



# SECRET SERVICE



## History

The Secret Service was created in 1865 to suppress counterfeit currency. It became the official presidential-protection system in 1901, after the assassination of President William McKinley.

## Function

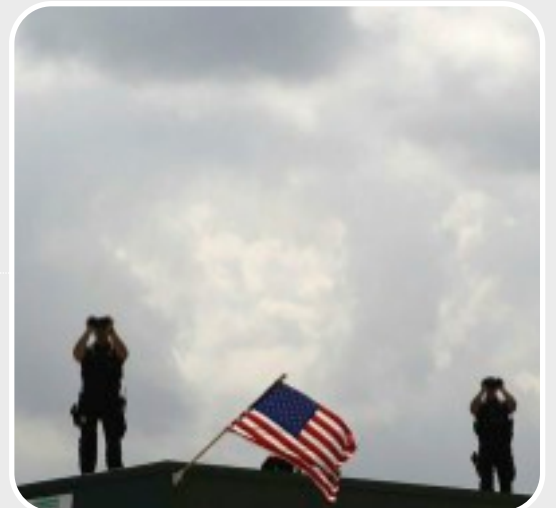
Most Secret Service agents concentrate on tracking counterfeit money. A small percentage of agents focus on protecting the President and Vice President (present, past and candidates), their families and certain foreign heads of state.

## Misconceptions

Very few Secret Service agents are ever shot in the line of duty. Notable exceptions are Officer Coffelt, who was killed protecting President Harry Truman, and Officer McCarthy, who was shot (but not killed) while protecting Ronald Reagan.

## Potential

A college degree and a clean criminal record are required to apply to be a Secret Service agent, followed by 11 weeks of basic police training and 16 additional weeks learning about fraud detection and personal protection.



## Why do they wear sunglasses?

Secret service agents wear sunglasses not to hide their identities but simply to guard their eyes from sun reflection, so they are able to see their surroundings better.

## WHY DO WE NEED A SECRET SERVICE?

The President of the United States, Barack Obama faces 30 death threats a day.

## Successful assassinations

Abraham Lincoln 1865

James A. Garfield 1881

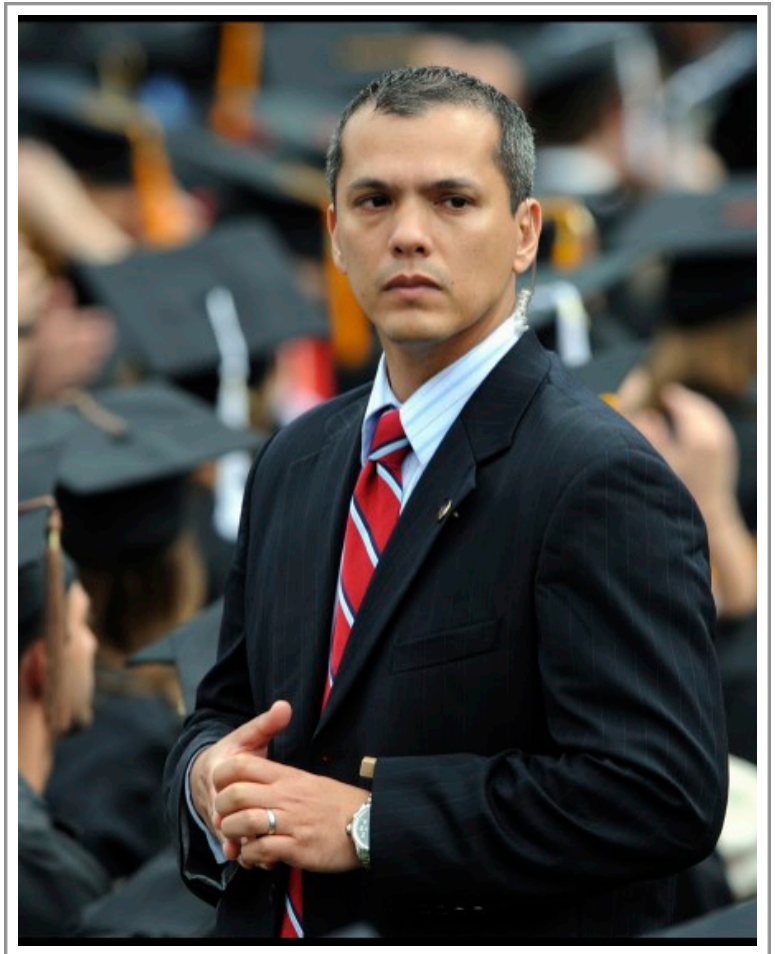
William McKinley 1901

John F. Kennedy 1963

## What significant role did Timothy J. McCarthy play in the history of the Secret Service?

Only agent to survive a bullet wound during a presidential assassination attempt. While all Secret Service are trained to "take a bullet for the President," Timothy J. McCarthy is the only agent who's actually done so.

On March 30, 1981, McCarthy was shot in the abdomen by John W. Hinkley, after leaping between President Ronald Reagan and Hinkley, as Hinkley fired six shots at close range at Reagan.



# INSTRUCTOR'S MASTER

## CADET HANDOUT



## GENIUS NOTES

**How many members of the Secret Service have died while actually defending the president from an assassination attempt?**

One. Private Leslie Coffelt of the White House Police Force (now known as the Secret Service Uniformed Division) was killed on November 1, 1950 during an assassination attempt on President Harry Truman.

**Who was the first Secret Service agent to be killed in the line of duty?**

William Craig. Agent Craig was killed while riding in a presidential motorcade. The 46 year old agent was killed on September 3, 1902 when a speeding trolley car crashed into the open-air horse carriage carrying President Theodore Roosevelt in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The President received only superficial cuts and bruises.

## STORY PROMPT



JOT DOWN NOTE FOR INCLUDING YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE

## **When did the Secret Service assume full-time responsibility for protection of the President?**

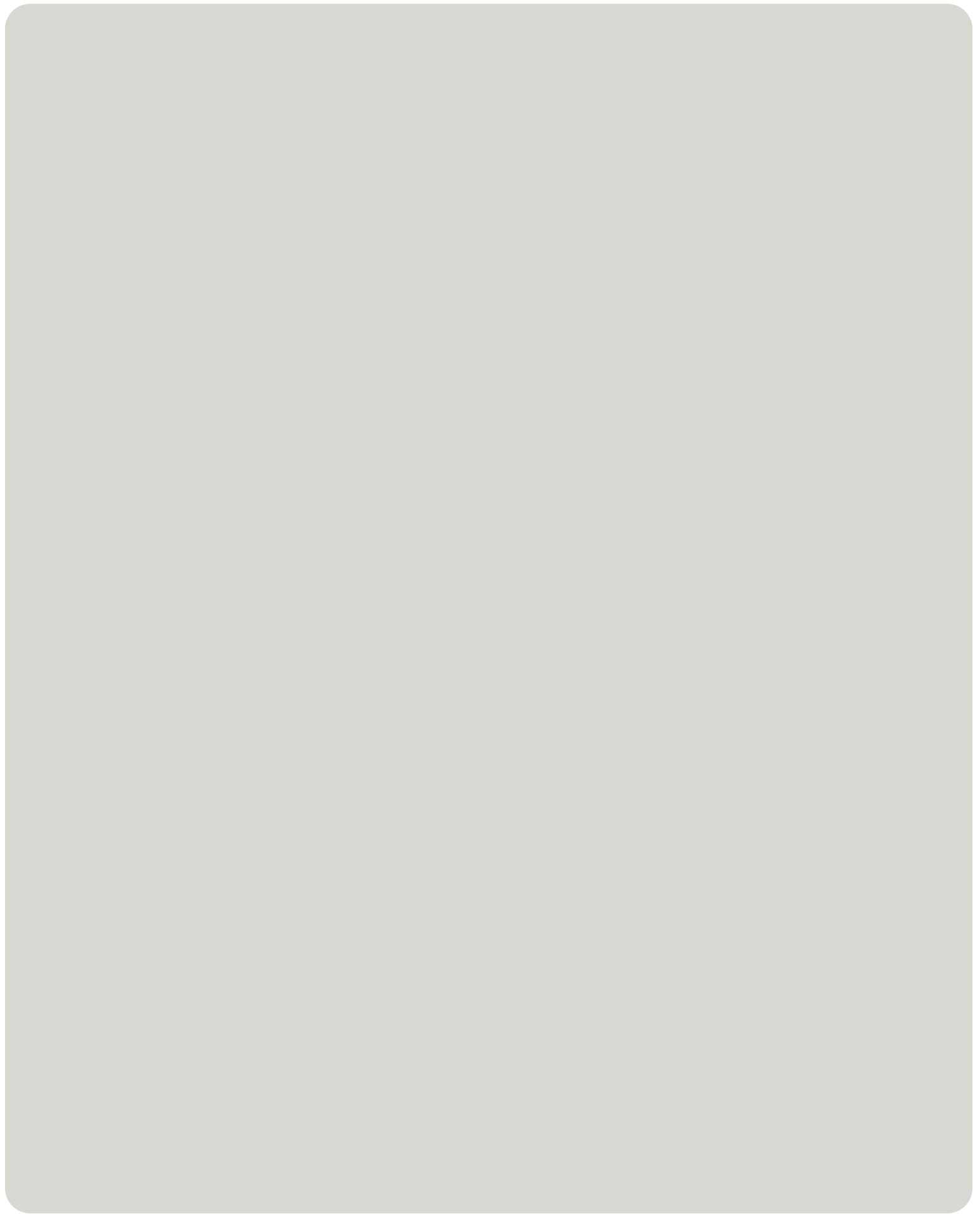
1902. In 1894, the Secret Service began informal part-time protection for President Grover Cleveland. After the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, Congress informally requested Secret Service presidential protection. A year later, the Secret Service assumed the responsibility full time. Two operatives (agents) were assigned full time to the White House Detail.

## **What was the primary mission of the Secret Service when it was created?**

To suppress counterfeit currency. Since its creation, the Secret Service has had primary jurisdiction over the prevention of counterfeiting of U.S. currency and U.S. treasury bonds and notes, which is why the agency was established under the Department of the Treasury.

## **In what year was the Secret Service created?**

1865. The Secret Service was commissioned on June 23, 1865 in Washington D.C. It became the second federal law enforcement agency in the country.



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FOR YOUR GUEST SPEAKER.**

**PRINT OUT AND HAVE THE  
CADETS SIGN**

**There is also a card to print out  
for each cadet to be signed by  
the guest speaker.**



**THANK YOU!**

