

# STRIKE STORIES

**By Jino Canizares**

Systems Engineer

SCADA Systems Engineering

**I see them all the time doing their jobs.** I realized how demanding and sometimes difficult their jobs could get in keeping the stations and facilities safe for patrons and employees during the strike.

During the strike, I and the rest of the SCADA Engineering Department were assigned to ROC to monitor alarms in the Metro Rail systems. The alarms had to be verified and dealt with accordingly. The alarms could vary from an intrusion into restricted areas or dangerous levels of dangerous gases in the system, fire detection alarms, just to mention a few. Most of the time we would be called upon to look into these problems.

When we'd walk to get lunch, we would see only a handful of shoppers at Hahn Plaza, which otherwise was bustling with people. That's the difference public transportation makes here.

It felt weird being at an empty station during rush hour. It felt like being in an episode of "The Twilight Zone." Yet, we were able to see parts of the stations and tunnels not seen by the public, but mostly used by maintenance. We've seen a lot of rooms where various types of equipment are located.

We understood that during a strike when no trains were running, we still had to maintain and preserve the company's assets. I was glad our group was able to help the company in difficult times and my friends and everybody else are back to work. The strike was just an unnecessary hardship for many.

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