



United States Army Criminal Investigation Command

Media contact:
703-806-0372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CID Alum Takes the Lead for Cyber Security

By Colby Hauser
CID Public Affairs

Washington, D.C., February 22, 2010 – From a war in Southeast Asia to the trenches of the nation’s capitol, Howard Schmidt has fought long and hard to become the man on point for defending America’s information superhighway.

As the recently appointed Special Assistant to the President and Cyber Security Coordinator, Schmidt is charged with developing strategies to defend the nation’s government-run and private computer networks.

He brings to the office more than four decades of experience in government, business and law enforcement, but his heart and soul is still that of a Special Agent with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.

“It was an honor to be a part of CID and to be associated with such a great organization,” he said. “I wish I could have continued to be a Special Agent today.”

Schmidt, who served as a Reserve CID Special Agent from February of 1998 to January of 2010, was transferred to the Retired Reserves following his appointment by President Obama.

“I really would have preferred to not retire from CID, but I hit the mandatory age requirement,” he said. “One of the things I’ve been very proud of is the time I spent with CID.”

Schmidt’s career is as fascinating as it is varied. Major professional accomplishments include tours as the Chief Information Security Officer for eBay and the Chief Security Officer for Microsoft. Woven throughout are periods of service as a commissioned police officer, service with the Air Force, Air National Guard and in government service as the director of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), Computer Forensics Lab and Computer Crime and Information Warfare Division, where he was instrumental in establishing the Defense Computer Forensics Laboratory.

Most recently, Schmidt served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Information Security Forum (ISF), an international non-profit organization focusing on cyber risk and research.

“It wasn’t until I was working for OSI (Air Force Office of Special Investigations) as a civilian did the opportunity arise for me to come over to CID,” he said. “I was briefing all the

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heads of the DCIOs (Defense Criminal Investigation Organizations) and Brig. Gen. Doherty, who was the commanding general of CID at the time, knew I was leaving government service and asked me to be a Reserve Special Agent.”

Originally assigned to the 315th Military Police Detachment (CID) in Fort Lawton, Wash., Schmidt’s career began like many reserve Special Agents. As a noncommissioned officer he worked general felony crimes, but soon branched out and found himself serving as a protective service officer for NATO’s 50th Anniversary Summit in Washington D.C.

“Because of my background, I was able to go over and speak with our international partners at the NATO conference and help address concerns about emerging cyber security issues,” he said. “It was a great experience.”

Additional assignments utilizing his expertise would follow, but it seems fate would have Schmidt right where CID needed him.

“I was in Washington D.C. on September 11 giving a briefing,” he said. “Two days later, I got my orders to active duty.”

Given his background, Schmidt was assigned to the 701st Military Police Group’s Computer Crimes Investigative Unit, and detailed to the CID counterintelligence cell at the Joint Task Force – Computer Network Operations (JTF-CNO) with the Defense Information Systems Agency.

“It was a great experience working with the JTF-CNO and alongside the folks at CCIU,” he added.

As a key member of the President’s National Security Staff, Schmidt has the awesome responsibility of developing a new comprehensive strategy for securing America’s computer networks, promoting research and development of the next generation of technology and leading a national campaign regarding cyber security awareness and education.

Reporting to both the National Security and the White House Economic councils, he serves a vital role within government with direct access to the President.

“Howard is one of the world’s leading authorities on computer security,” stated John O. Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism. “He will have the important responsibility of orchestrating the many important cyber security activities across the government.”

“Cyber security matters to all of us,” he added.

Looking to the future but mindful of the past, Schmidt said he is confident that his experience with CID has helped him prepare for the tasks ahead.

“Without my time in CID and government service, I don’t know if I would have had the insight and depth of understanding of government and how it relates to cyber security,” he said. “I think that staying involved in those communities helped tremendously.”

Schmidt is quick to give credit and thanks to various organizations and companies in Silicon Valley and within the U.S. Government that have afforded him the opportunity to continue to serve the nation; putting his wealth of experience to use and doing what has to be done.

“I am just very thankful to have been surrounded by great leadership and true professionals at CID and CCIU, and I am very proud of my affiliation with them,” he added.

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For more information on Army CID visit www.cid.army.mil

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President Barack Obama greets his new Special Assistant and Cyber Coordinator, Howard A. Schmidt, in the Cross Hall of the White House. Schmidt was appointed as the President's new Cyber Security Coordinator while serving as a Reserve Special Agent with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson)