

Ex-Trooper Forms Protection Service

ATLANTIC CITY — A former state trooper has organized his own casino escort service, but rather than selling his customers pleasure, Bob Holmes is offering them protection.

"We're just starting to get into the field of executive protection for casino officials and high-rollers who leave the casinos with large sums of money," said Holmes, president of Holmes Investigations Inc. of Northfield, which has affiliates in the Philadelphia and New York metropolitan areas.

Holmes formed his company barely a year ago and already has 38 full-time employees and 20 part-timers, most of them former or off-duty law enforcement agents.

Included in the ranks is a former member of the Secret Service's presidential protection team. Another is the former chief of the homicide division for the San Antonio police department. Former professional boxer Duane Bobick is also affiliated with Holmes, who once spent five years with the New Jersey State Police and was head of construction security for the Playboy casino hotel prior to starting his own company.

One hotel has already contacted Holmes with an eye toward providing its high-rollers with protection once they leave the casino. Recently, Holmes escorted a jeweler carrying several hundred thousand dollars in jewelry from one casino to a convention in New York City.

Holmes uses a Secret Service-like seminar to train his employees in the art of personal protection. He teaches his guards how to spot trouble before it occurs

Casinotes



By DAVID J. SPATZ

and how to get a client out of a difficult spot before it develops into an uncontrollable situation.

Protected or not, Holmes cautions anyone leaving the casinos with large sums of money not to brag about their good fortune.

"Even if you just won \$250,000, never flash your money, no matter how excited you are," he warned. "If you want it publicized, then ask the casino to put it in your local newspaper."