

*Security officers work with police to keep the peace*

# Group tries to clear 'wannabe' image

## EXTRA SECURITY

**Mil-Spec Security**  
Group's clients in Lawrence include:

- Coyote's, 1003 E. 23rd Iowa
- Perkins Restaurant, 1711 W. 23rd Iowa
- The Pool Room, 925 Iowa
- Tremors Night Club, 729 N.H.

• **With nearly 80 clients** and 30 officers, the 5-year-old Mil-Spec Security Group in Lawrence has endeared itself to several high-profile Lawrence locales.

BY TOM MEAGHER  
JOURNAL-WORLD WRITER

Zac Marrs laughs when he recalls some of the stories he's heard about the supposed origins of his private security company, Mil-Spec Security Group.

One yarn involves a group of disgruntled, dishonorably discharged Marines who started a security outfit in Lawrence.

"I've heard we're wannabes,

we're trying to replace the police department, or we're trying to steal their thunder," Marrs said. "I can't remember all the ignorant things I've heard."

In reality, as a couple of 25-year-old bouncers, Marrs and his partner Derek Spain founded Mil-Spec five years ago. Spain had spent a few years in the Army Rangers. Marrs had been an art student studying illustration at Kansas University.

"I was working for a company at a local nightclub, and I thought, 'Here's me and a couple of guys who are squared away, if we could turn this into a high-quality service, we could really

succeed in this business,'" Spain said.

In the beginning they had three clients and only a few officers. Today, the company boasts 80 clients and more than 30 officers with six patrol cars. Working at clubs, restaurants, apartments and housing complexes in Lawrence and Johnson County, the pair hope to expand the company into Topeka and Westport in Kansas City, Mo.

### Intimidating appearance

They believe their emphasis on training, equipment and high-

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### Mil-Spec officers

Adam Carl, left, and Aaron Procaccini hand out candy to children Saturday evening at Edgewood housing complex, 1600 Haskell Ave.

CASEY WILSON/JOURNAL-WORLD PHOTO