

The Circuit

41

The Magazine for Security Professionals

THE GRAY MAN CONCEPT

You're Doing it
Wrong

Cutting out the
Middle Man

Residential Security

Vehicle Attacks
Against Pedestrians

By: Orlando Wilson

RESIDENTIAL SECURITY CHECKLIST

The information presented here follows on directly from the in-depth article featured in the last issue of the Circuit.



What follows is list of things you will want to consider when planning the security for your principals residence. Not everything will apply to you but take what does and use it, a lot of the considerations here can be applied to most houses or apartments. Use it as a practical checklist every time you're asked to conduct a residential security survey to reduce the risk of overlooking anything

even if there are legacy procedures in place from a previous security company. The more thorough you are in this stage the more effective your planning will be. Always plan security in depth, you want as many rings of defense as possible.

PRELIMS & PLANNING

These considerations are best undertaken before occupation of the residence. You won't always have this opportunity but do your best to review each point,

- ☑ Has the residence been searched for IEDs, electronic surveillance devices or contraband
- ☑ Have several means of communications; land-lines and cellular. Check them regularly!
- ☑ Plan escape routes.
- ☑ Has the residence been searched for IEDs, electronic surveillance devices or contraband?
- ☑ Any defects to floodlighting or other ►

“

Has the residence been searched for IEDs, electronic surveillance devices or contraband

”



security lights should be fixed ASAP.

- ☑ If you are in an apartment block, is the reception manned 24hrs a day and If yes, are the people manning it competent? Consider a penetration test.
- ☑ What alarms are in the residence, are they working and when were they last tested?
- ☑ Do all padlocks have spare keys and who has them?
- ☑ Are the padlocks of good quality and difficult to pick or shim?
- ☑ Are all weapons in the residence legal and are they secured when not in use?
- ☑ What firefighting equipment is there in the residence and is it in a serviceable condition?
- ☑ Are there any fire alarms and do they work? Fire is the largest cause

of loss and damage to private and commercial properties. Fire prevention is, therefore, one of the highest residential security concerns.

- ☑ Flooding is a major threat to property and equipment, common causes include taps that have been left running, leaks in plumbing systems or faulty air conditioning systems, heavy rain or snowfall.
- ☑ Make arrangements for power cuts, keep spare batteries and bulbs for torches, several means of communications and check them regularly.
- ☑ If you have a backup generator ensure it is serviceable and you have plenty of fuel in a secure location.
- ☑ Document, with photographic evidence, all valuable artwork, jewelry etc.?

“Are all weapons in the residence legal and are they secured when not in use?”



- ☑ Does your client and all family members know the members of the security team and know how to contact them in an emergency?
- ☑ Do all family members know how to raise the alarm?
- ☑ Have your staff and employees been profiled and had background checks?
- ☑ Use a mailbox or virtual office address rather than your residential address.
- ☑ Know the location and safest routes to safe houses, emergency rendezvous points, hospitals, etc.

this is from the perimeter wall outwards. Identifying a threat at this stage will give you the best chance of defeating it, with maximum response time.

- ☑ If the residence overlooked, what sniper or surveillance positions are there?
- ☑ Check to see if the residence under surveillance.
- ☑ Where along the routes in and out of the residence could an ambush be concealed? Consider putting the residence under protective surveillance.
- ☑ Regularly photograph or video the areas surrounding the residence and always watch for suspicious vehicles and people.

RINGS OF DEFENSE

It can seem a little daunting when you first sit down to consider all the weak points and vulnerabilities of a specific location, so it's going to help you to think methodically. Think in stages, like the layers of an onion, starting with the outer layer and then work inwards.

1. Outer Cordon

Anything which falls on the outside of the boundary line of the property. Typically,

2. Perimeter Defense

Depending upon the size and location of the property this could range from a piquet fence to a moat, this is your first line of physical defense.

- ☑ Does the residence have a fence or wall around it and can it realistically keep out intruders? ►

- ☑ Are there gates to the residence, can they stop an intruder or a car, are the gates locked at all times and what are the procedures for greeting visitors.
- ☑ Is there anything to help criminals climb over the garden walls or gates, such as trees or poles around the exterior of the property?

3. Inner Cordon

This is the space between the perimeter and the building(s) constituting the main residence. This could include driveways, gardens, swimming pools and out buildings.

- ☑ What security lights are there, do they work, when are the lights turned on and where is their control switch? If the control switch is outside, move it inside.
- ☑ Lights should shine away for the residence not on to it.
- ☑ Consider attaching lights triggered by movement detectors outside of doors and vulnerable areas.
- ☑ Consider putting thorny bushes under windows and around the perimeter of your garden to deter intruders. Thorny bushes

can be put on the inside of perimeter walls also to tangle up and alert you to anyone jumping over.

- ☑ Consider putting a gravel walkway around the outside of your house so you can hear anyone approaching or stalking around.

4. Main Residence

The family home or primary asset.

- ☑ If the residence is in an apartment block, are there fire escapes or scaffolding that could give the criminals a way in?
- ☑ Do your doors have peepholes- peepholes are best positioned at the side of the door or in the wall so, you cannot be shot through the door. If using a peephole always distinguish any lights behind you.
- ☑ Consider an armored layer on the inside of main doors.
- ☑ Are all doors to the residence solid and are the doorframes solid, most times a doorframe will break before the lock on the door.
- ☑ Are the locks on the doors of a good quality and have you changed them since taking over



- the residence?
- ☑ Consider using deadbolts at the top and bottom of a door and wedges in conjunction with the normal locks.
- ☑ Can the locks be unlocked from the outside, if a window is broken or can the door hinges be unscrewed?
- ☑ Have all unused entrances and exits secured.
- ☑ All windows need to be secured on all floors of the building. It is a fact that in 90% of burglaries, access is gained through windows. Check that windows are properly shut, secured and if possible alarmed.
- ☑ Use laminated glass and heavy curtains where there is a threat from IEDs as they will help prevent flying glass. Wood blinds also work for extra privacy and protection.
- ☑ Beware of casting shadows against windows which can be seen from the outside.
- ☑ All skylights and roof doors need to be secured and preferably alarmed. Roofs need to be secured and monitored.
- ☑ Is the attic of the residence adjoined to another roof or attic from which someone could

gain access?

- ☑ Are all valuables insured and kept secure?

SECURITY ROOM/TEAM

Is there a requirement for a permanent physical security presence? Will there be a dedicated security room/area on site? If so, this will increase your considerations.

- ☑ Consider installing a video phone to greet visitors and cameras to cover the doors and surrounding areas.
- ☑ Do you have control of all the keys to the residence and have a list of everyone with keys?
- ☑ If you are working with a residential security team (RST) do they know their orders?
- ☑ Are the RST from a quality trustworthy company and have they been vetted and well trained?
- ☑ Do an assessment on your security personnel and evaluate how much you can really trust them; will they fight, flee or just rollover if there is a problem.
- ☑ Make sure the RST patrols the grounds at all times in all weathers; bad

“Make sure the RST patrols the grounds, at all times, in all weathers; bad weather is the best time for raids as guards are usually seeking shelter and un-alert.”



weather is the best time for raids as guards are usually seeking shelter and un-alert.

- ☑ If you are using guard dogs, make sure that they are well trained and preferably under the control of their handler.
- ☑ Do you and the RST know their rules of engagement and the laws for use of force

entering and upon exiting the residence.

- ☑ If a key is lost or an employee fired who has access to keys change your locks.
- ☑ No vehicle should be given access to the grounds of the residence without a member of the security team at least physically checking the interior of the passenger compartment. You never know- your personal driver flashing his light and laying on his horn at the gate might have a gun in the back of this head or a bomb in the trunk of his car.
- ☑ Keep all sensitive and security documentation secure and confidential.
- ☑ Keep computers and hard

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP'S)

- ☑ Is the residence ever left unoccupied, if yes it needs to be searched before re-occupation?
- ☑ Always use counter-surveillance drills before



“All contractors must have appointments and must be searched before entering and leaving the residence.”

- drives secure and password protected.
- ☑ Do not discuss sensitive or security related subjects in front of staff, consider giving them disinformation on such things as travel and business plans.
- ☑ Don't let any of the security personnel get over familiar with any of the other staff.
- ☑ All contractors must have appointments and must be searched before entering and leaving the residence. Searched when entering to check for contraband, IEDs or electronic surveillance devices and when leaving to make sure they are not stealing anything.

- ☑ Contractors should be accompanied at all times.
- ☑ If suspicious of visitors, turn them away or keep them outside and preferably illuminated, until their credentials are verified. Also consider that they could be testing your security or a distractio while others try to access your residence.
- ☑ All deliveries should go through the RST and be checked for anything suspicious, have a secure area to isolate any suspicious packages.

☑ **THINK LIKE CRIMINAL AND PLAN FOR EVERY EVENTUALITY!**

Orlando Wilson has worked in the security industry internationally for over 25 years. He has become accustomed to the types of complications that can occur, when dealing with international law enforcement agencies, organized criminal and Mafia groups. He is the chief consultant for Risks Inc. and based in Miami but spends much of his time traveling and providing a wide range of kidnapping prevention and tactical training services to private and government clients.

VEHICLE RESCUE

WWW.IRRTC.CO.UK

ANYONE ANYTIME ANYWHERE.

ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CLIENTS SAFETY?

EXTRA COURSES
BEING ADDED DUE
TO HIGH DEMAND,
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
FOR MULTIPLE STUDENTS
CONTACT US FOR
MORE DETAILS

WE HAVE BESPOKE SOLUTIONS AND EXPERT GUIDANCE TO ASSIST YOUR ORGANISATION TO LOWER RISK AND SAVE LIFE.

Proven International Experience & Expertise // Training at our UK Sites or Overseas // Unique Bespoke Specialist Response Kit // The Very Latest Rescue Techniques // Specialist Rescue Response Courses // Medical & Trauma Interoperability // Physical & Medical Rescue Concepts // Prolonged Field Care Concepts // Tactical Casualty Care



IRRRTC

INTERNATIONAL
ROAD RESCUE & TRAUMA
CONSULTANCY LTD

WWW.IRRTC.CO.UK



IRRRTC
'EMERGENCY
RESCUE KIT'
NOW BEING SOLD
CONTACT US FOR
MORE DETAILS

