

The
HOSPITALITY LAW
CONFERENCE

2023 Global Hotspots

Seth Krummrich

May 9-10, 2023



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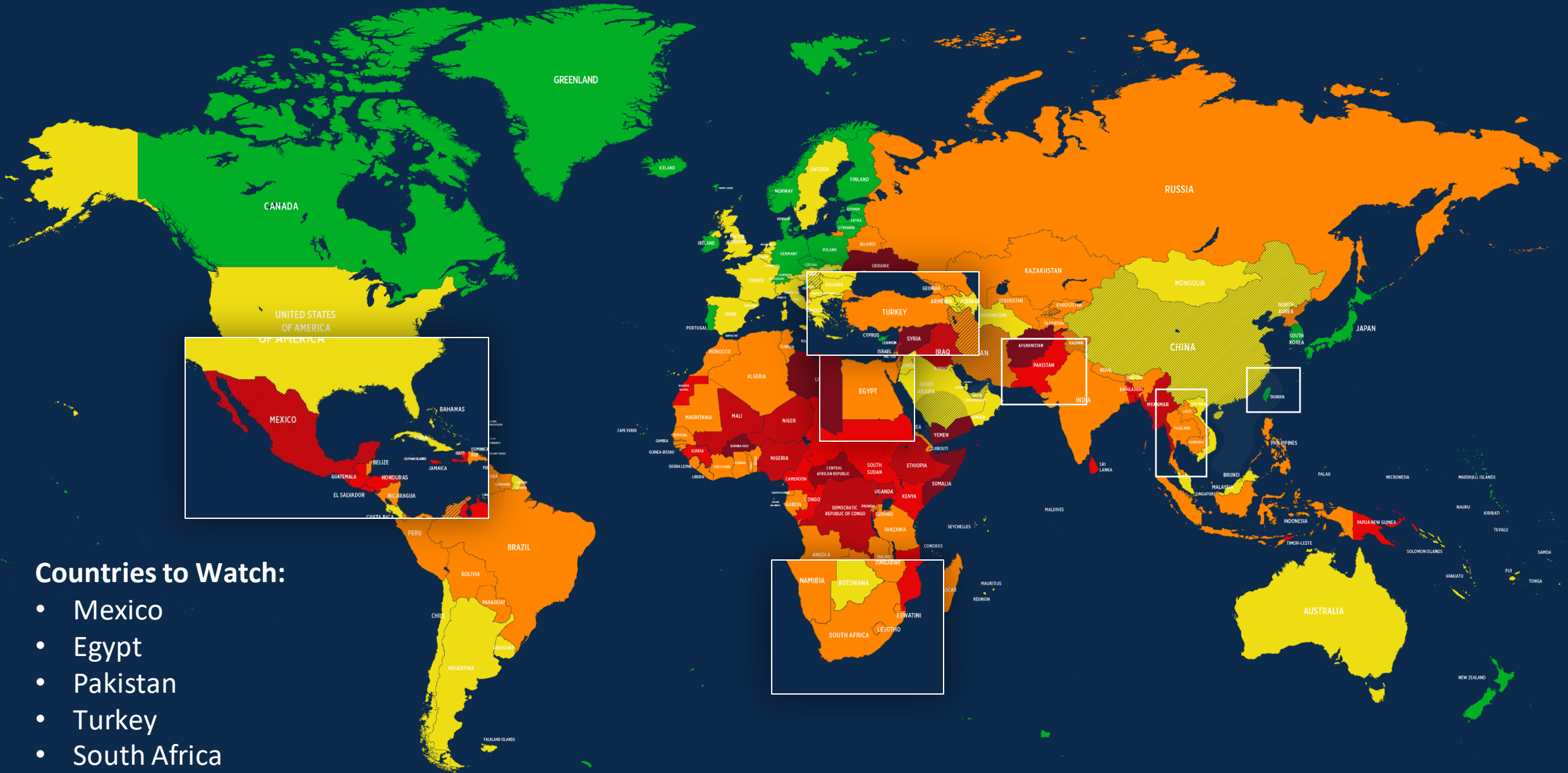
VICE PRESIDENT, CLIENT RISK MANAGEMENT
GLOBAL GURADIAN, MCLEAN, VA

28-year US Army Veteran, Colonel (Retired)

Extensive Intelligence, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations experience

Numerous Combat and classified deployments to include Iraq, Afghanistan, and over 18 Horn of Africa, Middle East, and Central Asian countries

2023 HOTSPOTS TOUR



Countries to Watch:

- Mexico
- Egypt
- Pakistan
- Turkey
- South Africa

Mexico – “Wrong Place, Wrong Time”

- **Crossfire** – Mexican drug cartels are among the best-armed non-state actors in the world. Firefights between rival groups and security personnel can result in significant collateral damage to civilians.
- **Blockades, carjackings, burning vehicles** – in the aftermath of shootouts or security operations to arrest cartel leaders, groups will often steal vehicles, mainly large trucks including tractor-trailers, set them across roadways and set them on fire in hopes of disrupting security forces.
- **Kidnapping & Extortion** – travelers are at risk for express kidnapping, being taken from ATM to ATM, emptied of money and dropped in outskirts of city.
- **Matamoros** – March 2023 – two Americans killed, and two others kidnapped by Gulf cartel members in wrong place, wrong time situation
- **Cancun** – April 2023 – at least three Mexican nationals were killed in a shooting near the Fiesta Americana Condesa hotel in the Hotel Zone.
- **Acapulco, Cancun, Tulum, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, Veracruz** – the federal government announced deployment of nearly 5,000 soldiers to help bolster security in tourist areas, as well as nearly 4,000 soldiers to guard highways nationwide through 16 April.

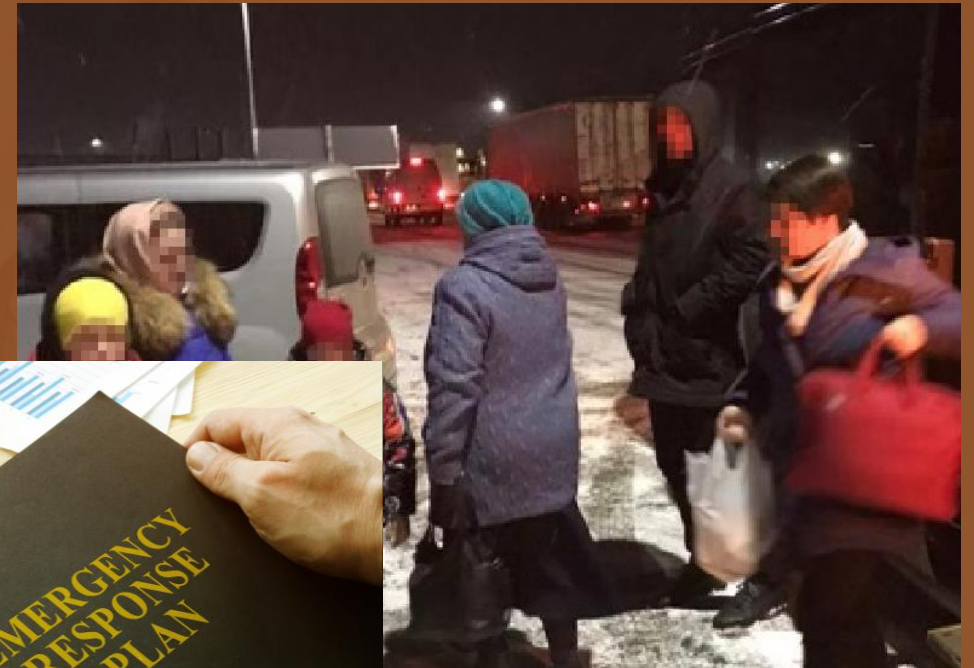
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Avoid travelling alone at night, wearing flashy or expensive jewelry
- Utilize secure transportation for any overland travel in Mexico
- Low-profile vehicles (NOT A BLACK ARMORED SUBURBAN)
- Pre-trip intelligence is a must to know what is happening in specific area to be visited.



Russia/Ukraine and China/Taiwan

- Russia's invasion of Ukraine showed that great power conflict is not dead – same old rationale for going to war still exists as strongly today as ever.
- Business Continuity in areas of conflict require extra investment and corporate support
- Preparation is key.
 - Have a plan for people, infrastructure, and communications
 - Staff Medical and Security training investment
 - Global Guardian helped evacuate thousands from Ukraine
- **China / Taiwan is not Russia / Ukraine!**
- How will China/Taiwan conflict shape the global order and economy?
 - What are the challenges associated with preparing and planning for eventualities in both China and Taiwan
 - Operations throughout APAC could be impacted by conflict in Taiwan



APAC: Sources of Instability & Flashpoints

THAILAND

- **Flashpoint: 14 May Elections** (coincides with university finals)
- On 20 March, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha dissolved the House of Representatives via a government
- Thailand's 2017 constitution grants the military outsized power to determine the prime minister
- **If Thailand's military establishment intervenes/is perceived as undermining the democratic process, mass social unrest is likely.**

PAKISTAN

- Facing a 3-headed crisis (political, economic, security)
- Government is seeking to arrest former Prime Minister Imran Khan in an election year
- severe lack of foreign exchange is crippling all imports, impacting manufacturing, access to goods (including vital drugs) and spiking unemployment
- Resurgence in terrorism (primarily from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan)

CHINA-TAIWAN

- Main global elephant in the room
- **Flashpoint: 13 January 2024 Elections**
- **China began inspecting civilian shipping in Taiwan Strait → this is the beginning**



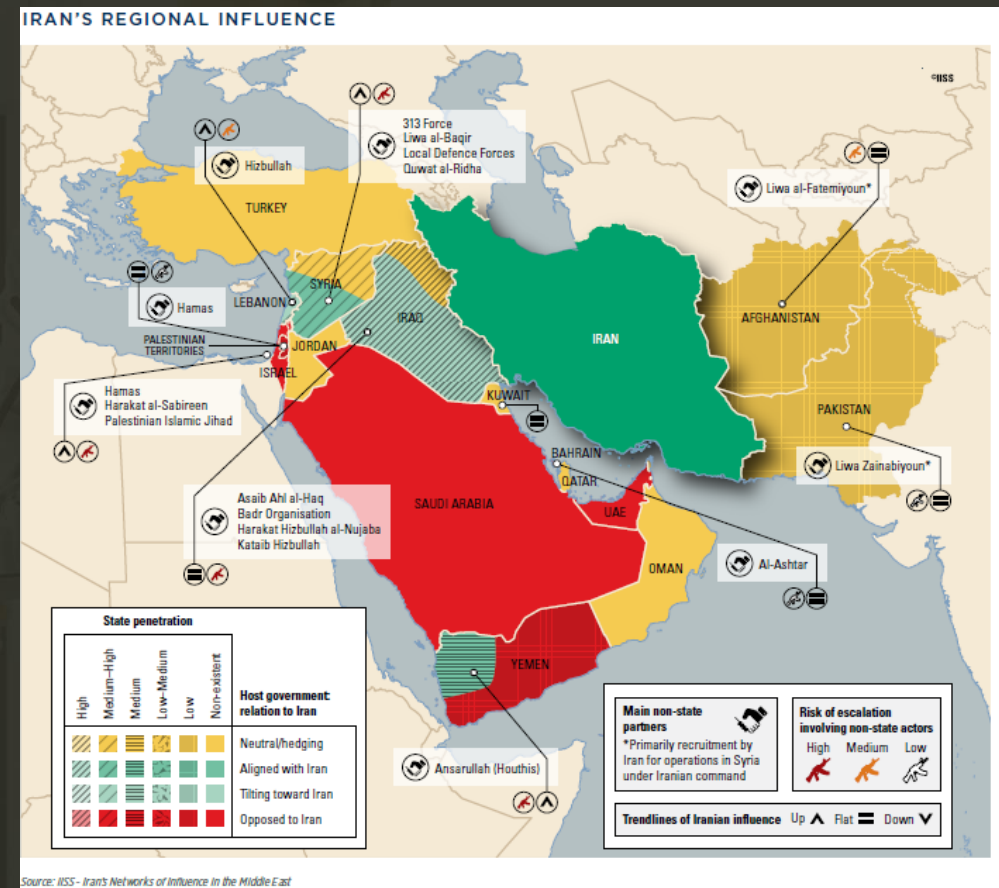
Israel & Iran: Main Sources of Regional Instability

ISRAEL

- Perpetual insecurity drives proactive defense policy
- New Right-Wing coalition policies destabilizing
 - Acting in name of “God and Land”
- History of preemptive attacks on regional nuclear programs (Iraq - 1981; Syria - 2007; Stuxnet – 2010; Natanz - 2021)

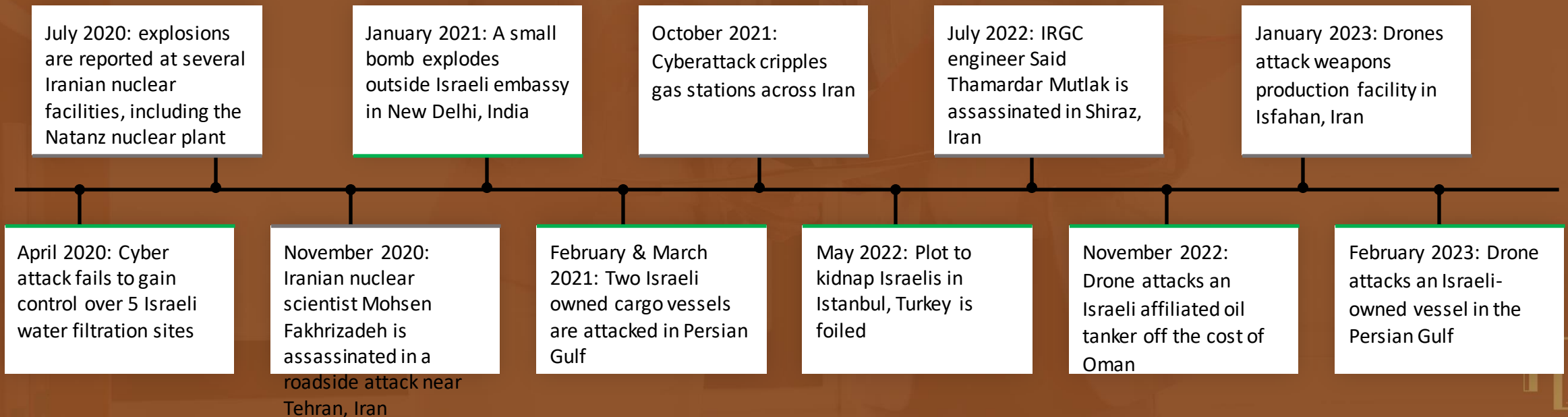
IRAN

- Seeks regional hegemony, regime survival, defeat of ideological enemies, end of sanctions
- Supports and uses proxy forces throughout region
- Largest missile force in Middle East
- Nuclear program advancing rapidly
 - Status: awaiting political decision to weaponize, could produce weapons-grade uranium in weeks



The War Between Wars: Israel-Iran Shadow Conflict

- **Israel** is actively degrading Iran's two military programs that threaten it:
 - A) **Precision guided munitions**
 - Attacks on weapon transfers/ storage sites in Syria and Iraq
 - B) **Nuclear**
 - Targeted assassination of key scientists and sabotage of nuclear facilities
 - Cyber attacks
- **Iran** continues to arm its partners on Israel's borders and further is missile program
- Iran responds to Israeli attacks by
 - Attacking Israeli commercial interests near its waters
 - Attempted terror attacks abroad
 - Cyber attacks on Israeli critical infrastructure and private firms



Natural Disasters

Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all. Global average temperatures could warm by 3.2 degrees Celsius (5.8 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century

[IPCC, 2023]

- Historic weather events –major flooding, tropical storms, severe hurricanes, part of wider trend
- UN Climate Change Report (20 Mar) – “world is likely to surpass its most ambitious climate target — limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial temperatures — by the early 2030s.
- Weather extremes are becoming more common
 - Natural disasters forced an estimated 3.4 million people in the U.S. to leave their homes in 2022,
 - US weather & climate damages totaled \$165.1 billion in 2022



Planning Ahead – Global Expansion

Informed decisions are right choices. Intelligence driven decisions must be constantly reviewed. The world is changing, increasingly unstable.

Business continuity = employee and client safety and security. Every security threat is local, every solution is local.

Practice= resiliency. Security is a sunk cost, but failure to invest in security is a catastrophic business mistake.

Policy meets daily reality, the power of two-way communications and corporate trust with local leadership



Key Takeaways

- Define your Business Continuity, secure it with a local focus!
- Self-Awareness: “Where are your internal gaps with your security plan / vendor support?”
- Stay informed and anticipate! Everchanging world events directly challenge your success
- The vast majority of threats / challenges are local, require local solutions
- Strategic corporate policy and resources fuel local solutions



WE APPRECIATE YOUR
TIME AND ATTENTION!

Seth Krummrich

skrummrich@globalguardian.com

(571) 505-1848

Operations Center: (703) 566-9481

Thank you!