About Security

We in the security industry are frequently overlooked and referred to as “Rent-a-cop”, “Night Watchman”, and other outdated or rather insulting names. But the times have been changing. Most notably the changes went into high gear after the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001. But there were



Bobby Holley
Regional Mgr., Div. 53 Dallas

changes in the attitude of law enforcement and governmental agencies even before that time.

In 1976, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration’s National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals reported:

‘One massive resource, filled with significant numbers of personnel, armed with a wide array of technology, and directed by professionals who have spent their entire adult lifetimes learning how to prevent and reduce crime, has not

been tapped by governments in the fight against criminality. The private security industry, with over one million workers, sophisticated alarm systems and perimeter safeguards, armored trucks, sophisticated mini-computers, and thousands of highly skilled crime prevention experts, offers a potential for coping with crime that cannot be equaled by any other remedy or approach.... Underutilized by police, all but ignored by prosecutors and the judiciary, and unknown to corrections officials, the private security professional may be the only person in this society who has the knowledge to effectively prevent crime.’

This began to lead the security industry in a new direction that rapidly increased momentum after the 9/11 attack. Corporations across the country became enlightened on the need for a higher quality security program and the industry responded. Security companies across the nation were able to charge a higher rate which in turn provided funding for additional training for the security officer on the street and to hire management personnel with law enforcement and/or military experience and leadership traits that matched. This resulted in a security force of over 1-million strong with a much higher training level and professionalism to provide a greater presence and criminal prevention program across the nation.

Even though security is usually in the background and not recognized or praised for their accomplishments by the media, that

has changed over the years as well. Here are just a few of the internationally recognized security officers that made it to the public’s attention.

- The security guard Frank Wills detected the June 17, 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C., ultimately leading to the resignation of Richard M. Nixon as President of the United States.

- In 1999, Pierlucio Tinazzi rescued 10 victims from the Mont Blanc Tunnel Fire, before dying while trying to rescue an eleventh.

- Derrick Brun, an unarmed security officer employed by the Red Lake School District in Minnesota, was praised by President Bush for his heroic role in protecting children during the 2005 Red Lake shootings: “Derrick’s bravery cost him his life, and all Americans honor him”.

- Armed security officer Jeanne Assam. In 2007, Matthew Murray fatally shot two and wounded two others at the “Youth With A Mission” retreat center in Arvada, Colorado. A few hours later he fatally shot two others and wounded another three in the New Life Church parking lot. When Murray entered the church, he was met by armed security officer Jeanne Assam, who ordered him to drop his weapon. Assam shot and wounded Murray when he failed to comply. The pastor of New Life Church credited Assam with saving over 100 lives.

- Richard Jewell, a security officer at Atlanta, Georgia’s Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 Summer Olympics who was wrongly accused of the Centennial Olympic Park bombing. Jewell was later cleared of those charges, and was in fact the one who saved hundreds of lives when he first noticed the suspicious package and got the area evacuated. Jewell later successfully sued several news agencies who reported him as the criminal prior to having the facts.

One of the disadvantages to working in the security industry is that if we do our job correctly, most of the time nothing happens. That is why we are there in the first place, to deter criminal activity and make it harder for the bad guys every day and night. So, when you end your shift and have nothing to report, it is a good thing and you can end your tour of duty knowing you have been a success once again.

The media may not recognize you, but the Blackstone leadership sees your accomplishments every day. Thank you to all the professional men and women of the Blackstone Family who give it your best every shift and keep the bad guys at bay. Job well done!

Summit

Continued from Page 1

"It's a good thing to bring our co-managers together because it builds a closer relationship that reminds them we are all working toward the same goal," Vandiver said. "We can work from a distance but until we see the problems face-to-face it's difficult to know what we are going through. When you rub shoulders with each other you build a better understanding of what you really need to work on. Everybody gets stronger and has a better idea of what they are doing. The company benefits and so do the clients."

Holley said the Summit provides an opportunity to look internally and at the security industry as a whole. "Managers' Summit provides a great opportunity to interact and exchange ideas on ways to solve current problems and future problems as well as discuss industry changes," he added.

Gallup Area Manager Scott Clark agreed saying the Summits are informational and gives him a chance to come in from some of the more remote areas. "We get to interact with other managers and learn how they handle certain situations," Clark said. "Getting us together really helps."



El Paso Account Manager David Garcia attended his first Managers' Summit. The recent U.S. Army retiree said it was definitely a learning experience. "I'm getting a better understanding of the importance of the payroll," he said. "Now I can enforce standards on properly filling out the payroll and getting it turned in on time. This is a great thing for managers from all divisions to share ideas and any issues they are having. As prior military I see this as a luxury that I value. This is very informative."

Houston District Manager Tony Browe said the opportunity to reconnect with your colleagues, friends is invaluable. "I can't overstate how important it is for us to stay on top of current trends and maintain the same high level of training that we expect of our employees," Browe said. "How can we keep them current, train them properly and make sure we are able to provide a safe, healthy work atmosphere for our staff if we don't?"

Benoy

Continued from Page 1

coma. "The company let me go to the hospital at a moment's notice when they put her in a coma so I could be there," Pat said. "My coworkers were very supportive. I think of them as part of my family." Pat's daughter has since been released from the hospital.

Holley said Pat's first assignment was as a guard working a construction gate. During that time she was required to conduct checks of large vehicles making deliveries to the facility. Her work area consisted of a temporary gate house, port-a-john and a temporary manual gate.

"Security Officer Benoy spent many hours wading through mud and puddles caused during one of many flooding days in the Dallas / Ft. Worth area and never shirked her responsibilities," Holley said. "One never heard a single complaint from her of the difficulties she faced on a daily basis unless it affected her ability to complete the mission."

Holley said that after months of working in this type of setting, a brand new gate house and electronic gate system was completed and the guards shifted into a 24-hour operation. "Security Officer Benoy immediately took ownership of the gate house and surrounding areas as well as the company patrol vehicle," Holley

said. "She began to assume the role of gate supervisor and directed others in the required maintenance, duties and operations of the new equipment as well as the patrol vehicle. Security Officer Benoy inspects all documents produced at her gate and insists on corrective action from her other guards working the gate."

Holley said that, in short, Pat has stepped up, taken ownership and provided leadership while serving as an example to all fellow guards. "Security Officer Benoy has accomplished all of this on her own initiative and continues to do so, even when her daughter was hospitalized and in serious condition," Holley said. "Security Officer Benoy insists on continuing her duties and setting the example in the most stressful of times. We in Division 53 are very proud of her!"

Benoy was selected in a blind vote by the company's Employee Satisfaction Committee. Members of the committee read the recommendations submitted by division managers. All identifying information was removed so committee members did not know who they were voting for, who was recommending them or the division where the candidates worked.



Happy Anniversary!

Blackstone Employee Anniversaries



Fourteen Years

Esau Ramirez

Eleven Years

Gasan Issa

Ten Years

Tyler Croft

Nine Years

Gisma Dabura

Eight Years

James Nally

Seven Years

Terry Rachas

Six Years

James Allan
Phillip Castorena

Mike Quinn

Five Years

Steven Curty
Al Cushman
Al Gregory
Bill "Hutch" Hutchison

David Poole
Donta Thomas
Phyllis Tomaszewski
Miguel Torres

Four Years

Bobby Holley
Betty Morrow
Norman Osburn

Sandra Price
Alma Rodriguez

Three Years

Kevin Burns
Alex Chamberlain
John Gad

Richard Qualls
John Watson
Mitchell Williams

Two Years

Robert Cassady
Scott Clark
Mark Davis
Marvin Gibbs
Robin Hamberg
Ahmed Hussain
Rose Marie Lodgek
Vincent Lomeo

Mark Manlove
Luis Perez
Karen Rebel
Donavon Singer
Frederick Thomas
Ralph Tiffany
Audrey Tortez
Benson White

One Year

Yefa Bedane
Patricia Benoy
Mark Cole
Mary Colman
Charles Cowan
John Deffippo
Mohammed Gaafar
Gilbert Gomez
Jorge Hernandez

Linda Johnson
Darvin Legah
Myeshia May
Jamecia Mayes
Richard Murray
Azem Shaw
Johnny South
Ljubica Tadic
Michael Wynn

Summer in the City

Don't Lose Your Cool in the Summer Heat

Earlier this spring CNN reported that the folks at NASA said the Earth experienced the warmest April on record and that 2016 is on track to be the hottest year yet. Great! Summer is upon us and while we here in the Southwest are no strangers to the heat, we do sometimes take it for granted. That can be hazardous to our health and even fatal.

Security personnel working 8-hour shifts patrolling perimeters are especially at risk.

So as we enter the summer months here is some advice and a few tips to make sure we make it to the winter, courtesy of a seminar hosted by the Costanza Insurance Agency, Inc. of Dallas, Texas, a member of the Omaha-based Zurich Insurance Group.

Security personnel working outdoor posts are not the only ones susceptible to heat exhaustion. Those assigned to the indoor environments of factories, mills and foundries are also at risk. There are four environmental factors that can cause heat duress in the workplace; temperature, radiant heat from the sun or a furnace, humidity and air velocity.

Here are some suggestions for maintaining your cool during the summer. These are basic elements to minimize your exposures

to heat-related illnesses and injuries.

Water – When working in the heat, you need to consume 3-4 glasses of cool water each hour, including at the start of your shift, to replace the water lost in sweat. This should be done frequently in small amounts. Thirst is an unreliable indicator of dehydration.

Shade – The sun's direct heat can add as much as 15 degrees to the heat index (a number in degrees Fahrenheit that tells how hot it really feels with the heat and humidity). If possible seek out a shaded area for your breaks or when you need relief from the sun. Baseball caps should be worn that comply with uniform requirements to decrease the impact of the direct heat. And dress for the heat with lightweight clothing, when possible.

Rest Breaks – Rest breaks are important to reduce internal heat load and provide time for cooling. Heat illness occurs when there is an accumulation of a combination of environmental and internal heat that cannot be adequately dissipated. Take breaks in cooler, shaded areas. Rest breaks also provide the opportunity to drink water.

Record Temperatures: Phoenix, 122 degrees, June 26, 1990

Source: 2015 Security Industry Risk Management and Safety Tool Kit (Zurich Insurance Group).

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