

# 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

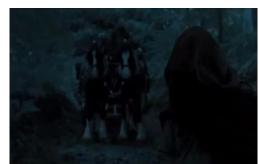






# Security in Medieval England

- In the Middle Ages, under the feudal system, the lord provided for the safety of individuals and property
- In the 16<sup>th</sup> 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



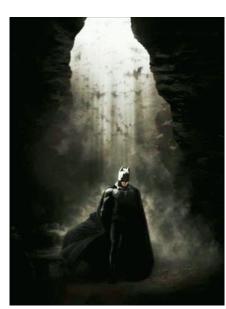


Henry Fielding



#### **History of American Private Security**

- The United States system of policing was based on the English organization of policing
- In the 17<sup>th</sup> 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



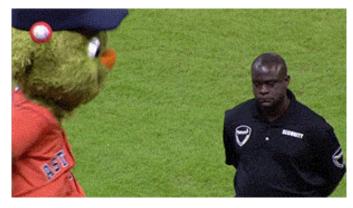




#### **Sectors of Private Security**

#### 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







#### **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 <u>client-based</u> while police are <u>community-based</u>
- 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



### Private & Public Partnerships for Security

- Historically, police and private security have rarely collaborated
- Police have looked down at the lack of training and licensing for private security while private security have not wanted to share business information
- After September 11<sup>th</sup>, the need for a better working relationship between the police and private security has increased
- *Operation Cooperation*, a study from the US Department of Justice, found that a private/public partnership could benefit from:
  - Networking and developing contacts
  - Collaboration on specific projects
  - Information sharing
    - Local crime trends
    - Incident information





#### **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