Mentor/Protégé Study Questions

Questions for the Mentor to Protégé

1. What is the scope of your present responsibilities?

2. Why did you choose the security profession?

3. What is the motivation for you to participate in a mentoring program?

4. Do you feel you are lacking any skills or knowledge for your present position?

5. What skills and/or knowledge do you think you need to improve to prepare you for advancement with your present company or another company?

6. What is the scope of your present professional network (law enforcement, security professionals, business professionals, etc.)

7. Describe the relationship between your department and the IT security function.

8. Describe the inter-departmental relationships between your department and IT, HR, business operations, Legal, public relations, facilities, real estate.

9. Do you develop or give presentations and do you feel comfortable when public speaking?

10. How does your department measure its success?

11. What are your professional goals over the next 3 – 5 years?

12. What areas of professional study do you have yet to complete?

Questions for the Protégé to Mentor

1. What career path got you to your present position?

2. What education prepared you for your present position?

3. Where are you in the corporate structure and what is the scope of your responsibilities?

4. Tell me about your professional, business and law enforcement networks.

5. What organizations would you recommend to help me increase my network?

6. How do you initiate communications with the C-suite if there is no present relationship?

7. How do I be a leader if I am a one man show?

8. What legal and regulatory requirements should I be most familiar with as a generalist? (This question can be specific if both mentor and protégé are in the same industry).

9. Where do I begin on developing a budget?

10. What are the different methods or metrics you use to show your value to the company?

11. How important is public speaking / giving presentations?

12. What areas of professional study do you have yet to complete?

13. How do you manage technology vendors if you don't have a technology background?