

JANUARY 2026



# The Sentinel

Your Monthly Bulletin from the ASC



**Delivering**

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**Insights, Updates, and Opportunities.**

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# Introduction

New Year,  
**New Beginnings**

## Gary Thomas

ASC Chair



A new year always brings a moment of reflection but more importantly, it brings renewed focus. As we begin 2026, the ASC does so with a clear sense of purpose, confidence in our community, and optimism about what we can achieve together in the months ahead.

Over the past year, the Association has shown its strength through thoughtful debate, shared learning, and open engagement with the challenges facing our profession. From our events and seminars to the continued growth of The Sentinel, our members have demonstrated that professionalism in security is shaped through experience, collaboration, and integrity.

January is about setting direction. It's about taking the lessons we've learned around resilience, leadership, emerging risks, and professional standards and applying them with intent. The security landscape will continue to evolve, and so must we: staying curious, adaptable, and committed to offering honest, independent advice grounded in expertise.

That commitment continues into the months ahead, with our **Winter Seminar this February** offering another opportunity for our community to come together, share insight, and engage with the issues shaping our profession. These moments of connection and learning remain central to who we are as an Association.

Thank you to everyone who continue to contribute your time, knowledge, and energy to the Association. Your engagement is what sets the tone for the year ahead.

Welcome to the **January 2026** edition of **The Sentinel**.

# Hear from our Board:

## Frank Doherty

Director, Membership Team



2025 was a busy year for the ASC, and 2026 promises to be the same. The addition of the SABRE Scheme (Security Assessment & Certification for Buildings & Infrastructure) now owned and operated by the ASC, expands the offering of the association. This new offering will be run by board member Ken Graham.

Membership of the association grew in 2025 and I hope this will continue into 2026. This is helped, in no small part, by the new seminar location at the British Library and the new format of the seminars which now includes an international reach through seminar webinars.

Another highlight was the House of Lords annual dinner with the addition of a carol service at the Union Jack Club, organised by board member Lee Doddridge.

With a new focus on education and personal development, managed by board member Dennis Roe, 2026 is shaping up to be another exciting and successful year.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their hard work on behalf of the members last year and I am sure this will continue into 2026.



**Dennis Roe** RISC

**Celebrating Excellence & Promoting Education:**

Now it is your turn to learn!

ASC Director for Academic Engagement & Professional Development

At the 2025 AGM, I was thrilled to announce an exciting update to our awards programme. To match the new membership categories, the Mike Cahalane Consultant Award now recognises both Independent Registrant (RISC) members and those in the new MASC categories: Academic, Executive, and Affiliate (formerly Associate).



These awards highlight best practices, outstanding performance, and exemplary initiatives, aiming to foster excellence and continuous learning in our community. They not only honour exceptional achievements but also showcase inspiring examples to educate and guide others. By spotlighting innovative approaches and successful strategies, we aim to create a knowledge repository that benefits all members, enhancing the security services offered by those within our sector

# Sentinel Scholarly



## Gala Awards Dinner 2025

The finalists and winners, including the prestigious Imbert Award for the best Master's Level Dissertation or Thesis on a security or risk-related subject in the UK, were announced at the Gala Awards Dinner that followed ConSeC 2025. Now, it's time to start introducing you to the people shortlisted for these awards, their impressive works, and the success that you can learn from.

We start this process at our Winter Seminar, held at the British Library, London, on the 25th of February. Themed 'Strategic Resilience Technology meets Risk Management,' it's the perfect platform to feature Imbert Award Winner James Mortlock and Mike Cahalane MASC Award Winner Dan Gillis. Both exemplify the highest standards of the ASC, shedding light on complex subjects, and offering guidance to enhance members' knowledge, understanding and services. They will present on their respective topics and take questions from attendees.

Securing an ASC Award Finalist spot immediately signals that the presented works are truly special. They've been recognised for their unique insight and exceptional quality. These are qualities every security practitioner should strive to emulate, and this is your chance to do just that by learning from the very people that have achieved that accolade. We will continue with presentations from other finalists within the following seminars throughout 2026, ensuring you will benefit from the lessons all have to offer.

Further details on James and Dan's presentations will be announced soon on the ASC's official media platforms. Don't miss this chance to meet and hear from them on the

**25<sup>th</sup>** FEB  
2026

**Click below to  
Book your Tickets Now**

# ASC News and Updates

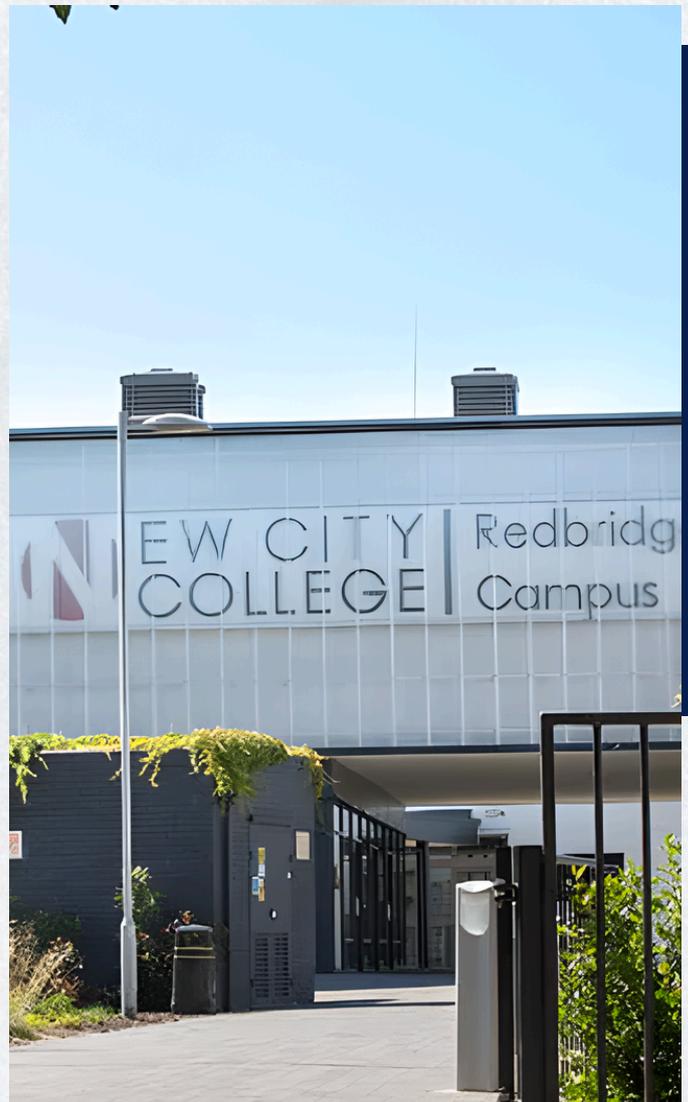


The ASC is pleased to welcome students from New City College, London to gain practical insight into the security profession, beginning with their participation in the Winter Seminar this February.

The future of the security profession starts with today's students. Through access to seminars, conferences, and industry events, students will be exposed to real-world security practice, engage with the ASC members, and gain a clearer understanding of both academic and professional pathways.

This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting education, informed career exploration, and the long-term development of the security profession.

 London



## ASC Award Winners

### Celebrating Excellence & Promoting Education:

#### ASC Award Finalists | Winter Seminar Presentation Previews

The ASC Winter Seminar will feature two award-winning researchers/practitioners whose work demonstrates originality, practical relevance, and academic rigour in the field of security and risk. James Mortlock, the Imbert Award winner, and Dan Gillis, the Mike Cahalane MASC Award winner, will present their research, highlighting the quality and real-world impact of their work recognised by the ASC

Attendees will hear directly from them as they present their findings, discuss real-world implications, and outline key conclusions.

Below is a preview of their presentations.



# The **ASC Awards** Winners



## James Mortlock

### Presentation Preview:

Generative Artificial Intelligence is transforming how organisations innovate and compete. James Mortlock's research explores its rapid adoption across Western corporations, drawing parallels with past technological shifts such as the internet's rise. His study highlights both the opportunities and the security challenges—data exposure, opaque decision-making, model manipulation, and the use of GenAI by malicious actors to enhance social engineering, phishing, malware, and disinformation.

At the seminar, James will discuss how organisations can balance innovation with resilience and adopt GenAI responsibly while managing emerging risks.

## Dan Gillis

### Presentation Preview

Mike Cahalane MASC Award entry presentation examines the installation of an integrated flame detection and video verification system within the engine rooms of three Holyhead Towing vessels. Focusing on the challenges of deploying life-safety technology in confined marine environments, the session explores system design, reliability, and integration with onboard safety procedures, alongside an operational perspective on how early warning and visual confirmation have improved crew confidence and decision-making.



**We look forward to seeing you**

## Winter Seminar

Join the ASC Winter Seminar to engage in a live discussion shaping the future of security and risk.

**25<sup>th</sup>** FEB  
2026

📍 British Library  
Knowledge Centre

🕒 Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm



## 01 | ASC Winter Seminar – 25th February, 2026

The ASC Winter Seminar opens the year with a timely focus on Strategic Resilience: Technology Meets Risk Management. The session explores how emerging technologies are reshaping organisational resilience and the way people, travel, and operational risk are managed.

Bringing together technology, data, and professional judgement, the seminar will offer practical insight for security consultants and risk professionals navigating an increasingly complex threat environment.

 25th February 2026

 British Library Knowledge Centre

 Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm

[Register Now](#)

We are also bringing together leading voices from the security, technology, and medical risk sectors, including Nick Hymans, John Seddon, and Dr Nikki Mephram. Drawing on real-world experience, speakers will explore practical challenges, emerging best practice, and the evolving demands of strategic resilience and risk management.



## Upcoming Events



## 02 | CITY SECURITY & SAFETY SUMMIT 2026

The City Security and Safety Summit is a focused one-day event examining the evolving security challenges of urban environments. From transport hubs and public spaces to corporate estates, the summit explores practical approaches to protecting people, assets, and infrastructure.

The ASC is proud to support the event, providing a platform for security professionals and solution providers to connect, share insight, and collaborate on forward-looking strategies for urban safety and resilience.

 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

 Hilton London Canary Wharf

[Register Now](#)

03

## THE SECURITY EVENT



 28th - 30th April 2026

 NEC Birmingham

[Register Now](#)

We are pleased to partner with The Security Event 2026, giving members direct access to key market developments, emerging technologies, and sector-wide conversations. As an Official Event Partner, the ASC will be at the event exhibition centre, ensuring strong representation for independent security consultancy within the wider security community.



04

## FSM AWARDS

5 JUNE 2025 • CBS ARENA • COVENTRY  
FIRE & SECURITY MATTERS AWARDS

## Security Consultancy of the Year Award

The FSM Awards celebrates excellence and innovation across the security and fire sectors, recognising outstanding organisations, projects and professionals who are helping to shape a safer and more resilient environment. The awards bring together industry leaders, innovators and influencers for an evening of recognition, networking and sector-wide visibility.



The ASC is proud to support the FSM Awards, offering members valuable opportunities to connect with key industry figures and stay close to sector developments. We will present the Consultancy of the Year Award on stage.

This year, the event will be hosted by **Katherine Ryan**, bringing her signature wit and energy to the evening and making it an unforgettable night of recognition and celebration.

 2nd July 2026

 Coventry Building Society Arena

[Register Now](#)

# Spotlight

## Strengthening Collaboration Across the UK Security Community



The Association of Security Consultants is pleased to be deepening its partnership with SyCOM, the UK Security Commonwealth, supporting its mission to bring together professional security organisations from across the UK.

SyCOM acts as a convening platform for the UK security sector, bringing together consultants, practitioners, and professional bodies to share perspective and practical experience. Through this exchange, it helps raise standards, encourage collective learning, and strengthen the sector's ability to respond to evolving security challenges.

### Winter Seminar

**Book Your Seat Now!**

And be part of the conversation shaping the future of UK security.

Through this growing partnership, the ASC and SyCOM are aligning their strengths to support a more connected and forward-looking security community.

We look forward to celebrating this collaboration at the ASC Winter Seminar on 25th February 2026, hosted at The British Library. Members and partners will come together to share insight, build connections, and support the continued advancement of the profession.



# Upwards & Onwards

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As we begin 2026, this edition of The Sentinel reflects the insight, expertise, and commitment of the ASC community, with contributions that continue to shape dialogue and innovation across the security sector. We invite you to engage with our upcoming flagship events, including the Winter Seminar and Total Security Summit, as together we advance the future of security with purpose and collaboration.



Scan QR



Stay connected, and keep shaping the future of security with us.

Follow our journey

