

The Institute's View

Thanks to a philanthropic attitude, Frank Cannon sought election to The Security Institute's Board of Directors, agreed to deputise for the chair when necessary and recently completed a tenure as the organisation's interim CEO. Collaboration with others has helped to shape the future of what is a vital membership organisation



FOR ME, being part of The Security Institute is a way in which to spend time with like-minded individuals. It helps me to understand more about the thing that defines who I am. Only recently have I come to realise that I've been protecting people and the things I care about all my working life.

You could say that my 'purpose' is to safeguard those whom I love, the people I care for and the things I believe to be important for myself and others when it comes to work, rest and play.

In essence, I'm a security pracademic. By this, I mean that I use my understanding of the protective security doctrine and apply it to reduce the likelihood or impact of someone causing harm to the 'thing' that requires protection. In short, I apply the science to create proportionate defences.

As an individual, I fit the generic perception of a security leader. I'm a white male in his mid-fifties with grey hair. I built the foundation of my body of knowledge in the Royal Military Police, spending 24 years combining the curious mindset of a police officer with the mission-focused attitude of a military veteran.

What I believe sets me apart from others is my curiosity: the need to unpack the process to understand the why, challenge the how and seek opportunities for continuous

improvement. As I enter the beginning of the end of my working life, I find myself becoming more altruistic with a maturing willingness to help others succeed. In my opinion, an independent consultant is someone who sits in a community residing close to the gateway of retirement.

As a champion of good governance, and a former police officer, I truly believe that The Security Institute has the potential to become a trusted partner for serving police officers and a trusted advisor to those in Government.

Shaping the future

When shaping the future, we need to understand how we arrived at today. Mike Croll MSyI CPP provided a unique insight to the origins of my trade in his recently published book entitled 'The Rise of Security' ('Protection in context', Security Matters, September 2023, pp50-52). Mike's research established that we have twice as many security officers in the UK than we do police officers. This is a powerful metric to offer anyone who seeks collaboration in creating safe and secure places.

Moreover, security practitioner Dr Paul Martin CBE – writing in 'The Rules of Security', which was published back in 2019 – astutely reminds the reader that: "Security is one of those things we prefer not to need and bitterly regret not having when suddenly we do need it." He then offers a solution: "The answer lies in intelligent, evidence-based protective security."

These statements have exerted a profound effect on my approach to protecting others. When combining this new perspective

around my tradecraft with my altruistic mindset to selflessly help others succeed in their chosen career path, my joining The Security Institute's Board seemed logical. Due to the strategic workshops in which I've participated, I'm already excited about what could be achieved during our tenancy period.

This is not the place for me to outline the organisation's strategic goals, but I would say that I've been given my opportunity to influence others and advocate for those deliverables that I believe are particularly important for our membership.

Protective governance

Away from The Security Institute, my 'purpose' is to help others deliver meaningful protective governance that will increase the success of their business. We should not 'do security'; but we should encourage everyone to do everything securely.

All organisations have an identity, but those performing at the highest level have a strong workforce culture developed through a unified purpose, clarity of vision and the nurturing of shared values.

My purpose is to weave secure behaviours into the DNA of high-performing organisations. Not because I influence their inclusion, but because they understand that it's the right thing to do in order to safeguard their people, property, information and reputation. How, though, do I achieve my infinite purpose?

Primarily, it's about me building relationships within the senior leadership team, understanding the greater purpose of the organisation and then seeking ways to safeguard all of the elements required to support the delivery of that purpose.

Paul Martin states that the answer resides in intelligent and evidence-based protective security. Implicit in this statement is the need to do your homework, build relationships through empathetic communications and deliver solutions that the recipient of them believes to be relevant, important and personal to their own success. ●

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