

Career Profile

A weekly series devoted to providing information on career exploration

Do You Like

- Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made and asking questions as appropriate?
- Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do?
- Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems?
- Monitoring/assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action?

Then This Could Be The Career For You!

The Type of Work

The primary task of any law enforcement officer is to protect the property and lives of the people in their jurisdiction. The security guard's job responsibilities also vary with the size, type, and location of the employer. In office buildings, banks, and hospitals, guards maintain order and protect the institution's customers, staff and property.

- Monitor and authorize entrance and departure of employees, visitors, and other persons to guard against theft and maintain security of premises.
- Write reports of daily activities and irregularities such as equipment or property damage, theft, presence of unauthorized persons, or unusual occurrences.
- Answer alarms and investigate disturbances.
- Circulate among visitors, patrons, or employees to preserve order and protect property.
- Patrol industrial or commercial premises to prevent and detect signs of intrusion and ensure security of doors, windows, and gates.
- Warn persons of rule infractions or violations, and apprehend or evict violators from premises, using force when necessary.

Pathways to Success

Most States require that guards be licensed.

To be licensed as a guard, individuals must usually be at least 18 years old, pass a background check, and complete classroom training in such subjects as property rights, emergency procedures, and detention of suspected criminals. Drug testing often is required and may be random and ongoing.

Guards who carry weapons must be licensed by the appropriate government authority, and some receive further certification as special police officers, allowing them to make limited types of arrests while on duty. Armed guard positions have more stringent background checks and entry requirements than those of unarmed guards.

Most jobs require a driver's license. For positions as armed guards, employers often seek people who have had responsible experience in other occupations. Rigorous hiring and screening programs consisting of background, criminal record, and fingerprint checks are becoming the norm in the occupation.

Armed guards and special police usually enjoy higher earnings and benefits, greater job security, and more potential for advancement. Large organizations use a military type of ranking that offers the possibility of advancement in both position and salary. Some guards may advance to supervisor or security manager positions. Guards with management skills may open their own contract security guard agencies. Guards can also move to an organization with more stringent security and higher pay.

Individuals who possess:

- Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.
- Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.
- Good character references, no serious police record, and good health. They should be mentally alert, emotionally stable, and physically fit to cope with emergencies. They should communicate well.
- Self Control – maintaining composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.
- Being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations.

What Employers Look For

Job Outlook

Employment of security guards is expected to

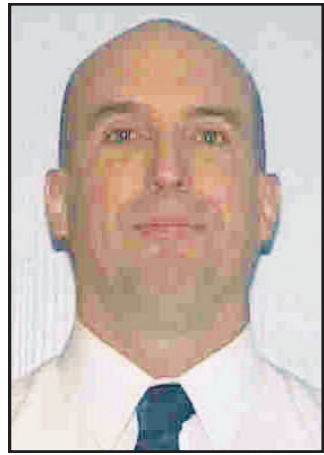
grow by 17 percent between 2006 and 2016, which is faster than the average for all occupations. There are currently over 1 million individuals employed as security guards. This occupation will have a very large number of new jobs arise, about 175,000 over the projections decade. Concern about crime, vandalism, and terrorism continues to increase the need for security. Demand for guards also will grow as private security firms increasingly perform duties—such as providing security at public events and in residential neighborhoods—that were formerly handled by police officers.

Earnings Potential

Security Guards					
Location	Year	Pay Period	Low	Median	High
United States	2007	Yearly	\$15,900	\$22,600	\$37,900
Ohio	2007	Yearly	\$15,600	\$21,400	\$36,100
First Line Supervisors, Protective Services					
Location	Year	Pay Period	Low	Median	High
United States	2007	Yearly	\$25,700	\$43,000	\$78,800
Ohio	2007	Yearly	\$27,300	\$42,600	\$66,800

O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>.

SECURITY GUARDS



DEFINITION: Guard, patrol, or monitor premises to prevent theft, violence, or infractions of rules.

NAME: Greg Kulow, Director of Safety & Security

COMPANY: EMH Regional Healthcare System

LOCATION: Elyria

Q. When you were a young child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A. Growing up I always had an interest in watching and reading about police work. I never thought that I would do anything other than work in the law enforcement field when I grew up.

Q. How did you become interested in your particular field?

A. While attending Youngstown State University in 1981, a Director of Safety & Security at a local hospital spoke to my Criminal Justice class about the opportunities in the healthcare safety and security field. This was the first time that I had considered working in the private security and safety sector as a potential career option.

Q. Who or what influenced your decision the most and why?

A. The individual who spoke to my Criminal Justice class eventually hired me and became my mentor for 11 years. I learned a great deal from this individual and credit him for many of the opportunities that I have been provided in my career.

Q. What is your educational background?

- Bachelors of Science Degree in Law Enforcement Administration
- Bachelors of Science Degree in Hazardous Materials Management and Environmental Compliance
- Ohio Basic Peace Officers Training Academy
- Certified Healthcare Environmental Management Course

Q. How did you get to where you are today? What path did your employment journey take?

A. While attending college I worked in the retail loss prevention field for five years. After graduation I was hired as a part-time hospital police officer. I was eventually promoted to full time and then to a supervisor's position. After almost 7 years as a supervisor, I was contacted by a recruiter to interview for my current position which I have now held for almost 15 years.

Q. What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?

A. Good written and verbal communications skills are very important, as is the ability to problem solve and use critical thinking skills. Strong observational, investigative and conflict resolution skills are an asset to anyone working in the private security and safety field. Self confidence and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations are also very important. While most Safety & Security Management positions require a college degree, those first entering the field should consider a Private Police/Private Security training program such as that offered by many colleges and universities. Those in management positions can obtain certifications through the American Society of Industrial Security or the Board of Certified Safety Professionals to name just a few.

Q. Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?

A. Develop your character as well as your competence. People want to believe that they can trust someone working in the safety and security field. A combination of training, education and experience is necessary to be successful in this field. Find someone to mentor you in your development; it makes the process of learning more complete. Strive to work collaboratively with other individuals, organizations and agencies to meet the challenges you encounter as part of your job, seldom will you have all the answers or resources.



Local Education Websites

Lorain County JVS
www.lcjvs.com

Lorain County Community College
& LCCC University Partnership Degree Programs
www.lorainccc.edu and www.lorainccc.edu/up

Sources: Occupational Information Network, O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco>