

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING

5 major factors that have substantially changed the role of the Security Manager in recent decades

by STEWART GRIFFITHS

Terrorism

A major factor as to why the security managers' remit has changed has to be as a direct result of the September 11th attacks in the United States and the overall threat of global terrorism. Whether successful or not, it is clear that the new form terrorism is not going away and instead, is becoming more advanced all the time. In light of these attacks the need for new measures were seen and, consequently, all old systems and procedures were scrutinised and replaced with newer, more sophisticated and advanced systems. This did not simply mean the installation and implementation of advanced equipment but the training and education in matters of security and procedures. The reverberations were felt as far down as the men on the frontline, whether that be the Close Protection teams working in high threat areas, like Iraq and Afghanistan or the guard standing outside your local supermarket. The security manager would have to have planned the introduction of all these issues, take an active part in educating his team, continually making them more efficient, observant

and aware of what is happening around them.

Although the UK has dealt with terrorism throughout its history, we are now up against a modern strain of the threat, one that has no boundaries. Someone who lives by the code of "The gates of Paradise are under the shadows of the swords" will be hard to defend against. Therefore, it

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has called upon a new breed of security manager, one that is educated in the skills to identify weakness and implement strategies to combat this threat. However, the security manager can only put these actions into play if he has the correct background knowledge, qualifications and staff with the essential training.

Criminal Behaviour / Qualifications and licensing

Due to the modern criminal becoming ever more devious and sophisticated, we require a more in-depth knowledge of security planning and procedures. With the introduction of the Internet there have been thousands of breaches of security, ranging from basic fraud to the most intricate of scams and even identity theft. These all require measures to combat this threat and protect the general public. This is where the Security Industry Authority (SIA) is trying to ensure a level of professionalism and a set standard to be obtained by all whom wish to pursue a career within it.

Now, everyone from a bodyguard to a CCTV operative will need to have passed the necessary individual qualification to secure the approval needed from the SIA.

Health & Safety

Standardisation and licensing is not the only factor that efficient security managers need to be aware of. With the tightening of health and safety laws and procedures over the last decade it has become a key factor that needs to be closely monitored and maintained within every security manager's plan. There is far too much at stake to allow breaches of health and safety.

The Health & Safety At Work Act 1974 and the Management Of Health & Safety At Work Regulations 1999 means that an employer must provide, as far as is reasonably practicable:-

- Safe provisions of plant and systems of work
- Safe storage, handling and transportation of articles and substances
- Provisions of information, instruction, training and supervision
- Adequate facilities and arrangements for welfare.

The security manager must make a suitable and sufficient

assessment of the risk to which his team will be exposed while going about their work and those not directly under their employment but acting on their behalf.

'Finance is a major constraint to all security managers'

The main thrust of all recent legislation is the assessment of risk and the controls that one must implement to reduce it wherever possible and practicable. Without a suitable and sufficient risk assessment there is no defence in a court of law. The introduction of health and safety legislation has proved that not only must there be a duty of care to the members of staff but also to the general public.

Financing

This all needs to be done to a budget. Finance is a major constraint to all security managers and will drastically affect their plan to rectify any problems that their risk assessment has exposed. The constraints of financing can be enormous and can dictate whether a job will achieve its objectives or fail. People always look to save money when it comes to matters of security. This often results in short cuts, thereby leaving the whole assessment vulnerable to breaches that will ultimately be exploited by an ever-developing threat.

Conclusion

A security manager is no longer a free agent to manage and enforce as he or she pleases. Actions must be managed within a legislative environment that asks for prior considerations and a measured response that is acceptable within the law. Gone are the days of being a security consultant by day and a bouncer by night. The Security manager can only deal with all these threats and constraints by continually educating, evolving and developing themselves and their team in all areas of the industry.

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