

Cargo Crime

Security and Theft Prevention



J. J. Coughlin



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Foreword

Professionals involved in supply chain security will discover that *Cargo Crime: Security and Theft Prevention* by J.J. Coughlin is both an indispensable overview of current cargo trends and a viable desktop reference for field practitioners whose job it is to establish security plans and predictive security operations in the transportation and logistics fields.

This book was based on the premise that the wealth of experience in law enforcement, cargo theft investigation, and cargo theft intelligence analysis accumulated by the author as director of the Supply Chain Information Sharing and Analysis Center has given him an insight and understanding of the criminal elements involved in these crimes that he wanted to share with investigators and transportation security practitioners. He achieved his goal and has produced a text that will pass on to those who peruse it the benefit of his years of practical experience in the specialty area of cargo crime.

The text is organized into a scenario that will enable the novice or the grizzled veteran to proceed from Chapter 1, “Cargo Crime: Definition and Trends,” to observing charts and information that will answer the four basic questions (what, where, when, and how) of crime. By the time the reader proceeds through Chapter 3, “Perpetrators of Cargo Crime,” he or she will be able to answer the fifth and final crime question: who.

Collectively, the chapters of this book represent a source and definitive guide for transportation security managers and law enforcement personnel. It has been designed to reveal the experiences of the author in a practical, useful, and progressive manner. The research is empirical and the results compiled into this text will be relevant for many years.

After answering the basic crime questions, the book takes you through the responses of industries to build an information-sharing and communication system through regional security councils that focus on highlighting risks and threats via a shared BOLO/Alert program and providing a networking system with law enforcement to respond to crimes. The text also provides information on products and solutions designed to prevent cargo crime and a highly useful glossary of transportation security and freight terms along with abbreviations as an important addendum to the information in the chapters.

As a transportation attorney for more than 27 years, I consider this book a must read for any transportation professional. J.J. Coughlin has tackled a very complicated subject. He presents the material in an easy-to-understand review along with solutions that are timeless.

Steven E. Lewis

Lewis & Backhaus, P.C.

Dallas, Texas

Preface

The purpose of *Cargo Crime: Security and Theft Prevention* is to provide practical conventional current information for transportation and logistics industry and law enforcement units and officers responsible for the security of supply chains and the investigation of those who prey upon them.

This text is based on the author's personal experiences as a law enforcement detective and supervisor and as a regional security manager for a large multimode transportation and logistics company. This experience, along with many years of serving as the director of the Supply Chain Information Sharing and Analysis Center (SC-ISAC)—an organization that collects and analyzes cargo crime data and shares information with transportation security experts—provides a thorough overview of illicit activities impacting supply chains.

Analyzing cargo crime trends and patterns and using the information derived to identify methods of operation of organized and opportunistic criminals who target supply chains extremely helpful for determining risks and threats. The ability to apply that information based on real world experience and industry associations makes the information that much more usable. If you look at the reference material for this book, most of it was originally prepared by the author in his role as chairman of the Southwest Transportation Security Council in collaboration with many council members who are subject matter experts in specific areas.

In order to be successful, an industry security practitioner must have an eye for detail while understanding the risks and complexities of cargo operations so that the correct security and recovery plan applied to a situation will be both effective and cost-efficient.

One thing is certain: cargo security is much trickier than just throwing guards, technology, and money at the problem. Applying the right resource for the involved mode and issue takes a true understanding of all of the variables. This book attempts to identify and discuss those variables and make each practitioner cognizant of the options available. This book will cover the current trends, cargo criminal operational methods, and best practices and solutions for each circumstance. Protection of cargo is not simple; it requires the ability to use all the information presented. No single solution fits all situations, as shown in this book.

The investigation of cargo crime is hindered by a lack of true federal response. Adequate law enforcement assistance, particularly aiding recovery, is an issue industry has taken to heart and pursued via industry councils, information sharing, and building police networking in areas where crimes and criminals are prevalent. This book speaks to those councils, their activities, and their continuing push forward despite the lack of cargo theft statutes in many states and the deficiency of law enforcement cargo theft task forces in many jurisdictions where they are sorely needed.

This book speaks to law enforcement training provided by the industry and covers company operations and documentation. It deals with the subject of commercial vehicle interdiction in a way I have not seen in other cargo-related writings. Many volumes have been written on this subject, frequently in manual format, and not based on real experience from investigation and security management in the transportation security field. It has been my intention to present a factual down-to-earth cargo theft handbook based on true experience and ongoing involvement in the field. This book stresses the basics

of cargo crime and provides the reader with patterns and trends upon which to build a solid foundation for construction of a company security and recovery plan along with information to assist law enforcement with investigations. I recommend that the reader absorb the information related in the text and realize that it includes strategically placed repetition because certain known principles can never be stressed enough.

I truly hope this book will be an informative, enjoyable, and interesting read for those who have interest in this complicated and amazingly underreported criminal activity.

Acknowledgments

I want to personally thank and acknowledge the many people, agencies, associations, and councils that contributed to *Cargo Crime: Security and Theft Prevention*. Their professional expertise, suggestions, photographs, and information encouraged me to complete this text. Since I am not a professional author, I needed all the help I could get. I am listing these persons in alphabetical order and hope I have not inadvertently omitted anyone.

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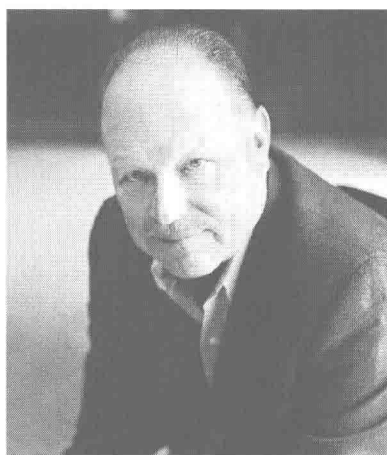
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Each person listed above contributed in some way directly or indirectly, through participation in the real-life incidents discussed in the book or through information shared with the Southwest Transportation Security Council (SWTSC).

About the Author

John Joseph (J.J.) Coughlin is currently vice president of law enforcement services for LoJack Supply Chain Integrity (SCI). He is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing security processes, procedures, and investigations for SCI members. J.J. also works closely with law enforcement officers in deployment of LoJack In-Transit Service to support covert surveillance, dispatch, and recovery operations and investigations. He also serves as the director of the Supply Chain Information Sharing and Analysis Center (SC-ISAC) and supervises the collection, analysis, and dissemination of cargo theft and crime data.



J.J. serves as the chairman of the Southwest Transportation Security Council, which he founded to facilitate the sharing of information and networking with law enforcement and private industry. He has been a driving force behind the expansion of regional security councils and promoting information sharing by regional councils, law enforcement, and private industry. He is an active member of the Western States Cargo Theft Association, Southeast Transportation Security Council, Virginia–Carolinas Cargo Security Council, American Society

for Industrial Security (ASIS) Supply Chain Security Committee, International Associations of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, Advisory Committee of the National Cargo Theft Task Force, National Council of Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs), and the Trans-Border International Police Association. J.J. also conducts security consulting duties for Trans-Secure Compliance and Solutions.

Before joining LoJack, SCI, J.J. spent 10 years in the transportation industry as a regional security manager for CNF/Conway, a national transportation and logistics company. Prior to joining CNF/Conway, he spent 22 years with the Dallas Police Department and was assigned for 17 of those years as a detective or supervisor in the areas of areas assault, homicide, intelligence, and public integrity. J.J. has also instructed classes in interview and interrogation techniques and supply chain and cargo transportation related subjects.

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