

BLACKSTONE POST



The
Voice of
Blackstone
Security



The Secret to Our Success is in Our People

SUMMER, 2011

I Pledge Allegiance...

Blackstone Security Officer's Dream Comes True

July 22, 2011 is a date that Mary Michel Georgi will remember forever. That's the day she took the Oath of Allegiance and began her new life as a citizen of the United States of America. It's the day that culminated a dream which began 11 years ago when she immigrated to the U.S. from South Sudan. It marked the end of one journey, and the beginning of another.

"Today means so much to me, it is like a birthday," Georgi said after the emotionally rousing ceremony. "I am so happy. It is hard to describe. I am so overwhelmed. Now I can vote and I can visit my family in South Sudan without worry. It opens doors for me that I would not be able to enter. It is a dream come true."

Georgi was one of 97 émigrés from 39 countries who participated in the ceremony, witnessed by numerous family and friends. It took place in the courtroom of U.S. District Court Judge Roger



Mary Georgi takes the Oath of Allegiance.

G. Strand in the federal building in downtown Phoenix.

Georgi spoke no English when she arrived in the U.S. She worked at various jobs including teaching assistant and airport housekeeping where she cleaned the interior of passenger jets. She overcame the language barrier with the help of family, friends and adult education courses. "It took me a while to communicate with people but with the support of my American friends and the adult education courses at Rio Salado Community College I got much better."

Georgi has been a security officer with Blackstone for three-and-a-half years. She earned her spurs in the security industry standing post at one of the premier locations for the Phoenix Fire Department, which is arguably the most important secure site in the state. The building is a multijurisdictional site that is so secure you must be credentialed to enter.

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Blackstone Receives Veteran-Owned Certification

Blackstone Security Services Inc. has received its certification as a Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) from the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, further solidifying its position as one of the premier security providers in the Southwest region.

The certification will send a message to local, state and federal agencies that Blackstone has met certain criteria in addition to that required of civilian-owned companies to reaffirm its adherence to diligent, disciplined service and a staunch awareness of Homeland Security.



Blackstone is owned and operated by founding President Dan Swindall, who spent five years as a security policeman in the U.S. Air Force before starting Blackstone in 1993. Swindall said the certification is another arrow in the company's quiver in the fight to stay ahead of the curve in a competitive industry. "This definitely gives us a leg up," Swindall says. "It means the Federal Government recognizes that we have an investment in this country."

Blackstone, a regional security stalwart, already provides security for city, county, state and federal offices throughout the region as well as some high profile private international corporations that require

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In Memoriam
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**Swindall Elected
Board Chair**

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**Employees of the
Quarter**

Congratulations

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POST ORDERS

Dan Swindall, President & CEO

The growth of the private security industry in Arizona is indicative of the corresponding growth across the United States and around the world. According to figures on its website, the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AzPOST) provides services to approximately 170 law enforcement agencies with about 15,000 sworn peace officers. Meanwhile the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the licensing agency for private security, has 293 licensed private security companies on their books along with more than 25,500 registered unarmed security officers and more than 4,100 registered armed security officers. This past July, Reuters News Agency reported that the private security industry worldwide is growing rapidly and now employs twice as many people as governments have police officers, according to data compiled by the United Nations.

These are telling numbers considering that before 9/11, no one viewed the security officer position as a career move. Most people will tell you that security “just happened” to them and it stuck. Little has been reported in the media about the 33 private security officers who also died in the Twin Towers, but their unfortunate deaths in a way have breathed new life into the private security industry. Since 9/11 private security has emerged as a viable partner in securing our nation’s infrastructure and the industry has enjoyed an elevated status in the eyes of everyone from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to private business to local law enforcement agencies.

Most of us in the private security industry have responded to this recognized need by hiring better personnel, improving our training and our due diligence.

Blackstone has joined in eradicating the caricature of security officers as passive, poorly educated, rent-a-cops. Instead, we project the image of well-trained, disciplined, efficient professionals on a career track. Some hold professional, exam-based certifications and possess advanced degrees in addition to meeting state and local standards. They attend academies and institutes for specialized training that includes weaponry instruction. Many are former law enforcement officers and former military. Our security officers are people who take their jobs seriously enough to compete for assignments.

This approach is essential when you consider that in contemporary society many security officers perform multiple functions, such as doubling as receptionists, hosts or customer service representatives who are tasked with generating reports, monitoring surveillance cameras and coping with electronic-based security systems.

Remember, the most important impression in a service provider’s life is the one that is conveyed when a customer first walks onto the property. The second most important impression is the one customers convey to the rest of the world when they leave the property.

Times are changing and so are we.

In Memoriam

Remember “The 33”

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. The firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel and office workers who selflessly sacrificed their lives that day at ground zero are well-documented and certainly well-deserved. Not as well documented or celebrated however, are the 33 private security officers who also died that day standing shoulder-to-shoulder with those same firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel who ran up the stairs to help those who could not help themselves. It was the worst single day loss of life in the history of private security.

Please join the Blackstone Family in honoring the memory of these dedicated security officers. How you honor them is up to you. Remember their families, also. If you are a security officer, be proud. If you know a security officer, take a moment to thank them for being there.

The Arizona Private Security Professionals’ Association has established a Security Officer Memorial Fund to help the families of Arizona security officers who give the full measure while standing their post. You can learn more about the fund and how to donate by visiting their website at www.azsomf.com.

Remember “The 33”.



The Blackstone Family

Team Blackstone 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.

Geoff Pacheco – District Sales Mgr.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Division 42

Shana Kohlman – District Mgr.

EL PASO, TX

Division 52

Vanessa Polanco – District Mgr.

Cynthia Trujillo – District Sales Mgr.



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This newsletter is produced at Blackstone Corporate Headquarters for the use and enjoyment of our employees and clients.

Dream

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Mary Georgi: "This is a dream come true."

When Georgi reported to work, about 150 persons greeted her with a cake-and-punch reception. "It is a good place to work, I get along with everybody," Georgi said. "They make me feel like I am one of them."

Also in the audience was Georgi's sister, Achai Garang, a Blackstone security officer who works at the same site. Garang became a U.S. citizen in 2007. "I feel very good. We are both

citizens now. I love the people of America," Garang said.

Georgi also was presented with a bouquet of roses from her "family" at Blackstone. Human Resources Manager Mitzi Hagan said Blackstone's screening process left no doubt that Georgi would make an exceptional employee. "Our screening process ensures that our staff members are individuals who have the initiative and ability to handle jobs that require the highest level of security, such as the site that Mary secures," Hagan said. "We are quite proud the job that Mary does for Blackstone and for the City of Phoenix Fire Department and we are quite proud of her for becoming a U.S. citizen. We understand the hard work that has been involved in this process for her and know that it was her determination that saw her through to her goal."

O'Neal is New Blackstone Director of Operations

Mary Beth O'Neal has joined Blackstone Security as the new Director of Operations. The 22-year security veteran brings an impressive portfolio of security experience in Arizona and Texas. O'Neal oversees about 300 security personnel and is responsible for scheduling, billing, settling client conflicts, dispatch and hiring among other duties.



Mary Beth O'Neal

The Texas native says two things she values in her job are good communication and good people. "Ninety percent of this job is communication and being proactive rather than reactive," she says. "Good staff are important too. They do most of the work. I can't do it all. One of my strengths is getting good people to work with me."

O'Neal and Blackstone President Dan Swindall have been friends for more than 20 years. "We worked for different companies but we remained friendly competitors," O'Neal said. "When I semi-retired a couple

years ago, Dan started talking to me about working for Blackstone, and here I am."

O'Neal says one of the keys to working with employees is to keep an open door policy, but know when to back off. "If they have an issue that I need to become involved in, I will. Otherwise I stay out of their way."

She does admit that she enjoys getting out of the office. "In the field is where I belong. I could never just sit behind a desk all day."

Positions O'Neal has held with some major players in the security industry include, Security Consultant, General Manager, Director of Sales and Marketing, District Manager, Director of Corporate Sales and Director of Corporate Sales & Operations.

Swindall said getting O'Neal was a coup because of her extensive experience in Arizona. "She just hit the ground running," Swindall said. "Mary Beth brings a wealth of experience in the industry and she knows how to get the most out of people. I am really pleased she accepted my offer."

O'Neal's affiliations include the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), Wells Fargo President's Club, the Community Associations Institute (CAI) and a past membership in the Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Phoenix (BOMA).

Santa Teresa, N.M.

No Baloney!

Border Agents Bust Banned Meat

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers have a tough job, make no mistake, and a rewarding job. But there are some quirks mixed in with the perks. Among their many arrests this year are two women trying to smuggle drugs strapped to their bodies, people masquerading as families trying to enter the U.S. illegally, a woman trying to smuggle more than \$2.5 million worth of cocaine into the U.S. in her car, tons of marijuana seizures and a man with 385 pounds of illegal bologna. That's right, contraband has a new face – bologna.

"This is a prohibited product because it is made from pork and has the potential for introducing foreign animal diseases to

the U.S. pork industry," Santa Teresa Port of Entry Director Grace Gomez says in a news release. "This seizure really stands out because when we seize bologna, it is usually a small quantity or at most a roll or two."

The illegal bologna was hidden behind a seat in the car. The perpetrator, a 33-year-old resident of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, was assessed a \$1,000 fine and released. Officials called the seizure "massive" and say it is the largest bologna bust ever recorded at the Santa Teresa crossing and the largest in the U.S. since 756 pounds of bologna was seized at the El Paso Port of Entry in November, 2003.

Fear the pig!



DIVISION NEWS



Division 32 • Phoenix

Phoenix Fire Department Commends Blackstone Officers

Two Blackstone security officers have been awarded commendations by the Phoenix Fire Department for their overall performance while standing their post at the Fire Administration Building. Because these officers are on the day shift in the lobby they are more visible to the public on a daily basis. Blackstone has several other officers that patrol the interior and the exterior of the building when the lobby is closed for the day. Our client contact with the Department said all of our officers do an exemplary job at their assigned posts.

After the recent Major League Baseball All Star Game, the department heads from the various agencies housed in the building stopped by the front desk and personally thanked Blackstone's guards for their effort in keeping things orderly and handling the crowds in a very high profile lobby. They really had a challenge that week because a lot of high-ranking government agency personnel came through the building. Everyone cooperated but it was a very demanding situation.

Mary Beth O'Neal, director of operations at Blackstone said the officers are "the face" of the Fire Administration Building. "Blackstone's officers are the first faces people see when they enter the lobby," O'Neal said. "Blackstone trains its officers to have the versatility to enhance the client's image by interacting positively with patrons and the discipline to take action when required."

Blackstone management is very proud of our staff at the Fire Administration Building and their dedication to the protection of the Fire Department facility and its "family".

And Our Clients Write....

"For several years Blackstone has provided security services to our company. During our construction and relocation to a 280,000 square foot facility, Blackstone provided effective and proficient services, protecting our personnel, our contractors, and our assets from loss. Blackstone management has been extremely responsive to our needs and even provided an overall hazard analysis of our facility and personal security training to our safety committee. Post Orders are always quickly developed and modified to meet our individual need and officers are hand-selected to provide optimum security to our facility.

Blackstone has worked tirelessly with us to make sure that we pay the right amount for the right security and they were instrumental in saving us over \$30,000 in security fees over 12 months.

It is my pleasure to recommend Blackstone Security Services to all potential clients."

*Rick Green
Personnel Safety & Loss Prevention
Phoenix, Arizona*



Division 42 • Albuquerque

Political Tug of War Keeps Driver's License Issue in Limbo

Blackstone, Other Employers Await Outcome at State House

Blackstone Security's Albuquerque Division and other local employers continue to be caught in the middle of a political tug of war over the issuance of driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, a practice that leaves many employers guessing about potential hires, especially private security companies.

New Mexico is one of only two states that allow illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. People from Poland, China and Mexico who reside elsewhere in the United States have been arrested for falsifying documents to get a New Mexico driver's license, which is considered an official government-issued ID.

Albuquerque District Manager Shana Kohlman said all she and other employers can do is continue their vigilance and hope a final answer comes soon. A bill that would have required immigrants to have a Social Security number before obtaining a driver's license stalled in the State Legislature during the last session.

"This is of the utmost importance to us because of the very nature of private security," Kohlman said. "We must know who we are entrusting with our clients' assets. We continue to depend on our pre-employment screening process and the FBI background check. I think that pretty much deters anyone who is here illegally from applying for a position with Blackstone. So far we've had no problems and we've been able to field a good group of security officers."

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez recently announced that 10,000 foreign nationals would be selected at random to come forward and verify their residency. Analysts say those contacted who are here illegally likely will not come forward for fear of deportation.

Martinez has called New Mexico a magnet for fraud rings that receive from \$500 to \$6,000 each for false documentation to get a driver's license. Her claims were substantiated recently when an Albuquerque woman was named in a 324-count indictment on charges of using false documents to help illegal immigrants obtain New Mexico driver's licenses.

"This is yet another egregious case that shows we're attracting criminal elements to our state for the sole purpose of obtaining driver's licenses," Martinez said in a news release. "Our driver's licenses have been compromised and we're not only putting our residents at risk, but those living in other states as well." Martinez will try again to repeal the law during the current legislative session.



Division 52 • El Paso

El Paso Hoteliers and Blackstone Getting Along Just Fine

Membership has its benefits and Blackstone Security Services' associate membership in the El Paso Hotel & Motel Association came just in time to benefit the Association's leadership.

Joe Frandina, the owner and general manager of the Holiday Inn Express at 409 E. Missouri Ave., said he didn't select Blackstone just because they joined the Association, but the membership came at a time when he determined he needed security. "As a general manager, I recognized that I needed a security company because of the recent proliferation of nite clubs in our general area", said Frandina, who is also the president of the Association. "Coincidentally, that's when Blackstone joined. Their proposal met my budget and my needs."

Frandina said the timing was right and he realizes the implied endorsement of engaging a fellow association member. "If someone makes the effort to join the Association and interact with the hoteliers, they have (an advantage) on those who do not," he said. "Our associate membership complements our hoteliers because most of them provide a vital service in some way."

Frandina said the need for hotels and motels to engage security companies is increasing because of their very nature and the functions of their facilities, such as bars, restaurants and large banquet areas. "Hotels usually operate 24/7 and can have up to 500 guests at any given time," Frandina said. "The safety of our guests is always a great concern so security companies can be high on a hotelier's list of priorities depending on location and services."

Frandina estimated that of the Association's 95 members, about 35 percent are associates.

Cynthia Trujillo, district sales manager for Blackstone, said membership in the Association and other local professional and civic groups is Blackstone's way of getting to know the needs of the community by participating in organizations and activities. "We get to know our community by interacting with its members in person, not only on the phone," Trujillo said. "When members of the community know that you are genuinely concerned about their welfare, they will trust you to protect them and their property. And protection is what we do."



Joe Frandina

ASIS Announces New Academic Alliance with University of Phoenix

ASIS board certifications can now be applied toward a bachelor's degree in Organizational Security and Management from University of Phoenix

Board-certified members of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) International will be able to continue to build on their professional development by applying their Certified Protection Professional (CPP) or Physical Security Professional (PSP) certifications toward a University of Phoenix bachelor's degree specific to the security field. ASIS is an international trade association that sets guidelines and standards for private security.

ASIS has joined with University of Phoenix and its College of Criminal Justice and Security to offer ASIS member certificants the ability to transfer earned CPP and PSP certifications into elective credits for use toward the University's B.S. in Organizational Security and Management degree.

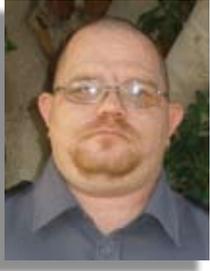
"Having the proper training and education is critical for security professionals to be effective in today's global business environment," said Christina Duffey, CPP, president, ASIS Professional Certification Board. "We are pleased to join forces with University of Phoenix College of Criminal Justice and Security to help our member certificants advance in their professional development and achieve success."

Technological advances, terrorism and globalization all pose increasing challenges to the world's security environment. Security employers are demanding their organization's security leaders be highly educated and certified in order to meet these challenges, requiring both recognized certifications and bachelor's degrees. This new alliance provides ASIS member certificants with the quality education and knowledge they need to be effective leaders in the private and public security sectors.

"Our bachelor's program provides the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the demands of today's global security challenges," said James Ness, dean of the College of Criminal Justice and Security for University of Phoenix. "Combining ASIS' globally recognized certifications with our program offers ASIS member certificants the opportunity to elevate their understanding of today's security needs and better equip them as leaders in their field."

The ASIS alliance with University of Phoenix applies to all ASIS CPP and PSP board-certified members.





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

Robert Wayne Houx

Blackstone employees are also good neighbors. That is one of the reasons why Robert Houx is the Employee of the Quarter for Blackstone's Division 32.

Robert is a patrol officer. He travels to various sites around the city. The night of June 19, Robert was traveling on I-17 when he came upon Anna Anderson, who had a flat tire. He pulled over and changed the tire on Anderson's vehicle. The distraught motorist thought the company should be notified of Robert's kindness.

"He did not have to stop but he did and I really appreciate his help and kindness," Anderson wrote in an e-mail to Blackstone President Dan Swindall the next day. "He has shown me that there is some kindness left in this world. I hope your company has many more like him. Again, thank you and your patrol driver for helping me last night."

Robert has worked as a security officer for nine years, and has been with Blackstone since last November. Born in Fort Hood, TX, Robert was raised in Glendale and graduated from Independence High School. "I enjoy my job because of the ability to assist and help people and be involved in making the community a better place."

Robert's hobbies include reading mystery, fantasy and crime novels, and visiting the gun range. His philosophy on security is no mystery or fantasy, and is as direct as a gunshot. "I take what I do very seriously. I know that I am the first line of defense and that if I fail in my assigned tasks I leave others open to risks." Robert and his bride, Christine, have a daughter, Lisha, and a son, Cody. Congratulations, Robert, and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador!



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

Ted Suba

Having worked as bricklayer, Ted Suba knows how to lay a solid foundation. That's why he is the Employee of the Quarter for Blackstone's Division 34 after only three years in the industry. Ted was born and raised in "Wildcat Country" and offers a wealth of understanding about the social and professional characteristics that make Tucson unique. He puts that understanding to good use for Blackstone, a company he enjoys for its employee relations.

"I feel looked after as a person, Ted says. "I have recommended several other guards since I came to Blackstone and one of the reasons is that I can say we are treated properly."

Another reason Ted enjoys his job is "lots of hours and different experiences" offered by his assignments. His philosophy about security is simple, solid and tied to the foundation of this country. "I respect the rights that are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution," he says flatly.

Tucson Division Manager Tony Browe says Ted does a great job wherever he is assigned. "He is dependable, conscientious and willing to help in emergencies," Browe said.

When Ted is not standing his post he spends his free time working in his yard on projects involving – that's right – brick work! He is consistent and Blackstone and his wife, Cynthia, appreciate that.

Congratulations, Ted, and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador!

Swindall Elected Chair of State Security Group Board

Blackstone President & CEO Dan Swindall was elected to Chair the Board of Officers for the Arizona Private Security Professionals' Association (APSPA). The Association comprises security company owners, managers, vendors and clients interested in keeping the private security industry strong here in Arizona.

"Our industry as a whole is facing a number of challenges that must be addressed as a group if we are to maintain our role in the state's overall security," Swindall says. "I am humbled by the honor of chairing a group of dedicated professionals. At the same time I am excited about meeting the challenges that lay ahead."

Swindall said the group's main thrust this



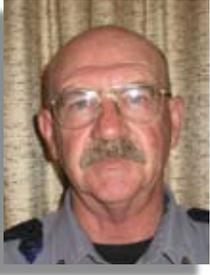
year is increasing membership and developing a sound legislative agenda. "Uniting Arizona's security community behind the single purpose of protecting and improving the state's security industry is our top priority."

**Arizona
Private
Security
Professionals'
Association**

Tucson District Manager Tony Browe is chairman of the APSPA Program Committee

"I volunteered because of the importance I place on our employees being properly trained and informed about the industry," Browe said."

APSPA holds luncheon meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Phoenix Country Club, 2901 N. 7th St. Visit the website at www.azapsa.com for information on membership and meetings.



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

**Site Supervisor
Bill Browning**

Bill Browning is a man of few words who gives plenty of results. That why Bill is the Employee of the Quarter for Blackstone's Division 42. Bill is currently the site supervisor at one of Blackstone's premier clients in the Southwest. Bill's performance was so impressive that the client's security management requested that he be retained when Blackstone assumed the contract at the secure facility just outside Albuquerque. That was three years ago.

Bill has been in the security business a total of three-and-a-half years, but he has impressed his employers and clients alike with a solid work ethic and a positive attitude. He does not hesitate to give credit for his success to the people around him.

"As supervisor I get a great deal of support from the client's staff, the security manager, and my district manager Shana Kohlman," Bill says. "However, the most enjoyable aspect is the crew that I currently supervise; they are by far the best. They come to work with a positive attitude, looking professional, acting professional. They are polite and helpful to the client and have a willingness to help each other."

(Hey, Bill, the performance of staff can usually be traced back to the leadership of the immediate supervisor.)

Instead of acknowledging his leadership qualities, he passes the kudos along to his supervisor, Albuquerque District Manager Shana Kohlman.

"Shana is supportive of our entire staff here. She works hard to find the right individual for the post," Bill notes. "Her management style is to allow me to do my job with minimal interference."

Kohlman says Bill is a great asset and has received several employee recognitions acknowledging his success. "He has proved himself time and time again and quickly moved into the OIC position," Kohlman said. "Bill has been a reliable and trustworthy employee and we are lucky to have him as part of the Blackstone team."

Bill's philosophy on security reflects a winning attitude: "Security is a people business. Get to know the individuals at your site, gain their trust and they will inform you of any unsafe situations. It is a pleasure working here."

Bill and Frances, his bride of 39 years, have two children and a grandson.

Congratulations, Bill, and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador!

Great Quotes:

"So great is the regard of the law for private property, that it will not authorize the least violation of it; no, not even for the general good of the whole community"

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



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

Emilia Lopez

Emilia Lopez is the Blackstone Division 52 Employee of the Quarter after only seven months with the company for good reason. While Emilia was fulfilling her obligations as a stay-at-home mom taking care of her husband and three sons, no one could guess the secret burning desire she harbored deep inside for 20 years. Emilia Lopez wanted to be a security guard.

Who knew?

When her children became adults, the certified child daycare provider was about to give up on her dream after being turned down by security companies because of age and gender issues. She then found Blackstone, and this feisty El Paso native decided to give it one more shot. Bingo! Blackstone's Division Manager Vanessa Polanco was impressed by Emilia's desire and enthusiasm. The result: A new career for Emilia.

"Working at Blackstone has given me a chance to grow as a person and a professional, not only having a career but knowing that I can be self-sufficient and protect someone's business property," she said. "That in itself gives me great gratification."

Emilia says one of her favorite things about her job is her co-workers and supervisors, whom she credits with bringing her along and helping her learn the business. "Having no security guard experience whatsoever, I am grateful that Miss Polanco had confidence in me and trust in my reliability," she said. "My fellow officers are a great pleasure to work with, most if not all have contributed in some way to helping me do my job the best I can."

Polanco said Emilia passed her training with flying colors and she was so thankful Blackstone gave her a chance. "Now she tells me she has a purpose again. She looks forward to coming to work and the job brings her a self confidence," Polanco said. "I'm proud of her and hope she stays with us a long time. She represents our company slogan exactly; 'the secret to our success is in our people'. We like to stand by that in El Paso."

Emilia's philosophy on security is as progressive as her attitude. "Because not everyone respects other people's rights, we as security officers, have a social contract to maintain the safety of the site we are protecting and remain vigilant to ensure the safety of the general public."

When Emilia is not protecting the general public, she is spending time with Carlos, her husband of 30 years. She enjoys fishing, reading and watching the New York Giants play on Sundays. She and Carlos are proud of their sons, Eddie, Carlos and Albert, the youngest, who will be embarrassed to know his mother refers to him as her "precious baby." Guys, your mom rocks.

Congratulations, Emilia, and thanks for being a Blackstone Ambassador!

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

Bob Bates – Albuquerque	Antoine Herron - Phoenix
Patrick Durr – Albuquerque	William Kaley - Phoenix
Don Kirkpatrick – Albuquerque	Arthur Phillip - Phoenix
Beatrice Landolt – Albuquerque	Mike Quinn - Phoenix
Philip Olson – Albuquerque	Ricardo Rocchio - Phoenix
Jose Ronquillo – Albuquerque	Robert Walsh - Phoenix
Antwon Yates – Albuquerque	Rick Workman - Phoenix
James Allen - Phoenix	Nabil Ahmad – Tucson
Rick Bach - Phoenix	Hathal Al Obaidi – Tucson
Kulbir Brar - Phoenix	Mahmoud Al Tabooki – Tucson
Philip Castorena - Phoenix	Alan Lee – Tucson
Josh Davis - Phoenix	William Keymolent – Tucson
Bryan Felton - Phoenix	Ruben Rodriguez – Tucson
Anthony Garcia - Phoenix	

Two Years

Bill Browning – Albuquerque
 Vanessa Polanco – El Paso
 Cynthia Trujillo – El Paso
 Maan Al Obaidi – Tucson
 Thamer Azat – Tucson
 Tareq Ghabdan – Tucson
 Osama Younis – Tucson

Three Years

Nathan Barron - Phoenix	John Schemitsch - Phoenix
Tracie Ernst - Phoenix	Vincent Sworo - Phoenix
Charles Hurst - Phoenix	Sharon Wooten – Phoenix
James Nally - Phoenix	Zaid Qadri – Tucson

Five Years

Patrick Blair - Phoenix
 Tyler Croft - Phoenix

Six Years

John Avenetti - Phoenix
 Gasan Issa - Phoenix

Nine Years

Esau Ramirez - Phoenix
 Claudia Riedel - Phoenix

Certification

Continued from Page 1

secure facilities. This includes the Fire Operations Administration Building in Phoenix where state and federal offices are housed and the New Mexico Branch Office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

“This opens the door to additional contracts with federal agencies and subcontracting opportunities with private companies who have federal contracts,” Swindall says. “The federal government wants to give preference to veteran-owned businesses.”

Blackstone is now listed in a national registry of veteran-owned businesses and will be informed of available federal contracts. The VOSB logo will be displayed alongside the Blackstone logo in the banner of this newsletter, on the company website and on all correspondence. Blackstone is also a member of the National Veteran-Owned Business Association (NaVOBA) and is listed on VetBiz Vendor Information Pages, a registry used by federal agencies and private companies to locate veteran-owned businesses. Research conducted by NaVOBA shows that 70 percent of Americans would rather do business with a veteran-owned business than one that is not veteran-owned. “You have to let people know you’re out here and who you are,” Swindall said.

Besides the Air Force, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy are represented on Blackstone’s Administrative Staff, some of whom are former holders of Top Secret security clearances. There is a growing representation of military veterans on Blackstone’s security force that also includes Korean War and Vietnam-era veterans and at least six former interpreters for the U.S. military in Iraq.

Johnson Joins Blackstone

Sherry Johnson has joined the staff at Blackstone’s headquarters in Phoenix as the administrative assistant to company president Dan Swindall.

Born in South Dakota, Johnson has spent most of her life in Arizona. She enjoys outdoor activities and likes rollerblading, tail-gating at Phoenix Cardinals’ games and says she is a big NASCAR fan.

Johnson, who formerly worked for a local contractor, said she was attracted to Blackstone because of its stability and the people. “Blackstone is a good, stable company and everybody here is incredibly nice,” Johnson said.

Welcome, Sherry!



Sherry Johnson

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