



# THE ASSIST MESSENGER

Associated Security Services and Investigators of the State of Texas • www.AssistTexas.org • November 2002

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## ASSIST Convention 2002

### A Huge Success

*“Together We’re Shaping the Future of the Security Industry in Texas”*



The 2002 Annual ASSIST Convention is now history, but what a terrific program!!! And what memories and business ideas we all gained!!!

It was great to see a large number of members and guest in attendance, and the happy camaraderie of professionals genuinely helping each other with any and all questions or problems. We had an opportunity to talk with old friends and spin tales of the past, and meet and visit with many new friends.

Our thanks and congratulations go to the Houston Chapter for having such a well organized program. From the initial registration to the final Saturday ASSIST meeting, everything was done in a truly professional manner... terrific guest speakers, awards, Houston’s scenery, and great meals at some of the best restaurants on the Boardwalk. Thanks to all of the speakers who freely shared their knowledge and expertise to make this year’s program so outstanding... and thanks to all the members who attended and who contributed so much to one another.

### **Mark Smith– Our Newest Lifetime Member**

Mark Smith was awarded a Lifetime

Membership in recognition of all his hard work and dedication on behalf of our industry and ASSIST. Mark accepted the Lifetime Membership but insisted that he would continue to pay annual dues! We now have five Lifetime Members on the books. Congratulations and thanks Mark!

### **ASSIST Trophy**

The Dallas Chapter can proudly display the ASSIST Trophy for one more year for turning in the most Money to ASSIST for the Convention held in 2001... however, a little birdie from San Antonio said their Chapter wants the trophy next year??? The Houston Chapter decided they wanted to spend the money on the ASSIST members at the Convention 2002 and declined the opportunity to compete for the trophy.

### **New Chapters**

I’m happy to announce that we will have a new Chapter in San Antonio beginning December 5, 2002, and a second new Chapter will be started in the Lower Valley (Brownsville and Harlingen) by March 2003.

Now, let’s work together to increase our membership role and make 2003 the best year ever!

Dave Scepanski  
President of ASSIST ❖

**Bulletin Board is now on line at assisttexas.org for Answers and Questions**

## The Director's View

### The Fall Convention Debrief

Recently I had the opportunity to speak to a group of security professionals at the ASSIST Fall Convention. While visiting with several individuals I was encouraged by the cooperative attitude and enthusiasm demonstrated. Their message came through clearly that they recognize and accept that the security industry plays a significant role in overall public safety. Attendees were talking with me about ways private security and law enforcement can work together to increase the security of the general public.

Sgt. Jim Binford of the Houston Police Department taught a segment on the security officers' role at a homicide scene which included information useful to investigators. Sgt. Binford's remarks concerning the cooperative effort between law

enforcement and private security were very timely and supported some of the comments and opinions I had been hearing. Namely, that private security and law enforcement can work together and this effort can produce a positive force for public safety.

Another topic that generated positive conversation was ASSIST's plan to develop a five year projection for improving the security industry in Texas. This is an ambitious project and one that should contribute greatly to the image of private security.

For those of you that weren't able to make the Convention and haven't heard TCPS is moving its Austin Headquarters. Effective November 1, 2002 our new physical location will be 4616 West Howard Lane, Suite

140, Austin. During the month of October we will be preparing for the move and need your patience and understanding. We do anticipate some down time during the transition to our new location but will work to keep the interruption to a minimum. We will have a brief time when our website, and telephone system will be down. If you use overnight services, be sure that any delivery for November 1 is sent to our new location. When you're in Austin stop by and visit our new headquarters. ♦



Cliff Grumbles,  
Director

4930 South Congress  
Avenue, Suite C-305  
Austin, Texas 78745  
512-463-5545

Web Site: [www.tcps.state.tx.us](http://www.tcps.state.tx.us)  
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# Oakley Report

## News from the State Capitol by Keith Oakley



The Texas Commission on Private Security (TCPS) brings in over twice the amount of money they are allowed to spend, and now they are broke!! Not only are they broke, but also they don't have near enough money or staff to do the job that the Legislature has mandated for them. If this makes you angry, after you read the rest of this article you will be even more angry, but not at TCPS.

TCPS is charged with the regulation of the security industry in Texas. The Texas Legislature authorizes the agency to charge fees, enforce penalties, and levy fines in order to pay for its operations.

However, state agencies are not allowed to keep all of the money that they generate. First, the money is sent to the Comptroller of Public accounts. Then when the Legislature meets once every two years, they review the agencies' finances and decide how much of the money to give back to the agency to fund their operations.

### New ASSIST Members

- Mary Cannedy Seigler – AV Cannedy Security & Investigations
- Eduardo Garcia – Management & Technical Support Services
- Leon Gluck – National Security Consultants, LLC
- Robert Blaylock – Advantage Protective Services, Inc.
- Greg Trimble – Citywide Investigations & Security, Inc.
- Nocera Angelo – Initial Security Academy
- Mike Center – Operational Software Security Solutions
- Harold Sanderson – Vinson Guard Service, Inc.
- Floyd Bartkowiak – First Quality Fire Equipment, Inc.
- John Roberts – Monarch Courtesy Patrol
- Henry Clements – Monarch Courtesy Patrol

Most agencies don't bring in nearly enough money to pay their way, so legislators appropriate the additional funds required. Those monies come from taxes etc..

Over the last biennium, (two year budget cycle), TCPS brought in \$5.6 million. The Legislature appropriated

new workload on TCPS and the 911-security crisis added even more. The agency regulates around 150,000 registrants. They do this with one of the smallest budgets in state government and with only a handful of dedicated employees.

This year, for the first time, the agency went broke. They had to ask the legislature for special funding considerations in order to make payroll.

ASSIST, for some time now, has been telling the legislature that the agency needed more staff and funding in order to maintain public safety.

We are not asking that the legislature come up with additional taxes or raise fees. All that we are asking is that TCPS be allowed to keep more of our fees and fines in order to properly regulate our industry, with a special emphasis on investigating unlicensed operators.

The money comes from our industry and it is supposed to be used for the purpose of regulating our industry. Among our legislative priorities we will once again be focusing on increased funding for TCPS. ♦

*We are not asking that the legislature come up with additional taxes or raise fees. All that we are asking is that TCPS be allowed to keep more of our fees and fines in order to properly regulate our industry, with a special emphasis on investigating unlicensed operators.*

the agency around \$2 million. That leaves \$3.6 million to be transferred to the state's General Revenue, (GR), fund. The Legislature can spend GR on whatever they desire.

When the Commission on Private Security was first created, the original legislation stated that, "The agency shall charge fees and fines only in an amount to fund the operations of the agency." But, in the words of State Representative Jim McReynolds it has become, "A cash cow to the state."

The last legisla-



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## Chapter News— El Paso

I was not at the Houston Convention 2002 due to unforeseen circumstances, however my Vice President Ray Hernandez was present and he brought back to us a lot of information as to how great the education, entertainment, scenery, and outdoor activities were. I would like to impress to my El Paso members how important it is to support the Convention's in the future and to also support your local chapter.

The membership in El Paso has increased and I expect it to continue to increase in the year 2003, so when you receive your invoice for renewal please pay it right away, also I plan on having monthly meeting, with at least one hour of Continuing Education starting in 2003, with the first hour being in Ethics, I will inform all of you as to the date, day, time and place.

I am proud to announce that the ASIS Chapter Of El Paso hosted their 6th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet on 11 October 2002 at the Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino which had an attendance of approximately 200 representatives of Law Enforcement, Pat Haggerty and Chief Carlos Leon were presented with an award on behalf of ASSIST and Sun City Security for appreciation of all the hard work and support to ASSIST, and to the Security Industry by State President of ASSIST Dave Scepanski

Bill Potter, President— Chapter Of El Paso

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# ASSIST Convention Wrap-Up



**A**nn Ball and the Houston Convention Committee did an excellent job of coordinating events and activities for the convention.

In spite of the threat of hurricane Lilli and a cruise boat with a blown motor, Convention 2002 went off Full Speed Ahead. Thursday's golf tournament was a huge success. The team of **Mike Mallon, Don Frank, Phil Frank and Dave Parker** won first place. **James Shrider, Gus Jimenez,** and **Anthony LaPorte** won second, and **Jim Shrider's** team won third place honors. **Kevin Galloway** was honored as the "golfer, most in need of lessons."

The Thursday evening cocktail party welcomed convention attendees with so many lighthouses that one wag said the theme should have been "light the way." For those who didn't attend, you can just imagine the fun we had seeing Dave Parker, Houston Chapter President, murdering a piñata while the guests scrambled for marked poker chips to win the first round of the many door prizes give out during the weekend.

Friday's continuing education classes were outstanding. Speakers from the Houston police department, Houston fire department, and Texas Mutual Insurance company sparked much discussion. At lunch, **Jim "Mattress Mack" MacInvale** inspired us with ambition to renew our enthusiasm for our own business. Our own **John Martin** ended the long educational session with music and fun, setting the tone for Friday night's entertainment. The cocktail cruise was relaxing; the bay at night is beautiful. And dinner at Spinnaker's Café left most of us over-filled with super seafood.

Saturday's business meeting ended early for the first time in recorded history, yet all the business was transacted in good order. **Mark Smith** was awarded Life Member for the years of outstanding support he has given to ASSIST. Each year the president selects one of the most outstanding members for an award. **Dave Scepanski** made four awards to outstanding members including **Bruno Torres**, Dave's partner who has supported Dave so much this past year.

**Charles Talbert** presented his plans for the 2003 convention in San Antonio, and **Dan Flores** brought a member of the South Padre Convention Bureau, **Sylvia Soliz**, who addressed the members on plans for 2004.

Thanks to all who attended - we look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio in 2003! ❖



Dave Scepanski makes four President's Awards to Bruno Torres, Cliff Grumbles, Kirk Parks, and Dave Parker



Convention lunch - Sponsored by El Dorado Insurance



The smiling faces that greeted the registrants, Kim Villarreal, Phyllis Grimes, Jennifer Rachac, and Bob Burt.

# ASSIST Convention Photo Essay



Illustration of how Kevin Galloway earned the "worst golfer" award



Sgt. Jim Binford, HPD, Homicide Division presents interesting information about homicides, and investigations.



Dave Scepanski nominating Mark Smith, and Mark accepting Life Membership



Señor Keith Oakley traded in the Mercedes, and proudly displays a photo of his new vehicle.



Chef Ruben Amaya directs the kitchen staff, while members prepare for "all you can eat"! Great seafood!



Dave Scepanski presents President's Awards



John Martin provided great entertainment for the convention. We all sang along!



Dan Flores, and Sylvia Soliz present a proposal for Convention 2004. The membership was sold, and immediately voted to have the 2004 convention at South Padre.



EV Burke and Ruben Amaya present a special, well earned, award to Officer Joe Sanchez, HPD's LEAPS Coordinator



Island Princess flotilla takes conventioners out for a cruise, returns with several "lost" at sea by inebriation. Calm seas, beautiful harbor lights.



Cliff Grumbles, Executive Director, TCPS, receives an award for another excellent presentation



CAUGHT ON FILM!!  
Cliff Grumbles, Executive Director, TCPS—Smiling!



Inspector Steve Deal - Houston Fire Marshall's Office gave company managers much to think about in fire training for officers.



Mitch Garcia, HPD, our Ethics instructor and Steve Deal, Fire Marshall's Office



Jim "Mattress Mack" McInvale inspires the membership with "Always Think Big" concepts.



Ann Ball Convention Chair, and Dee Grimes 1st in line for groceries



Kathleen Purcell with Texas Mutual Insurance discusses fraud and provided unique methods to avoid fraudulent claims.



Jim "Mattress Mack" McInvale



Officer Terry Bratton, Houston Police Department, presents Use of Force

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## Come to South Padre

I would like to inform the Valley that I attended the IConvention 2002, at Houston on the 3rd, 4th, 5th of October 2002, and had a wonderful time with the entertainment and the education was beneficial to me and to all the ASSIST members attending.

I was also able to convince the ASSIST members to hold the Convention in South Padre Island in the year 2004, which means the Valley, Brownsville, Harlingen, etc, have our work cut out for us to also have a great Convention.

I would also like you to know that I intend to have a Chapter in the Valley, this can be done with your assistance, The State president of ASSIST Dave Scepaniski, and the Chapter President from Houston, Dave Parker are going to be meeting with all security companies, that hold a license, A, B, C, on Friday 24th January 2003, in Harlingen there is also the possibility of having some continuing education credit at this meeting.

For all of you that want to attend, please contact me at:

Dan Flores  
 American Investigations & Security International  
 275 Kings Highway Suite 108  
 Brownsville, Texas 78521  
 956-542-8256 ♦

## Committee Recognition

**A**nn Ball and the convention committee really did a fantastic job with the convention this year! Ann personally set up all the continuing education speakers, and without exception, each speaker was interesting and informative.

Ann Ball gave gifts to each of her Convention Committee members after the convention was completed, and they all put a ton of time and effort into this highly successful event. Listed below are the convention committee members, and the areas they handled:

- Jim Shrider** Co-Chairman and door prizes
- Bob Burt** Treasurer & Scavenger Hunt
- Kim Villareal** Publicity
- Phyllis Grimes** Registration & Printing
- EV Burke** Awards & Cocktail party
- Dave Parker** Golf Tournament
- Don McGray** Marketing & Transportation
- LaVonne Shrider** Spouse Events
- Ed Clendenin** Security Officer of the Year
- Ruben Amaya** Cruise
- Jennifer Rachac** Tote bags
- Susan Griswold** Ex Officio

Thanks to each of your for the great work! We all know this event took time away from your businesses, and we appreciate your dedication. This was one of the best conventions ever! ♦

## Upcoming events in the Industry

- Nov. 4-8 – ASIS Assets Protection Course
- Nov. 12 – ASSIST Business Meeting
- Nov. 13-14– 7th Annual Securing New Ground Conference
- Nov. 18-19 – ASIS Transportation Security
- Nov. 20-22 – ASIS International Diversity Symposium

## NOVEMBER 2002

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	ASIS Assets Protection Course					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		ASSIST	Securing New Ground			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	ASIS Transportation Security		ASIS International Diversity Symposium			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## NEW TCPS Telephones

The move of our Austin headquarters is on schedule and we anticipate no major problems. However, our telephone numbers are going to change.

Callers to 512-463-5545 will hear a recorded message giving them the new number. The new number will be 512-238-5858.

The new fax numbers will be:

- Administration Division Fax-**512-238-5850**
- License Division Fax- **512-238-5851**
- Criminal Investigations Division Fax- **512-238-5852**
- Executive Director Fax-**512-238-5853**

These new numbers will be **effective November 1, 2002.** ❖

## From Homeland Security Suggested Anti-terrorism Security Measures

This message provides suggested random anti-terrorism measures as per the conference call today. Although we do not have specific targeting information, the sequential release of recent statements by key al Qa'ida members, strengthens previous assessments that al Qa'ida continues to plan for major attacks against U.S. interests.

### Little or No Cost Actions

- Increase the visible security personnel presence wherever possible.
- Rearrange exterior vehicle barriers (traffic cones) to alter traffic patterns near facilities.
- Institute/increase vehicle, foot and roving security patrols.
- Implement random security guard shift changes.
- Arrange for law enforcement vehicles to be parked randomly near entrances and exits.
- Approach all illegally parked vehicles in and around facilities, question drivers and direct them to move immediately, if owner can not be identified, have vehicle towed by law enforcement.
- Limit the number of access points and strictly enforce access control procedures.
- Alter primary entrances and exits if possible
- Implement stringent identification procedures to include conducting 100% "hands on" checks of securi-

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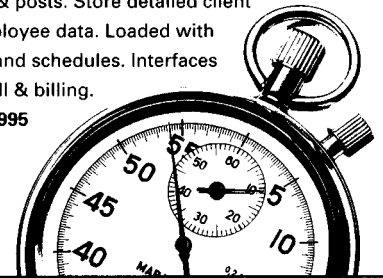
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ty badges for all personnel, if badges are required.

- Remind personnel to properly display badges, if applicable, and enforce visibility.
- Require two forms of photo identification for all visitors.
- Escort all visitors entering and departing.
- X-ray packages and inspect handbags and briefcases at entry if possible.
- Validate vendor lists for all routine deliveries and repair services.



### Actions that May Bear Some Cost

- Increase perimeter lighting.
- Remove vegetation in and around perimeters, maintain regularly.
- Institute a vehicle inspection program to include checking under the undercarriage of vehicles, under the hood, and in the trunk. Provide vehicle inspection training to security personnel.
- Conduct vulnerability studies focusing on physical security, structural engineering, infrastructure engineering, power, water, and air infiltration, if feasible.
- Initiate a system to enhance mail and package screening procedures (both announced and unannounced).
- Install special locking devices on manhole covers in and around facilities. ❖

# Messenger Sponsors

This year we have taken a new approach to the newsletter. We have employed a professional designer, **Scott Bronstad Design** to upgrade the quality and professionalism of the Messenger.

As you can see from the front page, our circulation now reaches the **Governor's Office, State Senators and Representatives, Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs**, and every licensed security company in the state of Texas. Our circulation was about 1600 last year, and is currently approaching **2400 Messengers** bi-monthly.

Of course, this costs the Association more, and we are working on new advertisers all the time to try to keep the cost in line.

We have asked members to help with the cost, and considered a business card type ad for members at a cost of \$50.00 per edition. We elected instead to list the company names of those who are helping ASSIST in this endeavor to subsidize the cost of the newsletter.

Listed below are the companies of the ASSIST executive board, who have generously agreed to help defray the costs of the Messenger. Please contact **Dave Parker** at [dave.engarde@prodigy.net](mailto:dave.engarde@prodigy.net) if you would like to become a sponsor. Or, at least take one of the board members out to lunch!

- Accu-Guard.....**Bob Kenney**
- El Paso Security Academy .....**Bill Potter**
- En Garde.....**Dave Parker**
- Executive Security Systems.....**Johnny Atkinson**
- Monarch Courtesy Patrol .....**Walt Roberts**
- Security Professionals of Texas .....**Susan Griswold**
- Sun City Security .....**Bruno Torres**
- Texas Industrial Security.....**Kathy McReynolds**
- TOS Security & Investigations .....**EV Burke** (or Bob)

BronstadDesign.com does a great job for ASSIST, and also does company newsletters, business brochures, etc. You can reach Scott Bronstad at 281-345-6633 or [scott@bronstadDesign.com](mailto:scott@bronstadDesign.com). ❖

# Member Services

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# Security Officer of the Year

We had a some excellent nominations for the ASSIST Officer of the Year! Ed Clendenin and his committee had a tough job reviewing all the nominees and then deciding who was the Best of the Best! The nominees were:

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Jerry Baker</b>           | Texas Industrial Security, Inc.     |
| <b>Juan Cortez</b>           | HVP Security, Inc.                  |
| <b>Tracy Allen</b>           | Aramco Services Company             |
| <b>Fidel Garcia, Jr.</b>     | FNG Security and Investigations     |
| <b>Jimmy Martinez</b>        | Barton Protective Services          |
| <b>Thomas Ivey</b>           | Ruiz Protective Service, Inc.       |
| <b>Hober Reyes</b>           | Smith Protective Services (Houston) |
| <b>Larry Moore</b>           | Security Professionals of Texas     |
| <b>Shannon Williams, Sr.</b> | All State Guard Service, Inc.       |
| <b>Bob Grayson</b>           | En Garde Protective Services        |
| <b>Harold Craft</b>          | Twin City Security (Houston)        |
| <b>Ray Hernandez, Jr.</b>    | RBH Security                        |



Tracy Allen and family (center), Don McGray, Security Manager, and an executive from Aramco Services Company

## The ASSIST Security Officer of the Year is Tracy Allen

**Tracy Allen** was nominated by **Aramco Services Company**. Tracy has been with them for three years, and his supervisor says he is a valuable asset to the security department, and is highly motivated. He has developed job descriptions, written award letters, and is a trainer for the officers. Through his own initiative, he has made many suggestions which have been put into place by management. He compiles data for the monthly trend analysis and was recently promoted to backup supervisor. ❖

# Chapter News

## Alamo Area Chapter

Charles Talbert, H.V.P. Security, Inc., announced that the Alamo Area Chapter of ASSIST will conduct their first meeting and officer elections on December 5th, 2002, at 1100 A.M. The meeting will be held at the Hawthorne Suites on the Riverwalk at 830 N. St. Mary's, in San Antonio.

Mr. Cliff Grumbles, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Private Security has confirmed he will attend, along with Mr. Larry Washington, Chief of the Licensing Division. Invitations have been extended to Sheriff Ralph Lopez, and Police Chief Al Ortiz, along with a number of city and county officials, and the media.

Dave Scepaniski, President of ASSIST, Bob Burt, Executive Vice President, and the entire executive board of ASSIST including state officers, and chapter presidents will attend.

Keith Oakley, our ASSIST lobbyist will be present along with Dan Flores from American Investigations in Brownsville. Dan is leading the effort to establish a chapter in south Texas.

We encourage all ASSIST members to attend, and industry leaders who may not be members of ASSIST at this time.

This is an exciting event with a number of San Antonio companies anxious to become a voice in the industry. For non-members, this chapter will be an opportunity to be a part of the leadership of the security industry.

ASSIST represents the security industry, and is THE VOICE of the security industry in the view of the Texas Commission on Private Security, the Legislature, and the office of the Governor of the State of Texas.

For those who wish to attend, reservations may be made by contacting Christina Flores @ 210-527-1900, or [www.hawthorn-riverwalk.com](http://www.hawthorn-riverwalk.com).

## ASSIST Standards committee

The ASSIST Standards committee has met and outlined areas that we should lead the industry towards for the future. Two more meetings are scheduled for November, including a possible conference with Commission members.

Some of the areas under discussion include better fingerprinting methods, speedier criminal history backgrounds, industry insurance requirements, and many others. Bob Burt, Committee chairman requests your input on any thoughts you may have for improving the industry in Texas. A complete report on the ASSIST recommendations will be forthcoming at a later date. ❖



## Legal Decisions:

### Drug Use and Crime

From the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the economic damage that illegal drugs inflict on the American economy accounted for \$143.4 billion in 1998. The projection for the year 2000 exceeds \$160 billion.

The majority of the costs resulted from lost earnings due to drug-related illnesses and deaths, incarcerations, and work hours missed by crime victims. The report also estimates the toll that illegal drugs have on productivity, goods and services, social welfare, and health care. For example, in 1998 illegal drug use cost the nation's health care resources an estimated \$12.9 billion. ❖

### Security Officer Charged in Death of Shoplifter

In Dallas, a security officer has been charged in the death of a suspected shoplifter in a dollar store. The officer has been charged with murder.

Police said that Bennie Franklin Pointer Jr., of Dallas, shot Leshard Wilson as the teenager and two others ran from a Family Dollar store after witnesses accused them of shoplifting Saturday.

Police said they did not find a weapon on Wilson, who died in a Dallas hospital about six hours after the shooting. Pointer remains in jail, awaiting arraignment. ❖

### Local Chapter Presidents

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