

WHERE DO YOU START? The Professional Approach to Establishing Effective Security

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For whatever reason you have, you have decided to take a fresh look at your overall physical security program or you need to plan security for a new facility. Where should you start? [Michael Minieri CPP, CSC](#) – a 40+ year industry professional – provides a brief overview based upon his experience and observations in more than 30 countries. (with hyperlinks to further details if desired)

1 – PHYSICAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT ([PSA](#))

Start with a current and comprehensive [physical security assessment](#). A *self-serving* statement or not, there are many valuable benefits to having the assessment performed by an independent, 3rd party professional. It is absolutely mandatory to FIRST identify the threats, risks and vulnerabilities – and prioritize them – unless you have budget money you can afford to waste. Forget thoughts like “*we need a camera here or we should have a guard there*”.

2 – STRATEGIC SECURITY PLAN (SSP)

Focus on each OBJECTIVE.....“*we need to be ALERTED if anyone enters this area or we need to assure that only authorized persons pass this point*”. HOW such objectives are accomplished is always determined AFTER you define the objective. A [camera](#) or a guard may NOT be the best approach. It is necessary to make some *general* decisions – at a high altitude level – regarding many of the security principles and concepts that might be options for mitigating the identified security risks and accomplishing the myriad of objectives. There are [3-DIMENSIONS](#) to every security solution that must be integrated to work in unison...omitting or “mismatching” any element will result in failure to achieve the objective.

3 – SECURITY MASTER PLAN (SMP)

Every building, facility, company, enterprise and organization of every type, should have a Security Master Plan. The SMP is the *tool* or *vehicle* for the more detailed implementation of the Strategy. A well maintained SMP is particularly useful for reference when a new security element (i.e. new building, etc) is to be integrated, when major changes or upgrades are intended and to assure compatibility for integration of the 3-Dimensions. A good “starting point” when developing the SMP is often the “[SECURITY POLICIES, STANDARDS and GUIDELINES](#)” document for the enterprise. Properly written, this document is **THE ESSENTIAL KEY** to every successful and effective security program.

4 – THE DETAILS

Now you are ready to get down to some specific and detailed documentation development such as;

- [Guard Force programming, “Post Orders” and related](#)
- [Security Systems Design, Engineering and Procurement](#)
- [Training Program Development and Delivery](#)