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Trio of Experienced Computer Security Authors and Industry Experts Launch Special Ops Security After Foundstone Acquisition

Combining three decades' of industry experience and nearly a dozen books authored between them, Andrés, Birkholz, and Andrews bring a wealth of talent and a hybrid teaching style to computer security training in Orange County.

COSTA MESA, California—January 1, 2005—Special Ops Security, Inc., a network security training and consulting corporation, announced today the formal launch of the company with headquarters in Orange County, California. Specialized security firms Foundstone, @Stake and Guardent were acquired in late 2004 by large, product-only vendors McAfee, Symantec, and VeriSign, creating a void for highly customer-focused security players in the industry. Special Ops Security meets that growing demand for specialized information security knowledge by blending consulting, training and technology into a new hybrid breed of educational solutions for our customers. With the combined talent of Erik Pace Birkholz, Steven Andrés, and Chip Andrews, the company, with a unique all-CISSP certified management team, is committed to delivering tactical and strategic solutions that optimize the people, processes and technology that protect customer data.

“The Special Ops Security team has authored *twelve books*—how many others in our industry have a dozen publications under their belt?” asks Erik Pace Birkholz, President and CEO for Special Ops Security. “Many training firms provide comprehensive—yet theoretical—lecture based training that could be easily gleaned from any book, overlooking the reasons why students pay for advanced technical education,” continues Birkholz. A Special Ops student will benefit from “the rich experience of the instructors and genuine student-teacher interaction in and out of the classroom.” In contrast, most training centers *teach* students without much concern for student *learning*, and instructors rarely have the qualifications that our team possesses.

Birkholz is a seasoned industry leader and renowned author, having worked for KPMG and Ernst & Young as part of their national attack and penetration teams. After serving as the west coast security assessment lead for Internet Security Systems (ISS), Birkholz was recruited into Foundstone, another Orange County success story, as one of their charter members in the professional services division. After serving three years as the company's highest chargeable Principal Consultant, Birkholz transitioned his intimate knowledge of computer security and vulnerability management to become the highest revenue-generating account executive in Foundstone history, closing nearly \$4M with just five quarters' sales experience. Birkholz knew that his unique combination of in-depth security expertise, when applied in a sales situation, was something that resonated with potential buyers.

“Our flagship work is the internationally best selling SPECIAL OPS: Host and Network Security for Microsoft, UNIX and Oracle for which the company was named,” states Chief Technology Officer Steven Andrés. “What we kept hearing from readers was that the book brings together

today's best computer security minds in one book, and makes for an effective how-to guide for securing the enterprise network." Andrés has also written for the internationally best-selling Hacking Exposed: 4th Edition book, and co-authored the comprehensive Security Sage's Guide to Hardening the Network Infrastructure in April 2004. Andrés served as Director of Technical Operations for Foundstone for three years prior to the acquisition by McAfee. During this time, he invented the award-winning FS1000 security appliance platform and led the product deployment and integration teams.

Joining Birkholz and Andrés is Chip Andrews, well-known database security expert and owner of the authoritative Microsoft SQL Server security website forum, www.SQLsecurity.com. With over 14 years of programming experience on multiple platforms, Andrews has been a strong promoter of database security since 1999. Andrews is the author of SQL Server Security, the authoritative guide to securing Microsoft SQL Server, one of the most popular database back-ends in existence. Andrews has contributed chapters to Hacking Exposed: Windows 2000 as well as regular appearances in SQL Server Magazine and Dr. Dobb's Journal. A regularly invited speaker at numerous developer conferences including the Black Hat Briefings, Andrews will be using his breadth of database knowledge to perform web application assessments as well as provide content for the company's training courses.

Along with traditional security training and consulting services, the company will also provide outsourced pre-sales engineering and security sales mentoring for other security vendors that may not have the high-degree of technical staff needed to close a difficult sale. To add value to the complex security solutions these vendors provide, we will be offering a complete array of deployment and highly-customized integration services. Finally, we will be reselling security tools from an elite group of individually vetted vendors, as well as providing our own collection of free tools from our research and development labs.

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About Special Ops Security

Headquartered in Orange County, California, Special Ops Security, Inc. is a privately held company that meets the growing demand for specialized information security knowledge by blending consulting, training and technology into a new hybrid breed of educational solutions for our customers. We are committed to delivering tactical and strategic solutions that optimize the people, processes and technology that protect customer data. For more information visit our web site at www.SpecialOpsSecurity.com or contact us toll-free at 888-R-U-OWNED.

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