

# **Fingerprint Based Background Checks To Protect Vulnerable Persons**

By

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**Presented to A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research, #1949**

**On**

**March 31, 2001**

*The opinions presented in this paper are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Master and Wardens of the A. Douglas Smith Jr., Lodge of Research #1949 or the official views of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia.*

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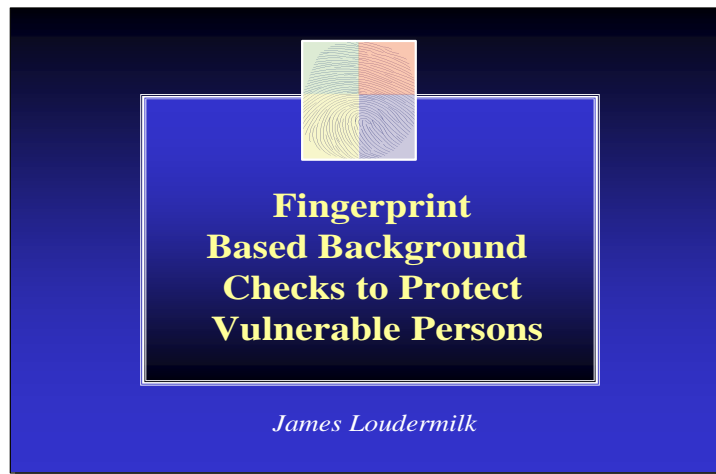
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Editor's Note: *This presentation is different from any other we have previously published in our Transactions. It was originally prepared as a PowerPoint slide show. The author narrated the presentation when it was originally done in the Lodge, but the author did not submit either the narrative or any slide notes to accompany the presentation. Unfortunately, no one in the lodge took any notes either during the presentation. However, it was a very interesting presentation (although there does not appear to be any direct connection to Masonry) and the slides are presented for your review.*



Slide 1

**Protection of Vulnerable Persons**

Society, especially children, the elderly and disabled, deserves protection from those whose past criminal activity has proven them unsuitable for positions of trust:

- Child Protection
  - Schools, Day Care, Foster Care, Sports, Scouting, etc.
- Senior Citizen Protection
  - Adult Homes and Day Care, Volunteer Organizations
- Occupation Background Checks
  - Airports, Banks, Health Care, Security Guards, etc.
- Firearm and Explosive Dealer Licensing

Slide 2

## How to Conduct Criminal Background Checks?

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**Name and Other Descriptor Checks**

- Many People Have the Same or Similar Names
- Rapid (seconds) and Inexpensive (\$0 - \$25)
- Lots of False Positives (7.5% - more than 500,000/year)
- Many Missed Identifications (1% - 2% use false names)
- 11.7% of Federal “Hits” from Concealed Identities

**Positive Identification**

- No Two Fingerprints are the Same ( Pr  $\approx 1 \times 10^{-86}$  )
- Slower (hours to weeks) and More Expensive (\$31 - \$76)
- No False Positives
- Very Few Missed Identifications
- Counters Attempts to Conceal Identity
- Pub. Law 105-251 Requires for Federal Checks


Slide 3

## Criminal Master File Fingerprint Card

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Slide 4


## Fingerprinting: A Brief History



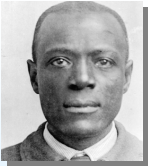

1870	Alphonse Bertillon develops identification system based on body measurements ... Bertillon system
1880s	Fingerprints begin to be recognized as unique means of identification
1903	The West Case at Leavenworth Penitentiary ... value of fingerprints demonstrated
1904	Fingerprint Bureau established at Leavenworth Penitentiary
1924	FBI Identification Division established (today CJIS)
1933	FBI Latent Fingerprint Section established
1924-1979	Manual Fingerprint Card Processing

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## The West Case



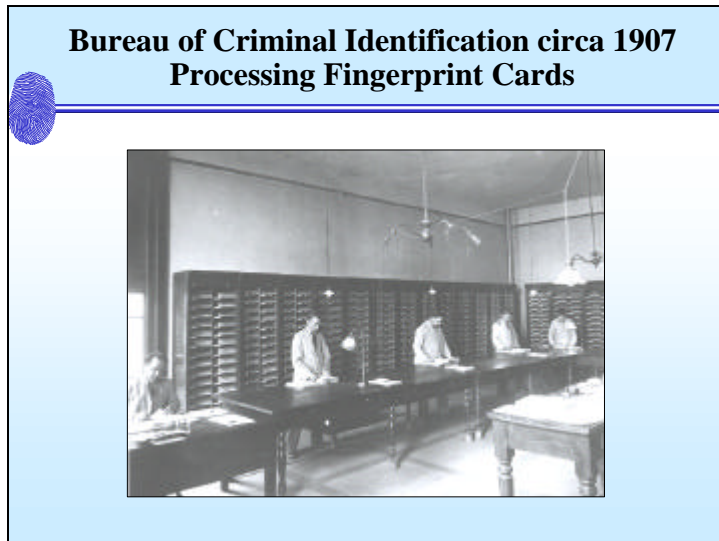
Identification  
Pictures of  
William West

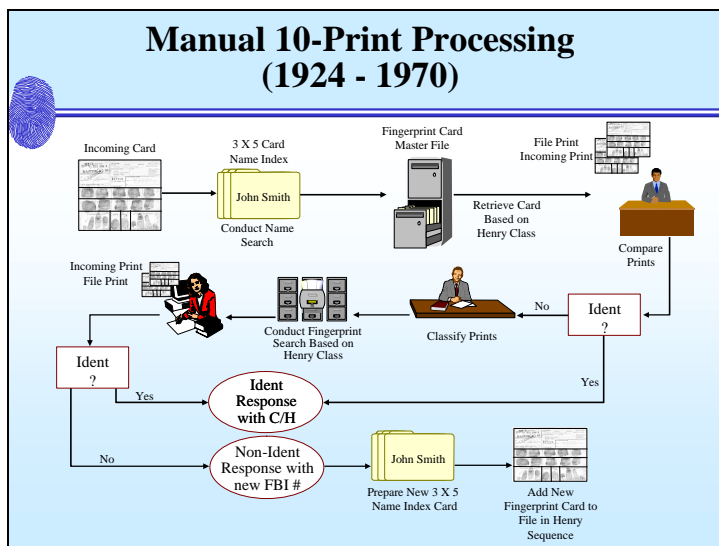
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Pictures of  
Will West

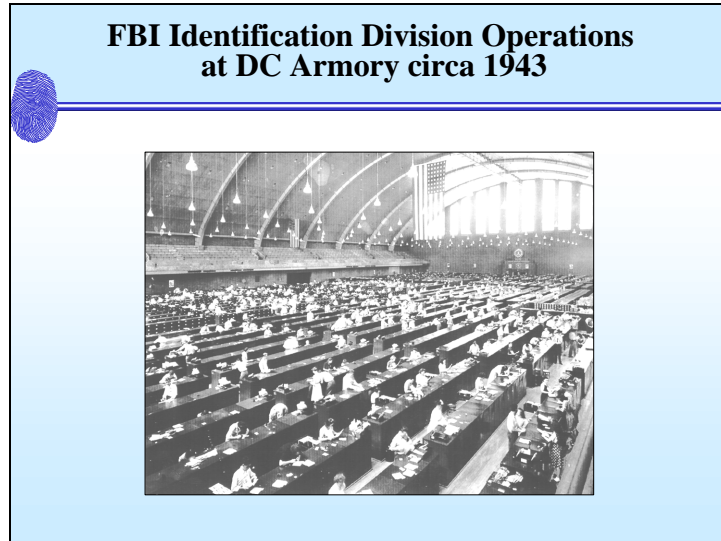
Slide 6



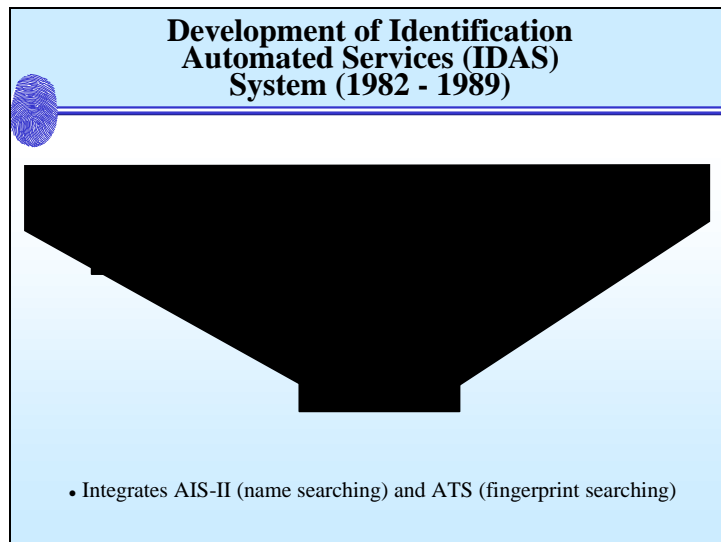
Slide 7



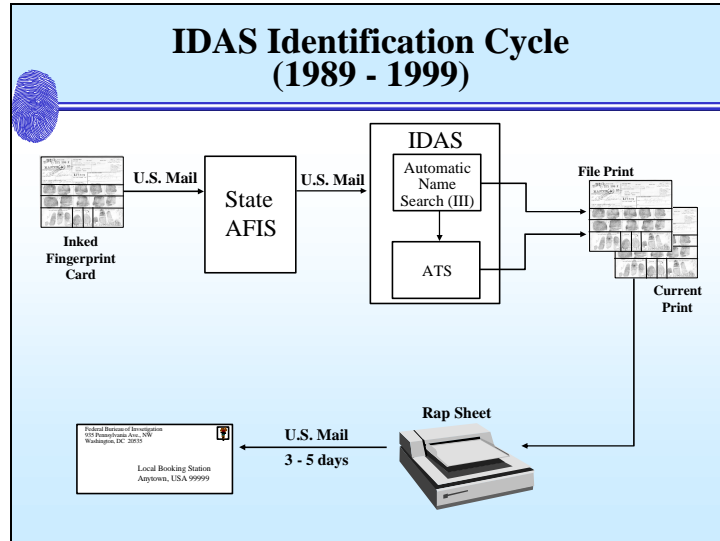
Slide 8



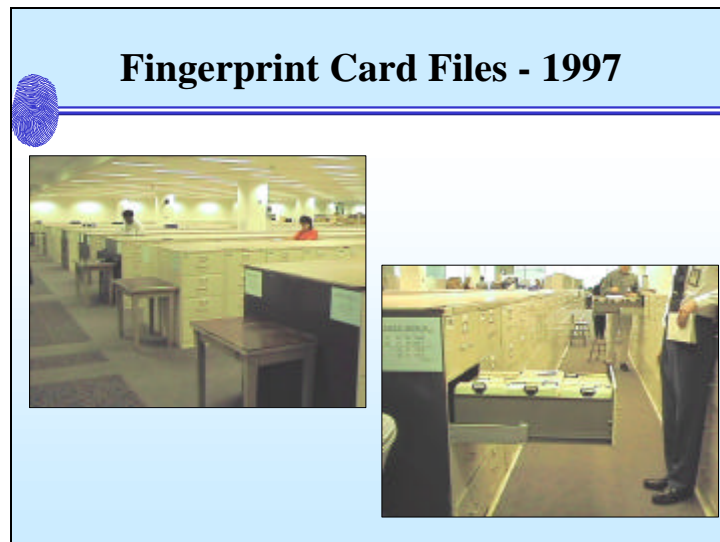
**Slide 9**



**Slide 10**

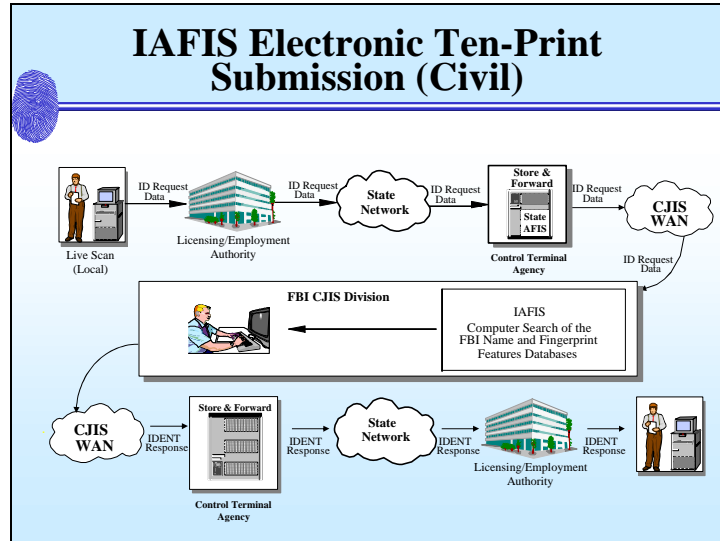


Slide 11

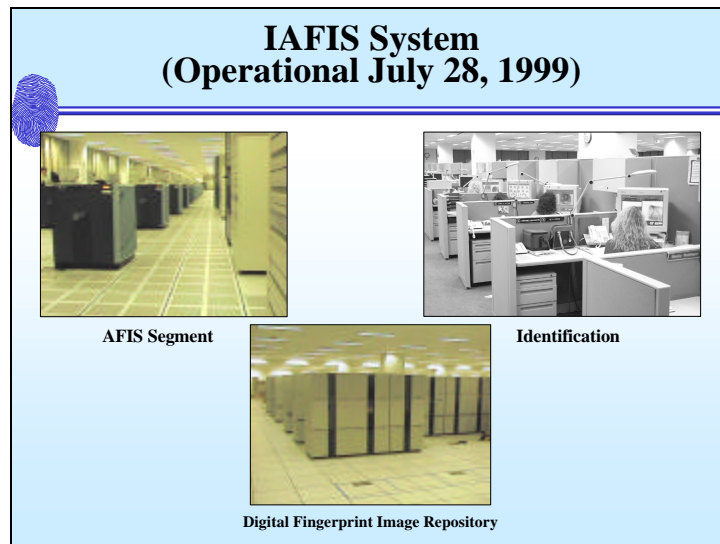


Slide 12





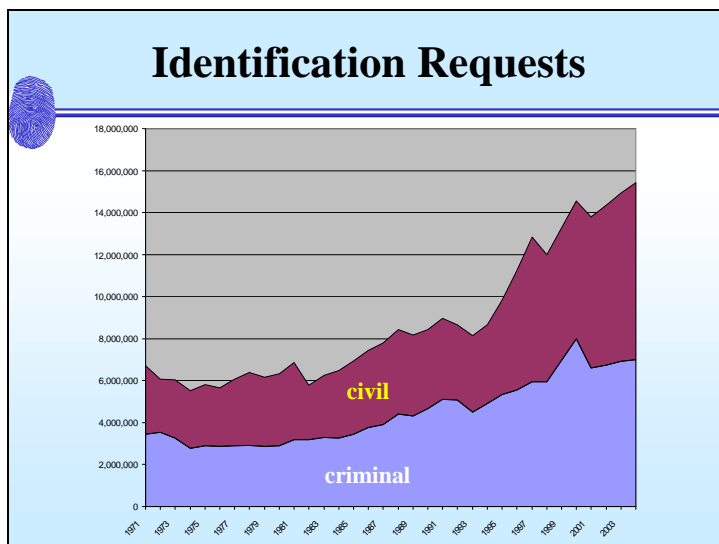
Slide 13




Slide 14



Slide 15



Slide 16



## FY2000 Identification Results

<b>Criminal Identification Requests</b>	<b>7,993,962 (55%)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 65% resulted in “hits”</li><li>• 4% of “hits” used false names</li><li>• Guaranteed Response - 2 hours</li><li>• 75% of responses within 1 hour</li></ul>	
<b>Civil Identification Requests</b>	<b>6,560,886 (45%)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8.7% resulted in “hits”</li><li>• 11.7% of “hits” used false names</li><li>• Guaranteed Response - 24 hours</li><li>• Average response time under 12 hours</li></ul>	

**Identified Over 8,000 Wanted Persons each Month**

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## Some Typical Success Stories

On 5/24/00 at 11:07 PM, the United States **Immigration and Naturalization Service** in Saint Albans, Vermont electronically submitted to IAFIS the fingerprints of an **individual attempting to obtain US citizenship**. The individual was identified as having a criminal history record that included arrests for **rape and aggravated sexual battery**. At 11:21 PM, a response was sent to the contributing agency.

On 6/30/00, the Memphis FBI Field Office asked CJIS to provide results on a civil background check. The **Memphis City School** had hired an individual, after the State check showed no charges, without confirmation that he had no FBI record. The field office became involved when they received a tip that the original results provided by the FBI in May might have been intercepted by someone at the school. FBI Memphis sent a new set of prints for CJIS review. The individual's record included **possession of controlled substance, aggravated assault, possession of cannabis and battery**.

On 9/8/00, the **Personnel Management Branch of the Department of Justice** requested a fingerprint check for an individual who was **applying for employment** as a mail messenger in the Department of Justice mailroom. The individual's fingerprints were faxed to the CJIS Division and processed on IAFIS. Within one hour from receipt of the fingerprints the individual was identified as having a criminal history that included previous arrests for **theft II from vehicle (by the United States Attorney's Office in Washington D.C.), trespassing and theft**.

On 10/20/99, fingerprints from Sacramento, CA of an individual applying for a job in a **residential care facility for the elderly** were submitted electronically to IAFIS. The resulting search identified the individual as wanted for a February 1999 sex offense in Rockville, MD, and a charge of desertion from the US Navy in March 1999. The subject was taken into custody within 24 hours.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

*How many criminal subjects are in the fingerprint files?*

**About 41 Million**

*How long are criminal records kept on file?*

**Until Age 99**

*Are all US criminal subjects in the FBI fingerprint files?*

**Adult Serious Offenses Only**

*Years ago I submitted fingerprints for a security clearance. Am I in the FBI fingerprint files?*

**No**

*When I was a civil servant (or in the service) a fingerprint check was made. Am I in the files?*

**Not In the Criminal Files**

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## Child Identification Programs

- **About 1 Million U.S. Children are Reported Abducted Each Year. Often by a Non-Custodial Parent or Relative.**
- **Child Identification Materials are Primarily Used by Crime Laboratories and Case Officers/Agents.**
- **Some Child Identification Kits Produce Fingerprint Image Quality so Poor that Prints have Little Value. Specialized Paper and Ink are Required. A “nail-to-nail” Rolled Impression not a “dab” is needed.**
- **Search of FBI Adult Criminal Fingerprint Files, or of State Adult Criminal Fingerprint Files, is Seldom Indicated.**

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