OMNIRISC
REDEFINING SECURITY

Security Newsletter

AUGUST 2018 I ISSUE 12

Conclusion to Physical Security

In the last few issues we have been looking at the concept of physical security and the various interlinked components that make up a physical security matrix.

Their aim is to deter, detect and delay unauthorized entry to or malicious actions within a facility. In this issue we will have a final look back at the elements of physical security.

The ingredients of an effective interlocking physical security system include:

- Good threat and risk assessments
- Thorough security planning including the use of techniques of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Security of an independent perimeter
- Security of the building/facility itself
- Security of internal structures and spaces
- Security of vital equipment/operations
- Security of confidential information
- Staff, visitor and vehicle access controls
- External and internal security lighting
- Electronic surveillance and recording
- The manned security forces
- The security coordination facility, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and good security management and supervision

Contrasting Historical Physical Security

I was recently in Lisbon and visited the 14th century 'Castelo de Sao Jorge'. While I was wandering around, I noted the physical security features of the castle some of which date from the 6th century. As many of today's physical security elements can trace their origins back to medieval defensive design, I thought that an examination of the similarities and improvements between physical security elements then and now would be of interest.

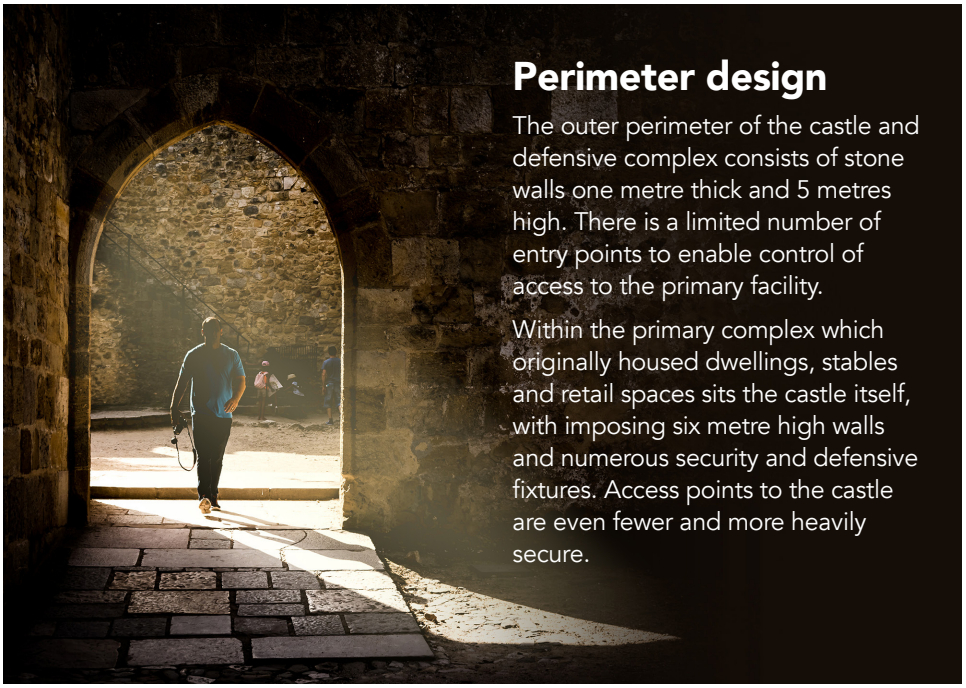
Threat and Risk Assessments

It is unlikely that formal threat and risk assessments were even known in the 14th century nor that our current interest in the safety and security elements caused by natural events such a typhoon, storm etc. would be planned for. However, the protection against large hostile forces in the vicinity and the internal security of valuables and key facilities such as food, water and gunpowder would have been considered especially as any threat materialized.

CPTED

The castle was obviously built as a defensive facility but still managed to incorporate CPTED like techniques by placing it on the highest hill in Lisbon and by designing narrow corridors, passageways and access points to prevent or delay the access of large bodies of men and control access flow to the facility.

OMNIRISC SECURITY SERVICE (MACAO) LTD. 26 Avenida De Marciano Baptista, Chong Fok Comercial Centre, 12/H, Macau
Office: +853 28558964 Email: info@omnirisc.com
www.omnirisc.com



Perimeter design

The outer perimeter of the castle and defensive complex consists of stone walls one metre thick and 5 metres high. There is a limited number of entry points to enable control of access to the primary facility.

Within the primary complex which originally housed dwellings, stables and retail spaces sits the castle itself, with imposing six metre high walls and numerous security and defensive fixtures. Access points to the castle are even fewer and more heavily secure.

Security of the internal buildings

The principle used in design and operation of the whole complex was defence-in-depth. With the levels of security increasing from the outer perimeter to the castle exterior and finally to the castle keep.

The castle itself is surrounded by a moat with single bridge access on one side and a draw bridge on the other. Walls are six metres high, angled to discourage climbing and have extensive offensive positions on their battlements. The keep, [the stronghold within the castle] was over nine metres high with only a single narrow access point.

About the Author

James Langton, is an advisor to "Omnirisc". He is a specialist in physical security and physical security auditing.

Access Control

Like today, access to the facility was controlled by the manned security force and by physical barriers. Access to the castle itself is across the narrow bridge over the moat and through a low narrow access door designed to prevent intruders mounted on horses. All this is designed to slow the approach and allow the security force time to defend their positions

Security lighting

This is one of the areas where modern physical security practices outstrip their 14th century counterparts. While observation during daylight is comparable, night time observation is not. The advent of infrared cameras and night vision equipment has revolutionized the security observation capability during the hours of darkness.

Surveillance

Again the 14th century security force was at a distinct disadvantage when compared with our modern version. The castle was fitted with numerous watch towers. [something we still use extensively today] These towers allowed observations of the castle approaches and the base of exterior walls. However, that advantage was lost at night, allowing unobserved access to the outside of the castle and possible interference with the walls. We on the other hand have the benefit of IR cameras feeding into security control rooms. In addition, IR night vision equipment and a raft of communication devices enable us to not only see in the dark but to respond in ways that our medieval security counterparts never dreamed of.

Manned security force

The 14th century security unit was a military force, very different from our security departments of today but closer in some ways to our modern armed security teams. They generally operated without legal constraints. We on the other hand are subject to the law, modern security practices and procedures.

Despite these differences, their overall duties were generally similar to ours. That is, the protection of the organisation, the facility, its contents and its occupants.

This is the last of the series dealing with physical security. We hope that you have enjoyed it and found it useful. If you have any questions or comments on aspects of physical security, the processes or procedures please don't hesitate to send us an email.

In the next few issues we will cover topics such as Special Event Security, Security Investigations, IT Security and Strategic Security Management.

What can Omnirisc do to help you!

We provide bespoke consultations for businesses and organizations on security and on various levels of vulnerability and risk assessments.

OMNIRISC
REDEFINING SECURITY

Office: +853 28558964 Email: info@omnirisc.com
www.omnirisc.com