



For Immediate Release
March 2003
Contact: David Johnson

Silver Spring, MD – The Alarm Industry Research Educational Foundation (AIREF), founded in 1977, named 18 new people to its Board of Directors last week at its meeting in Las Vegas. Peter Michel, former chief executive officer of Brinks Security, was named the new AIREF Chairman, replacing Leo Guthart, who had spent the past five years at the helm of the foundation.

In the first meeting of the new group, Michel emphasized the need for the foundation to re-establish itself as the instrumental research arm engaged in initiatives critical to the health of the electronic life safety, security, and systems industry. He reiterated the necessity for a three-tiered approach to all research, highlighting perspectives of not only the alarm industry, but also law enforcement and the general public.

“Through research and education we are providing the resources and statistics that law enforcement and fire officials need to better understand and utilize our industry in their effort to protect and serve the community,” said Michel. “I look forward to serving as the AIREF chair and enhancing the relationships between the public safety sector, the consumer, and the alarm industry.”

Additionally, AIREF has renewed its vow to provide facts and figures illustrating that alarms are not just an effective deterrent against crime but a crucial component to public safety. AIREF will present critical data related to the effectiveness of alarm systems to individuals and businesses. The security industry stands to benefit from these types of studies through increased acceptance of products and improved relationships with both the public sector and the end user.

The significance of these studies and their relevance to the future of the alarm industry cannot be underestimated. If you are interested in making a donation to AIREF, please contact David Johnson at davidj@alarm.org or (301) 585-1855.