

The Securolympics

Beijing's Lockdown Lineup



While athletes from around the globe make use of years of intense training at August's Olympics, Beijing's law enforcement will be hoping their own preparations will pay off too. According to a report by the U.S. trade group Security Industry Association, China spent approximately USD 6.2 billion on security between 2004 and 2007. With all its new toys and rigorously trained personnel, Beijing's security teams should be well prepared to beat records at their own set of Olympic events. *Jennifer Conrad*

HIDE AND GO SEEK RFID chips are embedded in tickets prevent reuse and counterfeits, but they can also be used to track a ticket-holder anywhere in a venue or to tell how many people are in an area. Tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies also contain digital versions of the holders' photos and passport data. Record: USD 720, the estimated price of opening and closing ceremony tickets

SCOOTER RACING Self-balancing, battery-powered, nerd-hip Segway scooters have been purchased for use by Olympics grounds staff to ensure a quick and agile response to security incidents. Record: About 100 Segways

CAPTURE THE FLAG Volunteers, identifiable by their red armbands, will help visitors – and keep an eye out for illicit banners emblazoned with taboo

messages. Reportedly, volunteers will come prepared with large stickers to keep naughty T-shirts under wraps. Record: Almost 60,000 volunteers

SYNCHRONIZED SURVEILLANCE

Closed-circuit TV feeds from apartment complexes, public spaces and transportation hubs will all be networked with the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, as part of the so-called Grand Beijing Safeguard Sphere. Record: USD 28.5 million spent on video systems

AEROBATICS Beijing police have acquired the city's first surveillance helicopters in anticipation of the Games – one of many security upgrades that will hover over the city after the torch departs. Record: About 30 choppers

HOOP JUMPING Though officials say they won't necessarily realize it, spectators will be required to jump through a series of security hoops to enter each venue: the "soft ring" (protected by video surveillance); the "hard ring" (security checkpoints and bomb-detectors); and the "security zone" (access-control systems and patrols). Record: 3 rings

DOG SNIFFING A pack of new explosive-sniffing dogs will join the 44 already working in Beijing. Record: 160 new dogs

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