

Fingerprint Based Background Checks To Protect Vulnerable Persons

By

James Loudermilk

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

On

March 31, 2001

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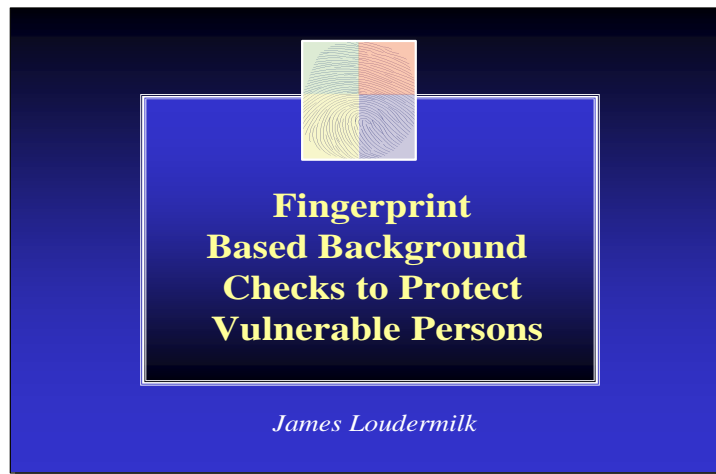
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Editor's Note: *This presentation is different from any other we have previously published in our Transactions. It was originally prepared as a PowerPoint slide show. The author narrated the presentation when it was originally done in the Lodge, but 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?

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

The image shows a 'Criminal Master File Fingerprint Card'. The form contains the following handwritten and printed information:

- Name:** *Joseph Michael Roberts*
- DOB:** *3-10-73*
- Sex:** *M*
- Height:** *5'11"*
- Weight:** *170*
- Eye Color:** *Blk*
- Hair Color:** *Blk*
- Place of Birth:** *Balto*
- Arrest Date:** *12-11-10*
- Arrest Agency:** *220 16 1366*
- Arresting Officer:** *1912*
- Charge:** *Poss Of Heroin*
- Fingerprints:** A grid of 10 fingerprint impressions (left and right hands, fingers 1-5) with handwritten notations like *1912* and *10-11-10*.

Slide 4


Fingerprinting: A Brief History



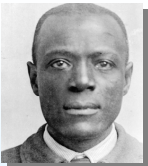

1870	Alphonse Bertillon develops identification system based on body measurements ... Bertillon system
1880s	Fingerprints begin to be recognized as unique means of identification
1903	The West Case at Leavenworth Penitentiary ... value of fingerprints demonstrated
1904	Fingerprint Bureau established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

Slide 5



The West Case



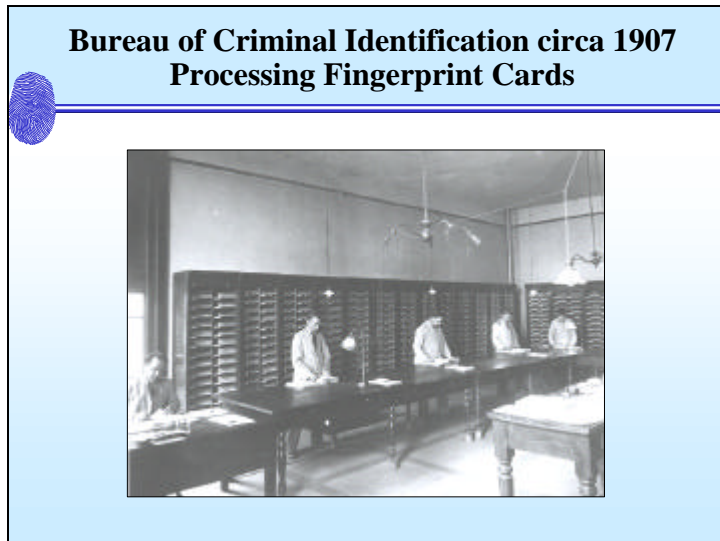
Identification
Pictures of
William West

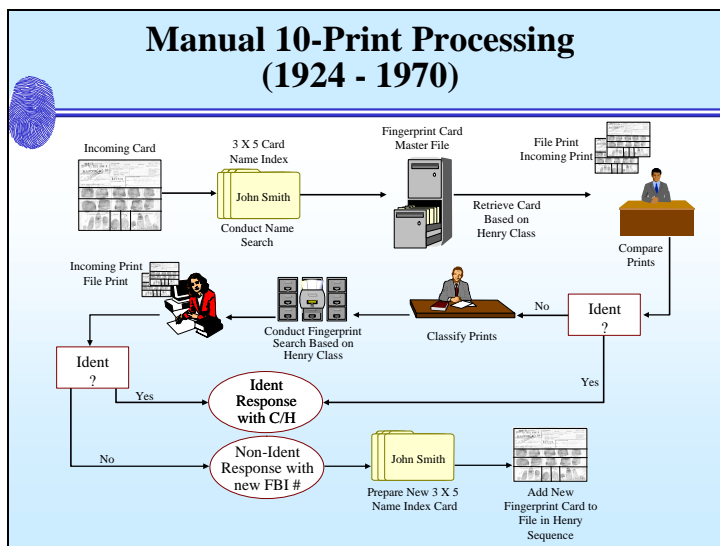
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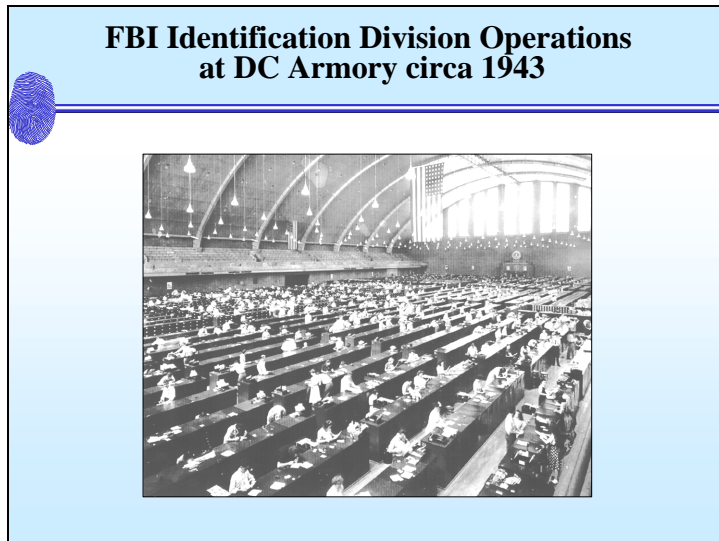
Slide 6



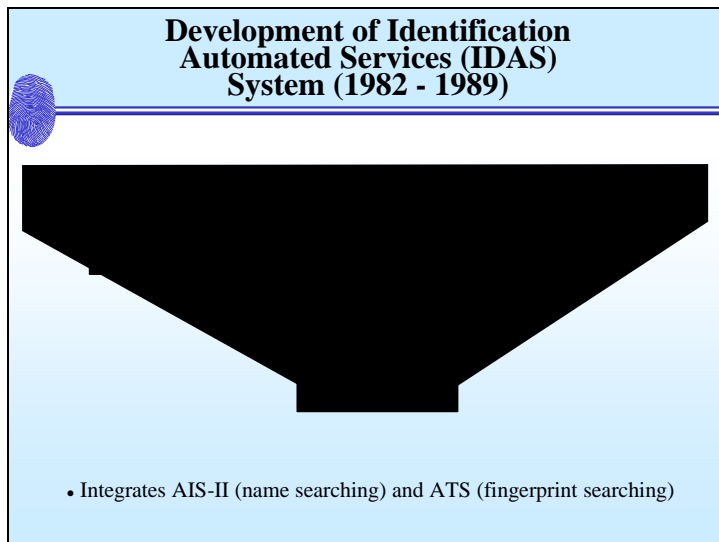
Slide 7



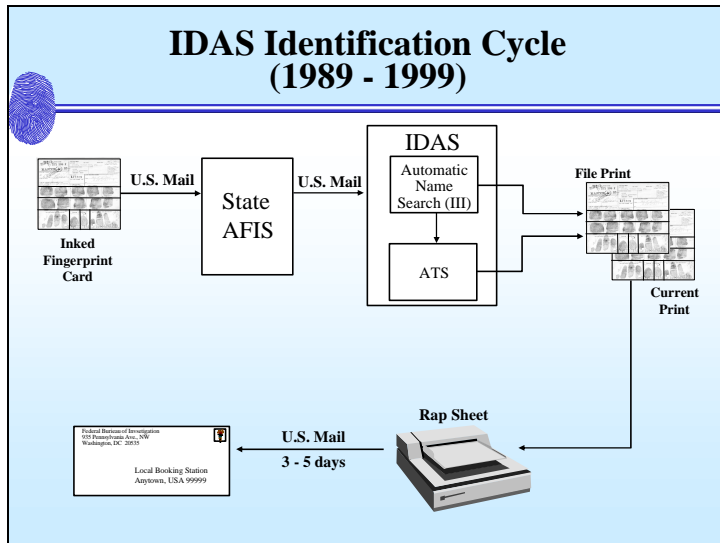
Slide 8



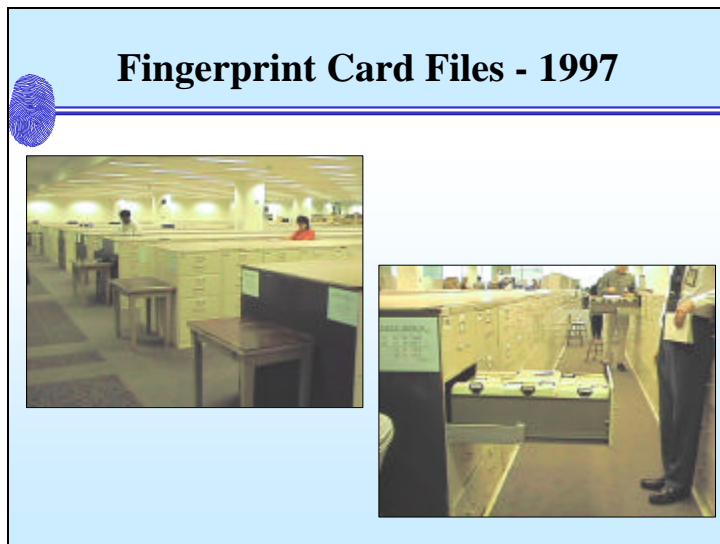
Slide 9



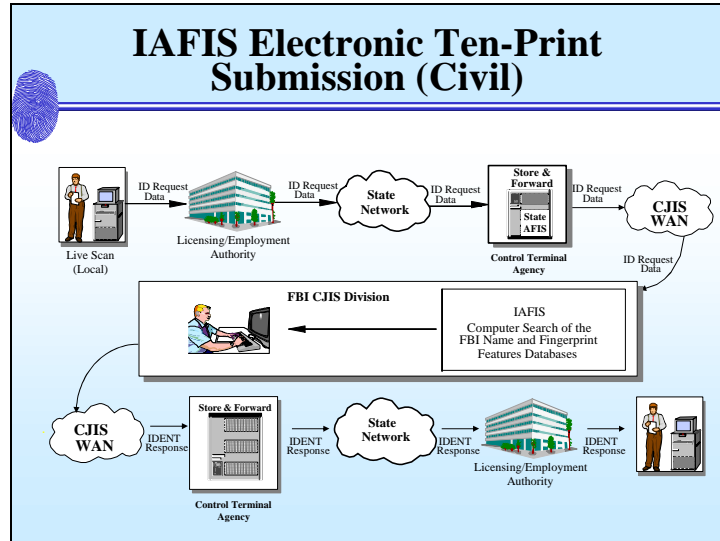
Slide 10



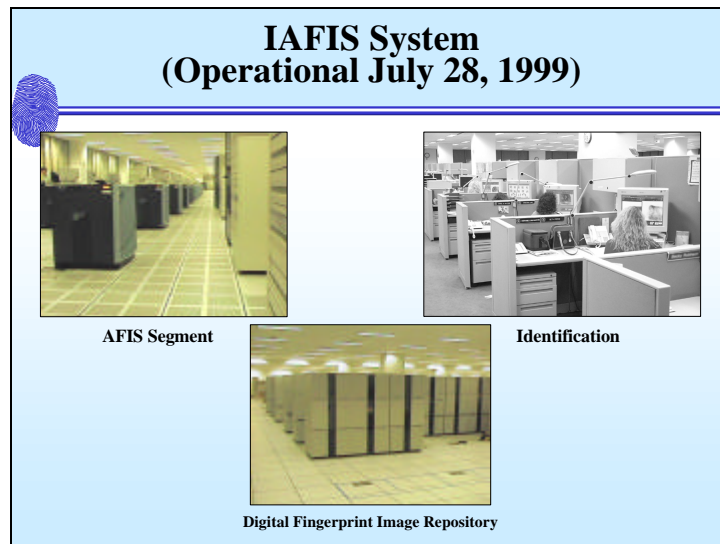
Slide 11



Slide 12



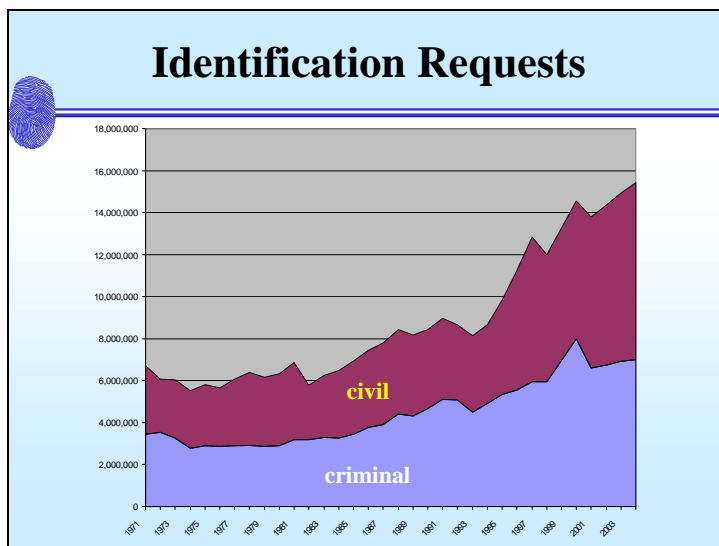
Slide 13



Slide 14



Slide 15



Slide 16



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.**

Slide 20