

## Reviews

### The Manager's Handbook for Corporate Security: Establishing and Managing a Successful Assets Protection Program

by Gerald L. Kovacich and Edward P. Halibozeck

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(463 pages, \$49.95)

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#### *Reviewed by Wesley Jennings*

With the dawn of the 21st century came the acceleration of economic globalization. Increasing technological advancement has engendered the continued transition from industry-based to information-based organizations. The immediate result of this rapid alteration in organizational approaches has been to foster dependency on information technology. Thus, corporate assets have inevitably become more susceptible to threats from an increasing number of locations and technological modalities.

With commerce now firmly entrenched in both technology and a global environment, it has become necessary to develop sophisticated corporate security programs. Today's corporate security professionals are tasked to protect corporate assets in an extremely complex atmosphere. This has led to an increasing awareness of corporate leadership and of the importance of corporate security management (CSM), along with their line employees, becoming cognizant of this duty and effective in its successful operation.

The book reviewed here outlines some essential frameworks for the establishment and maintenance of a successful corporate security program. The authors' main focus is the development of a state-of-the-art, holistic approach to corporate assets protection. The book offers a comprehensive 23-chapter work, organized into four main sections: the old and the new world of the security professional; the corporate security manager; corporate security functions; and the security profession now and in the future.

Part I offers four chapters, the first of which explores a limited historical perspective of the threats to corporate assets. It also commissions neo-CSMs to look ahead at the trends in society—technology, business, global competition, criminal justice systems and crime—in order to meet the needs of their customers. Chapter 2 examines the need for corporate security departments; underscores their definitive functions; and expresses how imperative it is that CSMs understand the threats, vulnerabilities, and risks to corporate assets, while developing a cost-effective asset protection program. Chapter 3 provides a brief history of corporate security and how it has evolved, illustrating its relationship to law enforcement. Chapter 4 provides a discussion of the role of the 21st-century corporate security manager, and poses the question: 'Is such a position required in a corporation?'

Part II is organized into three chapters, and focuses on the establishment of a corporate assets protection program using a fictitious international corporation as a model, followed by a description and discussion of the CSMs' role with regard to their peers and to those in higher management

positions. Part III is arranged into 12 chapters that delineate the authors' 11 proposed primary functions processes involved in assets protection.

The last section, organized into four chapters, sets out and codifies the various duties and responsibilities that exemplify a true security professional. The initial discussion begins with a description of what security professionals should do in order to help both themselves and their subordinates in their career plans. This presentation is followed by a discussion of the duty that security professionals owe to their profession, as well as to the broader community. The section concludes with a concise discussion of ethics with regard to security professionals, and culminates with a look towards the future world of the security professional.

The weakness of this book resides in its failure to provide comprehensive and thorough treatment of the potential problems that exist for corporate security personnel in the future. Perhaps a chapter devoted solely to how CSMs can protect their corporations' valuable assets in the future, including high-technology-based systems (ie cellular phones, email, computer espionage, etc) was warranted, although it is difficult to predict future events with any degree of certainty.

In summation, this book succeeds in illustrating a systematic and holistic approach to the creation of a successful assets protection program. Through its extensive coverage of the wide range of aspects that characterize the security professional's world, the authors do well in facilitating and personalizing their approach and recommendations to all security professionals, regardless of their environment.

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