

Protective Operations: A Handbook for Security and Law Enforcement. By Glenn P. McGovern. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2011.

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Book Reviews

***Protective Operations: A Handbook for Security and Law Enforcement.* By Glenn P. McGovern. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2011. ISBN 978-1-4398-5171-5. Preface. Appendices. Index. Photos. Works Cited. Pp. 202. \$79.95.**

McGovern stresses the importance of individual team members' training, using vivid, recent scenarios that resonate with the reader, and, further, addresses the personal and tactical aspects of various competencies and skills necessary for successful protection-related operations. The author generously highlights his own experience and expertise as examples to the reader, as he has had the benefit of specialized military and law enforcement training.

There are several themes that recur throughout the book. The first is an emphasis on the proper selection and "fit" regarding personnel, equipment, tactics, and various components of the protective operation. There are constant reminders that one size does not fit all, with an emphasis on the importance of customization to ensure that different variables are taken into consideration. Each chapter addresses a selection of tactics, measures, and countermeasures that are appropriate to the given situation. The importance of "thoroughness" is also a recurring theme, relative to the planning, analysis, and execution phases of such operations. The author provides cogent examples of effective utilization of diverse resources and incorporates divergent quantitative and qualitative data from both the obvious and seemingly unlikely sources. Further, the author places emphasis on making critical decisions by conducting proper threat assessments for safe and successful operations. Readers are constantly reminded that the mission in protection may be, and usually is, contrary to operators' former law enforcement or security training and instincts.

The book addresses ethics and moral dilemmas bravely and in a manner that is appropriate for a work of this nature. The author approaches the distinctions between public law enforcement agencies and private security forces just enough to raise the reader's awareness of such differences without attempting to dictate an answer. Liability is always a concern, and

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the cursory discussions tend to focus on operational considerations, which need to be tempered by jurisdiction, policy, and applicability. However, the author encourages flexibility in procedures throughout the text and encourages readers to remain mindful of situation-specific circumstances with potential for ethical and/or legal consequences.

One of the clear strengths of the book, especially for its intended use as a text, is the use of realistic and credible scenarios. The actual scenarios sprinkled throughout each chapter, labeled as "Case in Point," lend credibility to the work and provide excellent support to the central themes of each section. Unfortunately, some of the technology mentioned in the book is already outdated and has been surpassed—at no fault of the author, but simply due to the nature of publishing and the fast-paced world in which we now live. Hopefully the reader will not dismiss the book's obvious value based on the author's recommendations for specific equipment; for the most part, the recommendations are easily transferred to other operations or areas. Weapons, behavior, and skills, for example, are equally transferable and applicable to various situations as appropriate. The author is mindful of this throughout the book, reminding the reader to supplement one's skills, competencies, and equipment with constantly updated training for successful operations.

Security has a dearth of reliable sources, lacking a professional foundation of knowledge by credible authors. This work begins to fill that void. McGovern shares his experiences while giving appropriate credit to leading experts who deserve to be acknowledged, including Grossman, Oatman, and DeBecker, among others whose work has served to legitimize and validate our profession for both the private and public sectors. Overall, the book may challenge some readers' underlying assumptions and spark critical thought; it is thus an excellent basis for discussions in a classroom setting.

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