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Private Security Guards Replace Military Guards

Private Security Guards Replace Military Guards

ONGUARD

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Volume 13 Issue 1

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ELDORADOSSECURITYINDUSTRYNEWSLETTER

Nearly One

Million Security

Guards in China

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ccording to Chinas social security management department, China had 2,169 security guard companies with 970,000 security guards as of September, 2005. In 2004, security guards assisted police in 94,000 crimes and helped arrest 107,000 criminal suspects. From 2001 to 2004, 119 security guards were killed and 10,181 injured while performing

their duties. By law, only police authorities can operate security guard companies. This will most likely change because, in accordance with its commitments to join the World Trade

Organization, China will open its security guard market to overseas investors beginning this year.

Security Officers to Become Counter-Terrorism Agents

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According to The Daily News of Los Angeles, the U.S. and California state Homeland Security offices have launched twin strategies to recruit more than 500,000 private counter-terrorism agents in California. State-licensed security guards are now receiving anti-terrorism instruction. More will be added after California lawmakers pass a bill requiring security guards employed by businesses to undergo the same type of training as those working under contract through security firms.

Spotting the Suicide Bomber

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ir Security International, a company that provides rescue and medical assistance to expatriates exposed to terrorism, offers hints on spotting the suicide bomber: Unusual or oversized clothing Disproportionate body formation Sweaty hands and face Touching and feeling what might be under the outer clothing Hands in pockets or a carried bag Freshly shaven Looking around nervously Unusual language

Source: Security Newsletter

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ir Force Security Police from Patrick Air Force Base in Florida are spending so much time overseas that there's not enough manpower left to perform critical guard duties. Patrick's security forces have been spending six months a year in Iraq which leaves too few men to protect vital assets at Air Force bases everywhere, not just Patrick. About one-third of all security policemen are deployed in Iraq at any given time. The newly hired private security guards are checking vehicles for explosives, verifying identification at entry points, and directing traffic. The security guard company (not identified) will be paid \$1.5 million between now and September. Source: WESH.com

Security

Guards

Taking on

New Roles

Private Security Guards Replace Military Guards ONGUARD

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awmakers upset with the performance of the Transportation Security Administration want airports to return to privately employed screeners.

Some airport officials haven't made the switch for fear that they could be sued if terrorists carried out a successful attack as the result of negligence by private screeners. To ease fears, the House of Representatives approved a provision in the Homeland Security spending bill that shields airports from lawsuits if they switch to private screeners.

Rep. Harold Rogers, R-KY, added the legal protection to give airports the option of using private screeners.

He said, Private screening under the watchful eye of the TSA would have a lot more flexibility and maneuverability in addressing peak-hour loads and moving screeners around on the clock, rather than a large bureaucracy like the TSA.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-OR, did not agree. If the private screenings are so great, why do the private screening companies need the federal government to cap their liability? DeFazio asked.

Why do the airports want to be exempt from any liability?

The switch to TSA screeners came after the Sept. 11 attacks exposed problems with privately employed workers. Private screeners have been used by five airports as part of a test comparing them with federal screeners at the other 450 commercial airports. They are hired, trained, paid and evaluated to TSA standards. The test found that the private screeners performed statistically better than the federal screeners, though opponents of private screening say the difference was slight. Source: Associated Press
Private Security at Airports

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Private security guards have been hired to protect construction sites in California after police cracked a theft ring that stole millions of dollars in construction equipment. The arrests came as police and the building industry are struggling to reduce equipment thefts at construction sites. A building trade industry study

found that [pieces](#) of equipment [stolen](#) from Southern California building sites jumped from 427 in 2000 to nearly 1,000 last year, and 2005 is shaping up to be a record year.

Security Officers at Convenience Stores

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he New Mexico Petroleum Marketers and six area convenience store companies have agreed to pay for either a private security company [or](#) [overtime](#) Albuquerque police officers to patrol 17 city convenience stores.

The agreement came in response to a bill that would have required every convenience store in the city to make its second nighttime employee a security guard. State law already requires convenience stores to have two employees working night shifts. Certain stores, such as 7-Eleven, were chosen based on a high rate of police calls. Source: Albuquerque Tribune

Airport in

San Francisco

to DROP

Private Security

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an Francisco International Airport plans to stop using a private company to handle checkpoint security, a decision likely to deal a blow to efforts to privatize screening at the nation's airports. The airport is the largest in a pilot program that is testing whether private companies can do a better job than federal screeners, who now handle airport security. But San Francisco airport officials say it will drop its screening company in May, but not because private security is inferior. The reason for opting out is due to the unwillingness of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to protect the airport from lawsuits that might arise from a terrorist incident that occurred while checkpoint screening was being done by a private security company.

Guards to Protect

Construction Sites in California ONGUARD

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UMMARY:

A security provider

is not liable for punitive damages

after one of its security guards shot

a party guest. The security providers

conduct in hiring, training and super-

vising its guard was not willful, wanton or in reckless disregard of the rights of others.

FACTS:

While breaking up a fight, Marc Shafer, a security guard for Saber Security Services, shot Christopher Longshore. Longshore attended a party at a National Guard Armory and Saber provided security for the event. A fight broke out and someone fired shots into the air. The security guards observed an individual, Derrick Bluford, fire four shots into the crowd, wounding two people. Shafer then disarmed Bluford. Longshore, who is Bluford's brother, stopped his car nearby and began walking toward Shafer and Bluford. Shafer testified that he saw a passenger in Longshore's vehicle pointing a weapon at him. Shafer advanced toward Longshore and ordered him to put his hands in the air. Longshore testified that he put both hands in the air, but Shafer testified that Longshore kept one hand behind his back. Shafer further claimed that Longshore kept advancing toward him after he told him to stop or he would shoot. Shafer then shot Longshore in the stomach. Police later found an automatic weapon in Longshore's car. Longshore brought several causes of action against Saber, including negligent hiring, training and supervision.

The jury returned a verdict against Saber and awarded Longshore \$800,000 in actual damages and \$200,000 in punitive damages. Saber appealed.

DECISION:

Evidence was introduced that Saber hired Shafer approximately two weeks before the incident occurred. Shafer was recommended by another employee and was hired the following day. Saber did not check Shafer's employment references, age or high school diploma, as

required by company policy. Because Shafer was already licensed through the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) as an armed security guard,

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