

Theme: Police responsibility quality elevating through cooperation with private security establishments: Latvian experience.

The report prepared:

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It has become obvious that a man cannot be safe at home, at work, at business; when the government cannot provide protection of its population from committing crime. There are many such examples when people try to find support and safety inside social groups. Conscientiously or spontaneous, they look for some possibilities to protect themselves by themselves or other alternative possibilities. This is why the problem of private security structures and their development in Latvia we consider as real and important to take into consideration.

In 1999 we noticed this change in Latvia and its capital Riga region. It was the definite demand and the necessity. In December of 1999 we organized operational meeting. The leaders and representatives practically of all private security establishments took part in that meeting. It was done luckily, purposefully, where the main direction was to listen to their opinions. At first we choose cooperation in such question as crime prevention and order promoting. Our new reserves appeared.

This case, firstly, let take our bearings and forces of traditional police departments, folk land security and police of local self-governments and it was also the chance to use offered private professional security establishments' help and resources. They are professional, because they receive certificates after they successfully finished a special course. They can receive this certificate only in police. They have their own resources, they are well equipped armed, and they have special means, new communication systems and they have rather good means of transport. And the main thing is that they are willing to cooperate. Thanks to this feature we decided to use their forces in common preventive activities in living sectors of our region.

Secondly, we could extend range of service in economics in safety promoting of different objects. We can do patrolling in the system of the united dislocation in the territory that is close to the objects in guard. It was important during spot-checks, information exchange, presenting of evidence in civil cases and taking part in different procession cases of state police. They delivered official means of transport for the work and physical resources. Practically there are 5 private security establishments and 186 men, prepared for work. This is clear-headed consolidation and effective use of methods and means of cooperation increased our forces for public order promoting and crime prevention. We rationally used our resources in structural division of state police.

As a result we could minimize legal offence committing in public places.

For example, if we look at the statistics for the last 5 years, than we can clear up that this experience finds its support and gives a very good result:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
- private security establishment heave out to the place of event,	464	823	1225	2185	2700	812
- hold and delivered lawbreakers to the territorial police departments,	313	531	508	868	762	779
- discovered administrative cases,	138	261	279	1107	861	349
- took part and in cooperation with police discovered,	58	131	55	78	40	14
- quantity of information delivered to the police about different legal offences	144	263	205	244	220	61
- took part in public order promoting in cooperation with the police during mass meetings	32	53	42	82	76	35
- took part in spot-checks organized by the police in different directions	206	287	268	342	285	85

It was noticed that activity during the first three positions from the folk land security and police of local self-governments has diminished, but the activity of security establishments has increased. This is the result of purposeful preventive work. That means that we have chosen the right decision. In other words, we organized serious local anti-criminal network in our region, if we can call it so, where the state police was an initiator, organizer and coordinator between folk land security, police of local self-governments, private security establishments replenishing each other in the work , where primary things are protection of life, health, rights, property and interests of our population.

We cooperate with the folk land security according to common order of 1994 and some instructions. Cooperation with police of local self-governments is stated in the article No 19 in “The law of Police” and is fixed by regulation of police of local self-governments in June 11, 2001. They were professionally prepared according to our study plan. We delivered cooperation contracts and forms of accounts. This question with private security establishments is not yet solved. We cannot solve the problem of law and organizational character. The law about security activities of October 29, 1998 requires:

- *questions about cooperation of private security establishments with powerful organs are not regulated; the status of private security guardians who take part in order promoting, that gives them the right effectively fulfill their functions, is not regulated.*
- *The given law does not say about the directions of cooperation, regulation of mutual responsibility, rights and duties as subjects of the given*

cooperation; the order of cooperation contract execution with powerful organs.

- *The duty about information exchange in case of crime committing in preparatory, fulfilled stages from the side of private security establishments is not reflected; the right to cooperate in crime committed persons holding and persons wanted by the police, to take part in public order promoting arrangements and society safety is not depicted.*

Being an initiator of the given project about cooperation, we deservedly took the coordinator place. In spite of the blank pages in our legislation, we concluded cooperation contracts with private security establishments. Regularly, we receive accounts about their activities; we include the necessary questions in annual working plan. It lets us to expand the system of the united dislocation. Besides meetings, we regularly discuss different questions, for example:

- About efficient situation and arrangements in public order promoting. The question of personnel checking is of the main significance. We check punishability, contacts with criminal structures, professional background for the cooperation.
- We manage law and consultative support.
- We help with working out the cooperation contracts with the local authorities and private security establishments in promoting public order in the territory that is close to the objects guarded.
- Because of low salaries in the state police, it was a real opportunity to work in private security establishments. It stopped resignation from police.
- We accomplish explanation work with our population, also in mass media.

Many years working in cooperation in difficult operative situation, operative orderly policeman of the territorial police department or administration office knows the dislocation of different forces and can look up to them. In some minutes private security establishment crew arrives at event place, if it happens somewhere close to their disposal. This opportunity is necessary and its activities are reflected in our contract. More over, this is a lever and a good recommendation for giving them the certificate for the future activities.

We had very bitter experience about this case, when security establishments independently without coordination the questions with the state police, they had the deal with the local authorities. They guarded the whole administrative territories. There was a full amateur art, there were such points included that were unlawful. Fortunately, the situation duly was taken under control; it was carefully worked out and became lawful due to the legislative and normative acts. Later on, it was coordinated with the state police administration.

Because the problem of society, person safety, protection of their rights, is, first of all, the task of the state police. Ability to unite all the means and methods into the only powerful system, and realize it on different stages – from the legislative organs until the self-government institutions shows that the process has

begun and it is more than reality, it is obvious. The present situation shows that it is the right time to make corrections in our legislation.

September 7, 2005