

**An examination of intercollegiate game day security operations**

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Abstract 360**

Introduction: On September 11, 2001 a series of events changed the external environment of sports forever. Furthermore, the Department of Homeland Security identified major sports events as potential terrorist targets (Lipton, 2005). In a post 9/11 world, college athletic directors are now concerned with ensuring effective security management operations at their sports events (Baker et. al, 2007).

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to determine specified needs, concerns, or future challenges in security management at intercollegiate athletic events. Identifying security management needs and/or issues will assist athletic departments in their future planning of staff training and education, thereby promoting a safe environment for players, spectators, officials, and local community stakeholders.

Participants: NCAA Division IA (119) and IAA (62) intercollegiate facility managers responsible for the security operational planning and preparedness for college athletic events.

Procedures: Approval to conduct the research was obtained by the Institutional Review Board. All interviews were delivered via mail during the fall of 2006. A panel of experts reviewed the questionnaire to ensure face validity. The questionnaire specifically requested information on game day security operations, prevalence of outsourcing security personnel, and current training and education needs of intercollegiate athletic staff.

Data Analysis: Questionnaires were analyzed using SPSS. Descriptive statistics, frequencies, and correlations were reported.

Results: A total of 181 surveys were mailed and 83 returned (45.8%). Findings indicated over 60% of the security workers were outsourced. The number of game day workers and outsourced security staff increased as the stadium capacity and attendance increased. The number one priority need reported was the need for timely vital security information to help in the prevention, detection, and response to incidents, both natural and man-made (74% of respondents). The second highest need was help in conducting vulnerability assessments and the provision of training for emergency response planning and crowd/fan control workshops (62% of respondents).

Discussion: Intercollegiate athletic facility managers at NCAA DI and DII institutions have identified a need for training, information sharing, and emergency preparedness to prevent, respond, and recover from sporting incidents. Implications for the industry include: 1) providing future sport managers with adequate training in facility security operations, 2) determining adequacy of training provided by outsourced contractors, and 3) developing an information sharing and analysis center (ISAC) for intercollegiate athletic staff for timely and accurate security information.

References:

Baker, T.A., Connaughton, D., Zhang, J.J., & Spengler, J.O. (2007, Winter). Perceived risk of terrorism and related risk management practices of NCAA Division IA Football Stadium Managers. *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*. Retrieved July 20, 2007, from [www.lexisnexis.com](http://www.lexisnexis.com)  
Lipton, E. (2005, March 16). U.S. report lists possibilities for terrorist attacks and likely toll. *New York Times*, Section A, Page 1, Column 2.

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