

Business

Security pro heads statewide organization

By Samaia Hernandez
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WALLINGFORD — While still a student at Wilcox Technical High School in Meriden, town-native Jason E. Sokol went to work for Monitor Controls Inc. — and he has never looked back.

In the ever evolving security industry, things are far from the way they were when he was hired, and Sokol has made it his business to stay abreast of the technical side of residential and commercial security installation and support.

Now, the 39-year-old operations manager of the family-owned business at 178 Center St. has been appointed to a position that will extend his influence to companies statewide and nationwide.

After having served as secretary and vice president, Sokol was appointed president of the Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association, a group consisting of 100 installation companies and about 40 manufacturers.

It's a big volunteer commitment that includes working with municipal police and fire departments and bringing new technology to member companies, Executive Director Pat Remes said.

After 14 years of running the Wilton-based association and having worked with seven presidents, Remes is confident Sokol fits the bill.



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Jason E. Sokol, who has been involved with family-owned Monitor Controls Inc., of Wallingford, since high school, displays a surveillance camera and digital video recorder, two important tools of the security trade.

"He's young," she said. "He's innovative. He's also a member of the national YSP (Young Security Professionals), so he in-

teracts with other young security professionals and it keeps him really abreast on what's going on in our industry."

From the electronic entry system at the front door to a restricted upstairs dispatch center, security is a way of life

for the company that was founded four decades ago in the basement of Sokol's father-in-law's Wallingford home.

The difference in technology from then till now is like night and day, founder John W. Yusza said.

"Today the alarm control panel tells you everything," he said. "Jumping back 40 years ago, it just gave you a light." The light would mean something was wrong, but home and business owners would have no idea what part of the house the problem was in.

The company receives up to 10,000 automated testing calls each day.

"Our industry was never really IT-based," Sokol said. "Over the past few years, the challenge has been making that transition. It opens up the door for so many options for us."

Though Sokol has grown accustomed to holding leadership positions with the association — of which Yusza sits on the board of directors and is the legislative committee chairman — the career security professional said the appointment is without a doubt an honor.

"In the past two months, I've been busier and had more things on my plate," Sokol said, "but it will help to keep us in the loop of what's going on."

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