

MARK HARLESS, MS, PSP

Security Consultant

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Board certified security professional and retired FBI Special Agent with over 25 years in federal law enforcement, recognized with two FBI Director's Awards for excellence in counterterrorism and criminal investigations. Holding a master's degree in criminology from Florida State University, serving as an expert witness in security negligence and premises liability while conducting security assessments and developing innovative risk mitigation strategies. Extensive experience in violent crime, white-collar crime, public corruption, terror financing, criminal enterprise, and crime scene analysis. As the Threat Intelligence lead at a global hospitality corporation, implemented advanced threat intelligence programs to safeguard critical assets. Combining federal law enforcement expertise with corporate cybersecurity acumen to design and execute sophisticated security solutions to protect organizations from evolving physical and cyber threats.

EDUCATION

Florida State University- Master of Science, Criminology

Belmont University- Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice

EXPERIENCE

Group Nine Risk Consulting, Senior Consultant 2023 - Current

Leverage federal law enforcement and private sector expertise to deliver tailored security risk management solutions. Provide expert testimony in security negligence cases, drawing on extensive experience in threat assessment and mitigation. Conduct comprehensive physical security assessments to identify vulnerabilities and implement effective risk reduction strategies. Collaborate with clients to develop customized security solutions, ensuring proactive problem-solving and high-quality outcomes. Lead security planning and implementation, integrating best practices to enhance organizational resilience and safeguard critical assets.

Blackdog Advisory, LLC, Founder and Senior Consultant 2023 – Current

Provide authoritative insights for legal proceedings with a specialization in premises liability and security negligence. Conduct specialized assessments of security vulnerabilities and asset protection strategies to identify and mitigate risks. Deliver clear, evidence-based evaluations of security practices, threat assessments, and compliance with industry standards to support informed decision-making and legal analysis.

Abacode Cybersecurity and Compliance, Partner Alliance Executive 2022- 2023

Developed and executed a strategic partner strategy to expand the ecosystem and drive revenue growth while leading the launch and growth strategy for a private equity-focused cybersecurity business vertical. Cultivated strong partner relationships, identified cross-functional collaboration opportunities, and created partner enablement programs to enhance engagement and adoption. Provided expert guidance on security and regulatory compliance, aligning with product teams to deliver innovative solutions and top-tier service. Analyzed partner performance, tracked key performance indicators, and optimized programs for sustained growth. Additionally, security awareness and education training to strengthen risk management and compliance efforts.

IHG Hotels and Resorts Hotels Group, Manager of Cyber Threat Intelligence 2019-2022

Established and led IHG InfoSec's cyber threat intelligence program, guiding an expert team in close collaboration with the Global Threat team to mitigate physical security threats. Authored and produced tactic-focused threat reports and assessments, advising leadership on emerging risks. Managed team resource allocation and budget while engineering intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination processes. Utilized advanced security solution platforms and collaborated with law enforcement to enhance threat mitigation and response capabilities.

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent, Multiple Positions 1997-2019

As a Supervisory Special Agent, led a team driving \$1B+ in settlements, oversaw intelligence analysis, corporate criminal probes, and cultivated strong law enforcement relationships at all levels. Managed budgets, mentored agents, and coordinated operational intelligence with 21 federal agencies, overseeing the dissemination of data from 112 law enforcement datasets for global investigations. Fostered partnerships with the private sector and academic institutions while delivering threat intelligence to the C-suite and organizing conferences. Collaborated with federal, state, and local agencies on high-profile event security and worked with corporate leadership on insider threats, physical security, and asset protection.

Led high-profile corruption investigations, securing significant convictions using sophisticated techniques such as wiretaps and covert surveillance. Authored complex reports, testified in federal cases, and set strategic goals for sensitive investigations. Directed counterterrorism finance initiatives, disseminated classified intelligence, and guided agents in intelligence collection. Led multi-agency conferences and trained agents on advanced intelligence gathering and analysis, while providing oversight on critical finance cases.

Directed investigations into violent gangs, drug trafficking, money laundering, and fraud, employing advanced investigative techniques to develop cases and execute search and arrest warrants. Cultivated multilingual law enforcement relationships, provided strategic case briefings to executive management, and enhanced collaboration across agencies. Led successful prosecutions by leveraging cross-functional partnerships and delivering actionable threat intelligence for white-collar crime and organized crime investigations.

Specific Assignments Include:

- Special Agent - Private Sector Coordinator – Atlanta, Georgia
- Supervisory Special Agent – White Collar Crime, Atlanta, Georgia
- Supervisory Special Agent – Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force – Washington, D.C.
- Special Agent – Public Corruption – Washington D.C.
- Acting Unit Chief – Terrorist Financing Operations Section – Washington, D.C.
- Supervisory Special Agent - Terrorist Financing Operations Section – Washington, D.C.
- Special Agent – Gang Task Force – San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Special Agent – Organized Crime Task Force – New Orleans, Louisiana
- Special Agent – White Collar Crime – New Orleans, Louisiana

U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Special Agent, Lackland AFB 1994 - 1997

Investigated violent crime, fraud, narcotics, and counterintelligence matters while serving as the AFOSI Detachment Physical Security Manager. Led and conducted security red-team operations, executed search and arrest warrants, and provided testimony in criminal court martial proceedings.

SKILLS

Physical Security, Cybersecurity, Expert Witness, Security Risk Management, Security Vulnerability Assessments, Threat Intelligence, Crime Scene Analysis, Advisory and Consulting, Complex Fraud Analysis, Expert Witness, Spanish Language (Native Fluency)

TRAINING

ASIS International Physical Security Professional (PSP) Training

Federal Bureau of Investigation New Agent Training Academy

Air Force Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI) Law Enforcement Academy Air Force Physical Security Manager's Course

FBI Advanced White-Collar Crime

FBI Advanced Evidence Recovery and Crime Scene Investigation FBI Computer Crime and Child Sexual Exploitation

Tactical Firearms and Self-Defense

CERTIFICATIONS

ASIS International Physical Security Professional (PSP)

FBI Intelligence Community Joint Duty

AWARDS

InfraGard Regional Community Outreach Award - 2019

Employee of the Year, Atlanta Federal Executive Board- 2017

FBI Director's Award for Excellence in Investigation- 2009

FBI Director's Award for Special Achievement- 2008

FBI Sustained Superior Performance Award 2002

IASIU Investigative Leadership Award- 2001

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

ASIS International

InfraGard

National Apartment Association

Georgia Apartment Association

Atlanta Apartment Association

National Association of Convenience Stores

Retired FBI Agents Association

Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI