

COPS, SECURITY GUARDS, AND PRISONERS

I decided to compare these numbers after I read [this story](#) about an Iraqi veteran patrolling a suburban VA golf course, armed with a Glock, mace, and handcuffs, making \$16/hour (h/t [Balloon Juice](#)):

Total cops in the US ([2009](#)): 883,600; median wage (2008): \$51,410

Total security guards ([2009](#)): 1,028,830; median wage: \$23,820

Total prisoners ([2009](#)): 1,613,740

Welcome to NeoFeudalism, where we keep cutting middle class, union jobs paying police to protect our common good, and instead pay poorly-paid highly armed private security guards to patrol golf courses.

And if that security guard job doesn't work for our veterans, there's always the other option: prison.