

MARK HARLESS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Highly accomplished former FBI Supervisory Special Agent with expertise in complex financial crimes, corruption, counterterrorism, criminal enterprise investigations, and threat intelligence. A two-time FBI Director's Award recipient, holding a master's degree in criminology from Florida State University and certified as a Physical Security Professional (PSP). Demonstrated ability to lead diverse teams in high-stakes environments, overseeing intelligence collection operations, and driving cross-programmatic collaboration. Extensive experience in federal law enforcement, specializing in advanced investigative strategies to combat evolving threats, protect assets, and ensure ethics and regulatory compliance.

SKILLS

- Complex Criminal Investigation
 - Threat Intelligence Operations
 - Interpersonal Skills
 - Written and Verbal Communication
 - Physical Security
 - Interview and Interrogation
 - Ethics and Regulatory Compliance
 - Problem Solving
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WORK HISTORY

December 2023 – Current

Group Nine Risk Consulting – Senior Consultant, Atlanta, Georgia

- Provide expert risk management and security consulting to clients, specializing in areas of physical and travel security to mitigate organizational risks and vulnerabilities.
- Develop tailored security strategies that align with clients' operational needs, including threat assessments, crisis management plans, and security protocols to enhance protection and response capabilities.
- Provide expert witness testimony for premises liability legal proceedings, offering authoritative insights on security practices, threat assessments, and compliance with industry standards.
- Collaborate with global clients and industry partners, delivering actionable insights and recommendations to strengthen security posture and drive operational success in high-stakes environments.

November 2023 - Current

Blackdog Advisory, LLC - Founder, Atlanta, GA

- Founded a successful business by identifying market needs and creating innovative solutions.
- Build strong partnerships to foster collaboration and business growth.
- Provide investigative expertise and expert testimony in security negligence cases, leading security projects from start to finish.

- Deliver tailored risk management strategies addressing vulnerabilities and aligning with client needs.

August 2022 - November 2023

Abacode Cybersecurity and Compliance - Partner Alliance Executive, Tampa, FL

- Built strong, long-lasting client relationships by delivering exceptional service and addressing unique security challenges.
- Led the launch of a cybersecurity vertical focused on SEC compliance, driving revenue growth and market expansion.
- Developed regulatory solutions to enhance compliance and meet evolving industry standards.
- Effectively leveraged data and technology, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Teams, and Salesforce, to analyze trends, optimize workflows, and enhance team collaboration.

July 2019 - July 2022

IHG Hotels and Resorts - Manager of Cyber Threat Intelligence, Atlanta, GA

- Built and led a Cyber Threat Intelligence program, managing a specialized team focused on delivering timely, actionable intelligence to enhance organizational readiness against emerging cyber threats.
- Oversaw collaboration with global threat teams and law enforcement, integrating physical and cybersecurity efforts to create a unified approach and strengthen the overall security posture.
- Advised executive leadership on strategic threat responses, providing critical insights that informed decision-making and optimized security resource allocation.
- Fostered cross-team collaboration and intelligence sharing, ensuring seamless communication between departments and external stakeholders to combat sophisticated threats to the organization.
- Developed a proactive, intelligence-driven strategy that improved the organization's ability to anticipate and mitigate both cyber and physical threats, safeguarding critical assets and infrastructure.

January 1997 - July 2019

Federal Bureau of Investigation - Special Agent, Multiple Assignments

- Led intelligence-driven, high-profile investigations into complex financial crimes, public corruption, and criminal enterprise investigations, securing over \$1B in settlements and key convictions in collaboration with federal prosecutors.
- Implemented intelligence tradecraft best practices to enhance investigative strategies, developing actionable intelligence informing decision-making and improving overall investigation outcomes.
- Spearheaded joint counterterrorism finance and violent gang investigations, dismantling criminal networks through multi-agency task forces and partnerships with international intelligence and law enforcement.
- Developed and implemented intelligence-sharing strategies across federal, state, and local agencies, enhancing global threat detection and operational integration through efficient collaboration.
- Coached and mentored teams of investigators and analysts, overseeing budgets, training, and collaboration with interagency partners to ensure the success of high-stakes investigations.

March 1994 - January 1997

US Air Force Office of Special Investigations - Special Agent, Lackland Air Force Base, TX

- Directed investigations into violent crime, financial crime, narcotics, and counterintelligence, focusing on active-duty military personnel and their dependents.
- Leveraged strategic plans and specialized techniques to dismantle complex criminal networks in collaboration with multiple agencies.
- Led facility and mission-focused Red Team Operations for U.S. Air Force Base Commanders, identifying and assessing operational security vulnerabilities and risks.
- Coordinated multi-jurisdictional investigations, fostering collaboration among various agencies to enhance operational effectiveness.

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

TRAINING

- FBI Advanced Interviewing and Interrogation
- FBI Advanced White-Collar Crime
- FBI Advanced Evidence Recovery and Crime Scene Investigation
- AFOSI Special Operations Training
- Air Force Physical Security Manager's Course
- ASIS Physical Security Professional (PSP) Course
- Tactical Firearms and Self-Defense

EDUCATION

- Master of Science, Criminology - Florida State University
- Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice – Belmont University

CERTIFICATIONS

- Physical Security Professional (PSP), ASIS International, July 2024
- Intelligence Community Joint Duty Certified, FBI, 2006