

# Roles and Functions of Private Security

*Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security*



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# Careers in Private Security

- U.S. Department of Labor predicts employment in private security to grow 18% in the next 10 years due to
  - Heightened security concerns
  - Increased litigation
  - The growing need to protect confidential information and property
  - The proliferation of internet crime, such as identity theft, spamming, and email harassment



# Careers in Private Security (continued)

- Diverse opportunities exist within private security:
  - Investigators
  - Security technicians
  - Protective specialists
  - Gaming surveillance officers
  - Manager/administrators
  - Patrol officers
  - Loss prevention and risk management specialists



# Qualifications for Employment

- No formal requirements for most private detective and investigator jobs
- Minimum age of 18; minimum age for armed positions is 21
- Pass a background investigation
- High school degree or equivalent is usually required; college degree preferred
- Helpful courses: criminal justice, police studies, and security administration



# History of Private Security in the U.S.

- Since the beginning of recorded history, people have used private security measures to protect themselves
  - Personal weapons
  - Barriers such as walls, gates, and moats around homes or villages
  - Guards and watchmen



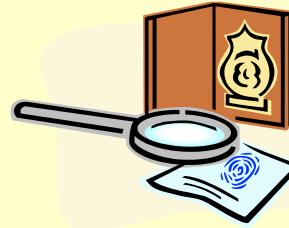
# History of Private Security in the U.S. (continued)

- Since the American Revolution, private security firms have played an integral role in the defense of the nation
- No formal security agencies existed in the U.S. until New York established the first policing agency in 1783



# History of Private Security in the U.S. (continued)

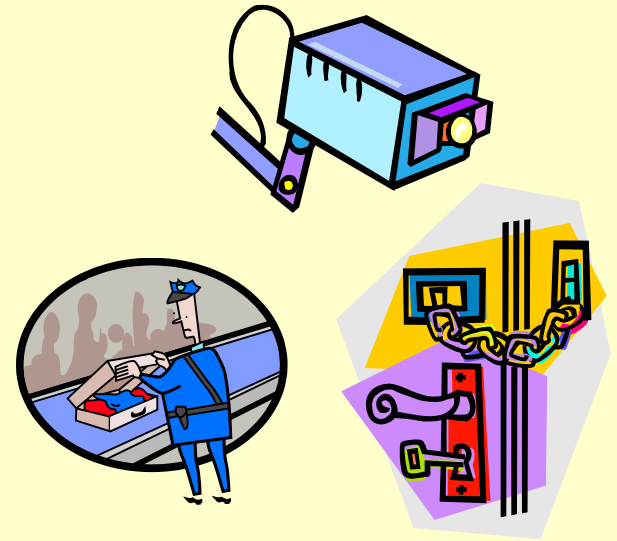
- Private security agencies have moved beyond simply protecting property to
  - Maintaining order
  - Investigating crime
  - Making arrests in public spaces
  - Providing Assistance with Homeland Security





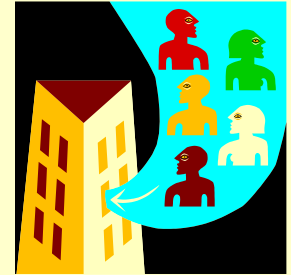
# History of Private Security in the U.S. (continued)

- The line between what is public and private property, and who is responsible for policing public and private space, is becoming blurred
- Policing – or making societies safe – is no longer carried out exclusively by governments



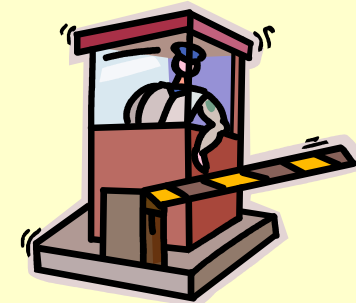
# Relationship Between Private Security and Public Safety Agencies

- Studies show that private security companies employ about 2 million officers in the U.S. as compared to the less than 700,000 sworn law enforcement officers (Roberson & Birzer)
- Private and public policing forces share a common goal of protecting the public; however, the two industries have not cooperated to a great extent



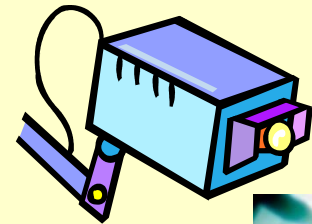
# Relationship Between Private Security and Public Safety Agencies (continued)

- To protect the U.S. effectively, law enforcement and private security must work collaboratively because neither possesses the necessary resources to do the job alone



# Relationship Between Private Security and Public Safety Agencies (continued)

- Without the services of private security, the police would be overwhelmed with the many tasks routinely performed by private security professionals in
  - Malls
  - Supermarkets
  - Hospitals
  - Construction sites
  - Manufacturing plants
  - Home alarm maintenance



# Relationship Between Private Security and Public Safety Agencies (continued)

- The private security industry plays an invaluable role in the prevention and detection of crime
- While the actual amount of crime prevented by private security is not known, it is believed to be immense



# Relationship Between Private Security and Public Safety Agencies (continued)

- Although not common enough, public and private cooperation does occur, taking many forms ranging from national- to local-level operational partnerships
- Police turned airport security checkpoints over to private security when the staffing burden grew too great



# Relationship Between Private Security and Public Safety Agencies

## (continued)

- Private security is a key element in protecting our homeland from terrorist acts because the private sector owns 85 percent of the nation's infrastructure
- Private Security Regulation and Public Safety Agencies
- The nation's defense industry and private security cooperation initiated the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS International) in 1955, and the National Association of Security Companies (NACSO)

# Obstacles to Public-Private Partnerships

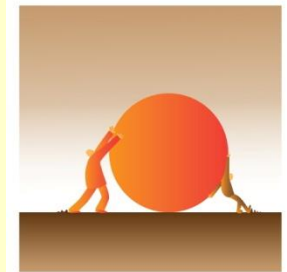
- Information sharing is difficult because of trust issues
  - Corporations don't feel they receive timely information from police
  - They fear information they give to the police may end up in the news
  - Police fear the corporate sector may not treat law enforcement information discreetly





# Obstacles to Public-Private Partnerships (continued)

- Lack of respect for private security among law enforcement officers
- Training differentials
- Competition



# Resources

- 9780205592401, Introduction to Private Security: Theory Meets Practice, Roberson & Birzer, Prentice Hall, 2010.
- [www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/HSAC\\_InfoSharing\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/HSAC_InfoSharing_FinalReport.pdf)