

# ELAC/YAAC QUARTERLY

Official Newsletter of the Emerging Leader/Young AFCEAN Network

...You're on mute...

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

By Alisha Kelly and Clinton Austin  
Young AFCEA Co-Presidents



The last time that many of us were able to meet in person was AFCEA/USNI WEST at the end of February 2020. Since then, we have changed our definition of “networking” by calling, emailing, texting, and using various video conference applications. With all of these different communication methods, it is easy to feel inundated and like you are constantly “on.” Please make the time to disconnect and reconnect with family, friends, and/or the person in the mirror. Please remember, you are no good to anyone if you cannot be good to yourself.

In the meantime, we will endeavor to do the same while continuing to press ahead with the many initiatives we have in progress. Our primary initiative, which some of you may have heard about, is rebranding the Young AFCEANs to “AFCEA Emerging Leaders” with appropriate subcategories and the goal of better enabling and representing the diverse demographics within the 40 and under community. We will continue to update you as we make progress and always encourage you to reach out at any time with questions or feedback. Thank you for your continued support to AFCEA and the Emerging Leaders!

~ AK and Austin

## WHAT'S NEW WITH THE YOUNG AFCEANS:

We're Rebranding! Over the next few months, you will see the term “Emerging Leaders” in place of Young AFCEANs. This change in nomenclature is designed to better reflect the diverse group of individuals under the age of 40.

## JOIN OUR TEAM

We are always looking for volunteers with an interest in getting involved!



Please contact [ELAC@afcea.org](mailto:ELAC@afcea.org) or [rlavitt@afcea.org](mailto:rlavitt@afcea.org) to learn more about open positions or for more information.



San Diego Convention Center

June 29 - 30, 2021

For more info visit: <https://www.westconference.org/West21/Public/Enter.aspx>

# GETTING TO KNOW 40 UNDER 40 WINNERS



## Ruben Gavilan

AFCEA Small Business Committee Member

Founder and CEO, NexThreat

**40U40 Winner**

### A word of advice

The art of good business is being a good middleman – Bring people together.

Mr. Gavilan is a proud resident of Mt. Vernon Virginia, where he resides with his wife Natalia. In his spare time he enjoys sailing, snowboarding, and mentoring entrepreneurs.

Ruben's skillset includes pattern recognition, data analytics and insider threat detection, matched with a deep love for BD and Capture.

### Three Accomplishments

- Created an award-winning set of insider threat detection algorithms, which actively monitor a number of federal agencies.
- “Data Czar” for Department of Homeland Security’s DEFEND E program with responsibilities for data quality, consistency, and completeness across 10 federal agencies and over 500,000 individual IP addressable devices.
- Lead sales and delivery for a new CDM capability area known as “BOUND-E,” which gathers awareness of cryptographic functions at agencies, to include certificate awareness.

Mr. Lester is a proud resident of Kailua, HI where he resides with his wife and 2 sons. In his spare time he enjoys traveling with friends and family.

Brandon's skillset includes building teams to solve large-scale, technical challenges.

### Three Accomplishments

- Leading a team of technology experts to solve National Defense challenges.
- Connecting with others to build communities at work, with peers, and volunteering
- Spearheading all business efforts in the Indo-Pacific.



## Brandon Lester

AFCEA Hawaii Board of Directors and VP of Cyber  
Chief Technology Officer at SRC Technologies

**40U40 Winner**

### A word of advice

Approach others with a win-win mindset – we’re all one team!

**YAAC 40U40 Awards Ceremony was February 16, 2021**

To view the ceremony, visit: <https://event.afcea.org/40U40AwardsCeremonyRecording2020>

**We need YOU**

Please email content for future Newsletters to: [ELAC@afcea.org](mailto:ELAC@afcea.org)