Confronting Capitol Riot Security Failures and Domestic Violent Extremism

[Editor’s Note: James Gagliano served for nearly 30 years in the U.S. Army and the FBI, where he was a criminal investigator, SWAT team leader, Hostage Rescue Team member and Chief of Staff to the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the FBI’s New York City office. The West Point graduate is now an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Homeland Security, Criminal Justice, Military History and Leadership at St. John’s University. Additionally, he appears on CNN as its Law Enforcement Analyst, commenting on terrorism events and high-profile criminal investigations in the news. He will lend his expertise occasionally to ISC News on matters relating to law enforcement, terrorism and how they relate to the security industry. The opinions expressed are his own.]

The protesters who descended on our nation’s capital on Jan. 6 were ostensibly exercising their First Amendment rights to peaceably assemble and seek redress from their government. Many were under the mistaken presumption that an election had been stolen from their preferred candidate. Weeks of judicial challenges to the election results had been exhausted and ultimately failed. The period for seeking judicial remedies had ended. Yet, still many fervently believed they had been wronged.

Election fraud is certainly concerning for a representative republic like the United States. But investigations always conclude instances are episodic—not systemic. However, the mob that perpetrated what has become known as the “Capitol riots” would not be sated by mere civil assembly and vocal remonstrations. Five people died as a result of...
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2020 was a year most people want to forget, but restrictions and disruptions around the pandemic, protests stemming from social unrest and interruptions to the peaceful transfer of presidential power in the U.S. significantly impacted the security posture of businesses globally.

Despite the disruption, however, a highly anticipated report detailing conditions and attitudes in the security industry shows optimistic signs.

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In a recent episode of the prepare. respond. recover. podcast, Carla Gray, director of security for Uber, discussed how disruptors like Uber can use technology to augment a community’s disaster response.

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