

Chapter 39 - IFPO -CPO

VIP Security

Purpose

At times, security professionals are called upon to provide protective services for VIP's. These missions require planning, logistics work and excessively long hours; the majority of time will be spent standing in a state of hypervigilance with little downtime.

VIP Security

- ▶ VIP protection adheres to a dual-pronged methodology:
 1. **Reactive protection**, or “body guarding,” is a crucial pillar of the mission.
 2. **Advance planning**. In protection, the best gunfight is the one planned for, mitigated against, and prevented altogether.

Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

- ▶ Preventative VIP protection first requires an understanding of the risks and vulnerabilities your protectee may face.
- ▶ The first step is understanding the VIP's profile:
 - ▶ Social status, notoriety, and controversy
 - ▶ Are they a well-known, easily recognizable personality?
 - ▶ Have they been in the news lately?
 - ▶ Are they a contentious public figure?
- ▶ Know the VIP's pattern-of-life:
 - ▶ What is their daily routine?
 - ▶ Do they have pre-existing medical conditions?
- ▶ Understand the places where the VIP travels:
 - ▶ High-crime neighborhood?
 - ▶ Rural, remote area far from law enforcement or medical services?
 - ▶ A violent conflict zone?

Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

- ▶ Has the VIP had uninvited, inappropriate, harassing, or threatening contact with another individual or group?
 - ▶ Letters, social media?
 - ▶ Reoccurring first-person contact?

Mechanisms of Threat

- ▶ Preventative protection also requires an understanding of the mechanism(s) of threat your protectee may face, in order to plan for and mitigate.
- ▶ *Mechanisms of threat* are the methods that adversaries will use to get to and harm your protectee.
- ▶ The most common threat to VIPs stems from unwanted, excessive, inappropriate, or violent close physical contact, no weapons required.
 - ▶ This can manifest as simply as an overzealous fan or incensed critic encroaching in your protectee's space, holding a hug or handshake for too long, or attempting to interrupt or impede their movement.
- ▶ If your VIP is a prominent public figure or interacts with the public regularly, they'll likely encounter some variant of this threat.

Mechanisms of Threat

- ▶ Due to their availability and relative ease-of use, conventional weapons, wielded by lone attackers or in complex attacks, remain a preeminent threat:
 - ▶ Edged weapons
 - ▶ Handguns and long guns
- ▶ Improvised explosive devices (IEDs)
 - ▶ Personnel-borne
 - ▶ Vehicle-born
 - ▶ Remote-controlled
 - ▶ Magnetically attached
 - ▶ Unmanned aerial systems
- ▶ Foreign substances pose a disruptive and potentially harmful threat to your protectee.
 - ▶ Irritants, crowd control agents, and toxic industrial chemicals are readily available and require little technical skill to deploy.
- ▶ Biological materials:
 - ▶ Bodily fluids
 - ▶ Biological weapons

Threat Mitigation

- ▶ The most efficient protective measures are:
 - ▶ Communication
 - ▶ Movement
 - ▶ Manpower
- ▶ **Communication:**
 - ▶ The foremost determiner of success or failure in the protection mission.
 - ▶ Three levels of communications:
 1. An open line of communication with the protectee
 2. Communication among all internal security personnel
 3. Communications with all external security personnel
- ▶ **Protectee movement is another mitigation consideration.**
 - ▶ **Timing:** Arrival and departure times can be planned to ensure the public and protectee's movements occur at offset times.
 - ▶ **Routing:** The use of alternate entry and exit points at venues helps ensure your protectee's walking path and that of the general public overlap as little as possible.

Threat Mitigation

- ▶ Manpower serves as another mitigation variable.
 - ▶ Placement of manpower around your VIP, within and surrounding venues, or along walking or motor routes.
 - ▶ Security personnel should be pre-staged in locations your protectee is likely or scheduled to visit.
 - ▶ A larger security footprint also serves as a visual deterrent to possible assailants.

Hostage Situations

- ▶ Security personnel should strongly consider the possibility of a kidnapping and hostage situation.
 - ▶ **Kidnapping** is a lucrative tactic business for criminals and terrorists; naturally, wealthy and/or famous people and their family members are targets of opportunity.
 - ▶ In ransomware attacks, bad actors who hack a system and gather sensitive data will demand immediate payment of e-currency from the targeted company.
 - ▶ Terror groups also take hostages; however, these unfortunate victims are usually “doomed captives.” Terrorists don’t expect to survive the ordeal and have nothing to negotiate for.
 - ▶ Security personnel must be knowledgeable about the threat of violent crime and terrorism in the areas you will traverse with your protectee and be especially mindful of their vulnerability at major events held in enclosed public spaces like stadiums, theaters, and conference centers.
 - ▶ Security personnel must discuss these topics with their protectees to ensure that everyone fully understands the threat.

Use of Technology

- ▶ Protective personnel should fully tap and leverage the power contained in the modern smartphone, using it as a virtual assistant, a sophisticated communication platform, and even a lifesaving tool.
- ▶ Protective personnel should have a conversation with their protectee about the unlikely event of separation during an emergency situation and how communications will take place.