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By Norma Trease

Who's Who in Yacht Security?

AffAirAction, a Ft. Lauderdale-based company, is the longest operating firm specialized in yacht security. Offering since 1988 personal & corporate training, intelligence, and security planning, AffAirAction has an impressive set of clients, including several management firms, yacht builders, and dozens of private and charter yachts. Owner and principal trainer Patrick Estebe himself possesses an impressive set of credentials, for in addition to his background in the French intelligence service, Estebe is also an experienced skipper, commercial diver, firearm instructor, advanced martial artist and commercial pilot. With that type of experience, one might expect a Rambo-style approach to security, but au

contraire, Estebe focuses his training less on physical self-defense skills, instead concentrating on “initiating major paradigm shifts in the trainee’s understanding of the nature of a confrontation, raising crew awareness to a new level.” His philosophy is that “security principles discovered by the crew during these training sessions remain with it for extended periods of time, and are much more effective than artificially acquired para-military skills.” He teaches crew to be less reactive, and more aware of their environment, explaining, “security is all about paying attention.” His goal is to enable guests and owners to relax and enjoy themselves, knowing that all is taken of as it should be.



AffAirAction also offers consultive security surveys and security planning services, often recommending simple solutions such as increased exterior lighting, upgraded locks, and establishing crew emergency procedures. Most training is accomplished on-board, although additional training in firearms handling and physical self-defense is also available. For yachts cruising in known dangerous areas or involved in exposed activities, Estebe and his international staff can also offer covert professional security (bodyguards), and again, his

approach is minimalist - you certainly won't be followed around by obvious guys in dark suits and glasses. Instead, AffAirAction staff will most likely operate as part of the uniformed crew, providing not only a more discreet presence, but also on-board training at the same time. Estebe provides security awareness to the industry through his participation in seminars such as those provided by ShowBoats at last years Ft Lauderdale Boat Show, Feadships Meeting of the Minds, and BSAs Captains Seminars.