Book Review

Security: An introduction

Philip P. Purpura

CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, LLC, Boca Raton, FL, 2011, 611pp., \$72.95,
ISBN: 978-1420092837

Security Journal (2012) **25**, 287–289. doi:10.1057/sj.2012.17

Security: An Introduction is Philip P. Purpura's new addition to his collection of security-based textbooks. This book does not belong to a series, but closely relates to his previously written books on topics including policing, loss prevention, terrorism and retail security. In particular, Purpura's latest text encompasses a wide range of security topics, beginning with the history of security, explaining the different branches of security, and finishing with a prediction of how security will be used in the future. The text is geared toward an introductory audience, which benefits the academic field immensely. Purpura's easy-to-follow organization, descriptions and examples create an accessible text for students beginning their study of security. His purpose in writing *Security* is clearly to instruct a preliminary audience on the basics of security. In a time when security is one of the most valued aspects of society, and with the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks having just passed, *Security* is immediately relevant to the rise of concern.

Purpura organizes the book into four sections, entitled *The History and Profession of Security*, *Protecting People and Assets*, *Risk and All-Hazards Protection* and *The Future*. By doing so, he automatically clues his audience into the four important topics of the book. He further divides the book into chapters. Chapters 1 to 3 can be found in Section 1; 4 to 10 in Section 2; 11 and 12 in Section 3; and 13 in Section 4. By breaking down the layout of the book, Purpura creates an easy-to-follow layout, automatically appealing to the introductory reader. This is one of the strengths of the book.

In Chapter 1, Purpura first defines security in basic terms, and explains the different roles security takes in society. He then discusses the history of security challenges, as well as different trends in its development. Purpura notes that security methods are usually a step behind the latest methods of criminals. Chapter 2 describes different threats, hazards and terrorism instances, and explains that terrorism is the most difficult threat to define. Purpura also describes international and domestic terrorism, the types of methods used by terrorist groups, and the national strategies the United States has in place to prevent and protect against terrorist attacks.

Chapter 3 explains security as a profession and business. Here, Purpura describes different professional security associations that exist today, as well as the regulation of the security industry and the training involved for security officers. Chapter 4 goes on to discuss the methodology of security, including multiple theories on security and how security is researched and evaluated. Chapter 5 is devoted solely to security strategies, explaining the difference between generic and specific security, as well as how security layers help to protect outside of the site

that requires protection. Purpura also explains the strategies behind different security levels applied to buildings used by federal government agencies, as well as how violence, theft and drugs come into play in the work environment.

Chapter 6 delves into the security strategies taken by organizations during the hiring process. This includes pre-employment screening methods such as background investigations, criminal record checks, employee applications and employee interviews. Purpura also discusses the theories on positively motivating personnel in the workplace, once they have been hired in order to promote a safe environment. Chapter 7 is devoted to physical security, the challenges it provides and how it is used in perimeter security. Methods described include cameras, boundary-penetration sensors, fingerprint controlled access, and multiple lock and key systems.

Chapter 8 illustrates information technology security, starting with the laws set in place to protect different organizations' private information from being shared. Purpura lists various threats to information technology including human error, espionage, information extortion and software attacks. He also discusses the policies in place for certain organizations to prevent unwanted access of their information. Chapter 9 further delves into security law, explaining both criminal and civil law and the procedures exercised by both. The laws of arrest and search and seizure are both covered in this chapter, as well as how evidence can be used in court.

Chapter 10 is devoted solely to investigations, briefly explaining what an investigation is and listing the different types of investigations used, including proprietary investigations and workplace investigations. A multitude of investigation types exist, and Purpura covers them all, in addition to investigation techniques and how to protect undercover investigators, suspect rights and the crime scene. Chapter 11 discusses risk management in both the private and public sectors, in addition to explaining the types of risks that can harm an organization or business. Purpura also discusses emergency management, which consists of mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and communications.

Chapter 12 expresses different protection challenges, such as water, energy sources, transportation and banking. Purpura explains the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and how it works to protect those critical and key assets to the economy, dividing each asset into a section in order to fully cover each. Chapter 13, the concluding chapter, discusses twenty-first century security. After writing about how security has been used in the past and is still being used today, Purpura uses this section to express how futures studies of key subjects like pollution, energy sources, climate change and technology will come into play with security. He explains different methodologies used to anticipate the future, such as trend analysis and environmental scanning, and ends by listing predictions and issues for the future, especially how technology will change the face of security.

The organization of the book, its depth of content, and accessible descriptions and examples are the strengths of the book. Overall, this text is a very descriptive introductory overview of the topic of security. Each subject is explained thoroughly, not leaving the audience with questions. Its organization is easy to follow, and the layout is designed for those who are not already knowledgeable on the subject of Security. Students interested in beginning to study criminal justice will find this text useful, as it introduces the different divisions of security. Purpura fully considered his audience while writing this book; no topics were left out. Everything was spelled out for the reader in easy-to-understand terms with very preliminary examples, which is why introductory students would find this text

useful. For students already knowledgeable in the area of security, the text may serve as a reminder of things they have already learned, or provide some new ideas in the areas of security. For the most part, professionals might not gain anything from reading the book; it is very clearly geared toward a less-knowledgeable audience.

Security is targeted toward readers who are looking to find out introductory information about the field of security as a whole. It is clear that Purpura is well versed in this subject, and has left no questions unanswered. His textbook summarization of the history of security, how it is currently used and how it can be used in the future lends itself to the reader. He has created an easily accessible and well-informative textbook to introduce his readers to the subject, opening their eyes to the broad world of security.

Calli Price
Truman State University
Kirksville, MO, USA