

OTHER CRITICAL FACTORS FOR PATROL

One critical factor in executing the tasks required of a security patrol is **knowledge**. The security officer must know, understand, and be able to apply all of the information required by the mission and detailed in the site post orders. In addition to understanding the job, he must also know the post. Without this knowledge, the security officer will not be able to patrol the post in a way that will identify critical situations or potential threats to the integrity of the mission.

Security officers who display a **high standard of uniform appearance** will find that the performance of any duty they carryout will be enhanced substantially. A professional appearance encourages respect from others for the officer's professional ability.

In addition to maintaining a professional appearance, the security officer must be completely equipped. He must be prepared to respond properly to any situation that he may encounter during a patrol. The post orders generally will provide a list of the necessary pieces of equipment to be used at all times while conducting a patrol.

Although we mentioned it earlier in this training, **attitude** is another important factor in the effective execution of the security patrol, or really any duty. A proper attitude, maintained and displayed by the security officer, is the distinctive feature of a professional. A poor attitude seriously reduces the officer's ability to succeed. Security personnel must always realize that they play an important part in the success or failure of the mission. Being aware of this ensure that the security officer functions at an effective level.

Other critical factors to the security patrol include:

- **Watchfulness** – always maintain a high state of watchfulness. Being alert prepares the officer to respond to anything that may occur during the patrol. Otherwise, he will fail to notice actual or potential threats to the client.

Security Officer Guard License
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- **Distance** – security officers must avoid placing themselves in danger unnecessarily. Distance limits a person’s ability to distract the officer from their duty or attempt to attack the officer. The security officer should never allow any person to come within arm’s reach if any possibility exists that a confrontation might occur.
- **Freedom of hand movement** – For armed security personnel, maintaining freedom of movement for their weapon control hand is critical. A confrontation may occur without warning, and the officer must react instantaneously.
- **Observation discipline** – patrol patterns often become so routine the security officer develops tunnel vision. When this occurs, the officer sees only what he expects to see and may fail to observe actual conditions. To avoid this behavior, the officer should identify visually some new element encountered on patrol that he has never seen or examined before. There is usually some detail on every security patrol that the officer has not previously noticed.
- **Noise discipline** – the security officer must limit the noise that he makes in order to hear any sound that may indicate a threat. Such bad habits as singing, whistling, or using personal music players while on patrol must be avoided to enhance the effectiveness of the patrol.
- **Light discipline** – security personnel should not produce any light that may diminish the performance of their patrol. This is especially important in areas of the premises where low-visibility areas exist that may provide a hiding place for suspects. Failure to maintain light discipline may warn a suspect of the security officer’s presence before he can observe the suspect. This also applies to smoking while on patrol.