

Economic Crime  
Council  
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## Economic Crime Council

Summer-2008

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

There are many changes and items of interest to the economic crime industry that have recently developed. I believe the biggest issue has been the sub- prime mortgage failure. This crisis has devastated the entire Global economy.

I can only imagine the fraud schemes that will arise (and have already developed) to take advantage of those just trying to survive. This reminds me of the schemes that occurred after such tragedies as Hurricane Katrina and 9/11. Call me naïve, but it was mind blowing how people can take advantage of the pain and suffering of fellow citizens.

I am grateful there are professionals, in both the private and public sectors, who dedicate their lives to bringing justice against those who wish to cheat the system or take advantage of those who are going through hard times.

As I was writing this article, my mother forwarded me an e-mail that was sent to her from the mighty kingdom of Ghana describing the vast fortune the ousted royalty has in their possession but cannot get it out of the country without her help.

Obviously, they will pay her a percentage that will translate into about \$500,000. All she has to do is provide them with her bank account information so the deposit can be made. She can then transfer the funds, minus her generous fee, to a different account. Well at least my mother sent this to me to determine the validity before giving away her information.

This made me wonder how many bank account numbers they received off this one e-mail. I am amazed these things are still around. I guess as long as people believe they can have something for nothing, these scams will continue to flourish.

As the premiere group of subject matter experts in economic crime, we must continue our efforts to educate those who might fall victim to these types of scams. This includes co-workers, family and friends.

I am proud to be a part of the Economic Crime Council because I know we all strive to provide education to those who have not been exposed to some of the things we have. I know we all enjoy catching the "bad guys" but don't we all also take great pride in preventing those around us from falling victim to these schemes and frauds?

To all of the members of the ECC, please keep up the good work of educating the general public to the various schemes and frauds that are becoming part of our daily lives. **Michael Osborne**

## IN THE NEWS

In April, member **Cynthia Hetherington** provided a presentation with Mike Moberly of the Asset Protection Council and Mitch Fenton of the Hospitality Security Council at the ASIS Emerging Trends conference in Las Vegas.

Cynthia's, new book entitled **Business Background Investigations** was given five stars in last month's Security Management book review.



**Cynthia** also helped to sponsor the Diplomatic Security Foundation Spring Banquet in March. Above is a picture of Cynthia with Madeleine Albright from this event. Also in the photo is, Bill Majeski, retired NYPD, noted author and speaker on polygraph and body language interpretation.

In April, **Mike Osborne** (ECC Chairperson) gave a presentation to the ASIS Fox Valley Chapter on how organizations can effectively establish a corporate travel security program.

The presentation concentrated on why it is important to develop travel security policies and how to manage those policies. Discussion centered on items such as travel alerts, travel bans, and employee tracking. Travel safety tips concerning the corporate traveler for Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Russia were also provided.

Emerging issues, such as express kidnappings, laptop security, and extortions, in these countries was discussed. Best practices in other travel security areas such as taxi safety, hijackings and being detained was also covered.

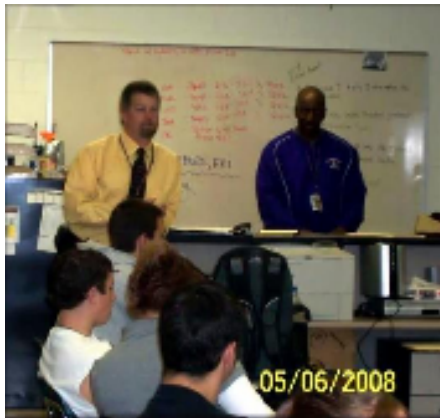
In addition, an information session was held on ASIS Councils and how members can become more actively involved on the Councils.

In March, member **Michael Levin** gave a presentation at the SAP, Governance, Risk, and Compliance (**GRC**) conference in Orlando, FL. Mike spoke on the Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance and employee training.



ECC vice-chair, **Jon McDowall** (above) provided an insightful fraud presentation at the ASIS Pacific Rim Conference in Singapore in February 2008. Long time ASIS and ECC member **Ponno Kalastree**, is an ASIS Regional Governor and helped put the important event together. Rumor has it that **Ponno** is the longest tenured ASIS member in the Pacific Rim (over 28 years).

In May, ECC vice-chair **John Hartness**, (below) met with students enrolled in the criminal justice program at Bloomington High School's Area Career Center to discuss job opportunities in the private sector for students with a criminal justice background.



## **ASIS Economic Crime Council - Roundtable for ASIS International**

The ASIS Economic Crime Council (ECC) has sponsored an Economic Crime Roundtable at the United States Secret Service (USSS) Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C. annually since November 2004.

There is no charge for attendance and these half-day events have two primary goals:

- Raise the level of ASIS members' awareness of emerging economic crime threats.
- Promote cooperation and partnerships between corporate security professionals and the government sectors.

The ECC Roundtable has been very successful in meeting both of these goals as evidenced by the continuing support shown by the U.S Secret Service, Postal Inspection Service and other Federal agencies. The USSS serves as the host of the event and there is always a very high level of expertise at the Roundtable.

The next ECC Roundtable will be held Tuesday, January 13, prior to the start of the ASIS January Volunteer Meeting.

Holding the ECC Roundtable at this time will afford more ASIS members the opportunity to attend by reducing travel expenses.

Speakers for this year have not yet been confirmed but past speakers included individuals from the following organizations:

- Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)
- IRS
- Identity Theft Assistance Center (ITAC).
- United States Secret Service , Criminal Investigative Division
- Corporate Investigative & Security Services – Aon Consulting
- FTC, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection
- Financial Crime Program – Federal Bureau of Investigation

The ECC Roundtable will begin at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 13 at the USSS Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C. and conclude around 5:00 pm.

ASIS members who are interesting in attending should contact **John Hartness** at [john.hartness.gbea@statefarm.com](mailto:john.hartness.gbea@statefarm.com) for more details.

Space is limited.

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