

Introducing a sport event security aware system

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**Presentation (25-minute)
Abstract 150**

The Center for Spectator Sports Security Management (SSSM) is a first of its kind in the United States, building capabilities among those responsible for sports event security management through research, education, and outreach efforts. The Center was developed in coordination with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to promote academic research, technology development, education and training, and service programs dealing with all aspects of sports security management.

Effective security management is imperative at large scale spectator sports events due to the potential for mass casualties and catastrophic social and economic impact (Philpott, 2007). However, previous survey research (Cunningham 2007; Phillips 2006) conducted by the Center for SSSM identified gaps in training and education of sport security practices at the intercollegiate level, and indicated that currently no formalized training or standards (Hall, 2006) for sport event and facility security management is available. Furthermore, research indicates there are gaps related to effective incident command control, emergency response preparedness, and evacuation capabilities at high consequence sports events (Cunningham, 2007; Phillips, 2006; Beckman, 2006; Hall, 2006).

Acknowledging the industry need to educate and train sport security professionals, and provide consistency in security management practices, the Center for SSSM developed a continuous improvement model for sport security management - the Sport Event Security Aware (SESA) system. The SESA system involves 4 distinct key processes including: 1) risk assessment, 2) training, 3) practice, and 4) audit. The continuous improvement process aims to ensure security systems remain up-to-date utilizing innovative strategies and current technologies. In summary, the assessment process involves documentation of an approved vulnerability assessment of critical assets. The training process involves documentation of training and certification of all full-time, part-time, and volunteer personnel. The practice process involves documentation of exercising and practice of disaster drills on a regular basis. Finally, the audit process involves documentation of an external review of their security management system. The ultimate goal of the proposed model is to ensure consistent security practices nationwide. The proposed model was piloted on seven public institutions in the state of Mississippi during 2007.

The Center for SSSM's applied research approach emphasizes the importance of close ties to the professional field. All aspects of the research, planning, study, and implementation focuses on the expertise, input, and assessment of field-based professionals in emergency management, law enforcement, and sports administration. The Center for SSSM staff has worked very closely on security projects with major sports organizations in the United States, such as the National Football League (NFL), Major League Baseball (MLB), National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), NASCAR, and on the international level with the English National Rugby Union.

This presentation will address the need for standardized security polices and procedures at sports venues, discuss the proposed SESA model, and highlight results of the pilot project conducted in Mississippi during 2007.

References:

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- Philpott, D. (2007). Business resiliency handbook. *Journal of Homeland Defense: Special Report*. [On-Line]. Available: <http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/BusinessResiliency.htm>