



T.E.A.M. CENTS
December 2008
 Fifteen Years and Counting

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December 1 - 31

Volume XVII Issue 12

9/11/01 Remember and Never Forget!



Happy Holidays
 from all the
T.E.A.M. Staff

December 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

STOP

**ALL EMPLOYEES ARE
REQUIRED TO WORK ONE SHIFT ON BLACKOUT DAYS!!**

	1	2	3	4	5 Glendale PHOOSAN	6 -Chelsea Handler -Glendale -APS Parade
				Tempe Festival of the Arts →		
7 Tempe Festival of the Arts	8	9	10	11	12	13 Alice Cooper's Christmas Pudding
14	15	 16 How Carolla Stole Christmas	17	18	19	20
21	22	 23 Moscow Ballet	24	25	26	27 Light Rail Grand Opening
28	29	30	 31 Lewis Black NYE			

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T.E.A.M. Cents encourages all staff and employees to submit an article about your work experience, suggestions and ideas. E-mail your letters to:

elizabeth@teamsecurity.net

Or FAX to:

(480) 736-8252

Management has the right to review and approve all written material. Any article deemed inappropriate will not be published



ANNIVERSARIES and BIRTHDAYS and ETC.

anniversaries

Jerry Deines	6 years
Candy Ortega	5 years
Steve Ortega	5 years
Jon Bearup	5 years
Rachel Anderson	3 years
Jill Walz	3 years
Todd Walker	1 year
Luis Brown	1 year
Michael Cash	1 year
Lewis Milligan	1 year
James Commack	1 year
James Donnor	1 year
Leonard Roberts	1 year
Martha Roberts	1 year
James Bonser	1 year
Jonathan Burt	1 year
Amir Dugalic	1 year
Mike Hammerand	3.5 years

birthdays

Gabriel Valles	12/1
Steve Ortega	12/3
Beth Ruiz	12/4
Jonathan Burt	12/12
Ben Hudgins	12/13
David Pauls	12/13
Molly Herz	12/15
Sheila Hitchcock	12/15
Eric Campbell	12/16
Lewis Milligan	12/17
Robert Romero	12/17
Chad wick Croxon	12/19
Sam Gross	12/19
Shawn Riggs	12/19
Melanie Odell	12/20
Derrick McClure	12/24
Jacob Borge	12/25
Chris Vargas	12/25
Roger Eakin	12/31

Notes on Upcoming Events:

Tempe Festival of the Arts: ArtsFest:

Everyone meets at our downtown Tempe office; 1093. Located at 25 West 5th Street, it is between Trails and Gordon Biersh. Employee Parking is at Rio/Hardy (there are shuttles running from 6am) ArtsFest is a twice yearly arts and crafts show. The show is a judged event, and this fall there are over 400 vendors involved. Running in a closed downtown, the event encompass Mill Ave from 3rd Street to University. Aside from being one of the best places to get incredibly unique holiday gifts, it is a fantastic event to showcase our role in both customer service and in the city of Tempe. We are truly ambassadors to the almost 200,000 people who come out for the show over the weekend. Plus, there is nothing like the chaos and accomplishment of the Load In/ Load Out, where our staff plays an insane game of Tetris getting all the vendors, their trailers, and their merchandise in and out and the streets opened and closed in record times. Dress in layers, as the temperature fluctuates from very cold to afternoon heat over the course of a shift. For many employees, this is a favorite event of the year.

Cricket Phoosan: the final show.

We end the 2008 Cricket season on Saturday, December 6th with the Phoosan show. A multi band event, from Rihanna to Katy Perry, the show will feature quick set changes, a high energy crowd, and solid ticket sales (15,000) It has been a great season so far, and we are committed to ending on the high note of a successful, professional season. For those who have been out there show after show; thank you and keep up the great work. For those of you who this is your first time at Cricket- get to your supervisors and pay attention to how they work; they are excellent

examples.

Light Rail Grand Opening:

After several years of construction, the light rail will finally become operational to the general public on December 27th, in a day long free- ride celebration. There will be several different events set up along the track, with bands, beer gardens, etc.

NYE: oh yes, it is that time:

when the ultimate in controlled chaos takes over. Simultaneous events across the valley run on our busiest day of the year from the Insight Bowl to Scottsdale.

Dodge Theatre: Dodge

has several shows to close out the 2008 season, from Chelsea Handler, to the annual Christmas Pudding to Lewis Black on NYE. Again, kudos to the Dodge crew, they do an amazing job of representing us, and new employees who get a part on the crew there learn a great deal.

Beyond NYE:

In the upcoming months T.E.A.M. will be involved in many events, starting with the Barrett-Jackson Car Auction. Only licensed guards may work the event- so you are urged to get your guard card, as you seriously don't want to miss the event. From there we have the P.F. Chang's Rock and Roll Marathon, SuperCross at Chase Field (which is awesome) the Monster Truck show, straight into the NBA All-Star game in February, which is a massive undertaking. Follinw quickly on the heels of these events are Ostrich Festival, St. Patrick's Day, and the start of the Cricket and Dodge Theatre seasons. There is a great deal coming up, so stay in touch with the schedulers!!! We are always keeping an eye out for potential supervisors and stellar employees to step up into new roles.

Richard "Taz" Zahn

TAZ TOOLBOX
KIDS

Kids come in all types and sizes. A kid never stops being a kid, ever.

Kids are truly unique in how they approach life. Simple, to the point, they say what is on their mind. They don't worry about how others feel or what someone might think, they are just kids, kids that are just growing up and learning about life. It's not until they get out of the kid stage that they become confused, selfish and have to be "politically correct" by society's rules.

We all look and watch others brag (and even our selves) about their kids and the cute things they do. Even when they do things that aren't right or create problems, we remind them, in various ways, and chalk it up to their learning curve. We set the tone of their cycle of life. We help provide them with or without the tools needed later in life to become a success.

We can blame the economy, people, society and on and on about how bad things are or how hard things are, or we can make a difference in the future by helping influence a child.

Kids will amaze you by the things that they do and the things they say. Sometimes you will just laugh at them and other times you will shake your head and wonder in amazement.

The kids of today are the future for tomorrow. If we don't make a difference in a child's life, someone else will.

Children are very forgiving however they don't forget. Be mindful of what you say and how you act around children, they are everywhere. You do have an im-

pact on kids no matter where you are.

What kind of impact is up to you.

Make a difference today!

Ashleigh Gaylord

Thanksgiving is a holiday that let's us think about the things we are thankful for every year. Many of us are very lucky to have what we do. Family, shelter, food...and lots of us take it for granted. It's so easy for us to come by most of the time. For many out there though, they are away from their families (or soldier) and need support from people that care. I know what it's like to go without a soldier and what it's like to worry about that and wonder if they will return home. I can put myself in their shoes. And I will say I never went without food or anything like that, as the government took good care of us, but some aren't as fortunate. Several spouses, children, and parents are out there right now fighting for our freedoms. Fighting so that we may have the luxuries we take for granted. The families they leave behind need our support. And it means even more when someone you DON'T know sends you something in the mail that says they care. Please show military families your support this holiday. There are several websites you can visit. I've listed a lot of them below and what you can do:

www.operationhomefront.net - they have several chapters, and one is located here in AZ. I found one really easy way to donate to them while you shop. If you shop at Basha's use the number #24781 when you check out and 1% of the proceeds will go to Operation Homefront of AZ. They also have a list of items you can do-

nate as well as volunteer opportunities. Lots of information. Go check it out.

www.ourfallsoldier.com - This site made me cry. It shows pictures of the people who have died fighting for our freedom. The site was made to help support those left behind. They sell bracelets for about \$4.00 with "Freedom is not free" and they even put one of the soldier's names on it. They have other items as well, such as blankets that support the children left behind. It's very sobering. They also have a "how you can help" page and "donate now" page with other ways to help.

www.americasupportsyou.mil - here there is an option on the right hand side of the screen to send the troops a message. I'm sure getting these messages help the guys out in the field. It helps to know that we care about what they are doing and that we are thankful for them for sacrificing their lives. If you go down to "others that support" there is a whole page of links where you can go to support. If you click on "gift of groceries" you are able to donate money towards a non-profit organization if you don't know a specific service member, that will go towards food. If you go to "Help our troops call home" you can purchase a gift card for our troops. Let me tell you...a phone call may not seem like much, but that used to be what I would look forward to the MOST. It's good to hear your loved one well and alive and I think it helps to boost their morale. There are lots of other options on the page, but it would take a novel to talk about all of them.

www.uso.org/donate - Here you can donate a dollar amount for the troops and send them a card.

POST ORDERS

It's nice to get mail when you are so far away from your family I'm sure.

www.fisherhouse.org - this website has several options as to what you can do to help. One in particular is that you can help sponsor a family and make contributions. All of these websites are great, and there are many, many more if you just type "help military families" into Google. The military has gotta be the toughest job out there, and simultaneously one of the most noble jobs.

I admire all soldiers out there and appreciate what each one of them has given us. They sacrifice their lives so that we may live our wonderful, comfortable lives. NEVER FORGET! Ashleigh

Kendra Witham

Holidays in the Sun!

Being that I'm from California and now living in the "Valley of the Sun" I haven't really experienced a "Winter Wonderland". Holidays for me always include nice weather but I wouldn't want it any other way. Snow in my book is fun for the weekend but I don't think I'd enjoy it for 3months straight. My dad lives in Oregon and sometimes I'd visit for Christmas; the roads were always icy, accidents were always happening and de-frosting your car before you could go play/shop for gifts... not exactly fun. Don't get me wrong, I love to see the snow and play in it but am glad that its not covering my house! Holidays in California and Arizona can be just as cozy and you can get the same fuzzy feeling that you would being in a place where it is snowing... you just have to drive a couple hours J Have a Great Holiday Season!

Kendra

Elizabeth Gill

My dad usually can be counted on to send me some funny emails from time to time, and although I mostly feel like a Phoenician, when I read the "you know your from Minnesota when..." I couldn't help but laugh like crazy. As the holidays approach, I went and re-read the email, because quite simply, a lot of the very things that clearly demonstrate I am from there are closely twined to my memories of the season. I give a certain amount of slack to similarities of people from Wisconsin, Iowa, or Northern Illinois, however Dakotans are weird and a special breed. (besides as a loyal Gopher Hockey fan, the Souix suck- awesome arena and all) I have played boot hockey. many many times. Especially around Christmas, when everyone came back home on break and it seemed perfectly normal to get up and go snow-blow the lake at the crack of dawn so you could flood it and it would be frozen for an afternoon pick up game. (for you southerners- a snow-blower is a standard piece of equipment that every household has and is considered a very thoughtful gift for any occasion) I have had my tongue frozen to a metal handrail/ lightpost/ door. Yes, I was aware of what would most likely happen. I did it anyway. At some point in every Minnesotan's life, they have left a painful chunk of tongue attached. The remedy is warm water poured over the area- but invariably it happens you take a deep breath and pull. And equally invariably, one of your friends will watch the entire bloody process and then do the exact same thing moments later expecting different results. I have worn Moon Boots I know that "the Opener" kicks off the holiday season. I never missed a year of "A Christmas Carol" at the Guthrie.

I know and will forever love Dayton's 8th Floor during the Holidays. And will never got too old to go every year before the Parade. I count being part of Winter Carnival as the some of the best experiences of my life and will be a Vulcan until death. And I thought it was perfectly normal to run around and dig through snow banks for a medallion at all hours in 20 degree weather. I have been in an Ice Palace, and attended dances held out in the middle of a lake. I have tracked through the woods to cut down the perfect Christmas tree with my family. I have no idea what eggnog is, but make a mean hot buttered rum and think Rumpelintz and hot chocolate is a necessary staple for warmth. I have gotten up 20 minutes early to start the car (with a tank heater) to let it warm. (Southern translation- It gets so bloody cold, we literally have to plug out cars into a wall source to keep them just warm enough to start in the morning.) and I know that cat litter make it easier to get your car out. I know the silence that accompanies new fallen snow, when the world goes quiet and beautiful. I have Christmas shopped at the Mall of America, and hated it and would rather just go to one of the "Dales" for ease. I have spent a Christmas Day boarding the back bowl of Peak 10. (for you Breckenridge people) not Minnesota, but cold enough to pretend well in the month of December. Now as much as I miss home, and the memories, they are tempered... I was recently back there for a weekend and wow! It was freaking COLD. My blood has thinned Which is why I have included a "you know you are in Arizona when..." on the fol-

lowing page. I mean, the rental car came with an ice scraper. I will keep my cold Christmassy memories and enjoy them in front of a video image of a crackling fire on TV- that I can watch in a t-shirt, shorts and flip-flops. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, and is able to snuggle up with good memories of past holidays.

You know you are in Arizona when

- You buy salsa by the gallon.
- Your Christmas decorations include a half a yard of sand and 100 paper bags.
- You think a red light is merely a suggestion.
- You think someone driving wearing oven mitts is clever.
- Most of the restaurants in town have the first name "El" or "Los".
- You think 60 tons of crushed rock makes a beautiful yard.
- You notice your car overheating before you drive it.
- Your house is made of stucco and has a red clay tile roof.
- You can say "Hohokam" and people don't think you're laughing funny.
- You no longer associate bridges (or rivers) with water.
- You know a swamp cooler is not a happy hour drink.
- You can say 115 degrees without fainting.
- Vehicles with open windows have the right-of-way in the summer.
- People break out coats when temperature drops below 70 degrees.
- You discover, in July, it only takes two fingers to drive your car.
- The pool can be warmer than you are.
- Most homes have more firearms than people.
- Kids will ask, "What's a mosquito?"
- People who have black cars or black upholstery in their car are automatically assumed to be from out-of-state or nuts.
- You notice the best parking place

is determined by shade instead of distance.
 -The water from the cold water tap is the same temperature as the hot one.
 -You know better than to get into a car with leather seats if you're wearing shorts.
 -Announcements for Fourth of July events never end with "in case of rain....."
 -When someone asks how far you live from a location, it's always in terms of minutes, not miles.
 -Everyone's smiling and talking about the great weather on rainy days.
 -You have to explain to out-of-staters why there is no daylight savings time.

Marlies Meinhold

Family & the Holidays
 My contribution to this month's newsletter article is about family. I decided to look up the definition of the word:

Main Entry: 1fam•i•ly
 Pronunciation: \fə-mē-lē, fə-mə-\
 Function: noun
 Inflected Form(s): plural fam•i•lies
 Etymology: Middle English familie, from Latin familia household (including servants as well as kin of the householder), from famulus servant
 Date: 15th century
 1: a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head : household
 2 a: a group of persons of common ancestry: clan b: a people or group of peoples regarded as deriving from a common stock : race
 3 a: a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation : fellowship b: the staff of a high official (as the President)
 4: a group of things related by common characteristics: as a: a closely related series of elements or chemical compounds b: a group of soils with similar chemical and physical

properties (as texture, pH, and mineral content) that comprise a category ranking above the series and below the subgroup in soil classification c: a group of related languages descended from a single ancestral language
 5 a: the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children ; also : any of various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family <a single-parent family> b: spouse and children <want to spend more time with my family>
 6 a: a group of related plants or animals forming a category ranking above a genus and below an order and usually comprising several to many genera bin livestock breeding (1): the descendants or line of a particular individual especially of some outstanding female (2): an identifiable strain within a breed
 7: a set of curves or surfaces whose equations differ only in parameters
 8: a unit of a crime syndicate (as the Mafia) operating within a geographic area

As we can see the definition of family means all kinds of different things.

Family to me isn't necessarily blood relatives, but some friends and co workers too. You never know who you are going to meet where ever you are, they could someday turn out to be family.

So I would like to take this holiday season's newsletter, and appreciate all my family. And make sure everyone else take's a moment to appreciate all their families.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and See Ya at New Year's

This Month in History

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

December 2, 1982 - The first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61-year-old Barney C. Clark by Dr. William De Vries at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Clark, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.

December 3, 1984 - A deadly gas leak (of methyl isocyanate) at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, killed at least 3,000 persons and injured more than 200,000.

December 4, 1991 - The last American hostage held in Lebanon was released. Journalist Terry Anderson of the Associated Press had been kidnapped on March 16, 1985 and held for 2,454 days by Islamic Jihad (Holy War) captors. He was one of 15 Americans held hostage for periods ranging from two months to over six years. Three of the hostages; William Buckley, Peter Kilburn and Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, were killed during their captivity. The others were released one or two at a time.

December 5, 1791 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died a pauper at age 35 in Vienna, Austria. He had become seriously ill in the fall and rapidly declined, leading to speculation that he had been poisoned, although this was later proven false. During his brief life, he created over 600 musical compositions and is widely considered one of the finest composers who ever lived.

December 6, 1877 - At his labora-

tory in West Orange, New Jersey, Thomas Edison spoke the children's verse "Mary had a Little Lamb..." while demonstrating his newly invented phonograph which utilized a revolving cylinder wrapped in tinfoil to record sounds.

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 dead.

December 8, 1980 - Former Beatle musician John Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

December 9, 1993 - A five-day repair job in space on the \$3 billion Hubble Space Telescope was finished by U.S. astronauts.

December 10, 1948 - The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 11, 1901 - The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England, to St. Johns, Newfoundland.

December 12, 1998 - The House Judiciary Committee approved a fourth and final article of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with making false statements in his answers to written questions from Congress.

December 13, 1577 - Francis Drake departed Plymouth, England, in the Golden Hind on his voyage around the world.

December 14, 1962 - The Mariner II space probe sent back information from the planet Venus, the first information ever received from another planet.

December 15, 1791 - The Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution) became effective following ratification by Virginia.

December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded English ships anchored in the harbor and dumped 342 containers of tea into the water.

December 17, 1903 - After three years

of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.

December 18, 1865 - The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified abolishing slavery, stating, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, save as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

December 19, 1732 - Benjamin Franklin first published Poor Richard's Almanac containing weather predictions, humor, proverbs and epigrams, eventually selling nearly 10,000 copies per year.

December 20, 1989 - The U.S. invaded Panama attempting to capture Manuel Noriega on charges of narcotics trafficking. Operation Just Cause occurred seven months after Noriega had declared unfavorable election results in his country to be null and void. The invasion toppled the Noriega government and resulted in the installation of Guillermo Endara as president. Noriega temporarily eluded capture, but surrendered a few weeks later to U.S. troops. He was then tried, convicted, and imprisoned in the U.S.

December 21, 1945 - Gen. George Patton died in Germany following a car accident. He had been injured on December 9 near Mannheim and was taken to a hospital in Heidelberg, where he died. He was buried in Luxembourg. Nicknamed 'Old Blood and Guts,' he once stated during World War II, "We shall attack and attack until we are exhausted, and then we shall attack again."

Continued on page 7



December 22, 1783 - Following a triumphant journey from New York to Annapolis, George Washington, victorious commander in chief of the American Revolutionary Army, appeared before Congress and voluntarily resigned his commission.

December 23, 1947 - The transistor was invented at Bell Laboratories by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley, who shared the Nobel Prize for their invention which sparked a worldwide revolution in electronics.

December 24, 1943 - General Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force preparing for D-Day.

December 25, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took 2,400 of his men across the Delaware River. Washington then conducted a surprise

raid on 1,500 British-Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessians surrendered after an hour with nearly 1,000 taken prisoner by Washington who suffered only six wounded. The victory provided a much needed boost to American morale.

December 26, 1893 - Mao Tse-Tung (1893-1976) was born in Hunan Province, China. He was a Chinese librarian, teacher, communist revolutionist, considered the "founding father" of the People's Republic of China.

December 27, 1831 - Charles Darwin set out from Plymouth, England, aboard the ship HMS Beagle on his five-year global scientific expedition. Darwin collected fossils and studied plants and animals, gradually beginning to doubt that many diverse species of living things had sprung into existence at

one moment (creationism).

December 28, 1832 - John C. Calhoun became the first American ever to resign the office of vice president. He served under Presidents John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson and resigned after a series of political disagreements with President Jackson.

December 29, 1890 - Members of the U.S. 7th Cavalry massacred more than 200 Native American (Sioux) men, women and children at Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota.

December 30, 1903 - In Chicago, a fire inside the Iroquois Theater killed 588 persons, eventually resulting in new fire safety codes for theaters.

December 31, 1879 - Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his electric incandescent lamp at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

Dear Frankie

DEAR FRANKIE: I was looking at the T.E.A.M. web site at teamsecurity.net and noticed that the Event and Training calendars are back up and running. I love the new format. Any-who...I called scheduling and signed up for a couple of training classes, but I had heard that not showing up for a training class is like not showing up for a shift. What happens if I am scheduled to work a shift and I am unable to attend the class? TEACHER'S PET

DEAR PET: Thank you for checking out the calendar. I'm glad that you like it. Marlies spent a lot of time trying to find a new calendar for the website. I like it too. Missing a training class is indeed frowned upon. Just like accepting a shift, by signing up for a training class, you are making a commitment to be there. The instructors take time from their schedule to be available to teach the class, you should have the respect of at least calling if you can't make it, or if you get scheduled for a shift, letting the scheduler know that you are scheduled for training so that they can take you out of the class. Don't be afraid to sign up, just be responsible for

being there.

DEAR FRANKIE: I heard that you were in the U.S. Navy. I too was a swabby, and was proud to have served. As I'm sure you know, traveling around the world can be an enlightening and intriguing experience. You see and do things that people have only read about (or seen on Discovery channel). When I share these stories with my friends who have never served they look at me like I have a third eye in the middle of my head. How do you respond to people who judge you for the things you have done in your past? TRUSTY SHELLBACK

DEAR TRUSTY: First off, welcome aboard shipmate. It's good to have another squid on staff. Too many grunts, jarheads, and flyboys lately, it's about time we represent. You know, I have my share of friends that judge me for things I have done in my past as well, so I totally understand what you mean. I just look at it like this, they have never been at sea for 6 months onboard a ship working 12 hour shifts, only setting foot on dry ground about 3 or 4 days each month with no weekends. They don't understand that after about 3 or 4 weeks underway one really needs to blow off some steam and do some-

thing crazy. So I just look at them and think to myself "How could a slimy, spineless, Polywog really comprehend?" and Smile. By the way....Tijuana is nice this time of year.

DEAR FRANKIE: When I went through orientation I remember there was a memo that I signed stating that I had 60 days from my date of hire to get my guard card. I am getting close to that 60 day deadline but I am not able to make it down to the office during office hours. I like working here and would hate to have to leave. What other options do I have to come in and get my fingerprints done? DUTIFUL

DEAR DUTIFUL: You are right, there was a memo issued of 9/11/08 that starting 11/11/08 anybody hired prior to 9/11/08 needs to come in and apply for their guard card. Anybody hire after 9/11/08 will have 60 days to get their guard card. If you are not able to make it in during the normal business hours, give us a call. I am sure that somebody will be willing to wait for you. (within reason, on a case by case basis). However, do not wait until the last day to do this. That is why we give you 60 days. That should be plenty of time to make arrangements to get in to the office.

Mick Hirko

The other night, I was driving down the freeway through a lightning storm of flashes. I soon realized that the new goal of the Governor to have a speed camera on every mile of the freeway was slowly but surely becoming reality and I could here the "ka-ching" of \$185 for every flash. Personally, I disagree with the cameras, but not for the reasons that are listed below. I understand In times of tougher economic times, and the scarcity of qualified employees (in this case, police officers), I understand the necessity. The cameras objectively click away 24 hours a day. They allegedly slow down motorists as a deterrent. No need to stop the motorist, risking the life of a police officer on our insane freeways, and God knows who is driving on them, no arguments. All good. I also agree with the license plate OCR cameras that are now being installed in police cars. As police officers drive along, these cameras literally read the license plates, translate them through OCR software, and upload them to a database. The database analysis the plate, and if it comes back as stolen or other suspect status, sends a warning back to the officer. All this happens within seconds. I think it is a brilliant idea to catch stolen cars, Amber Alert cars and plenty of other criminals. I do not subscribe to the big brother paranoia that many others proclaim, because now the government will always know where we are at. Give me a break. Aside from the fact that the "government" has better things to do than to track law abiding citizens, there are plenty of safeguards built into the system. The ACLU has (of course, now that they have returned from their year long vacation during the election)

already filed a lawsuit, demanding that the data be purged within one hour of being captured, under the premise that there is no reason to keep the data on people. God forbid you are sleeping while your car was stolen, and you report it an hour and ten minutes after it passed by that police officer. The ACLU once again has your back well covered! If you did not do anything wrong, there is nothing to worry about. With that volume of data., the government truly could not care less. Another reason to save the data – Recently, a murderer had a pretty solid alibi that he was across town when his victims were murdered. Had it not been for a sharp investigator and the ACLU not getting their way (yet), no one would have ever been able to check the records for the license plate of that guy's car, and found out that he had lied, and that his car was actually within the immediate vicinity of the crime. He confessed and was found guilty eventually. Cameras are a great thing, and always tell the truth. As time goes on, our society will become more and more Orwellian. In London already, there are enough cameras installed, that they can follow a person literally from one end of town to another, without ever losing sight of that person. If used properly, they are a great tool.

So, having written all about the pros of the cameras, let me tell you why I am against the speed cameras. They do slow down traffic, but too much. Rush hour is getting longer because now everybody is driving 10 miles under the speed limit. During mass traffic times, traffic should be allowed to move as fast as possible, to get the most amount of cars from Point A to Point B. I also have a sneaking suspicion that this massive investment was made be-

cause someone in the State Budget Office got a glazed look when they realized how much the 3 cameras in Scottsdale on the 101 generated in just one year. Oh, yeah! Ka-ching. I am very curious to see the accident statistics a year from now. I am equally interested to see the revenue generated. And I bet you that we will have hit the goal of 200 cameras on the freeways of Arizona by then. Will we be much safer? Time will tell. For someone who grew up driving on the Autobahn and who likes to get from Point A to Point B in the least amount of time, I think the idea is not a good one.

That all brings me to the real focus of what I want to tell you all. We live in a society that is regulated by laws. Not all of us agree on all laws. Marijuana Laws and Gay Marriage Laws come to my mind right away as being controversial. There are plenty more. I think it is a given that we all agree that there needs to be laws and punishment for certain crimes, such as murder, theft, unjustified violence upon others and a few others. Without those laws, we could not have a society. It would be anarchy. Would gay marriage or legalized marijuana cause the overthrow of our democracy? Probably not. Pot smokers generally do not have that kind of energy. Domestic productivity would go down, but would be offset by the increased volume of Pizza delivery. Status Quo.

But here is the reality. Marijuana is illegal. So is gay marriage. In our capacity as security guards, we will probably never have to deal wit the gay marriage issue, but there are plenty of other laws, rules, regulations and policies that we are routinely tasked to enforce or upkeep. It is not any of our jobs to question the law, rather it is to



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enforce it. Just so that there is no misunderstanding – the integrity and honor of our responsibilities supersedes your personal opinion 100% of the time. It really does not matter what you think of a particular law. I do not like the speed cameras, but if I decide to ignore them, will pay the price (and the ticket). If you think that doing illegal drugs is ok, that is wonderful, but this is not the place for you to work. If you think letting your buddy into a ticketed event without paying, expect that you might end up with a criminal record. Even better, if you decide to accept a bribe, be pretty close to GUARANTEED to end up with a criminal record. If you selectively enforce rules, you can not be trusted, and this is not the job for you.

Sometimes we are told we are too "black and white" on issues. On some we are, as those are pretty absolutes, others we expect you to use your better judgment on a case by case basis. I know it is not always easy, but never forget the customer service aspect. Too often a guard will say "no", simply because it is the easy way out. Use your common sense, and it will 99.9% steer you in the right direction. If you are not sure – ask. Be assured on one thing though – If you break the law, you will be held accountable. Years ago, one of our guards got a ticket on Mill Avenue. He came to me and complained, and said the ticket was unjustified and that the cop went too far. I talked to the officer, and I will never forget what he told me. He said "I know he worked for T.E.A.M. He told me that he did, and I recognized him. I would have probably just given him a warning, if he didn't work for you, and I didn't know him from working down here. Because of him working for T.E.A.M., he knew better. He knew what he did was wrong, and thus had NO excuse". I not only could not disagree with his argu-

ment, but I support it 100%. The reason many cops trust us, and why we have a good reputation is that we respect and obey and enforce the laws. We are not above the law, either on an individual or collective basis. We all at times have incredible responsibilities, especial loin the post 9-11 world, and I want to always know that I can trust each and every one of you t o do the right thing, and to know better than to do the wrong thing.

The net item is one of my personal pet peeves. We all realize that "winter" is upon us, and that it can actually get cold at night, and occasionally even during the day. PLEASE remember that if your hands get cold to bring gloves, or if you need to put your hands into your pockets, put them in to your jacket pockets, and never into your pants pockets. It looks unprofessional, sloppy and disinterested.

Lastly, make sure you have your guard card on you. As most of you know, effective last month, we have enacted a tougher policy on guard cards and enforcement of the wearing of Security uniforms. In the past, we have allowed security guards to wear Staff uniforms. All security guards should have security uniforms issued. You are required to wear those. If you do not have one please get to the office, to get them issued. The old excuse that you forgot or did not have time to do laundry, or the uniform is dirty will no longer be acceptable. It is your responsibility to make appropriate arrangements. Your uniform and your guard card are critical elements of your ability to perform your duties. Please treat them accordingly.

I wish you all the very best for the holidays, and in my usual non-

P.C. manner – Merry Christmas!! I will see you all, if not before, at the Block Party! Also – plan to pay off a bunch of your Holiday bills with lost of shifts out at Barrett-Jackson and the NBA All Star Game not far behind!

Be safe, Keep the Peace, and I'll see you out there.

Mick Hirko