2017 Southwest Security Conference (SWSC) wrap-up

By: Dave Toon, CPP (2017 SWSC Committee Chair)

The 2017 SWSC & Trade Show is now in the rearview mirror; and it is being called **"The Best Conference Ever"** by many. The SWSC was held on May 12, 2017 at the Phoenix Airport Marriott and the theme this year was:

<p align="center">"MANAGING THE THREAT"</p>

This year's event was hosted by the ASIS-Phoenix Chapter, InfraGard, Arizona Cyber Threat Response Alliance (ACTRA) and Sonoran Desert Security User Group (SDSUG)

This conference was made possible due to the dedication, time and expertise given freely by the SWSC Committee, Exhibitors, Speakers and the many Volunteers who made this event **"The Best Conference Ever"**.

There were over 200 people at this year's conference who benefited from the day long educational tracks; as well as all of the information available from our wonderful Exhibitors without whom this conference would not be possible.

This year's Keynote speaker was our newly elected Sheriff for Maricopa County AZ Paul Penzone.

Paul spoke about a number of issues and answered questions. However, he focused on the importance of Law Enforcement working with the Private Security community as well as the Community in general. He praised the work of Silent Witness; one of the SWSC's highlighted charities, and indicated that under his command that the Sheriff's office will be more engaged with the program.

We were very much honored this year to have Peter O'Neil as our Luncheon Speaker. Peter is the Chief Executive Officer of ASIS International.

Among other things, Peter laid out the new vision for ASIS International. He shared where ASIS is today and our path forward. ASIS has fully committed to the Enterprise Security Risk Management (ESRM) process as the foundation for ASIS educational programs. Peter also talked about the strong connection between ASIS, Cyber Security Organizations and Law Enforcement.

As in the past the SWSC offered 3 different (but related) tracks of educational speakers; Physical Security, Technology and Investigations. The hot topic, at the SWSC, this year was Cyber Threat, since it is currently top-of-mind for many people around the globe and within the Security world. The presentations were so scary that at the end of the day I went home, unplugged all of my computers from the internet and smashed the hard drives with a sledge hammer. Apparently, this is the only way to assure that you are safe.

All of the speakers and presentations, in every track, were very well received. Everyone came away with many tools which will help in "Managing the Threat" for themselves and their clients. Education is the focus of the Southwest Security Conference; and the 2017 event certainly hit the mark. Thank you to all of the attendees who came to this year's event. Please let all of your colleagues know what a great event this was and hopefully we can make the 2018 SWSC the new Best Conference Ever.

Finally, and as always, I would like to thank the Exhibitors; without whom this conference would not be possible. 2017 had more Exhibitor participation than any SWSC in the past. There is not enough room to list every Exhibitor in this article; however, I did want to mention our Gold Sponsors for this year's event:

 A world leader in Enterprise Immune System technology for cyber security. Darktrace addresses the challenge of detecting previously unidentified cyber threats, irrespective of their origin.

 The world's leading security solutions organization, specializing in outsourcing of business processes in sectors where security and safety risks are considered a strategic threat.

 We are experts in IT and Infrastructure solutions and are uniquely positioned to help meet your scalability, reliability and security requirements while balancing your costs and business goals.

If, as a member of one of the hosting organizations, you have the opportunity to reach out to, and perhaps utilize the services of, one of the supporting Exhibiting companies please be sure to thank them for their continued support of the SWSC.