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Operation Partnership: Guidelines for Law Enforcement–Private Security Cooperation

**A Study Sponsored by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services,
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When law enforcement agencies and private security organizations work together, pooling their own particular strengths, the result often exceeds what either party could accomplish alone. Such partnerships pay rich dividends for police, businesses, and the public. Cooperation in resource and information sharing and joint planning and operations may lead to more comprehensive and efficient responses to crime, disasters, and terrorism.

To encourage law enforcement–private security (LE-PS) cooperation, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is supporting research into the approaches and techniques of these partnerships. The project will develop guidelines for LE-PS partnerships, featuring examples of innovative practices, contacts for more information, and other useful materials. The project implements a key recommendation of the 2004 COPS/IACP National Policy Summit on Building Private Security/Public Policing Partnerships to Prevent and Respond to Terrorism and Public Disorder.

In particular, the project will do the following:

- *Identify resources in private security* that can assist local law enforcement.
- *Document models and techniques of effective working relationships*—including partnership formats and best practices in leadership, joint training, information exchange and intelligence sharing, and supplementing of personnel and technology resources.
- *Determine the extent to which community policing is being used* to develop LE-PS partnerships.

The research findings and analysis will be documented in guidelines and materials suitable for use in training law enforcement and private security to develop partnerships employing best practices.

This study will be conducted in close coordination with the following:

- Law Enforcement Liaison Council of ASIS International
- Private Sector Liaison Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Private Security Committee of the National Sheriffs' Association

In addition, the study team will seek input from other security, law enforcement, and business organizations throughout the nation.

Finding partnerships to study and present as models will require both carefully directed surveys and knowledgeable referrals. **The research team would appreciate any leads toward law enforcement–private security partnerships: formal or informal, general or problem-specific. The study team asks practitioners to submit contact information and a brief description of any such partnerships to LEPSpartnerships@ilj.org. The research team will follow up on those leads.**