

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Security Firm Looking To Hire 40 New Employees Immediately

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R&T Unlimited Security, a St. Croix-based security firm offering services territory-wide, is now looking to hire 40 people, the company has told The Consortium.

According to company founder Richard Elizee, pay for unarmed officers begins at \$9.50 and goes up to \$13. Armed officers are paid between \$10.50 to \$17. R&T Unlimited also offers executive driver services, which include personal protection officers. Pay for this service ranges between \$20 to \$26 per hour, according to Mr. Elizee. To apply, call 340-

778-3500.

Although R&T Unlimited was founded in 2011, the firm technically got its start in 1988 with the then-ubiquitous Theo Dependable Security, just prior to Hurricane Hugo, which made landfall in the USVI on September 17, 1989. Theo Dependable was founded by Mr. Elizee's father, Theo Elizee.

Giving his reasons for continuing what his father built, Mr. Elizee said, "The way I look at it, when I saw what my father built, I wanted to continue the legacy but make it even stronger." He also wanted to return home and be part of the solution for the islands by utilizing his skills here. "Going through high school, I always wanted to return home to give back," he said.

The moment of reckoning came when Mr. Elizee's dad fell ill, and The Dependable saw a steep decline in accounts, falling to two accounts at the firm's lowest point. It was then that Mr. Elizee stepped in fully and doubled down on core principles of providing second-to-none security services to the territory.

Mr. Elizee dissolved Theo Dependable, renamed it to R&T Unlimited Security (the R representing his first name and the T his father's). "I put my dad's name in it because that's where it came from; that's where it all started and the island knew who he was," Mr. Elizee said.

Mr. Elizee said he has been able to grow the company beyond the peak of its heyday as Theo Dependable, moving from 2 accounts in 2011, to 25 at present. "I said I was going to come back and do something with this company. I wanted to put myself in a position of preparation," he said. With that in mind, Mr. Elizee became a federal law enforcement officer with the Department of Homeland Security, working in a department that specializes in tactical work and participates in joint efforts with the Federal Air Marshall Service. Mr. Elizee said his specialty is in airports and aircraft.

"That was the background that I was looking for to set the standards," he said. Mr. Elizee was aware of the services that local security companies were not offering. He also noticed that the local security firms were not using technology to their advantage, and realized that finding skilled employees was a problem.

"I just didn't want to take someone and say, 'here, go do security.' That was back in the day," Mr. Elizee said as he spoke of the feats in technology, like realtime tracking, his firm as achieved. Mr. Elizee said his company offers full training, including a 7-day security officer orientation/security officer basic course. "It's going to teach you security procedures, including use of force, batons -- it's going to teach you what you need to survive in the industry, and also give you a strong foundation to move on to any other law enforcement field, if you so choose," he said. The course also includes armed and unarmed training.

Mr. Elizee, who stressed that his company is considered a high-end firm, said R&T Unlimited provides security for hotels, businesses, vessels, corporate security, and entertainment events, including festivals, among other services.