PRIVATE SECURITY INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME PREVENTION: A CRITICAL EVALUATION

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Presentation

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Introduction

The importance of cooperation between law enforcement and private security in South Africa has never been greater, yet the difficulties in establishing effective cooperation between the two areas, particularly in the areas of crime prevention and response, remain a major obstacle. The author is of the view that initiatives will be needed to overcome traditional issues of trust.
A good example of how the South African Police Service and private security companies can work together was seen in the 2010 FIFA world cup held in South Africa. Although they worked well, there were still lessons to be learnt. Most of these had to do with governance, powers and responsibilities, training and information intelligence gathering.
Introduction

Each environment being protected should ideally be protected against a full range of risks. It is therefore essential that a crime prevention strategy be designed and developed to address the range of risks confronting the environment being protected. This may be done by applying the risk management principles, framework and process in terms of ISO 31000:2009.
Introduction

Although private security companies perform many of the same functions as the South African Police their loyalty lies with the interests of their clients. These interests are not necessarily aligned to public interests.
Definition of concepts

Crime - Public Police
Risk - Private Security
Crime prevention - Society
Crime reduction - Public Police
Community Policing - Society
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

Private security involvement in crime prevention has a longer history than the official public police service. During feudal times, there was no public police service that could be contacted when people needed help and assistance. It was only in the last 300 years that law enforcement agencies, charged with protecting property and safety of citizens in a country, have become the norm.
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

In 1829 England’s Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel introduced a Bill in Parliament, which proposed a return to the Anglo-Saxon principle of individual community responsibility for the preservation of safety and security in a given community through prevention. Every abled person is a police official, is reflected in Peel’s contention that the public is the police and the police is the public.
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

However, the nature of this proposed partnership is never detailed in terms of resource, use, policing powers, competition and the profit motive, community interest, forms of policing and how these should be regulated and held accountable, and in broad terms the role of the State versus the role of private initiatives- whether for profit or not for profit (Julie Berg, 2004).
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

The 1998 White Paper of the Department for Safety and Security emphasised the role and involvement of other role players outside of the SAPS. It spelt out the areas of intervention to ensure effective crime prevention.
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

“These interventions involve communities taking responsibility for crime prevention in their own neighbourhoods. Such interventions to include localised programs, which mobilises a range of interest groups to address crime prevention on a town or city basis. Projects should include improving surveillance through schemes, such as car guards or community marshals” (White paper, 1998:17).
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

This created some sort of opportunity for the private security industry, to engage in crime prevention exercises at community level. The implication within this omission is that any such action would occur in a legal and practical vacuum.
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

Shearing and Stenning’s statement (as cited in Berg, 2008: 1) that “Peel’s dream of a truly preventative police force” is being “substantially accomplished” through private security rather than through the state police. holds true in the 21st Century.
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

This is evident in the fact that private security, while still retaining ‘traditional’ private security tasks, are engaging more and more in law enforcement (policing) duties and activities, while also in some respects becoming increasingly involved in physical coercion, demonstrating greater symbolic and real powers (since much of what private security do remains largely unchallenged).
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

In addition, there remains uncertainty in a number of quarters on precisely what kind of support /cooperation or service should be provided by private security to the Police. Moreover, the wide range of diversity of services provided by the general private security industry in South Africa further complicates the matter.
Private Security involvement in Crime Prevention

Although a number of joint or cooperative partnerships initiatives have already been launched between certain companies/des individuals and police stations at local level, these have proceeded without the formal recognition or approval of SAPS management and also without due acknowledgment of the legal implications of such actions.
Contribution by Private Security to Crime Prevention

1748, Henry Fielding
1822, Sir Robert Peel
1850, Allan Pinkerton
1850, Henry Wells and William Fargo
1858, Edwin Holmes
1859, Perry Brink
1909, William Burns
Contribution by Private Security to Crime Prevention

1909, Baker Industries
1955, ASIS (American Society for Industrial Security)
Nature and extent of Private Security involvement in crime prevention

The objects of the police service is to

• prevent, combat and investigate crime,
• to maintain public order,
• to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and to
• uphold and enforce the law.
Nature and extent of Private Security involvement in crime prevention

Man-made and natural risks

• Cash-in-transit and cash-management service providers in South Africa.
• Guarding the mines of large mining houses and business interests of corporates that invest on the continent.
• Close-protection services for certain destinations.
Nature and extent of Private Security involvement in crime prevention

- Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) employs PSCs.
- Thousands of households subscribe to armed response services.
- Crowd management
- Natural risks such as fire, tornado, flood, earthquake and other acts of nature
Nature and extent of Private Security involvement in crime prevention

• PSCs are employed to do CIT on behalf of businesses, including the retail sector.
• Protect harbours, airports and critical infrastructure.
• The state contracts PSCs to protect the SAPS and other government entities.
• Some parastatals are turning to PSCs for protection.
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

Governance

Government ultimately is responsible for ensuring both the ‘freedom and security’ of the person as stated in Section 12 of the Constitution. In doing so, government must take cognisance of a variety of factors and ensure the existence of relevant legislation.
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

In South Africa the private security industry is subject to an extensive system of sectoral regulation with an independent regulatory body (PSIRA) that was set up in accordance with the Private Security Industry Regulation Act 2001 (Act 56 of 2001) and the Private Security Industry Levies Act 2002 (Act 23 of 2002).
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

There is no formal national cooperation agreement between SAPS and PSI. There is no mandate from SAPS that supports or gives any guidelines regarding the expected standards service delivery i.t.o outsourcing by SAPS to the PSI. There is also no clear guidelines regarding the role of the PSI and the Police or clear instructions outlining the exact relationship between these two entities.
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

Powers and responsibilities
Arrests (Use of Firearms)
Search
Seizure
Roadblocks
Stop and search operations
Cordon and search operations
Security Risk Management (ISO 31000:2009)
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

Training (Joint training)
- Public Private Partnership for emergency preparedness
- Background screening (Vetting)
- Undesirable activities reduction initiative
- Reduction of false alarms
- Visiting scenes of security incidents
- Preliminary investigation of security incidents
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

Training (Joint training).

• Improving vehicle and pedestrian safety
• Personal Security
• Residential Security
• Business Security
• Crowd management
• Security at events, entertainment and sporting activities.
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

Information/ intelligence gathering, Analysis and Utilisation

• The gathering and analysis of security information and the implementation of security risk control measures (ISO 3100: 2009).
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

Information/ intelligence gathering, Analysis and Utilisation

• Sharing of information
• The National Strategic Intelligence Act, No. 39 of 1994
• Intelligence Led Policing
• Intelligence cycle
Gaps, inconsistencies and areas of improvement

Information/ intelligence gathering, Analysis and Utilisation

• MISS document
• MPSS (Minimum Physical Security Standards) 2009
Risk Management Model
ISO 31000:2009

Principles (clause 3)

a) Creates value
b) Integral part of organizational processes
c) Part of decision making
d) Explicitly addresses uncertainty
e) Systematic, structured and timely
f) Based on the best available information
g) Tailored
h) Takes human and cultural factors into account
i) Transparent and inclusive
j) Dynamic, iterative and responsive to change
k) Facilitates continual improvement and enhancement of the organization

Framework (clause 4)

Mandate and commitment (4.2)

Continual improvement of the framework (4.2)

Implementing risk management (4.2)

Monitoring and review of the framework (4.5)

Process (clause 5)

Establishing the context (5.3)

Risk assessment (5.4)

Risk identification (5.4.2)

Risk analysis (5.4.3)

Risk evaluation (5.4.4)

Risk treatment (5.5)

Communication and consultation (5.2)

Monitoring and review (5.6)
SECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE
Conclusion

More and more PSC’s are coming to the realisation that having trained security risk managers within their companies is an asset to both their companies and to law enforcement in general. The financial benefits of having effective security risk managers in a company, given the current crime and non-compliance in society, generally far outweigh their costs.
Presenter

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Thank you