

Todd J. Bensman

Email: tjb@cis.org
Phone: 210-859-0202

EDUCATION:

- **M.A. Homeland Security Studies and Defense, with Distinction (Outstanding Thesis honor), Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security, 2015**
- **M.A. Journalism, University of Missouri, School of Journalism, 2009**
- **B.S. Journalism, Northern Arizona University, School of Communication Arts, 1987**
- **State of Texas Command College, 350 hours leadership Certification, November 2017**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

***SENIOR NATIONAL SECURITY FELLOW*—Center for Immigration Studies, Washington D.C. – (based in Austin, Texas): August/2018 to present**

Conceive, execute and communicate research and analyses related to U.S. border security and illegal immigration with emphases on terrorist travel and the implications of homeland security policy on international human smuggling. As a designated expert on border-related national security, provide research results and informed opinion, via publication, briefings and media interviews, to thought leaders, national decision-makers and the general public. Audiences range from homeland security leaders, members of Congress and staff, and state and federal law enforcement. Regular contributing writer on terrorism and counterterrorism subjects for The Federalist, PJ Media, and other publications.

***MANAGER*—Intelligence & Counterterrorism Division, Texas Department of Public Safety – Austin, Texas HQ: 10/2009 to 8/2018**

Led teams of analysts dedicated to identifying, reporting and mitigating terrorism threats in concert with federal homeland security and intelligence agencies. From the State of Texas fusion center, conceived, implemented, and oversaw intelligence collection operations that fed into the national intelligence community and prompted or advanced federal counterterrorism investigations. Worked in tandem with the FBI, DHS I&A, military intelligence, ICE, the National Targeting Center, Terrorist Screening Center, CBP, Border Patrol, and a national network of fusion centers. Oversaw analytical support for security of the Texas Capitol complex, Executive Protection for the governor's office, and the state's infrastructure protection program. Authorized opening of intelligence cases. Developed intelligence analyses products. Oversaw evaluations of all suspicious activity reports regarding extremists. Held DHS-sponsored security clearance.

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, School of Mass Communications adjunct lecturer – 2012-2014

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER, Hearst News Corporation – San Antonio: 4/2006 to 8/2009

Conceived and reported long-form investigative stories with emphases on terrorism, border security, and Mexico's civil drug war. Reporting earned two National Press Club awards and an Inter-American Press Association (in Spain) award for foreign reporting, on human smuggling, the terrorist travel threat, and cross-border gun smuggling. Domestic reporting prompted federal investigations, convictions, and disciplinary action. Exploited public information laws and extensive federal law enforcement source network to publish unduplicated reporting twice recognized by Texas Institute of Letters.

INVESTIGATIVE PRODUCER, CBS News (KTVT-11) –Dallas: 8/2003 to 4/2006

Reported and produced in-depth investigative stories for investigations unit. Tapped human source network and open records laws to produce reporting with on domestic counterterrorism programs, federal law enforcement, and government accountability. Initiated investigative ideas, executed interviews, authored scripts and wrote long-form website articles while supervising on-air presentation with substantial autonomy.

STAFF WRITER, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS— Dallas: 11/1993 to 8/2003

Covered federal law enforcement, counter-terror and drug war policy, emphasizing counterterrorism campaigns of the FBI after 9/11. Covered the DEA, ATF, ICE, the IRS, and federal courts. Dispatched to national breaking news events across the U.S. including Columbine school massacre, natural disasters, and the Space Shuttle crash in Texas. Awarded International Reporting Project Fellowship, sponsored by Johns Hopkins University School of International Public Affairs to report. stories in Angola, Namibia, South Africa and Kingdom of Lesotho.

INDEPENDENT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT-- 1/1991 to 11/1993

Covered Gulf War from Jordan, Egypt, and Israel to include on-site reporting on eight scud missile attacks in Israel, violent protests in Jordan, and refugee ships to Egypt. Following war, covered Intifada in the Israel Occupied Territories. From 1992-1993, covered armed combat in Croatia war and then Bosnia war, with special emphasis on the siege of Sarajevo from inside the city throughout active hostilities. From base in Prague, covered implications of the Soviet Union breakup, including coverage of combat operations in Moldova. Covered the peaceful breakup of Czechoslovakia, and economic changes in Ukraine for *USA Today*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Canadian Press*, *Houston Chronicle* and other publications.

CITY GOVERNMENT REPORTER, THE ANCHORAGE TIMES, Alaska: 8/1989 to 1/1991

HONORS & AWARDS:

- 2018 - State of Texas House of Representatives Appreciation of Devotion and Service to Citizens of Texas Flag
- 2015 - Naval Postgraduate School Outstanding Thesis Award.
- 2012 - Northern Arizona University School of Communication's 2012 Associated Press/Robert R. Eunson Distinguished Alumni Award.
- 2010 - Houston Press Club Journalist of the Year finalist.
- 2009 - National Press Club, Edwin Hood Award for Diplomatic and Foreign Correspondence.
- 2009 - Texas Institute of Letters Stanley Walker Award for best work of newspaper journalism.
- 2009 - Houston Press Club, Investigative Reporting award.
- 2009 - Dallas Press Club, Investigative Reporting award.
- 2008 - National Press Club, Edwin Hood Award for Diplomatic and Foreign Correspondence.
- 2008 - Inter-American Press Association for in-depth foreign correspondence.
- 2008 - John Hearst Memorial Trophy for Visual Enterprise Online.
- 2008 - Texas Institute of Letters Stanley Walker Award for Best Work of Newspaper Journalism.
- 2008 - Star Investigative Reporter of the Year finalist, Texas Associated Press Managing Editors.
- 2008 - Houston Press Club, 1st Place Investigative Reporting.
- 2008 - Houston Press Club, 1st Place, Public Service Reporting.
- 2008 - Fort Worth SPJ First Amendment Award, Best Use of Open Records.
- 2007 - Houston Press Club Lone Star Award, 1st Place, Public Service Reporting.
- 2007 - Fort Worth SPJ First Amendment Award, Opening the Books, Reporting on corporate misbehavior.
- 2006 - Dallas Bar Assoc. Stephen Philbin Award, Excellence in Legal Report – Broadcast.
- 2006 - Houston Press Club Lone Star Award, 1st Place, 2nd Place – Best Magazine Work.
- 2005 - Fort Worth SPJ First Amendment Award, Best Online Reporting/Use of Records.
- 2004 - Dallas Press Club Katie Award, Best Project Series – Broadcast.
- 2004 - Fort Worth SPJ First Amendment Award, Best Use of Open Records/Investigative Report – Broadcast.