

April 2020

A Message from the ISF

The global security industry expertly navigates uncertain situations. Today, uncertainty takes on new meaning.

Connecting as a community is more important than ever. Thank you, OSAC and Regional Security Officers, for your tireless efforts supporting the private sector during these trying times. In this issue, OSAC's Executive Director Jason Kight and RISC Chief James Weston share OSAC's response to COVID-19.

[Click here for OSAC's COVID-19 updates](#), including a comprehensive list of reports, specific country information and more.

Ironically, this would have been the time when OSAC announced its 35th anniversary plans. While the announcement is on hold as the world grapples with the pandemic, OSAC's response to the pandemic is fitting recognition of OSAC's enduring service to the private sector for 35 years, in times of crisis and in times of calm.

May this newsletter be a reminder of how important you are to our community and to the continued safety, security and well-being of our nation.

Be well and be safe,
Peggy O'Neill, ISF Executive Director



5 Questions for Jason Kight, OSAC Executive Director

Jason Kight's lifelong career with the Dept. of State informs his leadership style, vision and how he and his team are responding with expertise and empathy to the COVID-19 crisis. [Read the interview.](#)

OSAC's Response to COVID-19

By James E. Weston, Chief, Research and Information Support Center, OSAC

A crisis highlights your strengths and exposes any weaknesses. Right from the start of this crisis in China in mid-January, our groups like the Pan-Asia Regional Council (PARC) became the best place for members to share timely information and benchmark with one another about actions. Our analyst was getting so many questions and updates from the PARC membership that we instituted a daily update document for OSAC leadership.

The PARC really set a great example of how to deal with a regional crisis. As proof of the quality of information available via the PARC, we saw membership double in February. Clearly, the service and access to information available through the PARC was a great strength of OSAC.

Thanks to the diligence of one of our Council Members, we realized that there was a gap in our approach to sharing this information. We began an education campaign to let all OSAC members know about the PARC's resources, and we activated a new website feature. **Visit [OSAC.gov](https://osac.gov) for the latest information on the pandemic.** This includes how to join each of our Regional Councils for the most relevant information on specific countries. You also can email OSAC using a special email group for each region.

This has really been a learning exercise for us in how our members use and expect to receive information. OSAC's strength has always been the feedback and direction we take from the private sector, which has been the one element that has most enabled us to cope with this situation.

Membership Matters

The uncertainties of our world at this moment, from the pandemic to the economic crisis, underscore how essential our community is -- and how critical a thriving, responsive public-private partnership remains to the health and safety of Americans.

As you consider these times and the important role you are playing, please consider a membership in the ISF. These annual funds enable the ISF to support ongoing OSAC programs and new initiatives and are helping ISF to address the growing needs of the vital U.S. nonprofits in the global security arena.

Thank you for your service. For more information, visit isf4osac.org/membership.