



THE GUARDIAN TIMES

Newsletter From Guardian Protection Force, Inc.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS NOT A SECURITY STRATEGY

WHY EFFECTIVE SECURITY STILL REQUIRES HUMAN JUDGMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming one of the most discussed topics in the security industry. Nearly every new platform, camera system, monitoring solution, and operational tool now promises to be smarter, faster, and more predictive.

The excitement is understandable. Artificial intelligence can process information at a speed and scale that human teams cannot match. It can identify unusual activity, search hours of video in seconds, prioritize alerts, recognize patterns, automate repetitive tasks, and help security professionals make sense of growing amounts of data.

These capabilities are significant. But artificial intelligence is not, by

itself, a security strategy.

Purchasing an AI-enabled product does not automatically make an organization safer. Adding advanced analytics to an outdated security program does not correct unclear procedures, poor communication, inadequate staffing, or weak leadership. Technology can strengthen a well-designed operation, but it cannot compensate for the absence of one.

A true security strategy begins with people, risks, responsibilities, and desired outcomes.

What are we trying to protect? Which threats are most credible? What information does the security team need? Who is responsible for



reviewing an alert, making a decision, and taking action? What happens when the technology is wrong, incomplete, or unavailable?

Without clear answers to those questions, AI may create more noise rather than greater awareness.

This is especially important because an alert is not the same as understanding. A system may identify movement, recognize an object, detect an anomaly, or assign urgency to an event. It cannot always understand the full context surrounding what it sees. It does not inherently know the history of a property, the temperament of the people involved, the expectations of a client, or the consequences of a particular response.

That is where trained security professionals remain essential.

Human judgment provides context. Experience helps distinguish unusual activity from dangerous activity. Communication turns information into coordinated action. Leadership establishes when technology should inform a decision, and when a person must question, verify, or override it.

The future of physical security will not be a competition between people and machines. It will depend on how effectively the two work together.

Used responsibly, AI can reduce the amount of time professionals spend searching for information and increase the amount of time they have to interpret it. It can help monitoring teams focus on higher-priority events, assist investigators in identifying relevant footage, reveal patterns across incidents, and support managers in allocating resources more effectively.

But responsible adoption requires more than enthusiasm.

Security leaders must evaluate accuracy, privacy, cybersecurity, bias, accountability, and the quality of the information entering the system. Employees must understand what a tool can do, what it cannot do, and how its output should influence their responsibilities. Clients must understand the difference between an enhanced capability and a guarantee.

Organizations must also resist the temptation to automate a process simply because automation is available. Efficiency matters, but speed without judgment can create new vulnerabilities. A faster incorrect response is still an incorrect response.

The most valuable question is therefore not, "Does this technology use artificial intelligence?"

The better questions are: Does it solve a clearly defined problem? Does it improve awareness or decision-making? Can our team use it effectively? Are there safeguards when it fails? Does it support the people responsible for protecting others?

At Guardian Protection Force, we believe innovation should strengthen professional expertise, not attempt to bypass it. The strongest security programs will be built by organizations willing to embrace new capabilities while remaining disciplined about training, policies, oversight, and human accountability.

Artificial intelligence will continue to change how our industry observes, analyzes, communicates, and responds. That change brings tremendous opportunity, but only for those prepared to look beyond the label.

The future of security will not belong to the organizations with the most advanced technology. It will belong to those with the judgment to use it well.



FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Q3 2026 | THE MIDYEAR CHECKPOINT

By Ashlee Cervantes Thomas, CEO



There is something different about reaching the midpoint of the year.

January is filled with goals, plans, and possibility. By Q3, those goals have had time to meet reality. We have enough information to ask harder questions: What is working? Where are we falling short? What needs to change? And where do we need to apply greater focus to finish the year strong?

Internally, that is exactly what we are doing at Guardian Protection Force. We are evaluating our KPIs, revisiting the seven strategic goals we established for 2026, and making the necessary adjustments to carry our momentum through year-end. Progress does not always mean staying the course. Sometimes it means having the discipline to recognize when the course needs to change.

I am experiencing some change personally and professionally as well. This

quarter kicked off with one such change. Guardian Secure Solutions, the Security Operations Center I founded in 2024, joined forces with Alliance SOC to create [Guardian Alliance SOC](#), a shared Security Operations Center built by security operators, for security operators. Today, I am proud to serve as a co-founder of Guardian Alliance SOC as we continue building 24/7 dispatch, operational support, remote monitoring, and other infrastructure specifically for the private security industry.

For our GPF employees and clients, there is a practical reason I want to share this update: you have begun hearing some new voices on the other side of Guardian's 24/7 dispatch line. While the team supporting us is growing, our commitment to responsive, professional operational support remains unchanged.

Q3 is also home to one of my favorite Guardian traditions: our **All Hands on Deck "AHOD" Annual Management Retreat**. This year, we are staying close to home for three days with a fitting theme: **Back to the Future**. AHOD gives our leadership team the rare opportunity to step outside the demands of daily operations, look honestly at where we have been, evaluate where we are today, and align around where Guardian needs to go next.

That work will continue into September and October with back-to-back staff training cycles before we transition to optional training for November and December. September will include a particularly meaningful program, **Remembering Capt. Jack — GPF Core Values, Ethics & Professionalism**. Even as Guardian evolves, grows, and adopts new technology, remembering the people and principles

that helped shape this company matters.

Growth also requires us to speak up when the future of our profession is being shaped.

I want to be explicitly clear: **in its current form, I cannot support SB 1203**. I support meaningful training, professional standards, and efforts that genuinely make security officers and the communities they protect safer. But additional mandates should be supported by demonstrated benefit and implemented in a way that recognizes the operational realities of California's private security workforce. **California Association of Licensed Security Agencies, Guards and Associates (CALSAGA)** has similarly opposed the current legislation and continues advocating on behalf of the industry.

Lawmakers need to hear directly from the security professionals who protect California's businesses, schools, hospitals, residential communities, and public spaces every day. Our industry should have a meaningful voice in policies designed to regulate it.

There is still a great deal ahead of us in 2026. We are preparing to announce internal changes, new technology partnerships, and other initiatives designed to position Guardian for what comes next.

Midyear is not the time to coast toward December.

It is the time to assess what we have built, adapt where necessary, and move forward with greater purpose.

The second half of the year is where our goals become results.

GUARDIAN TRAINING BRIEF

HOW YOU TRAIN IS HOW YOU PERFORM

By Garrett Thomas, CPP, Founder & Chief Operating Officer



Training is not always exciting.

Some sessions are highly anticipated. They involve advanced tactics, real-world scenarios, hands-on exercises, or skills that employees are eager to develop. Others are familiar, repetitive, and required every year. They cover topics such as non-harassment, workplace violence prevention, and safety in the workplace.

Those annual sessions may not always feel like the most dynamic part of our training program, but they are among the most important.

Mandatory training exists because the risks behind it are real. Harassment damages employees, teams, and organizations. Workplace violence can escalate when warning signs are ignored or concerns go unreported. Injuries occur when routine hazards are overlooked, shortcuts become normalized, or employees assume that safety belongs to someone else.

Training gives us an opportunity to slow down, revisit expectations, and reinforce the standards that should guide us long after the session ends.

The true value of training is rarely demonstrated while an instructor is speaking. It is demonstrated later, when an employee recognizes a potential hazard and takes action. This value is reflected in the decisions employees make in the field, the way they communicate under pressure, the judgment they use when circumstances change, and the standards they maintain when no instructor, manager, or client is watching. That is why repetition matters.

Professional habits are not built through a single conversation. They are developed through consistent

expectations, regular reminders, practical application, and accountability. Even experienced professionals benefit from returning to the fundamentals. Familiarity should strengthen our performance, not cause us to dismiss the material.

At Guardian Protection Force, training is not simply a compliance exercise or a record of completed courses. It is one of the ways we shape our culture. It reinforces how we treat one another, how we identify and communicate concerns, how we respond to risk, and how we protect the people and communities entrusted to our care.

Every training topic may not feel exciting. Every lesson may not feel new. But each session is an opportunity to sharpen our awareness, strengthen our judgment, and recommit ourselves to the standards expected of a Guardian.

When pressure rises, people rarely create a new standard in the moment. They rely on the habits they have already practiced.

How you train is how you perform.





THE GUARDIAN WAY PODCAST CORNER

Join Guardian Protection Force's Garrett Thomas and Terry MacAdam on The Guardian Way for insightful conversations about the physical security industry.

EPISODE 137 AI Security Shift from Response to Predictive Risk Management

Learn how AI helps security teams predict threats sooner.

EPISODE 136 AI & Security Management: Why AI is Changing Physical Security

Hear how AI is improving response, leadership, and compliance in security.

EPISODE 135 Delivering Professional Security Through Planning and Intelligence

See how preparation and intelligence help prevent security problems.

EPISODE 134 Enhancing Executive Productivity and Confidence

How discreet protection keeps leaders focused, confident, and productive.

Subscribe on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon, and Youtube: youtube.com/@GPFSecurity



Guardian Protection Force Opens in Tracy

We're growing! We're proud to announce our new branch office in **Tracy, California**, expanding our ability to serve businesses, organizations, and individuals throughout the Central Valley and Northern California. Conveniently located right off I-205 at N. MacArthur Drive, the new branch strengthens our presence and operational reach throughout the region.

From **1005 E. Pescadero Ave., Tracy**, we support armed security, patrol, executive protection, and other professional security services with the same standards, professionalism, and intelligence-driven approach our clients expect.

For assistance anytime, contact 24/7 Dispatch at 866.921.9484. Tracy, we're ready to serve. **Security Through Intelligence™**



GPF UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn More. Register. Purchase Tickets Online. gpfsecuritycorp.com/events

2026 Q3 THE GUARDIAN BRIEFING WEBINAR AI & SECURITY MANAGEMENT

September 3, 2026, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

AI is already changing how organizations identify risks, evaluate information, conduct investigations, monitor environments, and manage operations. Join this free virtual briefing to learn where AI can add value, where human expertise remains essential, and what leaders should ask before adopting new tools. Live Q&A included.



3RD ANNUAL GUARDIAN PROTECTION FORCE TRUNK OR TREAT

October 28, 2026, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Celebrate a favorite community tradition with decorated trunks, candy, costumes, and plenty of Halloween spirit. Local families, staff, clients, and community partners are invited to attend, while local businesses can help bring the event to life by hosting a trunk, donating candy, or providing event support.



GPF CORE VALUES IN ACTION

PRESENT, PREPARED, PROFESSIONAL

Jennifer Lamborn, Director of Business Development

Each year, Guardian Protection Force establishes a focused set of strategic goals designed to move our company forward. Some years, that means four priorities. Other years, five or six. In 2026, we established seven specific goals, and one of them was to place a company-wide focus on *two of our core values: Attendance and Appearance*.

At first glance, these values may seem simple. Show up for work. Arrive in the proper uniform. Maintain a professional appearance. But in the security industry, these expectations are anything but minor.

Attendance communicates dependability. Appearance communicates preparedness, discipline, and respect. Together, they influence client confidence, team continuity, officer safety, and operational readiness.

Our clients rely on Guardian to provide a consistent and visible security presence. When an officer reports to work on time and ready for duty, the client does not have to wonder whether their post will be covered, whether responsibilities will be delayed, or whether another member of the team will need to absorb an unexpected gap. Reliable attendance creates stability not only for the client but also for fellow officers, dispatchers, schedulers, and supervisors.

Appearance sends an equally important message.

Before an officer speaks with a client, assists a member of the public, or responds to an incident, their appearance has already made an impression. A clean, complete uniform and properly maintained equipment communicate that the officer is prepared to perform. They show respect for the position, the client environment, the Guardian name, and the people we serve.

This standard is not limited to uniformed officers.

Every employee represents Guardian in some capacity. Whether we are meeting with a prospective client, interviewing an applicant, answering a telephone call, attending a community event, or supporting operations behind the scenes, our professionalism is visible.

Attendance and Appearance also support the other values we have committed to as a company. Character is demonstrated when we keep our commitments. Integrity is reflected in the standards we maintain even when no one is reminding us. Customer Service begins with being present, prepared, and ready to help. Even Attitude can be communicated through the way we arrive and carry ourselves.

Our decision to make these two values a strategic priority in 2026 was not about reducing Guardian's standards to a checklist. It was about strengthening the foundation that allows every other standard to be carried out.

Professionalism does not begin when an incident occurs. It begins before the shift, with the decision to show up, arrive prepared, and represent Guardian with pride.

Present. Prepared. Professional.

That is what our clients expect, what our teammates depend on, and what it means to be a Guardian.



GUARDIAN SPOTLIGHT

Professionalism With Purpose Bryan Hill, Senior Security Officer



Nearly eight years into his Guardian Protection Force career, and with more than twelve years in the security profession, Senior Security Officer B. Hill has built a reputation for professionalism, respect, and reliability. He describes himself as someone whose personal and professional demeanor are virtually identical: treating others with courtesy first, while never missing an opportunity to add a touch of humor when the moment allows.

Hill says he originally entered the security industry looking for a new direction in life, but what has kept him passionate over the years is the opportunity to make people feel safe, comfortable, and at ease. That commitment to service, paired with a willingness to continually improve, has made him a respected member of the Guardian team.

A strong advocate for using technology to enhance performance, Hill recommends the Word Hippo app to fellow officers for improving report writing and expanding professional vocabulary. "It's much more than a

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GPF CAREER FOCUS: SECURITY CONSULTANTS

Security Consultants help organizations identify vulnerabilities affecting people, property, operations, and critical assets. Through site visits, stakeholder discussions, operational reviews, and risk assessments, they evaluate existing security measures and determine where improvements may be needed.

Consultants may review access control, surveillance, staffing, emergency preparedness, incident response, workplace safety, and internal protocols before developing recommendations tailored to each client's environment and priorities. The goal is to create a practical security plan that reduces risk while supporting normal operations.

Success in this career requires industry knowledge, strong observation, sound judgment, and clear communication. Effective consultants listen carefully, ask the right questions, document their findings, and help leaders understand recommended next steps. Experience in security operations, investigations, law enforcement, emergency management, or executive protection can provide a strong foundation for professionals ready to help shape broader security strategies.

Become a Guardian.

Learn more and [get started here](#).



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