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**Alwinco: Taking security and crime very seriously. Are you?**

PSIRA 2038881

## The Benefits in an Experienced Security Manager Hiring an Independent Security Risk Consultant

To be able to fulfill the important role of a Security Manager at any company usually requires high qualifications and relevant experience. Such personal history often includes some form of military, security or law enforcement background which is an added benefit to the individual filling this vital role. The responsibility on the shoulders of the Security Manager is great.

Although Security Managers have an extensive and good knowledge of security, the additional professional advice of the independent Security Consultant can greatly assist the Security Manager.

There are several reasons why the role of the Security Advisor may be misinterpreted which results in reluctance on behalf of the internal Security Manager to use the services of the external and independent consultant.

### Reasons include:

- The fact that the Security Manager may feel that as he is viewed as the expert and familiar with the company's security, that it is therefore not necessary to seek additional or external advice.
- The Security Manager would not want the management of the company to additionally view him as incompetent or lacking in his field, thereby possibly placing his job in jeopardy.
- This view is further supported by the manager not wanting to reveal the full truth of the security status and company loss to higher management for the very same reasons.
- Moreover it could be that the Security Manager is too close to home and be overly familiar with the company's environment that he may unintentionally overlook the root cause of the problem.
- Another excuse in not commissioning an external and independent assessor to conduct a Security Risk Assessment is that there is no budget due to the fact that security is the most likely to be cut or downgraded upfront. Funds are rather

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predominantly allocated by management to many other things or factors favoured over security.

### Benefits of the Security Risk Assessment in regards to Budget Planning:

- One of the advantages of the assessment report is that it creates the opportunity for better budget planning for security.
- Expenditure becomes more stabilised and can be spread out in increments and phases. Proper budget planning cannot, in fact, be done without the Security Risk Assessment report.
- Too many companies actually spend more than is necessary as excessive funds are assigned to remedy a problem only after an incident has occurred. Additionally this approach usually only provides a short term solution until the next incident happens or a new problem arises and all attention and funds are then reverted to that. This is on top of any other initial loss that was experienced.
- The Security Risk Assessment will eliminate many problems that would have arisen in the future and drastically cut back on costs of additional equipment, unnecessary security failures and losses.

### Understanding the Role of the Independent Security Consultant:

- Strangely enough many other professional entities make use of external, specialized consultants and this practice is not frowned upon. For example, lawyers would bring in additional attorneys in the event that expert advice is required for a complex case to be presented to the court. General medical practitioners make use of experts on a daily basis and refer their patients to neurosurgeons, otolaryngologists or orthopaedic specialists to assist.
- This is actually the way in which the Security Manager should view the independent assessor as a source of additional skilled and qualified advice. The fact that the manager decides to make use of an expert for assistance is actually a sign of strength and the intelligent, responsible approach.
- By outsourcing the assessment the Security Manager also ensures that he has more time to concentrate on all his other daily duties and responsibilities without neglecting one or the other. Even the

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Security Risk Assessor needs to consult with 3rd party experts and specialists from time to time to be able to provide the perfect security fit.

- The Security Consultant is an outsider and can therefore provide the truth in regards to security without apprehension or fear of conflict. This often results in management actually paying attention to the problem and allocating the necessary funds for the solutions and security.
- A new perspective is provided by the Security Risk Assessor and he will be up-to-date and knowledgeable in regards to security solutions, best practices, system design and technology.
- Furthermore the Security Advisor would have dealt with problems already that are common to most companies and not altogether so unique when considered in comparison. This knowledge can be passed on to the Security Manager to the benefit of the company in alleviating future problems.
- The independent assessor has already conducted numerous, in-depth security investigations so the process will not be delayed and has written dozens of security policies, plans or manuals for a variety of institutions, companies and facilities before.
- During the course of his career the typical Security Manager may have only been approached once or twice to setup and write such vital documentation. The accumulated knowledge and experience of the assessor will allow this type of process to run smoothly and effectively.

### The Security Risk Assessment Report:

- The Security Risk Assessment report is a highly detailed document containing all the potential threats and weaknesses in regards to the company's security status, as well as recommendations and extensively researched options for the solutions.
- The document is comprehensible, presented well and allows management to see clearly which areas require attention. This same information may not have been acknowledged if the Security Manager had presented these findings to the board alone and the assessor is in a more credible and respected position to carry this information effectively over to management.

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- By commissioning an independent Security Threat & Risk Assessment report a new, honest and unbiased perspective of the status of the company's security will be provided which will benefit many facets within the company.

### Security Awareness:

- Through Security Awareness, it is further realised by management and the colleagues of the Security Manager that the responsibility of security is actually shared and is the duty of every single individual within the corporation.

### Conclusion:

Management and Security Manager should consider the Risk Assessor as your ally and will be able to reap great benefit, not only to yourself but to the company as a whole, from the independent Security Threat report. This same report can even be used to the advantage of the Health & Safety Officer and the Emergency & Disaster Management Coordinator in regards to future planning and practice.

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