



# SECURITY

# CONSULTANT

# MONTHLY

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**Risk Analysis, Asset Protection, Physical Security Audits, Security Training and Development, Firearms Training Programs. I am board certified by ASIS as a Physical Security Professional. For more information on my cost effective services please visit:**

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## **1) Consultant's Musings: Just Rent-A-Cops?**

I have had the opportunity lately to talk to a number of contract security guards about the state of the industry, and how they viewed their jobs. Much has changed since 9/11 in regards to private security in the United States. Unfortunately, some things still remain the same.

After 9/11, private security companies guarding America's airports took some serious, and to a degree, unfair criticism. The Transportation Security Administration was formed to address perceived security issues at airports, and many private security companies lost some lucrative contracts. The expensive changeover to TSA guards was in reality a confused and difficult transition. I saw it first hand. After the teething period, the basic issue of quality of security personnel has been sorted out more or less, depending on whose opinion you subscribe to.

But the vast majority of America's critical infrastructure such as ground transportation, water supplies, manufacturing and distributing, food supplies ect, are being guarded by contract security companies. In addition, large gatherings of people such as malls, and large stadiums, which are certainly terrorist targets, are also primarily guarded by private contract security guards. And many of them are working for wages not much more than minimum wage.

Great strides have been made in improving the quality of contract security guards. ASIS published a guideline titled *Private Security Officer Selection and Training* which provides some basic guidelines to improve the situation.

The major security companies have gone to great lengths to improve overall selection and training of their personnel.

But the major flaw in the private security guard industry is the "lowest bidder" nature of the business. There are a tremendous number of small security companies competing with the large companies for contracts. And way too often, the lowest bid is the deciding factor in who gets the contract.

This tends to insure that the wages of those doing the guarding is unacceptably low, which in turn creates the high turnover of personnel who are only interested in a temporary job until they can find something better.

This is unimportant when it applies to non-critical locations such as warehouses, ect. where the owners are not really interested in *security* but are primarily interested in a warm body in uniform to placate their insurance companies.

But it makes a major difference when the facility being guarded is a chemical factory, bank computer center, crowded stadium, or any other potential terrorist target whose destruction could cause serious damage to the nation's critical infrastructure or the deaths of large numbers of people.

After 9/11, the Transportation Security Administration was formed to provide a

professional cadre of highly trained and decently paid security professionals to guard our transportation system. Now it is time to move forward.

I am not suggesting that we federalize the entire security industry in this country. But I am suggesting that legislation needs to be passed requiring the companies that run potential important terrorist targets to provide not only adequate security, but to do it with highly trained *and adequately paid* security officers. This would have the effect of attracting high quality people who could view these jobs as an entrance to a *career* instead of a temporary income until they can move on somewhere else. But most importantly, it might thwart the next terrorist attack, and even save a large number of lives.

## 2) Personal Security: Another key to personal safety

Professional security people often travel to many areas where formal personal weapons are not allowed. Last month we discussed concepts and techniques of staying safe. The most important personal weapon you have is your brain coupled with constant awareness. But being aware of the non-typical weapons you have at hand is also important. And most people have some very effective weapons at hand. Keys for example. Anytime you approach your vehicle in a parking lot, you should have your keys in hand. If your keys are on a small strap, they can be slung across an attackers face like a mace. If it is a small key ring, you should have the keys balled up in you hand with the longest key protruding between the index and middle finger. Will open an attackers face up with a well placed punch.

A number of companies make extremely cheap key rings designed for defensive purposes. A couple I found are the *Heart Attack* key chain and the *Stinger Keychain Impact Weapon*. The first is designed as a slashing weapon, the other, as its name indicates, as an impact punching weapon. They also actually hold keys! The pictures below are self explanatory.

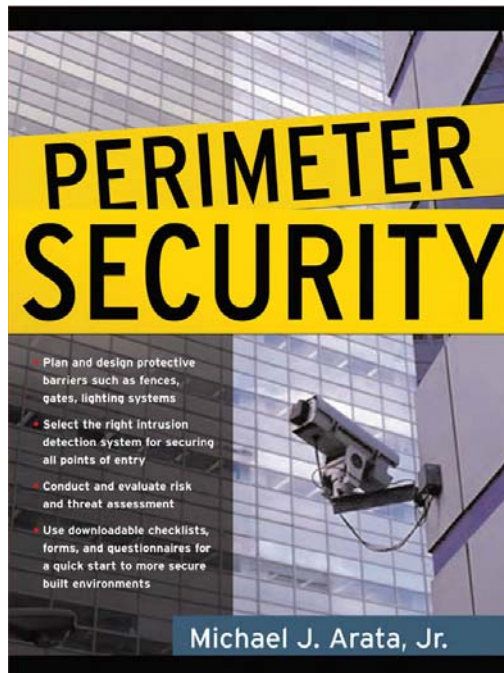
The *Heart Attack*



*Stinger Keychain Impact Weapon*



**3) Book Review: *Perimeter Security***  
*Michael J. Arata Jr.*  
*McGraw-Hill*



This is an excellent handbook that covers the entire arena of physical security, the devices involved, and how to apply them to any facility. It includes chapters on Threat Assessment, Perimeter Fence, Protective Barriers, Security Lighting, Electronic Access Control, Alarms, Parking Lots, CCTV, and Doors and Windows. There is a final chapter that covers the concept of Defense in Depth.

The author covers each of these subjects in depth and in great detail in a highly readable manner. This book belongs in the library of and security professional who deals with physical security issues.

**5) Final Word: Current Progress**

Our Stateside operation is coming along well with security surveys, as well as being finally set up to begin small arms instruction. We will begin doing Arizona CCW classes in November, with advanced weapon training coming after the first of the year. Please check to website for dates and particulars.