

Case study | Defence
BAE Systems



“
We rely on Securitas to provide high levels of protection to our valuable assets from both a Security and Fire perspective
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Dave John, Fire & Security Manager,
BAE Systems Submarines



BAE Systems is a British multinational defence, security and aerospace company with global operations and approximately 35,000 employees within the UK alone.

The background

As a world-leading provider of defence and security products, ranging from sophisticated military support to mission critical electronic systems and protection equipment, BAE Systems needs a reliable and highly skilled partner to deliver a fit for purpose security solution.

In 1999 Securitas became one of approximately 25,000 partners and suppliers commissioned by BAE Systems around the world. The long-standing relationship developed, with Securitas expanding its scope of work to provide an increasingly specialist service across BAE Systems sites at Barrow-in-Furness, Manchester, Scotstoun, Govan, Portsmouth, Bishopton, Washington, Radway Green and Glascoed.

The service

Almost 300 Securitas officers work with BAE Systems, with around half of the total personnel stationed at Barrow, in Cumbria. It is the heart of BAE Systems submarine facility, which has delivered battle-winning vessels and is set to build next generation nuclear-deterrent submarines that are the largest and most advanced submarines ever operated by the Royal Navy.

In order to secure multi-million pound assets at the site, Securitas support includes security staff, front of house, reception, alarm monitoring, key holding, control room operators and mobile response.



Specialist services concentrated at the Barrow premises comprises fire safety, emergency medical technicians and rigid inflatable boat operators.

The unit is a skilled team of specialist security personnel and therefore a bespoke recruitment process handpicks those officers with the required mix of competencies and experience.

Focus on Fire

A team of 90 personnel provides a dedicated fire safety function at the Barrow BAE Systems site, as vessel fire safety officers and supervisors operating in crews of six manning one appliance. The unit is the backbone of the organisation's safety commitment, ensuring compliance and safeguarding BAE Systems high-value assets.

In November 2010 a new fire service was added at the request of BAE Systems, following changes to legislation to ensure organisations had adequate fire cover in proportion to risk. A crew of 29 professionally-trained fire and rescue officers were commissioned as first attack fire fighters providing a team of six Securitas personnel per shift led by the BAE Systems fire and incident liaison officers (FILOs). Their remit was to offer 24 hour cover, seven days a week, 365 days a year, alongside executing their day-to-day duties.

The joint BAE Systems/Securitas team provides rapid intervention to incidents prior to the arrival of the local fire authority Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS), and can support CFRS in any action required.

An extensive programme includes a six-week course at Fire Training College where recruits perfect fire drills and familiarise themselves with breathing apparatus, alongside study of complex theory.

Tasked with managing worst case scenario fire incidents as a last resort, these first attack officers access the extensive fire training which underpins the Securitas emergency fire crew capability (EFCC). It is a specialist service operating within Securitas, which delivers an on-demand, skilled firefighters and currently provides contingency cover for London Fire Brigade, which is the third-largest fire and rescue service in the world.

Securitas Branch Manager John Rankin explains: "While fire safety support is central to the Securitas service provided to BAE Systems, luckily the crews have not been called upon to deal with a fire in anger on a vessel in a number of years. However, their emergency capabilities is in demand, with Securitas staff led by the FILOs taking part in removing personnel from the vessel due to illness or accident

Further specialise training for BAE Systems Securitas officers includes a BTEC qualification available following a four-day course on the complexities of guarding defence establishments and hostile reconnaissance training, plus a three-day intensive first aid course is mandatory. Selected officers also complete Royal Yacht Association qualifications, enabling them to safeguard lives in the event of a man overboard scenario.



Results

Securitas has successfully delivered high calibre and specialist support through a sound understanding of BAE Systems objectives, coupled with an ability to quickly adapt to support the contract as necessary. Its team is equipped with a sound knowledge of the defence environment, and the policies and procedures inherent in operating within it.

Dave John has worked for BAE Systems for almost 40 years and is instrumental in outsourcing the contract. He believes the partnership is a great success. He explains: "We're a large site at Barrow, and there are a vast number of challenges for Securitas in the supply and service. Being assured that our security is being handled correctly and efficiently is crucial, and officers are tasked with helping BAE Systems manage access control to protect our most vital assets, along with fire service which has had a significant impact."

Securitas officers working at Barrow hit headlines recently for their work aiding the Police and Coastguard in the rescue of a man who jumped off a bridge into the Devonshire Dock at 3.37am. A Securitas/BAE Systems rescue team consisting of FILOs, first attack fire fighters, emergency medical technicians (EMT) and rigid inflatable boat (RIB) operators were deployed instantly.

RIB operators and two Securitas officers located the man and pulled him safely from the water, handing him over to the care of the EMTs. He was subsequently taken into the care of paramedics and transferred to Furness General Hospital.

Commenting on the incident Dave John says: "This was a demonstration of excellent teamwork and we commend Securitas for their contribution that night. It was clear that the officers called upon their knowledge and experience, aiding the emergency services in the successful rescue. Securitas was nominated for an award for the actions of these officers, which is truly well-deserved – they should be recognised for what they did."

Securitas also plays an important role for BAE Systems during the regular visits to its sites from high profile guests. Dave adds: "Because of the status of Barrow, we get lots of visitors including members of the royal family, Defence Ministers, Prime Ministers and a whole host of other dignitaries. In 2014 we had a tour with Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge and, as always, Securitas worked collaboratively with us to ensure that we have the adequate security in place to support these occasions."