

Handbook of Security Blunders

By Roger G. Johnston, Ph.D, CPP and Jon S. Warner, Ph.D.
(the editors of the *Journal of Physical Security*)
Available February 2010

The Weakest Link

There's an old adage that your security is only as good as the weakest link. This makes sense because adversaries typically attack where there are problems, not at random.

Thus, when conventional security books focus on how to have effective security, they often overlook the fact that what you get right about security is often less important than what you get wrong.

Security Mistakes

The Vulnerability Assessment Team (VAT) at Argonne National Laboratory (formerly at Los Alamos from 1992-2007) has conducted vulnerability assessments on hundreds of different security systems, devices, and programs. We keep seeing the same kinds of mistakes.

The Handbook of Security Blunders lists and discusses over 1,000 serious security mistakes that the VAT has seen repeatedly.

Topic areas include Security Strategy, Security Culture & Climate, Organizational Security, Security Management & Supervision, Cyber Security, The Insider Threat, Social Engineering, Building Security, Access Control & Biometrics, Locks, Seals, Tags, Cargo Security, Product Counterfeiting, Choosing Security Products, Vulnerability Assessments, Risk Management, Nuclear Safeguards, Security Device & System Design, Business/Financial Security, and Personal Security.

The book concludes with a glossary of over 800 security terms that every security professional should know.



VAT Awards & Recognition

The Argonne Vulnerability Assessment Team has won numerous awards and received widespread recognition. A partial list includes:

- 10 U.S. patents
- Over 60 invited talks at national and international conferences, including Keynote Addresses
- Interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal* (front page), NPR, CSO, *RFID Journal*, *Homeland Security Alert*, *IOMA Security Director's Report*, *Mechanical Engineering*, *Business Travel Executive*, *Pharma Manufacturing*, etc.
- BECCA Honorary CCO Award for contributions to homeland security, 2009
- LANL Fellows Prize for Outstanding Research, 2004
- LANL Achievement Awards, 2007, 2004, 1999 & 1995
- Distinguished Performance Award from the CIA, 2002
- "Excellence in Performance Measure" Award, American Society for Industrial Security, 2002
- LANL Distinguished Performance Awards, 2001 & 1996
- Excellence in Technology Transfer Awards, 1997 & 1992
- R&D 100 National Awards, 1992 & 1994
- "Best of What's New Award", *Popular Science*, 1992