



Information/Radio Frequency Technologist of the Year Winner

Ken Carpenter

Butler County Sheriff's Office

On December 23, 2020 around 4:30 pm I received a phone call from Ken Carpenter, Technology Director. He started by saying "You know that phone call that comes at the worst possible time with the worst possible news? This is that call." He continued to tell me that the system had just alerted of a cyber attack. He had already taken action and remotely disconnected every aspect of the network that was impacted. He told me it appeared to be very bad and we need to call people in to determine just how bad.

Ken had handled this as I would have expected; he had already taken numerous steps to minimize the damage and thought about our next steps. Ken is good at his job, and this call was similar to other conversations we have had in the past; but one thing was different this time. You see Ken was on vacation that day. He was at the hospital preparing to take his wife and newborn daughter home. He had stopped in the middle of wheeling mom and baby out to respond to this attack. Although the alert went to others, Ken immediately recognized the severity and reacted to avoid what could have been a devastating outcome.

I told Ken to take care of his family and I would take care of the problem. Like so many other times, Ken ignored me; he showed up three hours later to take charge of the investigation of the attack and created our response plan. He would continue to lead his team of technicians over the next six weeks, usually working 16 hour days, to restore our systems. Determined to be better prepared, he would spend most of the first four months of 2021 cleaning up remaining bugs and instituting new security measures.

The Butler County Sheriff's Office Communications Section serves and supports 47 public safety agencies. Cyber security experts predicted it would be weeks before our critical systems could be back online and six months before any hope of complete restoration. Fifteen members of the Technology Services Division worked diligently to accomplish it all in less than two months; but it was the dedication, determination, intelligence and ingenuity of Director Ken Carpenter that provided the leadership necessary for us to achieve those successful results.

