

# GUARDSMARK®

## THE MARKET

A dangerous sense of complacency pervades much of the nation, and security threats are often not given the attention they demand. This nonchalant attitude regarding the risks ever-present in modern society threatens the safety of an organization's employees, visitors, and shareholders. Security preparedness can not only reduce the risk of violence at a facility but also protect people and property from more commonplace risks, such as theft and vandalism.

Finding the right security firm can help in identifying potential security vulnerabilities and implementing plans to enhance safety and security, and the need for effective security preparedness has never been greater. More than a decade after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the threat of terrorist activity is even greater.

Compounding the problem are the recent events surrounding the disclosure of governmental secrets that have severely threatened the national security of the United States. Terrorism, cybercrime, and insider threats will be prolific problems well into the future, and every available tactic must be employed for the nation's defense. Severe potential security hazards also raise the specter of the heightened risk of increased economic espionage. Companies and governments are subject to having their proprietary and intellectual information stolen, creating serious, ongoing risk that their entire operations will be compromised. A careful and complete background screening process is an essential tool in preventing these monumental security breaches.

Guardsmark, one of the world's largest security services firms, has consistently set the highest standards of professionalism in the security industry for more than 50 years. Under the same leadership since its inception in 1963, Guardsmark brings integrity and unmatched experience to the security market by establishing the industry's most rigorous employment and screening process, which has been lauded by major media, academia, and industry experts. Guardsmark also provides the most generous employee compensation and benefits package in the industry and offers innovative solutions to increase customer productivity.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Guardsmark believes that reliable and effective security begins with a set of common standards,

in principle and practice. The company has become one of the most recognized names in private security, with approximately 17,000 employees in more than 140 offices, serving clients in more than 400 cities in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, and the People's Republic of China. Its reputation for sustained excellence stems from the company's ability to provide professional, well-trained security officers who abide by strict ethical guidelines and perform a wide range of services. Strong client relationships, some of which have lasted for decades, have turned Guardsmark into a half-billion-dollar company, with consistent double-digit annual revenue increases that are driven wholly by organic growth, not acquisitions or mergers.

Guardsmark sustains one of the lowest incident levels of any security organization, including the police and the FBI, by bringing a seriousness of purpose to management's approach to security.

The company's rigorous selection and screening process, including extensive background checks and ongoing drug testing, isn't simply the toughest in private security; the employment standards of Guardsmark exceed many police and government organizations. Only one in 50 candidates is chosen, and Guardsmark has one of the lowest employee turnover rates in the industry: 30 percent annually, which is a small fraction of the estimated 200 percent to 300 percent industry average. Security officers at Guardsmark develop careers, not transitional jobs.

Guardsmark has demonstrated a dedication to ethics since its founding and has maintained a formal ethics code for 33 years. The company's detailed Code of Ethics helps to ensure that team members adhere to principled business conduct and an unparalleled commitment to offering the best security, regardless of profit motivation. That is the reason Guardsmark withdrew from airport security in 1988, believing that the airlines were not committed to supporting airline security. As a result of its dedication to ethics, Guardsmark received the American Business Ethics Award from the Society of Financial Service Professionals and the Corporate Citizenship Award from the Committee for Economic Development. Guardsmark Founder



and Chairman Ira A. Lipman received the Stanley C. Pace Leadership in Ethics Award from the Ethics Resource Center (ERC) and was the featured speaker at the ERC's Celebration of Commitment to Ethics dinner. The Guardsmark ethics program has also been featured in several books, including *Ethics Matters and Eighty Exemplary Ethics Statements*.

Guardsmark is the first security services firm to receive ISO 9001 registration at a U.S. headquarters. It also is the only internationally based security services firm to have earned ISO 9001:2008 registration of its quality management system

for 100 percent of its branches for service, selection, and design. This mark of quality assurance recognizes select firms that adhere to a top-quality control system with a detailed and effective workflow. In his bestseller *Liberation Management*, management expert Tom Peters praised Guardsmark as the "Tiffany's of the security business," and in his book *Re-imagine!* Peters cited Guardsmark as an exemplary professional service firm. Guardsmark has SAFETY Act Designation as awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, verifying that Guardsmark provides a qualified antiterrorism technology for its clients.

## HISTORY

Following the end of World War II, demand for proprietary security services began to grow, particularly in the aerospace and defense industries. At that time, security meant employing a static "night watchman" — an often unskilled person who simply provided "presence" and qualified companies for discounted insurance rates. The typical security guard was passive, untrained, and in many cases unnecessarily armed.

In the early 1960s a young Ira Lipman witnessed firsthand the need for high-quality security service while selling the investigative services of his father, Mark Lipman. At the age of 21, Ira A. Lipman created the concept of Guardsmark: a name that combined the nature of the business (protection services) with "mark," which not only honored his father but also carried the connotation of quality and excellence.

In July 1963 Mr. Lipman turned into a reality his dream of a professional security service company based on quality and ethics. Ira Lipman started Guardsmark with limited assets — a small amount of borrowed money and his entrepreneurial energy and vision — but it was enough to launch one of the great success stories in American business.

## THE PRODUCT

Guardsmark creates and implements custom-tailored security programs for clients in a wide range of industries and settings, from corporate headquarters and high-technology facilities to manufacturing plants, research and development centers, office buildings, hospitals, campuses, museums, and foundations. These sophisticated plans address a multitude of needs, from access control and perimeter security to terrorism and workplace violence prevention — all with the overall goal of ensuring employee safety and business continuity.

Guardsmark security officers are the best in the industry because Guardsmark has set the highest standards in screening, selection, education, and compensation. The Guardsmark selection process involves an extensive background investigation that includes personal interviews, a 40-page application, a criminal-record check, numerous references, and investigations into military service, driving records, and educational attainment. All Guardsmark employees are initially tested for twice the number of illegal drugs as government employees and are subject to ongoing random drug testing where permitted by law.

In addition to an initial, industry-leading learning and development process, the Guardsmark curriculum includes documented monthly learning and development lessons that address topics such as diversity, workplace violence, and biological and chemical warfare. The emphasis on education doesn't end with security.

Guardsmark employees are also offered a tuition assistance program. Approximately 49 percent of the company's security officers have attended college, prompting an industry-leading trade journal to cite Guardsmark as having "the best-educated workforce." Further demonstrating the firm's commitment to higher learning, the company established the Guardsmark Professorship at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Guardsmark clients gain access to a wide range of expertise, from proprietary conversion specialists to former counterterrorism agents. The company's senior management includes dozens of retired top officials from the FBI, with experience in security countermeasures, counterterrorism, and military operations. Guardsmark remains on the cutting edge of security-related innovations and developments that pertain to antiterrorism procedures and computer security, among other areas. The company's service offerings include:

- **The Risk Assessment Division**, which surveys client security needs and identifies existing vulnerabilities. Guardsmark experts recommend and implement an innovative plan for enhancing security, giving the organization a comprehensive strategy to guide its overall protection program.
- **The International Overseas Division**, which provides professional and confidential services for firms doing business overseas. With well-connected representatives on the ground in Europe and Asia Pacific,



Guardsmark responds promptly on behalf of a client anywhere in the world.

- **The Mark Lipman Division**, which provides highly regarded background research services. In addition, skilled professionals investigate employee theft, fraud, workers' compensation abuse, and drug activity in the workplace.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

For almost the entire history of the company, Guardsmark has led initiatives to enact federal legislation that would raise standards for the security industry. As a result of the company's relentless efforts, the Private Security Officer Employment Authorization Act was enacted. This measure will significantly improve homeland security by providing a procedure to better screen private security personnel, using a check with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national criminal history database to identify any disqualifying arrests or convictions. Individuals with prior criminal convictions who obtained and abused positions of trust as security officers have done

considerable damage, and the consequences could be far more devastating should an al Qaeda operative be allowed to obtain a position that would grant unfettered access to an organization's vulnerabilities. Ensuring the reliability of security officers is vital to national security and will improve standards of professionalism in the industry.

## PROMOTION

Guardsmark is committed to dispelling the myth of security as a "commodity." The company continually seeks value for the customer that prevents loss of life, saves reputations, and manages crises. Guardsmark security officers provide sophisticated services that offer added value and enable clients to focus on their core business operations. In fulfilling these responsibilities, Guardsmark security professionals have averted costly problems for clients and have performed many lifesaving acts.

*The Lipman Report*®, a management-level newsletter, has provided cutting-edge intelligence since November 1977. Each edition addresses a specific security threat, including terrorism, workplace violence, computer security, crime trends, drugs in the workplace, employee theft, fraud, and embezzlement.



In major national publications, Guardsmark also stands out with high-quality, informative advertisements that reflect an uncompromising focus on ethical standards and seriousness of purpose. The company firmly believes that saying the right things about security is one thing; it is another to implement them. Guardsmark has built solid partnerships with its clients by developing meaningful security solutions that work.

## BRAND VALUES

The Guardsmark motto — "Truth, Courage, Judgement" — is the cornerstone of the company's value system. Guardsmark has maintained a steadfast commitment to quality and principle that is evident in the faces of Guardsmark security officers, management, and executive leadership.

Guardsmark has been a pioneer in employing and promoting team members from diverse backgrounds. The company and its founder share a documented history of taking courageous stands on championing human rights and encouraging diversity. But above all else, Guardsmark is relentlessly focused on developing dedicated, highly educated, and motivated security professionals who will strive for perfection and achieve excellence.

## THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT GUARDSMARK

- Guardsmark is the largest employer of former FBI agents in the world.
- Guardsmark has achieved a remarkable growth rate of 10 percent on a compounded annual basis since 1969.
- Forty percent of salaried employees at Guardsmark were promoted from hourly security officer positions within the company.
- *The New York Times* editorially praised Guardsmark for reducing the number of unnecessarily armed security officers, an action that cost the company a significant amount of business at the time.
- Guardsmark initiated federal legislation to raise industry standards, leading to the Private Security Officer Employment Authorization Act, which was signed into law as part of the National Intelligence Reform Act.
- In 1957, as a high school senior in Little Rock, Founder and Chairman Ira A. Lipman appeared on a nationally televised news program to denounce segregation at Central High School, which became integrated with the matriculation of the "Little Rock Nine."
- Mr. Lipman's role in the desegregation crisis led to a friendship with NBC news legend John Chancellor. In 1995 Mr. Lipman established the John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism® program, administered by the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, to honor his hero.