



# GENERAL SECURITY CONSULTANTS, INC.

*Specializing in Protection Evaluations*

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GSC specializes in protection evaluations and planning for the insurance industry and a wide range of commercial clients. The company offers advanced technical knowledge and analytical skills to identify security exposures and develop innovative, cost-effective solutions. GSC also provides expert witness services, causal analysis on losses, and training.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Thomas P. Prevas, President

ITT - Hartford Insurance Group - Senior Consultant

1973-1984

Consultant to senior management in the development and implementation of a security program for the protection of corporate assets and high level executives within the Hartford and ITT system. Provided management oversight of the protection systems approved by the executive staff.

Consultant to underwriting management regarding all high premium commercial accounts with complex security exposures. Provided recommendations for the purpose of evaluating and underwriting lines of business presenting greater levels of risk.

Consultant to management in meeting profit and growth objectives by transforming an unprofitable book of business into a profitable line for the company.

Consultant to the Claims Department regarding security losses. Provided technical evaluations of claims for the purpose of establishing and evaluating the cause of a loss.

Consultant on the training of support staff. Developed and provided programs to meet the company's training objectives.

Baltimore City Police Department - Police Officer 1969-1973

Responsibilities included the investigation of serious crimes such as homicide, armed robbery and burglary. Specialized duties in riot and crowd control, and the patrol of high crime areas in a large metropolitan environment. Functioned under the independent "one officer/one post" system. Received a commendation for outstanding performance of police duties.

Baltimore Penitentiary - Corrections Officer 1967

Responsibilities included the supervision of convicted criminals in a maximum security prison environment.

## EDUCATION

**Master of Science Degree 1976**

**University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut**

Clinical psychology, psychological evaluations, testing and statistics

Bachelor of Arts Degree 1969

University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut.

Field training and assistant to a psychiatrist at the Institute of Living, 1968-1969  
a Connecticut psychiatric hospital.

Studied criminal law at The American University, Washington, D.C. 1970

Specialized training in advanced security management at the corporate level, additional training through the American Society for Industrial Security and other professional organizations.

Specialized training in security management, asset protection, physical and electronic protection systems, bank and financial institutions security, museum security, manufacturing and retail operations security, executive protection systems, guard force operations and management, and DP security.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS**

Member of the Burglary Protection Council of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) since 1978. Providing consultation to the UL staff on security product testing and the development of national security Standards. Elected a Corporate Member of UL, providing guidance to the corporate entity and electing the board of directors.

Engineering Council Members assist and advise UL in the establishment of safety and security requirements that reflect realistic considerations of field experience and practical judgments, as well as sound engineering. The Security Systems Council was formed to advise UL on safety/security and performance requirements for intrusion detection systems, access control systems, security containers such as safes and vaults, ballistic resistant materials and other security products. The Council also provides advice on the requirements for the installation, service and maintenance, signal handling and response agent dispatch, and for the installed alarm systems covered under UL's Alarm System Certificate Service. The Security Systems Council was formerly known as the Burglary Protection Council. The name was changed in 2002 to reflect the growing scope of UL's constituency and the expanding breadth of product types submitted for Certification examination. Security Systems Council Members may be involved in the UL Standards development process, reviewing proposals for new and revised Standards and new product reports. Members are also asked to assist UL with educating the users on UL product and security services Certifications.

Member of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS); served on the Private Security Services Council, the Society's consulting authority on security management and equipment services and served on the Standing Committee for Museums, Libraries and Cultural Properties.

Consultant to the American Society for Industrial Security Standing Committee for Museums, Libraries and Cultural Properties, the Society's consulting authority on security management and technical services for the protection of art.

Consultant to the Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA); serving on the Insurance Liaison Committee which develops and coordinates security loss prevention systems utilized by the two industries, and interfaces with UL and other standards and testing organizations.

Consultant to the Inland Marine Underwriters Association (IMUA); serving on the Manufacturers and Dealers Committee, and other committees, which educate member insurance companies on matters pertaining to security loss control, coverages and losses related to high exposure lines of business.

Consultant to the Crime Prevention Committee of the American Insurance Association (AIA) and American Insurance Services Group (AISG); serving in the development and presentation of security loss prevention programs for insurance companies that underwrite high exposure lines of business. This organization has been incorporated into the Insurance Services Offices, Inc., Engineering and Safety Service.

Consultant to the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). Providing consultation on the design and construction of vaults and other types of protective containers, and the development of national security standards and guidelines.

## **PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS AND RECOGNITION**

Certified Protection Professional (C.P.P.) by the American Society for Industrial Security. Meeting the education and professional experience requirements, and successfully completing the written examinations for Certification. Meeting the demanding requirements for Re-Certification every three years.

Featured as a recognized expert in crime prevention in U.S. News and World Report Magazine (see attachment).

Acknowledged contributor to the "Practical Guide to Central Station Burglar Alarm Systems", the leading publication on the application of physical and electronic protection to commercial and residential risks.

Acknowledged contributor to the "Suggested Guidelines in Museum Security", the leading publication on the application of physical and electronic protection to the securing of art works, and operating procedures as relates to security.

Acknowledged contributor of security related technical information to the "Published Proceedings" of several National Conferences on Museum Security, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution.

Contributor of articles to various publications on relevant security topics.

Guest speaker to various trade associations and professional organizations:

American Banker Association's National Convention

National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association's National Convention

American Insurance Association

Surety Underwriters Association

Hartford Association of Insurance Women

Honolulu Association of Insurance Women

Inland-Marine Mariners Association, numerous engagements

ITT World-Wide Corporate Security Manager's Conference

Central Station Alarm Association's World Wide Conventions in Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Hawaii, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Hawaii, Lanai, Hawaii, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Maui, Hawaii, Baja, Mexico, St. Thomas, VI, New York City, ATHENS, GREECE (2009), Tuscon, AZ (2010)

American Gem Society's National Conventions, engagements in the US and Canada

American Society for Industrial Security Conventions in New Orleans, San Francisco and Atlanta

Jewelers Security Alliance Annual Security Seminar in Tampa and New York City

Smithsonian Security Institute for Museum Security Managers in Washington, D.C. on three occasions, and Raleigh, NC, Los Angeles, CA.

American Society of Safety Engineers

Inland Marine Underwriters Association Annual Meetings in Jacksonville, Florida and Williamsburg, VA

Inland Marine Underwriters Association Jewelers Block Seminar, New York City (2013)

Numerous specialized training programs for various insurance companies in the United States, Canada and Great Britain that underwrite lines of business with security exposures

European Specie Conference/International Fine Art and Specie Insurance Conference, Barcelona, Spain (2011) and Budapest, Hungary (2013)

Digital Monitoring Products (DMP) Owners Forum on "Alarm Technology", Las Vegas, NV (2012)

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# A Practical Guide to Central Station Burglar Alarm Systems (Second Edition)

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Provided as a Service to the Insurance Industry and Law Enforcement  
by the Central Station Alarm Association



**Central Station Alarm Association**  
*The Association of the Professional Monitoring Industry*

7101 Wisconsin Avenue (Suite 901)  
Bethesda, MD 20814

☎ 301/907-0045

Fax 301/907-2930

E-mail: [admin@csaaul.org](mailto:admin@csaaul.org)

URL: <http://www.csaaul.org>

## Acknowledgements

---

This Guide was developed under the direction of the CSAA Insurance Liaison Committee. The members of his Committee are:

**Richard L. Sampson (Chairman)**  
American Alarm & Communications, Inc.  
Arlington, MA

**Stephen Doyle (Executive Vice President)**  
Central Station Alarm Association  
Bethesda, MD

**Ray Adams**  
Mutual Central Alarm Services  
New York, NY

**Allan M. Apo**  
American Insurance Services Group, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Robert Bitton**  
Supreme Security Systems, Inc.  
Union, NJ

**Robert A. Bonifas**  
Alarm Detection Systems, Inc.  
Aurora, IL

**Rodney R. Eales**  
SDA Security Systems, Inc.  
San Diego, CA

**Malcolm B. Hammond**  
Security Systems by Hammond, Inc.  
Poughkeepsie, NY

**Laurie Hauner**  
Kemper Insurance Co.  
New York, NY

**Ronald D. LaFontaine**  
Security Systems, Inc  
Boca Raton, FL

**Andrew W. Lowitt**  
Lowitt Alarms & Security  
Hicksville, NY

**Stanley Oppenheimer**  
DGA Security Systems, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Isaac I. Papier**  
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.  
Northbrook, IL

**Thomas P. Prevas**  
General Security Consultants Inc.  
West Hartford, CT

**Dave Sexton**  
Jewelers Mutual Insurance  
Neenah, WI

**Dean Wilson**  
Industrial Risk Insurers  
Hartford, CT



*Price: Ten Dollars*

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# An Insurance Guide to Selecting a Burglar Alarm System

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**Provided as a Service to the Insurance Industry  
By the Membership of the Central Station Alarm Association**



**Central Station Alarm Association**  
7101 Wisconsin Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4805  
(301) 907-0045 FAX: (301) 907-7897

## Acknowledgements

This Guide was developed under the direction of the CSAA Insurance Liaison Committee. The members of this Committee are:

**Patricia Smith (Chair)**

Honeywell Protection Services  
Bethesda, MD

**Stephen Doyle (Executive Vice President)**

Central Station Alarm Association  
Bethesda, MD

**Allan M. Apo**

American Insurance Services Group, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Robert Bitton**

Supreme Security Systems, Inc.  
Hillside, NJ

**Robert A. Bonifas**

Alarm Detection Systems, Inc.  
Aurora, IL

**Isaac Papier**

Underwriters Laboratories Inc.  
Northbrook, IL

**Tom Prevas**

General Security Consultants Inc.  
West Hartford, CT

**Dick Sampson**

American Alarm & Communications, Inc.  
Arlington, MA

This Guide was reviewed by the Manufacturers and Dealers Committee of the Inland Marine Underwriters Association. The members of the Committee are:

**Marilyn Rothenberg (Chair)**

GRE Insurance Group  
New York, NY

**Les Gaschler**

Crum & Forster  
Parsippany, NJ

**Walter Graham**

General Reinsurance Corp.  
New York, NY

**Laurie Hauner**

Wm. H. McGee  
New York, NY

**William Olson**

MOAC  
Cranbury, NJ

**Tom Prevas**

General Security Consultants Inc.  
West Hartford, CT

**Rich Rooney**

Seneca Insurance Co.  
New York, NY

**Amy Toland**

GRE Insurance Group  
Princeton, NJ

**Perry Winter**

NAC Reinsurance Corp.  
Greenwich, CT

# **Suggested Practices For Museum Security**

As Adopted by

The Museum, Library and Cultural Properties Council  
of  
ASIS International

AND

The Museum Association Security Committee  
of the  
American Association of Museums

(Revised June, 2008)

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### Appendix A Explanatory Material

*About Revisions: Revisions were approved in 1997 and in 2002 and are included in this version of the Suggested Practices.*

Museum, Library, and Cultural Properties Committee members at the time of adoption of the initial document.

Steven R. Keller, CPP  
President  
Steven R. Keller & Associates, Inc.  
Ormond Beach, Florida

Stevan P. Layne  
Principal  
Layne Consultants International  
Denver, Colorado

Darrell Willson  
Administrator  
National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D.C.

Edward G. Dolan, CPP  
Former Assistant Chief NY Operations  
The Smithsonian Institution  
New York, New York

Ernest C. Lipple  
Owner  
Ernest C. Lipple & Associates  
Speedway, Indiana

Robert Burke  
Former Director, Office of Protection Services  
The Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.

Barton Rinehart  
Former Chief of Security Systems Division  
The Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.

Thomas P. Prevas, CPP  
Consultant  
General Security Consultants  
West Hartford, Connecticut

# **SUGGESTED GUIDELINES IN MUSEUM SECURITY**

**As Adopted By The  
Museum, Library and Archive Committee  
American Society for Industrial Security**

*Professional Practices Sub-Committee of the  
Museum, Library and Archive Committee (MLAC), ASIS  
The following is a list of members of the Professional Practices Sub-Committee:*

*Steve Keller, CPP  
Sub-Committee Co-Chairman and Administrative Coordinator  
Past Chairman, MLA Committee  
Museum Security Consultant  
Deltona, Florida*

*Stevan P. Layne, CPP  
Past Chairman, MLA Committee during preparation of this document  
Security Consultant  
Dillon, Colorado*

*Darrell Willson, CPP  
Past Chairman, MLA Committee during preparation of this document, and  
Co-Chairman of Sub-Committee at time of adoption.  
Executive Director of Protection Services, The Art Institute of Chicago,  
Chicago, Illinois*

*Edward Dolan, CPP  
Current Chairman MLA Committee  
Director of Security  
The Asia Society  
New York, New York*

*Ernest Lipple, CPP  
Past Chairman, MLA Committee  
Director of Visitor and Protection Services  
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis  
Indianapolis, Indiana*

*Robert Burke  
Director, Office of Protection Services  
The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.  
Past Chairman, MLA Committee  
Current Chairman, Museum Association Security Committee,  
American Association of Museums  
Current Chairman, ICOM Security Committee*

*Barton Rinehart, CPP  
Past Chairman, MLA Committee  
Chief of Security Systems Division  
The Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.*

*Tom Prevas, CPP  
General Security Consultants, Inc.  
Museum Security Consultant for the Insurance Industry  
West Hartford, Connecticut*

*The sub-committee sits at the pleasure of the Chairman of the Museum, Library and Archive Committee (MLAC), ASIS. All members of the Sub-Committee serve on the MLAC. The Chairman of the ASIS MLAC can be reached through ASIS headquarters: 1655 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1200 Arlington, Va. 22209. The sub-committee gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by members of the museum and security communities who have provided information and advice during the research process.*

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# U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

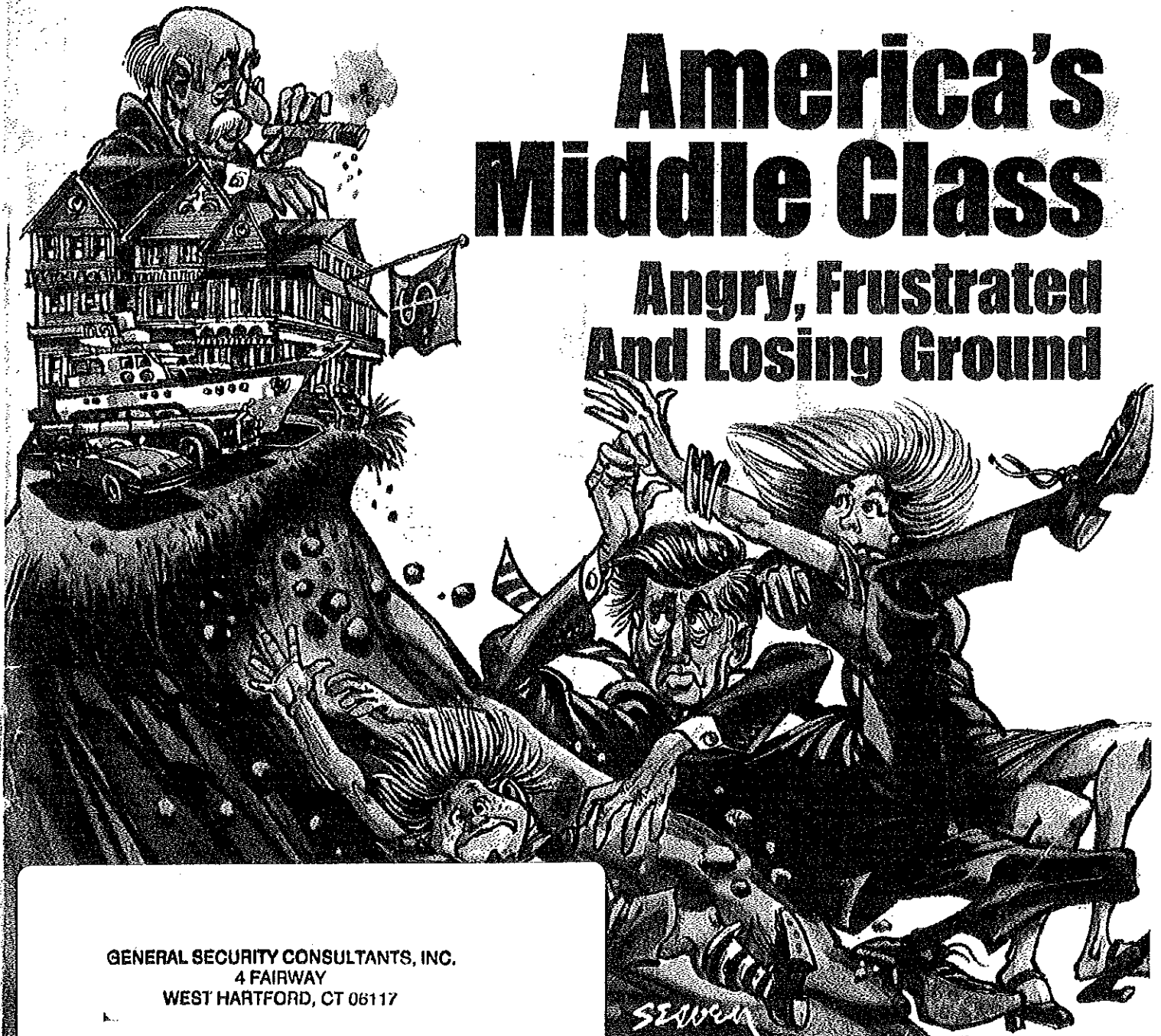
MARCH 30, 1981 \$1.50

**\$60 Billion of Federal Waste—Reagan's Next Target**

**How to Protect Your Home From Burglars**

## America's Middle Class

**Angry, Frustrated  
And Losing Ground**



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4 FAIRWAY  
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*Interview With Thomas P. Prevas,  
Expert on Crime Prevention*

## How to Protect Your Home From Burglars

Household break-ins are in a sharp upswing, spurred by changing social and economic patterns. A counselor to insurance underwriters provides useful tips for safeguarding the house and the family car.

**Q** Mr. Prevas, this past winter has seen a sharp rise in home burglaries and auto thefts. What's the cause?

**A** There are four basic reasons: First is the direct and indirect influence of organized-crime operations. Second is the spreading use of drugs, which spurs some people to rob or steal to support their habit. Third is the impact of lagging business in some industries that has thrown people out of work. Finally, there's the lack of strict controls on handguns, which are used in many robberies.

**Q** Is most of this criminal activity professional or amateur?

**A** It's difficult to pinpoint the exact mix, but certainly crime transcends types of individuals. It permeates all levels of society; you can look at every segment and find people involved in crime. FBI figures show that burglaries are on the rise. There are about 6 million a year. Daytime break-ins are becoming especially popular.

Household goods and appliances are expensive—washing machines, dryers, TV sets, silverware. Those are tempting targets for theft. And even when amateurs steal such things, they need a place to market their stolen goods. So professionals help support a market for amateur criminals.

**Q** What suggestions do you have for the homeowner who wants to prevent his home from being burglarized?

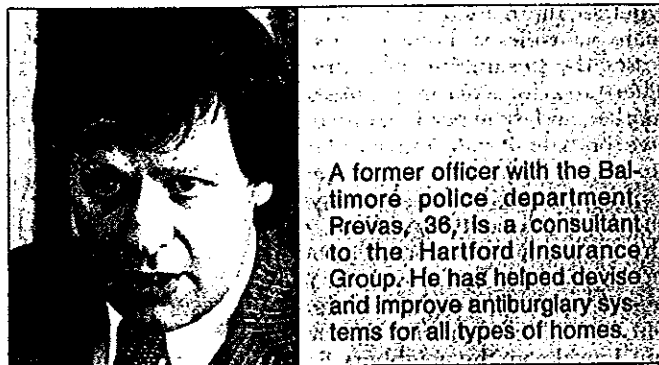
**A** The first step is to assess your real need for protection. That involves checking with the local police department to find out what sort of burglars—professional or amateur—if any, are operating in your neighborhood.

The second step is to evaluate exactly what there is to protect. Does your family have a lot of valuables? Are we talking mainly about a TV or a stereo set, or are we talking about \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of silver or perhaps some antiques or rare objects of art?

Finally, you have to look at your lifestyle and your budget to see what is practical for you to do and how much you can afford to spend for protection.

**Q** Are there any practical steps?

**A** Yes. First, if you leave town on a trip, don't advertise that you're away. Piled-up newspapers, mail, trash can be a giveaway. A neighbor can be helpful in preventing a "vacant house" look.



A former officer with the Baltimore police department, Prevas, 36, is a consultant to the Hartford Insurance Group. He has helped devise and improve antiburglary systems for all types of homes.

**Q** What about lights that go off and on with a timer?

**A** They won't fool a pro, but they might confuse an amateur. And I should note that a great many break-ins are done by nonprofessionals—teen-agers or opportunists who spot a house that looks vulnerable. Locked doors and windows will discourage those people. Something like 50 percent of all burglaries occur through unlocked openings, with no sign of forcible entry.

**Q** What sorts of locks offer the best protection?

**A** Most windows can be made secure by simply drilling a five-sixteenth-inch hole through the upper and lower sash and inserting a quarter-inch casehardened pin. This type of locking system is hard to open even with a crowbar.

Doors should be protected by good-quality dead-bolt locks, preferably of a type listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., and installed on the door and frame by a competent locksmith.

I want especially to emphasize the frame. Many people install an expensive lock on the door, but the frame is so weak that it can give way. A locksmith will assess the resistance of a door and frame and advise you on what mechanism is best. Also, you have to consider the construction of a door. If it has a window or window panels, a burglar might be able to break the glass, reach in and manipulate the lock.

**Q** Some experts recommend a double-cylinder lock that has to be opened by a key on both the outside and the inside—

**A** I'd advise against that type of lock. In case of fire—particularly when there are young children in the house—a double-locked door can make it hazardous to get out. Sure, you can hang a key on the wall close to the door, but it may not be there when you need it.

I suggest that if you have outside doors that have windows, you buy sheets of clear burglar-resistant glazing material—

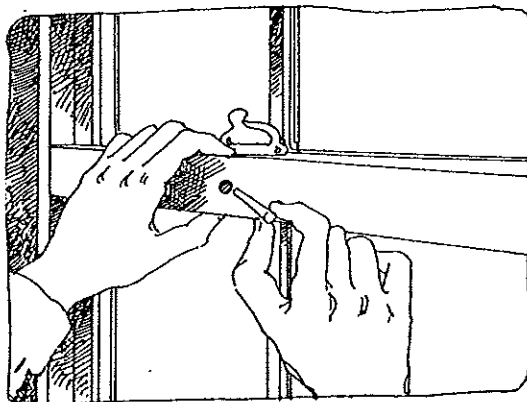
it's about an eighth of an inch thick—and mount them over the windows in each door. If this is done properly, it will hardly show. If a burglar breaks the glass, he still has to get through the plastic glazing, which is built to resist impact.

**Q** What about sliding glass doors?

**A** Most can be protected to some degree by putting a dowel on the track. The basic problem, though, is that a sliding door can simply be lifted off its track. Some locks are available that will prevent the door not only from moving horizontally but from being boisted up off the track.

**Q** Is it worthwhile to install an electronic-alarm system?

**A** That depends largely on



"Most windows can be made secure by simply drilling a hole through the upper and lower sash and inserting a quarter-inch casehardened pin."

whether the homeowner has a great many valuables and how he or she assesses the possibilities of a break-in. There are a lot of alarm systems on the market, and some can be quite expensive both to install and to maintain through monthly service payments.

An efficient home-alarm system should do three things: First, there should be a siren or sounder both inside and outside the house—the inside horn to scare the burglar and alert the family if they're home, the outside one to wake up the neighbors. Secondly, it should be able to detect a burglar going through—as well as opening—a door or window. Third, it should be connected to a central station or the local police department.

In any case, the householder considering an alarm setup should choose equipment that is UL listed, which attests to the quality of its construction and the reliability of its operation. Most insurance companies will give a premium reduction to homeowners who have installed a central-station burglar alarm or fire-alarm system.

**Q Suppose a burglar does manage to get into the house—**

**A** You should make sure that your valuables, such as TV sets, stereos, portable radios, electronic devices, are engraved with a number for purposes of identification. Some local police departments will lend you a tool for marking a number in an inconspicuous place.

One good ploy is to install a fake electrical outlet: Cut a hole in the wall, put your jewelry in a small bag and place it into the space, then put a faceplate over it. You can install such an outlet yourself, making sure that it is the same as all the others in a room, painted the same color. You're not tampering with any electrical wiring. Perhaps you can create a hiding place behind some wall paneling or in a hookcase.

The point is that a burglar doesn't have a lot of time to operate; he's in and out quickly. If he goes into a house and empties the dresser drawers and finds jewelry and maybe cash, that's the opportunity he's been looking for. And you'd be surprised how many people leave rings and diamond earrings and necklaces right on top of dressers or in a drawer. If you force an intruder to start searching for valuables in dummy wall outlets or above suspended ceilings or behind paneling, he's consuming a lot of time; you're making his task risky.

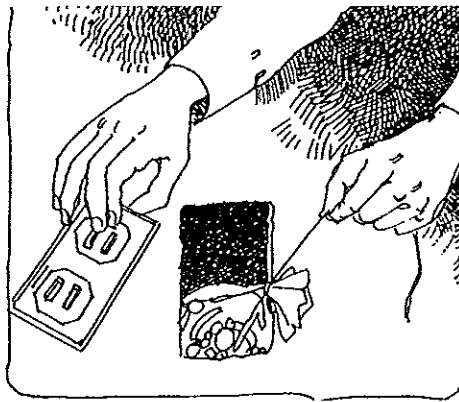
**Q Does a dog with a loud bark offer some protection?**

**A** Yes. However, I have doubts about the effectiveness of a dog in physically protecting you or your home. If a burglar is brazen enough to enter a house, he won't have much trouble overpowering or incapacitating a dog, even a large one—especially if the intruder is carrying a knife, a gun or even a pound of hamburger as an attractive bribe.

The one thing that can be said in favor of a barking dog is that he'll create noise and perhaps scare off a housebreaker. And if he barks in the middle of the night, he can provide a warning. But I have doubts about the value of a dog in actually confronting a burglar.

**Q Is it wise to scatter valuables around rather than keeping them in one area?**

**A** Of course. That can delay a burglar. If you're going on vacation for several days or weeks, it's a better idea to put your most valuable portable items in a bank safe-deposit box. Perhaps you can leave bulkier valuables with a neighbor.



"Install a fake electrical outlet: Cut a hole in the wall, put jewelry in a small bag and place it into the space, then put a faceplate over it."

**Q Suppose a family has gone to bed and someone hears an intruder breaking in. What's the best thing to do?**

**A** I'd immediately call the police, assuming there's a phone in one of the bedrooms. Then I'd round up the family and get them out of the house if at all possible; otherwise I'd assemble everybody in one place and try to avoid contact with the burglar.

**Q Don't most professional burglars try to snip outside telephone wires?**

**A** That can happen. One safeguard is to have an electrical contractor install a rigid metal conduit—a pipe—down the side of the house. The telephone company then will thread the phone wire through the pipe and into the house.

I know of people who have installed a loud horn in the attic, connected to a small switch by the bed. If they hear someone coming in, they can hit the switch. Always remember that noise is one of the burglar's worst enemies.

**Q What's the best tactic if you're face to face with a burglar?**

**A** The best advice is to do exactly as you're told. If you can run and get away, do it. If you can't get away, do what you're told and don't resist. Avoid a confrontation. There's nothing more important than your life.

**Q What suggestions do you have for protecting an auto against thieves?**

**A** A great many thefts—about 20 percent of the total—occur merely because the car owner has left the key in the ignition and doors unlocked. So a vehicle always should be locked and the keys removed. Newer cars have improved locking systems that make theft more difficult. Also, do a little planning. If you're going to be coming back to your parked car after dark, be sure it has been left in a lighted area or in an attended lot.

These guidelines will deter most amateur thieves and joy riders—and those people account for a large percentage of stolen cars. To deter more-proficient thieves, an ignition-kill switch with a time-delay fuse or a fuel-cutoff device well hidden and secure under a locked hood can be helpful.

**Q How does that sort of switch work?**

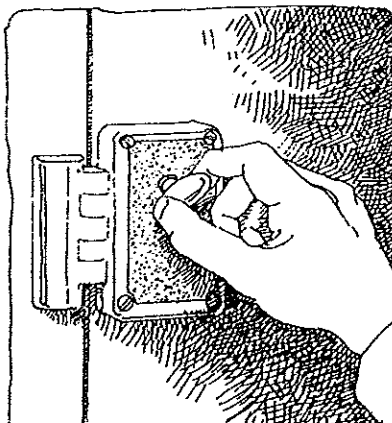
**A** It cuts off the whole ignition system about 1 minute or so after the car has been started. A thief won't get very far before he's stalled, hopefully in traffic on a busy street. The switch is simple to install and costs only about \$8 if you install it yourself. It activates two different circuits. When the system is off, the current flows normally. When it's on—you activate it when you park your car—the current is cycled through the time-delay fuse.

**Q Are new cars now being stolen more often than used ones?**

**A** It is difficult to say because used cars are almost as marketable as new ones by professional thieves. There's a big demand for used cars overseas. And, of course, stripping a car for its parts is very profitable.

As to new models, I've heard that you can put in an order for any type of car you want and a car-theft ring will steal it and get it to you for a lot less than you'd pay a dealer. For that reason, you should take every precautionary measure you can: Avoid out-of-the-way parking places; make use of a neighborhood crime watch if you park your car on the street close to your home. There's nothing worse than a nosy neighbor so far as a burglar is concerned. □

"Doors should be protected by good-quality dead-bolt locks installed by a competent locksmith."



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Protection of Cultural Property

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**FEBRUARY 19-22, 1991**

Sponsored by  
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at the  
CRYSTAL GATEWAY

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Arlington, Virginia



THOMAS PREVAS, CPP  
President, General Security Consultants, Inc.  
West Hartford, CT

#### SHOULD YOU MEET UL SPECIFICATIONS?

Mr. Prevas studied criminal law at the American University in Washington, D.C. He has a Bachelor's in Psychology and has completed course work for a Master's in Psychology from the University of Hartford. Mr. Prevas worked in corrections and police work with the city of Baltimore. For over ten years Tom worked as senior consultant at ITT Hartford Insurance Group developing and implementing corporate security and protection programs, providing recommendations to underwrite high premium commercial accounts and consulting on losses, claims and staff training. Tom is an active member of and consultant to the American Society of Testing and Materials, the Burglary Protection Council of Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Central Station Electrical Protection Association, American Insurance Association Crime Prevention Committee, and the American Society for Industrial Security, where he has held positions with the Private Security Services Council and the Museum, Library and Archives Sub-Committee on Professional Practices. In his current company Mr. Prevas specializes in protection evaluation and planning to identify security problems and develop innovative, cost-effective solutions, including legal, loss and training consultation.

4 FAIRWAY • SUITE A  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06117  
TEL. (203) 523-0217



## MATCHING SECURITY PROBLEMS WITH SOLUTIONS

ALARM SYSTEMS THAT MEET UL STANDARDS FORM  
A SOLID FLOOR UPON WHICH AN INSTITUTION  
CAN BUILD EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE  
PROTECTION

Thomas P. Prevas, C.P.P.  
General Security Consultants, Inc.

### Abstract:

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards assist the museum security manager in identifying the advantages and limitations of burglary protection systems.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards must be installed and operate within the written specifications set forth in the published standards.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards must be serviced and maintained according to the written specifications set forth in the published standards.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards must be monitored by a Listed Central Station, which operates and maintains records according to the written specifications set forth in the published standards.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards can be CERTIFICATED, which attests to the quality of the installation, EXTENT to which the premises is protected, integrity of the remote connection, service and monitoring of the equipment that is installed within an institution.

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#### Burglary Protection Equipment and Systems:

Detection devices or COMPONENTS, such as motion detectors, are UL LISTED and must be manufactured and installed according to standard.

LISTED COMPONENTS are connected to a Listed master control or controls to form a SYSTEM.

SYSTEMS that meet UL Standards as to the Extent of Protection are classified and CERTIFIED.

#### Extent of Protection for a Premises:

Extent of Protection #3 represents a BASIC protection layout and can be met by installing Perimeter, Volumetric, Sound or Channels of detection or a combination of these formats.

Extent of Protection #2 represents an INTERMEDIATE protection layout and can be met by installing COMPREHENSIVE Perimeter, Volumetric, Sound or Channels of detection or a combination of these formats.

Extent of Protection #1 represents a HIGH protection layout and can be met by installing a COMPREHENSIVE Perimeter detection format. This type of layout is normally used in storage rooms or other highly protected areas, but can be applied to an entire building.

#### Methods of Transmitting Central Station Burglar Alarm Signals

McCulloch and Digital Communicators are considered LOW security methods for transmitting a signal and can be easily compromised. These systems are classified as Grade B or C.

Direct Wire and One-Way Radio are considered INTERMEDIATE security methods for transmitting a signal and offer moderate protection against compromise. These systems are classified as Grade A.

Multiplex, Derived Channel and Long Range Two-Way Radio are considered HIGH security methods for transmitting a signal. These systems are classified as Grade AA, BB or CC and provide LINE SECURITY.

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### Grades of Service for Central Station Burglar Alarm Systems

The central station upon receipt of an alarm signal will call the police, museum management, and dispatch an alarm company guard to arrive at the institution within an average response time of FIFTEEN minutes for systems classified and GRADED A or AA.

The central station upon receipt of an alarm signal will call the police, museum management, and dispatch an alarm company guard to arrive at the institution within an average response time of TWENTY minutes for systems classified and GRADED B or BB.

The central station upon receipt of an alarm signal will call the police, museum management, and dispatch an alarm company guard to arrive at the institution within an average response time of THIRTY minutes for systems classified and GRADED C or CC.

### References:

- UL Standard 681, Installation and Classification of  
Mercantile and Bank Burglar Alarm Systems
- UL 611, Central Station Burglar Alarm Systems
- UL 1076, Proprietary Burglar Alarm Units and Systems
- UL 639, Intrusion Detection Units

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Additional References:

- UL 636, Holdup Alarm Units and Systems
- UL 294, Access Control System Units
- UL 983, Surveillance Camera Units
- UL 752, Bullet Resisting Equipment
- UL 437, Key Locks
- UL 1034, Burglary Resistant Electric Locking Mechanisms
- UL 972, Burglary Resisting Glazing Material
- UL Burglary Protection Equipment Directory

Presented at the National Conference on Museum Security,  
February 19-22, 1991, sponsored by the Smithsonian  
Institution at the Marriott, Arlington, Virginia.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

presents

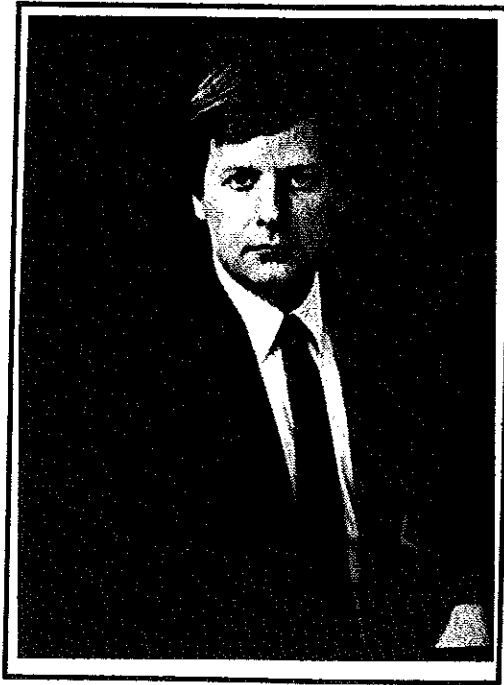
A Conference on the  
Protection of Cultural Property

**THE SECURITY  
AND PROTECTION  
ALLIANCE AMONG  
MUSEUMS,  
LIBRARIES,  
GARDENS  
AND PARKS**

**FEBRUARY 21-25, 1993**

Sponsored by  
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at the  
**HYATT REGENCY CRYSTAL CITY**  
Arlington, Virginia



THOMAS PREVAS, CPP  
President, General Security Consultants, Inc.

PROPRIETARY CENTRAL STATION DESIGNS...  
OFF-PREMISES CONNECTION...AND MONITORING

Mr. Prevas studied criminal law at the American University in Washington, D.C. He has a Bachelor's in Psychology and has completed course work for a Master's in Psychology from the University of Hartford. Mr. Prevas worked in corrections and police work with the city of Baltimore. For over ten years Tom worked as senior consultant at ITT Hartford Insurance Group developing and implementing corporate security and protection programs, providing recommendations to underwrite high premium commercial accounts and consulting on losses, claims and staff training. Tom is an active member of and consultant to the American Society of Testing and Materials, the Burglary Protection Council of Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Central Station Electrical Protection Association, American Insurance Association Crime Prevention Committee, and the American Society for Industrial Security, where he has held positions with the Private Security Services Council and the Museum, Library and Archives Sub-Committee on Professional Practices. In his current company Mr. Prevas specializes in protection evaluation and planning to identify security problems and develop innovative, cost-effective solutions, including legal, loss and training consultation.

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THE SECURITY AND PROTECTION ALLIANCE  
AMONG MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, GARDENS &  
PARKS

Proprietary central station designs for cultural institutions, methods for an off-premises connection to a UL Listed monitoring facility, the electronic protection of the communication channel between the institution's proprietary central station and the off-premises monitoring facility.

Thomas P. Prevas, C.P.P.  
General Security Consultants, Inc.

ABSTRACT

Definition:

A proprietary burglar alarm system complying with UL Standard 1076 is a system in which alarm initiating circuits and devices are installed at a property and are connected directly or indirectly to constantly monitored receiving equipment at a central supervision station. The central supervising station is located at the protected property and intended for operation by personnel responsible to the owner of the protected property.

The protected property may consist of a single property or of non-contiguous properties under a single ownership. The system is arranged so that a predetermined change in the alarm initiating circuits or devices automatically causes transmission of an alarm signal over a supervised signaling channel to the central supervising station.



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Rational:

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards assist the museum security manager in identifying the advantages and limitations of burglary protection systems.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards must be installed and operate within the written specifications set forth in the published standards.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards must be serviced and maintained according to the written specifications set forth in the published standards.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards must be monitored by a Listed Proprietary or outside central station, which operates and maintains records according to the written specifications set forth in the published standards.

Alarm systems which meet UL Standards can be CERTIFICATED, which attests to the quality of the installation, EXTENT to which the premises is protected, integrity of the remote connection, service and monitoring of the equipment that is installed within an institution.

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General overview of physical protection requirements:

Central supervising station operating rooms shall be protected at all times against entrance by unauthorized persons and attack. Each central supervising station shall have a telephone, cellular telephone or voice radio, or equivalent, to either an outside central station or manned police station.

Entrances to a central supervising station shall be kept locked at all times and arranged so that positive identification is required of any person seeking admittance.

Openings in the operating rooms of a central supervising station shall be covered with glazing material complying with the requirements of the Standard for Burglary Resisting Glazing Material, UL 972, or with iron or steel bars or wire-mesh screening. The arrangement shall be such that persons standing outside cannot command a view of the entire interior of the central supervising station.

It is suggested that doors and other openings to the operating rooms of a central supervising station be protected with materials complying with the requirements of the Standard for Bullet Resisting Equipment, UL 752, and that the walls, ceilings and floors of the operating rooms be constructed of reinforced concrete, or equivalent materials affording protection against forced entry and fire.

Central supervising stations shall be equipped with an emergency lighting system which can be placed into service immediately and is independent of the lighting source ordinarily used for lighting.

Central supervising stations shall be provided with a secondary standby power supply to provide energy to the operating systems and equipment in the event of impaired operation of the main power supply for at least 24 hours.

General overview of operating requirements:

Alarm-receiving equipment shall comply with the construction and performance requirements of the Proprietary Burglar Alarm Units and Systems Standard, UL 1076. Any change in the status of the protective circuit which is initiated at the protected area shall be indicated at the central supervising station by audible and visual means and shall result in an automatic recording which shows the identification of the protected area, the new status, the time and date.

Equipment intended for combination burglar alarm and fire-protective signaling systems shall comply with the requirements of the UL Standard for Control Units for Fire-Protective Signaling Systems, UL 864.

The central supervising station shall have a minimum of one operator and one runner, trained and equipped in the performance of their duties, constantly on duty to provide immediate attention to all signals received and prompt service to the protected areas.

The operator(s) shall be on duty at the central supervising station to receive and act on signals from protected areas.

The runner(s) shall be on duty at all times at the central supervising station, or at a runner station with single party telephone, cellular telephone or radio communication with the central supervising station, or on mobile patrol with a cellular telephone or constant radio contact with the central supervising station.

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The supervision of the signaling channel between a protected area within an institution and the central supervising station is classified as follows:

Proprietary systems are classed as Grade A when the protection circuit must respond to both an increase and decrease in the circuit resistance or current within limits defined in the standard.

Proprietary systems classed as Grade B must only provide supervision of the protection circuit and need not comply with the limitations in changes in circuit resistance or current.

Proprietary systems are classed as Grade AA or BB when the protection circuit is provided with line security equipment that defends the signaling channel against sophisticated compromise.

**Burglary protection equipment and systems:**

Detection devices or COMPONENTS, such as controls, motion detectors, etc, are UL LISTED and must be manufactured and installed according to standard.

LISTED COMPONENTS are connected to a Listed master control or controls to form a SYSTEM.

SYSTEMS that meet UL Standards as to the Extent of Protection can be classified and CERTIFICATED.

Regardless of the grade of equipment and protection service determined by Proprietary Standard UL 1076, protective devices installed on individual properties are further classified as to the Extent of Protection at each location.

**Extent of Protection for a premises and/or storage rooms:**

Extent of Protection #3 represents a BASIC protection layout and can be met by installing Perimeter, Volumetric, Sound or Channels of detection or a combination of these formats.

Extent of Protection #2 represents an INTERMEDIATE protection layout and can be met by installing COMPREHENSIVE Perimeter, Volumetric, Sound or Channels of detection or a combination of these formats.

Extent of Protection #1 represents a HIGH protection layout and can be met by installing a COMPREHENSIVE Perimeter detection format. This type of layout is normally used in storage rooms or other highly protected areas, but can be applied to an entire building. Extent of Protection #1 certifications can only be issued when the alarm system is connected to an outside Listed central station.



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Methods of transmitting alarm signals to a UL Listed outside central station:

McCulloh and Digital Communicators are considered LOW security methods for transmitting a signal and can be easily compromised. These systems are classified as Grade B or C.

Direct Wire, Cellular and One-Way Radio (combined with a digital communicator) are considered INTERMEDIATE security methods for transmitting a signal and offer moderate protection against compromise. These systems are classified as Grade A.

Multiplex, Derived Channel and Long Range Two-Way Radio are considered HIGH security methods for transmitting a signal. These systems are classified as Grade AA, BB or CC and provide LINE SECURITY.

Grades of Service for connecting to an outside central station:

The central station upon receipt of an alarm signal will call the police, museum management, and dispatch an alarm company guard to arrive at the institution within a response time of FIFTEEN minutes for systems classified and GRADED A or AA.

The central station upon receipt of an alarm signal will call the police, museum management, and dispatch an alarm company guard to arrive at the institution within a response time of TWENTY minutes for systems classified and GRADED B or BB.

The central station upon receipt of an alarm signal will call the police, museum management, and dispatch an alarm company guard to arrive at the institution within a response time of THIRTY minutes for systems classified and GRADED C or CC.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ABSTRACT IS FOR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ONLY. IN ORDER TO BE ACCURATE AND EFFECTIVE, USERS MUST CONSULT THE SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR ALL INSTALLATION AND OPERATING REQUIREMENTS.

**References:**

- UL Standard 681, Installation and Classification of  
Mercantile and Bank Burglar Alarm Systems
- UL 611, Central Station Burglar Alarm Systems
- UL 1076, Proprietary Burglar Alarm Units and Systems
- UL 639, Intrusion Detection Units
- UL 636, Holdup Alarm Units and Systems
- UL 294, Access Control System Units
- UL 983, Surveillance Camera Units
- UL 752, Bullet Resisting Equipment
- UL 437, Key Locks
- UL 1034, Burglary Resistant Electric Locking Mechanisms
- UL 972, Burglary Resisting Glazing Material
- UL Burglary Protection Equipment Directory
- Civil Engineering Laboratory, Tech-Data Sheet 80-02,  
Steel/Ply Attack Resistant Wall System

Presented at the National Conference on Cultural Property  
Protection, February 21-25, 1993, sponsored by the  
Smithsonian Institution at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City,  
Arlington, Virginia



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

# Proceedings

of the

**997 National Conference on Cultural Property Protection**  
hosted by the Smithsonian Institution  
co-hosted by the North Carolina Museum of Art

## **"21st Century Design and Exhibition Practices"**

February 24 to 27, 1997

at the North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC

with events at

the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC

NC Museum of Transportation\Spencer Shops, Spencer, NC

and

Biltmore Estates, Asheville, NC

**Thomas Prevas, CPP**  
President, General Security Consultants, Inc.  
West Hartford, CT

### **The Old and the New at UL**

Mr. Prevas studied criminal law at the American University in Washington, D.C. He has a Bachelor's in Psychology and has completed course work for a Master's in Psychology from the University of Hartford. Mr. Prevas worked in corrections and police work with the city of Baltimore. For over ten years Tom worked as senior consultant at ITT Hartford Insurance Group developing and implementing corporate security and protection programs, providing recommendations to underwrite high premium commercial accounts and consulting on losses, claims and staff training. Tom is an active member of and consultant to the American Society of Testing and Materials, the Burglary Protection Council of Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Central Station Electrical Protection Association, American Insurance Association Crime Prevention Committee, and the American Society for Industrial Security, where he has held positions with the Private Security Services Council and the Museum, Library and Archives Sub-Committee on Professional Practices. In his current company Mr. Prevas specializes in protection evaluation and planning to identify security problems and develop innovative, cost-effective solutions, including legal, loss and training consultation.

## Central Station Burglar Alarm Systems (CPVX)

A central station system is one in which the operation of electrical protection circuits and devices are signaled automatically to, recorded in, maintained, and supervised from a central station having trained operators and runners (alarm investigators) in attendance at all times. Runners are dispatched to make an investigation of unauthorized entry or opening of protected properties from which signals are received. System arming and disarming is supervised by the central station.

The Central Station Certificate displays the following information about an alarm system.

### System Description

*Type of System* - Premise, Stockroom, Safe, Vault, Night Depository, Automatic Teller Machine, Holdup

*Extent of Protection* - No. 1, 2, 3, 4, Complete, or Partial. Definitions in UL 681.

*Area Covered/Location* - Text that clarifies exactly what is protected by system.

*Alarm Sounding Device* - None, Inside, Outside, or Inside and Outside.

### Remote Monitoring

*Monitoring Location* - The address of the Monitoring Station.

*For Extent No. 4 Systems with no Investigator Response* - The party notified in case of alarm. May be Law Enforcement, Subscriber, or Subscriber's Agent.

*Primary Signal Transmission Method*

*Secondary Transmission Method (If Used)*

*UL Listed Alarm Transport Company (If Used)* - Name of Company and UL File Number.

*Line Security Employed* - No Line Security, Standard Line Security (equivalent to the retiring Grade AA, BB, CC), Encryption (uses Listed equipment marked Encryption).

### Alarm Investigator

*Investigator Response Time* - For Standard or Encryption Line Security Systems - 5 to 45 mins, in 5 min increments (ie: 5, 10, 15, etc.)  
 - For No Line Security Systems - 5 to 60 mins, in 5 min increments (ie: 5, 10, 15, etc.)

*Investigator Team* - 1 runner, without keys, plus local law enforcement  
 - 1 runner, with keys, plus local law enforcement  
 - 2 runners, with keys, no local law enforcement  
 - 2 runners, with keys, plus local law enforcement  
 - None. Alarms retransmitted only. (For Extent No.4 Systems Only)

### Control and Transmitter Units

*Manufacturer's name and Model Nos.*

## Mercantile Burglar Alarm Systems (CVSG)

A Mercantile Alarm System is one in which the operation of electrical protection circuits and devices activates an alarm sounding device inside and/or outside of the protected premises. A mercantile alarm system may or may not provide supplementary remote location transmitting equipment that will transmit a signal off premises. The operation of a mercantile alarm system is primarily under the control of the owner or others interested in the property to be protected.

The Mercantile Certificate displays the following information about an alarm system.

### System Description

*Type of System* - Premise, Stockroom, Safe, Vault, Night Depository, Automatic Teller Machine, Holdup

*Extent of Protection* - No. 2, 3, 4, Complete, or Partial. Definitions in UL 681.

*Area Covered/Location* - Text that clarifies exactly what is protected by system.

*Alarm Sounding Device* - Inside, Outside, or Inside and Outside.

### Remote Monitoring

*Monitoring Entity (If Monitoring Provided)* - The Name and address of the party monitoring the system.

*Party notified in case of alarm* - May be Law Enforcement, Subscriber, or Subscriber's Agent.

*Primary Signal Transmission Method*

*Secondary Transmission Method (If Used)*

*UL Listed Alarm Transport Company (If Used)* - Name of Company and UL File Number.

*Line Security Employed* - No Line Security, Standard Line Security (equivalent to the retiring Grade AA, BB, CC), Encryption (uses Listed equipment marked Encryption).

### Control and Transmitter Units

*Manufacturer's name and Model Nos.*

## Bank Burglar Alarm Systems (CVSG)

A Bank Alarm System is one in which the operation of electrical protection circuits and devices of a bank safe, vault, ATM or night depository activates an alarm sounding device inside and/or outside of the protected premises. A bank alarm system may or may not provide supplementary remote location transmitting equipment that will transmit a signal off premises. The operation of a bank alarm system is primarily under the control of the owner or others interested in the property to be protected.

The Bank Certificate displays the following information about an alarm system.

### System Description

*Type of System* - Safe, Vault, Night Depository, Automatic Teller Machine, Holdup

*Extent of Protection* - Complete, or Partial. Definitions in UL 681.

*Area Covered/Location* - Text that clarifies exactly what is protected by system.

*Alarm Sounding Device* - Inside, Outside, or Inside and Outside.

### Remote Monitoring

*Monitoring Entity (If Monitoring Provided)* - The Name and address of the party monitoring the system.

*Party notified in case of alarm* - May be Law Enforcement, Subscriber, or Subscriber's Agent.

*Primary Signal Transmission Method*

*Secondary Transmission Method (If Used)*

*UL Listed Alarm Transport Company (If Used)* - Name of Company and UL File Number.

*Line Security Employed* - No Line Security, Standard Line Security (equivalent to the retiring Grade AA, BB, CC), Encryption (uses Listed equipment marked Encryption).

### Control and Transmitter Units

*Manufacturer's name and Model Nos.*

## Proprietary Burglar Alarm Systems (CVWX)

A proprietary burglar alarm system is one in which alarm initiating circuits and devices are installed at a property and are connected directly or indirectly to constantly monitored receiving equipment at a central supervising station. The central supervising station is operated by personnel responsible to the owner of the protected property. The protected property may consist of a single property or of noncontiguous properties under a single ownership. The system is arranged so that a pre-determined change in the alarm initiating circuits or devices automatically causes transmission of an alarm signal over a supervised signaling channel to the central supervising station.

The Proprietary Certificate displays the following information about an alarm system.

### System Description

*Type of System* - Premise, Stockroom, Safe, Vault, Night Depository, Automatic Teller Machine, Holdup

*Extent of Protection* - No. 2, 3, 4, Complete, or Partial. Definitions in UL 681.

*Area Covered/Location* - Text that clarifies exactly what is protected by system.

*Alarm Sounding Device* - None, Inside, Outside, or Inside and Outside.

### Remote Monitoring

*Monitoring Entity* - The Name and address of the party monitoring the system.

*Primary Signal Transmission Method*

*Secondary Transmission Method (If Used)*

*UL Listed Alarm Transport Company (If Used)* - Name of Company and UL File Number.

*Line Security Employed* - No Line Security, Standard Line Security (equivalent to the retiring Grade AA, BB, CC), Encryption (uses Listed equipment marked Encryption).

### Control and Transmitter Units

*Manufacturer's name and Model Nos.*



**Comparing Graded System Certificates to Modular Certificates  
for  
Central Station Burglar Alarm Service**

	<u>Graded System</u>	<u>Modular System</u>
Grade of Service	A, B, C, AA, BB, CC	Grades not assigned
Type & Extent	1, 2, or 3	1, 2, 3, or 4
Hold Up Service	Information wasn't provided	Yes or No
Line Security	Presence had to be inferred from double letter Grade (AA, BB, CC)	Certificate states, "No Line Security", "Standard Line Security", or "Encryption"
Response Time	15, 20, or 30 Min.	For Standard or Encryption systems, 5-45 Min, For No Line Security Systems, 5-60 Min.
Investigator Team	2 Alarm Service Company runners or, 1 Alarm Service Company runners and Local law enforcement <i>Specifics were not displayed on Certificate</i>	No investigation (Extent 4 systems only) 1 runner & police & Keys 1 runner & police, without Key. 2 runners & Keys, no police 2 runners & police without Key 2 runners & police & Keys
Keys	Yes or No	Displayed as part of Investigator Team Description
Monitoring Location	Displayed	Displayed
Opening & Closings Monitored	Yes	Yes
Alarm Sounding Device	Displayed	Displayed
Inside/Outside location of Sounding Devices	Displayed	Displayed
Use of Listed Alarm Transport Company	Information wasn't provided	Name of Transport Company displayed, if UL Listed

**Smithsonian Institution**

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# **Optimizing Security with Minimum Resources**

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Proceedings of the National Conference on  
Cultural Property Protection

February 9-12, 1998

Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
Arlington, Virginia

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## **Protecting High Security Storage**

**Thomas P. Prevas, CPP**

Thomas P. Prevas is President of General Security Consultants, Inc., a company specializing in protection evaluations and planning for a wide range of clients who require advanced technical knowledge and analytical skills within the security field. Before starting GSC, Inc., Mr. Prevas was a Senior Consultant with ITT-Hartford, where he was involved with the development and administrations of the Corporate Security Program in the United States and Canada, providing underwriting management with risk evaluation and risk improvement services for commercial accounts with complex security exposures, and consultation on losses, claims investigation, and staff training. He has also been employed by the Baltimore City Police Department and the Institute of Living.

Mr. Prevas received a BA degree in psychology from the University of Hartford and studied police science and criminal law through American University. He has completed the coursework for an MS degree in psychology at the University of Hartford. Mr. Prevas is a member of the Burglary Protection Council of Underwriters Laboratories, which consults with UL staff on engineering matters pertaining to burglary protection and national security standards. He has been elected a Corporate Member of UL, and he is active with the American Society for Industrial Security and the Central Station Alarm Association.

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# **CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION FROM THE GROUND UP**

Proceedings of the National Conference on Cultural  
Property Protection and the International Conference on  
Museum Security

**March 7-11, 1999**

**Los Angeles Airport Marriott  
Los Angeles, California**

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Association. He also helped found the Western Regional Cultural Property Protection Association.

## **TOM PREVAS**

### **SPEAKER**

Thomas P. Prevas is president of General Security Consultants, Inc. (GSC). Located in West Hartford, Connecticut, GSC specializes in protection evaluations and planning for numerous clients requiring advanced technical knowledge and analytical skills within the security field.

Before founding GSC, Prevas served as Senior Consultant with ITT-Hartford. During his tenure, he focused on development and administration of the Corporate Security Program in Canada. He provided underwriting management with risk evaluation and risk improvement services for commercial accounts with complex security exposures, and consulting on losses, claims investigations, and staff training.

Prevas has also worked as a police officer with the Baltimore City Police Department, where he received a commendation for outstanding performance of police duties in high crime areas. He has worked with the Institute of Living, a Connecticut psychiatric hospital, in the psychology field, as well as for the Baltimore City Department of Corrections in a maximum-security prison.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Hartford, and studied Police Science and Criminal Law through the American University. He has completed course work toward a Master of Science Degree in Psychology at the University of Hartford. He is also a Certified Protection Professional (CPP).

Prevas is a member of Burglary Protection Council of Underwriters Laboratories (UL), which consults with the UL staff on engineering matters pertaining to burglary protection and national security standards. UL also elected him as a corporate member. An active member of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), he serves on the Museum, Library & Cultural Properties Committee. He holds a membership in the Central Station Alarm Association, where he has a seat on the Insurance Liaison Committee.