



Private Security: History & Sectors

SECURITY



Ancient History of Private Security

- The earliest humans used guards to protect themselves, their families and their livestock from the wild beasts
- Some examples of ancient safeguards:
 - Domestication of the dog
 - Human dwellings on elevated land
 - Walls & Gates
 - Moats & watchtowers
- The word security comes from the Latin word *securus*, which means *without care*
- In ancient Rome, wealthy citizens hired gladiators and slaves to protect themselves and their property
 - Security guards who protected the entrance to a building were called *janitors* after the Roman God *Janus*, who protected entrances





Security in Medieval England

- In the Middle Ages, under the feudal system, the lord provided for the safety of individuals and property
- In the 16th century, **thief-takers** were paid by the King for every highwayman robber they arrested in a similar manner to bounty hunters
 - They were only paid if the highwayman was convicted
 - They were also given the thief's horse, arms, money and property
- One of the most notorious thief-takers was *Johnathon Wild*, a criminal genius
 - He was amazingly good at detecting criminals and would charge a fee for citizens to get their stolen property back
 - He was executed in 1725 for stealing property that he had sold back to the owners
- **Henry Fielding** created the first private investigative agency in 1748 called the **Bow Street Runners**
 - They contracted with local pawnshops to locate stolen items



Henry Fielding



History of American Private Security

- The United States system of policing was based on the English organization of policing
- In the 17th century, the county sheriff oversaw the same activities as the shire-reeve in medieval England
 - They enforced the law, collected taxes, and supervised elections
- Boston created the first official night watch in 1631
- By the Civil War, most large cities on the East Coast had their own public police departments
- In the western territories, people were responsible for their own safety and this led to the American tradition of **vigilantism**
- In the wild west, there were private police who acted like the thief-takers of England but were more professional
 - They located criminals based on “*Wanted: Dead or Alive*” posters





The Pinkerton Detective Agency

- **Allan Pinkerton** immigrated to the US from Scotland in 1819
- He became a deputy sheriff and then was chosen as the first detective of the Chicago Police Department in 1849
- Allan opened his own detective agency and used the phrase “*The Eye That Never Sleeps*” therefore leading to the use of term **private eye**
- He created many new investigative techniques, such as:
 - Undercover operations
 - **Surveillance of suspects**
 - Handwriting examinations
 - **Keeping files of criminals**
- In 1857, Allan formed ***Pinkerton Protective Patrol*** to provide security guards for private businesses
- His sons took over the business and arrested famous train robbers, including Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid





19th & 20th Century Private Security

- In 1865, the Railway Police Acts allowed many states to form their own private railroad police
- Other industries followed suit (*shipping, iron, steel*) and established private police to guard their merchandise
- In 1850, **Edwin Holmes** created the first electronic burglar alarm
 - A bell rang if a door or window was opened
- In 1859, **Brink's Inc.** was started to deliver money and other goods across the United States
 - In 1917, they created the first armored car after a fatal robbery
- In 1909, **William J. Burns** formed his own detective agency after leading the precursor to the FBI, the Bureau of Investigation
 - He was called the greatest detective that ever lived
 - Burns wrote his own detective stories and starred as himself in movies





Modern American Private Security

- During World War II, President Roosevelt issued an executive order to establish military guards to protect industries vital to national security
 - Those who wished to be awarded contracts had to have large security forces
- Crime skyrocketed throughout the 1960's and 1970's and the demand for private security increased
- Airline hijackers lead to the FAA screening of all passengers in 1972
- Again, after the events on September 11, 2001, the need for private security greatly increased for personal and public safety
- As of 2000, the amount of people employed in private security is estimated at 1.9 million while there are 700,000 police officers in the United States





Sectors of Private Security

- **Private Security**

- Protection service provided by a company or individual
 - There are several sectors of private security:
 - **Premises security**
 - Protection of people, property and facilities
 - *Armed guard, locks, alarms, access control*
 - **Business security**
 - Protection of specific business & products
 - *Prevent theft, catch thieves*
 - **Personal security**
 - Protection of specific persons
 - *Bodyguard duties, proactive planning*
 - **Investigative security**
 - Conducts background checks, investigates persons
 - *Missing persons searches, cheating spouses*
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Premises Security

- The following types of **premises (places)** are protected by private security:
 - Neighborhoods
 - Private Residences
 - Hospitals
 - Laboratories
 - Government buildings
 - Secondary schools
 - Colleges
 - Museums
 - Houses of worship
 - Cemeteries
 - Airports
 - Bus & Train stations
 - Ports
 - Parking lots & garages
 - Subways





Protection of Government Buildings

- Federal buildings are guarded by the *Federal Protective Services*, a branch of Homeland Security
 - They employ over 10,000 private security guards
- After the Oklahoma City Bombings, President Clinton ordered a review of security in government facilities
 - The committee recommended 8,000 changes
- They recommended enhancing security in four critical areas:
 - *Perimeters*
 - *Entry security for access for persons, packages and mail*
 - *Interior security*
 - *Security planning*
- Some of the changes implemented include:
 - Restricted parking
 - Install surveillance systems
 - Installing X-ray machines and magnetometers





Business Security

- The following types of *businesses* are protected by private security:

- Retail stores
- Convenience stores
- Fast food restaurants
- Shopping centers & malls
- Office buildings
- Utility companies
- Hotels & motels
- Banks
- Sporting venues
- Theatres
- Night clubs
- Bars
- Casinos
- Cruise ships
- Amusement Parks





Retail Shrinkage

- The most important problem facing retail stores is *retail shrinkage*
 - It is a serious concern for businesses since it reduces their profits
- **Retail shrinkage**
 - The difference in inventory at the start of the year and the end of the year minus sales
 - If the amount is **not zero**, then merchandise has been stolen/lost
 - **Example:**
 - Start the year with 10 apples, sold 5 apples but only 3 apples are left:
 - Where did the 2 go?
- There are 4 explanations for shrinkage:
 - *Bookkeeping errors, employee theft, vendor theft, and shoplifting*
- 50% of shrinkage is due to employee theft, which usually occurs near the cash register, second is in the warehouse
- If a shoplifter steals, they are more likely to be male and between the ages of 34-54





Shoplifting Techniques

- There are three main types of common shoplifting techniques:
- **Hiding the Merchandise**
 - Hiding objects in a large bag, purse
 - **Concealing it in a stroller or wheelchair**
 - Crotch-carrying (concealing in dress or large coat)
- **Brazen Approach**
 - Walking out of the store with it in their hands
 - **Running off with items**
 - Putting clothes on in the dressing room and wearing them out
 - **Wearing the stolen jewelry on their person**
 - Price switching- relabel it with a cheaper tag
- **Distraction**
 - Enter in large groups and split up
 - **Partners, one asks the clerk for help and the other steals**
 - Single shopper asks clerk to go into back for other item





Shoplifting Prevention Methods

- The following are ideas to reduce or stop shoplifting in stores:

- Greet all customers at the door
- Keep counters and tables neat
- Elevate sales counters
- Offer to hold merchandise at the counter for browsing customers
- Limits the number of garments at dressing rooms
- Keep dressing rooms locked
- Hire a security guard
- Instill a surveillance system
- Use ink merchandise tags
- Install more mirrors in the store
 - Install convex mirrors on the ceiling
- Post warning signs of consequences
- Lock up expensive items or items commonly stolen
- Improve lighting so all areas are brightly lit
- Keep merchandise lower than eye level





Loss Prevention

- **Loss prevention**

- Use of methods to reduce the amount of shrinkage in retail stores

- Some of the methods used include:

- **Loss prevention specialists**
 - Security guards
 - **Peer reporting and/or rewards**
 - Observation mirrors
 - **Locking antitheft wires and cables**
 - Security bars
 - **Ink tags**
 - **Electronic Article Surveillance**

- Tag sets off alarms if taken off (called *alligator tags*)

- **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)**

- Every item gets a unique number on a radio tag and can be tracked all over the world





Personal Security

- The *personal security industry* has become more important in the post 9/11 era with global corporations
- **Personal security** includes the protection of individuals and corporations from terrorism, kidnappings, and other crimes
- The largest risk for executives of large companies is **corporate kidnapping**
 - Kidnapping businesses executives for large ransoms
- Some of the methods used to protect executives include:
 - **Threat assessment**
 - Collection of facts to develop a threat level and a plan addressing it
 - **Advance survey**
 - Practice run through the area in which the executive is traveling
 - **Actual protection**
 - Bodyguards physically protect the executive
 - Experts recommend that security specialists put themselves in the mind of kidnappers and do counter-surveillance on the executives to find holes





Investigative Security

- With the increase in legal and insurance requirement, the need for private investigators has increased
- Most large corporations have their own in-house security departments that conduct investigations but there is a need for independent investigations
- Examples of investigations:
 - Disability and worker's compensation
 - Insurance claims
 - Undercover operations
 - Asset searches
 - Professional shoppers
 - Assist attorneys for cases
 - Background checks
 - Missing person searches
 - Cheating spouse surveillance
 - Wrongful death investigation
 - Reconstruct auto accidents





Private Security & Police Roles

- Police generally operate in public places and do not linger for long periods of time in private businesses
- There are many different needs of private businesses that are beyond the scope of local police:
 - Doing a background check on a new employee
 - Escorting the owner with a cash deposit to the bank
 - Watching cameras to catch shoplifters
 - Surveilling a cheating spouse
- As a rule, private security is client-based while police are community-based
- Private security does NOT have the same power of arrest as a police officer but may (physically) detain people based on probable cause until the police arrive
 - The role of private security is to assist police not to act *as* police
- Private security may search persons they have detained for safety and to retrieve stolen property





LEAPS

- The Dallas/North Texas Regional Law Enforcement and Private Security Program (LEAPS) was created in 1995
- The deputy chief of Dallas Police Department leads it along with over 50 private sector organizations
- More than 125 local law enforcement and corporate members go to monthly meetings to collaborate on:
 - Police and security training
 - Relationship building
 - Disseminate crime information
 - Activate security groups for volunteers
 - During a crisis security can do search & rescue
 - Develop security measures
- In 2001, a security guard called in a speeder and the car ended up being stolen
- In 2002, a man came out of a burning apartment screaming in Spanish, the security guard was able to call an officer who was bilingual to assist

