

OVERLAND SECURITY SERVICES

Security Briefing

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SANTA MARIA POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS PROPERTY OWNERS / MANAGERS GROUP

Santa Maria Police Department offers informational meetings for income property owners and managers the third Monday of every other month.

These informal meetings include discussions on security-related subjects and information relevant to property management and the law. Meetings are free of charge or obligation and held at 280 E. Newlove Dr. in Santa Maria. Telephone Penny Simas-Pastore at the SMPD at 928-3781 Ext. 304 for more information.

ICE or In Case of Emergency

Recent reports from England have brought something that may be useful in our private lives; a way to use a personal cellular telephone to assist in the owner's survival, if he or she cannot respond to emergency medical personnel and others.

The concept is simple; in the memory of telephone numbers often called, make the #1 position the ICE entry, naming it ICE and putting the telephone number of someone who can be called who is familiar with your medical conditions. Even if it was needed only one time...

SB COUNTY SHERIFFS RURAL CRIME UNIT

Santa Barbara County offers individuals in the agricultural industry specialized assistance in fighting crime in the rural areas of our county. The Sheriff's Department Rural Crime Unit concentrates their efforts with farm and ranch related criminal activity.

Unlike many businesses that are protected by walls, doors and locks after office hours, our farms and ranches have many hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment, facilities and crops, literally sitting unprotected, when the land is not being worked or equipment is sitting idle. This scenario presents opportunities for criminals and special challenges for growers and ranchers.

To address this threat, the Rural Crime Unit offers coordination of security efforts, specialized instruction, a

security newsletter via email and assistance in security related matters for the Ag community.

To help deter theft of farm equipment and assist law enforcement in returning property identified as suspected or having been stolen, the Rural Crime Unit encourages Ag businesses to use Owner Applied Numbers (OAN) to all equipment, tools, and implements.

The OAN is a unique number, registered with the Rural Crime Unit that identifies a particular item as belonging to an individual person or business. The use of OANs were instituted in Tulare County and are recognized and encouraged by the California Highway Patrol and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The OAN ID number is comprised of ten characters. For Example the number for John A. Doe of Santa Maria, CA might be: CA0420152D. The code is as follows:

Prefix for California	CA
SB County NCIC Number	042
John Doe's assigned number	0152
First letter of John Doe's last name	D

Using this system, the state and county can be identified and by contacting the sheriff's office, the individual is identified. OANs are applied to the right side with ¼ or ½ inch figures. Leather gear may be branded with the OAN.

This may also serve as a deterrent to criminals. Anyone selling personal property for scrap that has identifying number; the buyer must record the ID of the selling party.

In addition to marking equipment, property owners are encouraged to place paddleboards with their OAN at roadsides and gates to allow easier identification of their property by law enforcement. Paddleboards should be green with white letters.

The Rural Crime Unit facilitates quarterly meetings at local restaurants and include discussions of current agricultural crime problems and law enforcement efforts.

Additional information is available at www.agcrime.net or by contacting the rural crime sergeant.

SGT. Rob Wright of the Rural Crime Unit may be contacted at:

Telephone at (805) 934-6150
Email: RSW2272@sbsheriff.org

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OVERLAND MANAGER ATTENDS IDENTITY THEFT SUMMIT IN LOS ANGELES

On February 23rd, Overland Security Services Manager Edward Zemaitis attended an "Identity Theft Summit" in Los Angeles, CA. The summit was sponsored by the California District Attorney's Assn., the CA State Dept. of Consumer Affairs, the CA State Office of Privacy Protection and the District Attorney's Office of Los Angeles County.

Guest speakers included Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission and Rosario Marin, former US Secretary of the Treasury and current Secretary of the CA Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

The focus of the summit was that in order to combat Identity Theft, the effort must cross federal, state, county and city lines and include the efforts of the public at large. The only effective method of fighting these crimes was to include agencies from the entire governmental spectrum and individuals who may be the victims of these crimes.

It is estimated that 4% of the adult population have been victimized by this crime. Teenagers, upon reaching their 18th birthday and applying for credit for the first time, have found they have been victimized and already have a "bad" credit history. Someone has "borrowed" their identity and defaulted on personal loans and credit purchases. It is the most evil of crimes, never having to face the victim and yet, damaging and perhaps ruining their lives.

To combat this scourge, the summit offered a series of classes to identify possible threats that would permit this to occur as well as defenses to each. Individual presentations were provided for attorneys, law enforcement personnel, merchants and the public at large. Each presentation was designed for the target audience.

Attorneys were informed of new and existing legislation designed to prosecute cases. Law enforcement personnel were instructed on networking and evidence collection techniques. Businesspersons were shown methods to

identify attempted identity theft in their place of business. Individual citizens were taught how to protect their credit, guard against unauthorized use of this valuable asset and prevent their personal information from ending up in the wrong hands.

Handouts were distributed by speakers; each a subject matter expert, as well as all state agencies represented. Each attendee left with resources to fight this crime as a member of an agency or prevent the individual from becoming a victim.

For more information, contact the CA State Office of Privacy Protection at www.privacy.ca.gov or toll free at (866) 785-9663

PRIVATE SECURITY PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN POST 9/11 WORLD

Forget the image of the pot-bellied security guard, asleep with a newspaper in his lap and doughnut crumbs on his chin.

Post-9/11, the old rental cop image has been replaced by security officers who are better screened, licensed, trained and equipped better than their quaint predecessors.

Homeland defense experts, such as former FBI Deputy Director Weldon Kennedy, say the enhanced professionalism is critical because the private-security industry defends more than three-fourths of the nation's most likely terrorism targets.

"The great majority of critical infrastructure in the United States is not protected by sworn law officers," said Kennedy, now vice chairman of New York-based Guardsmark LLC, one of the world's largest security companies. "You name any industry, and you're going to find private security is protecting it. And I don't believe the public is really aware of that."

Private officers are defending power plants, oil refineries, financial centers, computer systems, dams, malls, railroad lines and other prospective terrorism targets. They are responsible for millions of lives and billions of dollars in assets. And they are most likely to be first on the scene in major disasters.

In Arizona, they protect dams on the Salt River, patrol the fence at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, defend Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Plant and stand guard at banks and Circle K's.

Bob Brown, vice president of an Arizona security company and former deputy director of aviation at Sky Harbor, said 9/11 transformed homeland defense and the security business with it.

"When that tragic event happened, a lot of people had to do some soul-searching," Brown said. "The government can't do it all. They need private security."

As a result, security firms today are consolidating, specializing and becoming more professional, and their employees are better screened and equipped to combat attacks, said Gregory A. Thomas, a senior manager at Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness.

"It's an evolving process," added Thomas, author of *Freedom From Fear*, a terrorism readiness guide. "It used to be a square-badge industry, and some guards didn't meet the mark; It's not like that anymore. The importance of their role has resulted in a crackdown on those who think they can sit around and do nothing."

It's a big business

The nation's security companies employ 1.5 million people and spend \$52 billion per year, compared with public police agencies that have 600,000 workers and spend \$30 billion, according to James Pastor, author of *The Privatization of Police in America*.

Because government officers are more expensive, Pastor sees private guards rapidly absorbing roles once held by public peace officers, protecting stores and neighborhoods.

Proponents say the free enterprise system often works better and at a lower price for taxpayers. Critics argue that government officers are better equipped to serve the public and are more accountable.

"There are two bottom-line principles: money and fear," Pastor said. "Where is the dividing line between the appropriateness of government and of private security? It's becoming blurred."

Changes over the years

Despite the industry's crucial role in defending against terror, the 9/11 commission, a government group that reviewed America's readiness and response to al-Qaida attacks, took only a sidelong glance last year at the role of rental cops in its 567-page report.

"Because 85 percent of our nation's critical infrastructure is controlled not by the government but by the private sector, private-sector civilians are likely to be the first responders in any future catastrophe," the commission acknowledged. Yet there was no follow-up or evaluation of whether the industry is ready or properly regulated.

Congress paid a bit more attention, conducting hearings about questionable industry standards. Four years ago, Arizona and 31 other states had laws governing security companies. Today, only 10 states have no restrictions, allowing guards to be employed without background checks or training.

Kennedy and other experts said the industry, with a combined 2 million private guards and corporate security officers, has undergone a quiet, dramatic metamorphosis.

Federal crime computers are screening guard applicants. The Department of Homeland Security has begun certifying security-guard companies for certain duties. Private agencies are cutting manpower costs with an array of robots, aerial surveillance drones, computer systems and transponders that detect trespassers with biochemical sensors.

Even before 9/11, international conglomerates had begun swallowing some of the best-known security agencies in the United States. The Swedish firm Securitas bought out Pinkerton and Burns International. Group 4 Securicor, based in Denmark, absorbed Wackenhut.

Concurrently, terrorism convinced security providers and consumers that quality can be more important than price when it comes to saving lives and property.

"You get what you pay for," notes Joe Ricci, executive director of the National Association of Security Companies, "If you want somebody to baby-sit your children, are you going to do a reverse auction and take the lowest bidder on that?"

Many companies promote themselves by boasting about employee background checks, pay and benefits. They've launched niche marketing strategies, creating specialist security divisions with guards who are trained to defend particular targets. And they're hiring government experts.

Working together

Brown, now with Phoenix-based AT Systems Security Inc., said his company recently formed an aviation branch with guards who get extra training in skyjacking tactics, the terrorist mentality, airport design, aviation law and incident response.

The company already defends the tarmac at Sky Harbor. It's also developing corporate branches with expertise in protecting harbors, transit systems, military bases and other industries.

"All of those need specialized, private security," Brown said. "It's not an either or. It's got to be a partnership, a joint venture between government and private industry."

Brown and others said cooperation between the public and private sector is a vital part of industry change. As rental guards have become more professional, terrorism investigators are turning to their counterparts in free enterprise much as local police officers rely on Neighborhood Watch.

One example: The Arizona Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Center recently created a training and information-sharing program for about 19,000 security officers who are employed by 201 private companies statewide. ACTIC is a central command for FBI anti-terrorism agents working with state and local law enforcement specialists.

"We started looking at our state and how we could protect it," said Detective Todd Parentau, who oversees the program. "We thought, 'Wow, what a resource! They are the eyes and ears. We'll train them on what to look for and how to report it. "

Arizona Department of Public Safety Lt. Larry Burns said that system could not have worked five years ago because security agencies were allowed to hire employees for six months before background checks were completed. He said an audit revealed that 43 percent of the private guards in Arizona were not qualified for licensing, mostly because of criminal records.

But the state Legislature erased that loophole in 2002 and established minimum training requirements for licensing and for armed rental cops. Today, state officials are recruiting private guards as a second tier of terrorism watchdogs, complete with shared intelligence and an alert system for specific threats.

Ten private agencies signed up at an initial meeting, and Parentau said others are clamoring to join because they see the promotional benefit to promoting themselves as part of the state's counter-terrorism campaign.

But an industry marked by consolidation and automation also faces a major marketplace quandary: trying to do the security job correctly even as companies engage in bidding contests for contracts that force them to scrimp on manpower, training and overall quality.

When earnings plummet, some corporate executives see the security budget as an easy place to reduce costs. Kennedy, who spent 34 years with the FBI and once served as special agent in charge for Arizona, said some are deceived by the fact that al-Qaida has not launched a successful attack in the United States since 2001.

"Our concern in private security is we are seeing more and more complacency creep in," Kennedy said. "Some are beginning to question the commitment they've made, and are pulling back to cut costs."

Dennis Wagner
The Arizona Republic Newspaper

SECURITY OFFICER TRAINING AT OVERLAND

Recalling the not-so-distant past, training for security offices in California was mediocre at best...and we were on the cutting edge of training and licensing of security officers in the United States. Most training was provided by the officer's employer, if it occurred at all. Subsequently, training and the general abilities of security officers were spotty, at best. When the employer had a commitment to training, they would spend a significant amount of dollars to train their uniformed staff.

Today, in a Post 9/11 environment, California remains on the leading edge of requiring minimum training standards and performing background investigations on all

applicants. Every individual employed as a security officer in California must be prepared for the unthinkable.

Studies indicate that civilian security personnel are generally, the first responders to criminal or terrorist activity. In order to prepare security officers for these challenges, the State of California has mandated that every Security Officer undergo entry-level training, complete a minimum of 40 hours of training in the first six months of employment and undergo continuing education every year they are employed as a security officer. This is in addition to training required by their employer.

State mandated training subjects include Liability; Communication; Evacuation Procedures; Arrest, Search and Seizure; Criminal Law, Workplace Violence; Handling Difficult People; Chemical Agents; Crowd Control; and Weapons of Mass Destruction (anti-terrorism training).

In addition to the mandated training, Overland provides monthly training on a variety of safety subjects, as well as operational concepts. These include Role Playing; Familiarization with Access Control Systems; Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies, and Report Writing. At Overland, reports are an integral part of an officer's duties as these are the "work product" of each officer during their duty shift.

The combination of state mandated subjects and operational training insure every Overland officer is trained to the highest standards and can be expected to provide a superior level of protection to the property and assets of our clients.

Since 1947, Overland Security Services has provided security personnel and services to business and industry. We will continue our endeavor to provide a well-qualified individual for every assignment and duty post.

Overland Security Services, LLC provides the following services. In addition to publication of the *Overland Security News Briefing*, we offer the following services to business and industry on the Central Coast:

- Uniformed Stationary Security Officers
- Mobile Vehicle Patrol
- Employee background checks
- Security Audits for Business and Home
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- Referral to the full range of security related products and services.

About the Publisher: Overland Security Services, LLC has operated on the Central Coast since 1947 and is licensed and bonded to provide security and informational services to business and industry. Overland's Manager, Edward J. Zemaitis, serves as the Editor of the OSB.

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