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Operation Sleight

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Relevant Note

Greetings International Agents on the case Operation Sleight,

The past decade's problems with the Horsemen have left us confused and distracted from the goal: To stop their thievery and antics by bypassing the law once and for all. These highly touted figures are simply people who act like saints but are thieves in reality, and the Horsemen cannot be the public's moral figures, considering the public's recent influenceability. In order for us to stop these criminals, the rest of this background guide contains extensive spoilers on the Horsemen's history. Criminals like them - they are bound to repeat their mistakes, and as such, I sincerely suggest you watch the movies, "Now You See Me" and "Now You See Me 2" to get the adequate information addressed from the movies. If you are too lazy to watch the movies, read the historical introduction below, but at your own discretion of shocking spoilers.

From one of your International Directors (FBI) for Operation Sleight,

Kash Patel



Historical Introduction

Act 1

The investigation began in Las Vegas during the debut performance of the illusionist group later dubbed The Four Horsemen. In the middle of their act, spectators witnessed what appeared to be the live remote transfer of funds from Crédit Republicain in Paris to the Las Vegas stage. Audience members reported receiving cash falling from the ceiling, while French authorities confirmed \$3.2 million was missing from a secured Parisian vault.

Although the facts established a real financial breach, none of the suspects were observed leaving the stage area in Las Vegas, and no evidence of hacking terminals, accomplices on-site, or remote intrusion devices could be recovered. The incident suggested either pre-staging or massive inside collusion, but investigative leads remained inconclusive.

Civilian expert Thaddeus Bradley, a known illusion exposé, proactively offered the FBI theories involving hypnotism, plants in the audience, and advanced projection technology. His explanations aligned partially with forensic data but lacked proof. Despite the lack of evidence, the FBI detained the Horsemen briefly for questioning. Charges could not be filed.

Summary:

Crimes Committed: International bank fraud, wire fraud, financial misrepresentation, conspiracy

FBI Action: Initial detainment and questioning of suspects; lack of evidence prevented further charges

Officers on Job: Agent Dylan Rhodes (Lead), Agent Cowan (Support), Interpol Agent Alma Dray

Consultant: Thaddeus Bradley (Civilian asset, unvetted at this time)

Act 2

Intelligence provided by Bradley indicated that the Horsemen's next event would occur in New Orleans. A federal presence was staged at the venue, with coordination between the FBI, Interpol, and local tactical units.



During the performance, the Horsemen orchestrated a massive electronic redirection of funds belonging to their sponsor, Arthur Tressler, CEO of Tressler Insurance. Approximately \$140 million was relayed into thousands of random beneficiary accounts belonging to individuals historically denied insurance payouts following Hurricane Katrina.

This redistribution created an unprecedented combination of criminal activity and positive public opinion. The Horsemen were praised as vigilante “Robin Hood” figures, complicating the Bureau’s ability to control narratives after their repeated failures. Attempts to apprehend the Horsemen during the act were blocked by clear evidence of audience manipulation. Multiple civilians, apparently under post-hypnotic suggestion, disrupted and assaulted officers. At least a dozen agents were temporarily incapacitated in crowd altercations. Again, the Horsemen escaped with little forensic trace.

Summary:

Crimes Committed: Wire fraud, embezzlement, psychological manipulation of civilians, obstruction of justice

FBI Action: Tracked next performance based on consultant tip; field team deployed; attempted detainment failed due to mass hypnosis interference

Officers on Job: Agent Dylan Rhodes (Lead), Agent Cowan (Support), Interpol Agent Alma Dray, NOLA Tactical Support

Consultant: Thaddeus Bradley (civilian, external intelligence lead)

May 2013

Following the New Orleans incident, Interpol Agent Alma Dray, serving as liaison on the case, disclosed material intelligence about a possible symbolic backing for the Horsemen’s actions—specifically, stories of a secret magician society known as “The Eye”. Alma conveyed this to the FBI based on her investigative suspicions. While no formal organization could be documented, her theory aligned with thematic elements in prior Horsemen performances.

Simultaneously, FBI Agent Dylan Rhodes obtained critical documents - recovered from a vehicular crash during Manhattan surveillance - that indicated the Horsemen’s next target was a vault manufactured by Elkhorn Security, an entity tied to earlier incidents. Acting on this, the Bureau authorized a joint operation

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with Interpol, deploying Special Agent Cowan and supervisor SSA Evans, under Rhodes' direction, to intercept the vault during its scheduled transfer in New York. Bureau confidence peaked at this stage; leadership assessed that for the first time in the cat-and-mouse pursuit, the FBI had gained strategic positioning. That assessment, however, proved critically flawed.

Summary:

Crimes Anticipated: Grand larceny via armored transport interception; tampering with federal property

FBI Action: Joint intelligence collaboration between Interpol and FBI; target identified; tactical intercept planned, Jack Wilder presumed deceased in vehicular incident.

Officers on Job: Agent Dylan Rhodes (Lead), Agent Cowan (Support), Supervisory Special Agent Evans, Interpol Agent Alma Dray

Consultant Status: Thaddeus Bradley remained unbriefed and his access suspended pending internal review of his involvement with prior leaks.

Act 3: Manhattan Chase / The Fifth Avenue Vanishing

The Horsemen announced their third and final grand performance in Manhattan, escalating Bureau attention to maximum priority. Federal, NYPD, and Interpol assets were mobilized for the event, coordinated by Agent Dylan Rhodes with oversight from SSA Evans. The Horsemen used the stage to orchestrate the high-profile interception of an armored transport affiliated with Elkhorn Security.

The suspects provoked an extended hot pursuit across Manhattan. During this chase, evidence suggested Jack Wilder attempted to hold off pursuing agents in a high-speed decoy vehicle heading northbound on the FDR. That vehicle crashed at high velocity and caught fire, resulting in catastrophic detonation. No body was recovered intact; Wilder was officially listed as deceased, though investigators could not fully match remains to DNA profiles due to irretrievable damage from the fire. This left lingering uncertainty over his confirmed status.

Meanwhile, the three remaining Horsemen lured pursuing agents into a sprawling chase toward the Central Park area. Witnesses at Fifth Avenue carousel reported seeing the Horsemen enter the ride structure;



however, despite immediate perimeter lockdown, the suspects did not exit at any known egress points. No tunnel access, structural weaknesses, or exit markers were identified during immediate sweep. Surveillance recovered only blurred, distorted imagery believed to be the result of stage lighting or misdirection devices. Their disappearance remains unexplained in law enforcement terms.

Following the failed intercept, suspicion shifted toward external collaborators. Civilian consultant Thaddeus Bradley was found in possession of detailed explanatory material about Horsemen techniques and concurrent accounts revealed his unexplained financial gain following the Elkhorn vault breach. This evidence enabled his arrest under suspicion of material assistance and wire fraud. However, Bradley maintained that he had no direct involvement and was merely profiting off exposés and book contracts. Whether he was a conspiratorial insider or a cynical opportunist remained unresolved at the case's closure.

The Manhattan incident represented a second failed large-scale apprehension. Public support for the Horsemen only increased due to their theatrical defiance of law enforcement, while the FBI's operational credibility suffered ongoing reputational damage.

Summary:

Crimes Committed: Attempted armored truck robbery (federal property), obstruction of justice, reckless endangerment, evasion of law enforcement, property destruction.

FBI Action: Full federal deployment at performance; extended chase ending in presumed death of Jack Wilder; suspects evaded capture via inexplicable carousel disappearance; Thaddeus Bradley arrested on suspicion of collusion.

Officers on Job: Agent Dylan Rhodes (Lead), Supervisory Special Agent Evans (Oversight), Agent Cowan (Support), Interpol Agent Alma Dray, NYPD tactical units.

Consultant Status: Bradley detained pending further inquiry into finances and possible conspiratorial alignment with Horsemen operations.



2016: Act 1, Part 2 : Resurfacing in New York / Octa Launch Sabotage

Eighteen months after the Manhattan incident, federal analysts noted a long silence from the surviving Horsemen. The group re-emerged unexpectedly at the Octa telecommunications product launch in New York City. Their stated intent, broadcast in real time before thousands, was to expose the software as an unlawful surveillance platform harvesting global user data.

Federal teams were deployed covertly at the event, including embedded FBI and Cyber Division personnel. However, the Horsemen's act collapsed under sudden exposure from an unknown operator who hijacked the spectacle. During the disruption, two critical disclosures emerged: first, Jack Wilder was alive, contradicting the FBI's prior death presumption; second, the Horsemen escaped through a concealed transport system beneath the venue.

Compromised intelligence further damaged Bureau credibility when it was alleged in various press leaks that an FBI asset (contextually interpreted as Dylan Rhodes himself, though circumstantial) had colluded with or protected the magicians during the operation. Rhodes' status became an internal Bureau controversy, though evidence remained insufficient for public conclusion.

Summary:

Crimes Committed: Public exposure of false identities, theft of proprietary technology, conspiracy to obstruct federal operations

FBI Action: Attempted sting at Octa launch; media contained; field unit mobilized but suspects escaped; Rhodes identified as rogue

Officers on Job: Special Agent Natalie Austin (case lead), Agent Cowan (field support), Cybercrime Division

Consultant Status: Thaddeus Bradley remained incarcerated and monitored.

Act 2: Macau Involvement / Data Chip Theft

After the Octa debacle, multiple intelligence sources traced Horsemen-related operations to Macau, China. Limited liaison with local authorities confirmed fragmented sightings in entertainment districts. From



allied interception, Bureau analysts learned suspects were coerced or involved in acquiring an advanced microchip alleged to bypass digital encryption worldwide.

Reports indicated the Horsemen successfully penetrated a secure research lab linked to Walter Mabry, known former corporate associate of Octa CEO Owen Case. How the suspects breached security remains undocumented, but surveillance pointed to coordinated sleight-of-hand tactics and minor accomplice support. The FBI received follow-up intelligence suggesting the chip acquired may have been counterfeit, though verification remains unavailable.

Parallel to these developments, internal Bureau communications reported that Agent Rhodes surfaced in Macau independently and may have engaged Bradley, who was in temporary supervised release. Roles of both individuals in the incident remain under investigation, particularly as Rhodes' handler authority had been suspended at that time.

Summary:

Crimes Committed: Coerced theft of advanced surveillance/decryption hardware, accessory to international espionage, attempted murder by drowning

FBI Action: Intelligence exchange via Bradley; intervention too late to prevent Macanese theft; attempted international liaison alert

Officers on Job: Rhodes (rogue but central), Cyber-Intel Unit, Foreign Liaison to Macau authorities

Consultant Status: Thaddeus Bradley released under restricted supervision to aid field agent.

Act 3: London Finale / Thames Disclosure

The Horsemen's next verifiable activity occurred in London during New Year's Eve celebrations. They announced an impromptu "final act," coordinating multiple projections across the city skyline. In a simultaneous live broadcast, they exposed incriminating evidence against billionaire Arthur Tressler, his associate Walter Mabry, and an unknown twin relative of Horseman Merritt McKinney. Accusations included fraud, coercion, and conspiracy.



British counterparts (MI5 and Metropolitan Police) confirmed the presence and subsequent arrest of Tressler, Mabry, and the McKinney accomplice. The Horsemen again evaded capture, despite the large-scale international deployment. Their apparent method of escape was concealed within the spectacle itself — likely river-based misdirection on the Thames.

While this represented a disruption of multiple foreign conspirators, from the FBI perspective it was yet another operational failure. The Bureau was reliant on UK authorities for post-event intelligence, and the suspects' mythos only grew stronger. Locating the Horsemen thereafter has proven unsuccessful.

Summary:

Crimes Committed: Attempted homicide by aircraft ejection, international aviation interference, public broadcast violation, conspiracy to defraud

FBI Action: Coordinated arrest of Mabry, Tressler, and Chase; Rhodes secured evidence; allowed public closure; Horsemen not apprehended

Officers on Job: Deputy Director Natalie Austin (oversight), MI5 liaison, Sky Surveillance Unit, Field Support Teams.



Committee Background:

Since 2013, the illusionist collective known as the Four Horsemen has executed a series of globally coordinated acts of theft, sabotage, and public misdirection, all while disguising their crime as performances. Despite multiple transnational investigations, the group has avoided true capture entirely (despite their identities clearly revealed), leaving no trace for normal investigators to trace. The planning? Meticulous. Their connections? World-wide. Their modus operandi? Everything. Thankfully, the renegading group finished their latest act in 2016, taking down a tech company that misused users' private data. However, nine years later in the big 25, fans and copycat groups continue to build hype for a potential return.

Media portrays the Horsemen's acts as "brave" and "defiantly truthful" for pushing back on modern government protocols, while viral fan culture furthered the idea that the criminals were "Robin Hood" figures. Copycats and other illusionist fan groups have sensationalized the industry, creating backlash on law enforcement for being anti-entertainment. Therefore, law enforcement groups across the world not only have the problem of apprehending the Horsemen, but of ceasing the magic propaganda.

Furthermore, the suspected existence of an organization called "The Eye" has surfaced in recent years after the Horsemen silenced in 2016. They are rumored to be an organized entity or an organized syndicate made underground of magicians, financiers, engineers, and illusionists that "bring real magic" to the world, and the ones who organized together the Horsemen. Each year that passes only provides more and more evidence of the existence of the organization as cybertechnology increases and digital footprints demonstrate globally coordinated attacks for the sake of unknown reasons.

Recent intelligence leaks indicate that the Horsemen are planning to make a comeback to pull off the biggest heist in world history, spanning multiple locations all at once. If their elusive tactics continue to trick law enforcement, the Horsemen will be able to establish themselves in history not as entertainers, but as magicians with a heavy influence over the ideology of the world population. This is why the impacted countries have joined together their government crime prevention organizations to put an end to the Horsemen and the Eye. The codeword is Operation Sleight, and it's important to note its significance. This operation isn't just to stop the current magical threats; the results of this ideological war could decide the fate



of the world because of how it questions governments and brings up a fair point in what illusion is and what reality is.



Topic 1: Tracking the Elusive Eye Members

In the wake of the Horsemen's 2013–2016 operations, the biggest unresolved question facing Operation Sleight is not what happened, but who enabled it behind the scenes. After years of restless research, only one theory has stood the test of time: a maleficent organization in which illusionist crews like the Horsemen take their orders from. The Eye is no longer treated as rumor; its suspected activity is now a working assumption in interagency threat models, and for the purposes of Operation Sleight, will be one of the ultimate goals after the Horsemen are inevitably taken down. While the Horsemen serve as the public face, suspected Eye affiliates are the quiet technicians, data brokers, event coordinators, and financiers who embed themselves inside global infrastructure such as telecom launches, insurance networks, security contracting, and live entertainment circuits. Their public records are often clean, but their travel histories, contract timelines, and digital signatures repeatedly brush up against major Horsemen events and adjacent cyber incidents.

Investigators rarely see clear biographies or criminal records; what they see are patterns, like recurring Eye-style symbolism around major events, unexplained funding flows moving through shells and crypto, and “coincidental” overlaps between high-risk operations and personnel with backgrounds in illusion, cybersecurity, social engineering, and behavioral science. Beyond supporting the Horsemen's headline acts, the Eye appears closely tied to a wider ecosystem of disruptive activity: curated data leaks, market nudges that embarrass powerful institutions, staged exposés of corporate misconduct, and viral hoaxes designed less to inform the public than to make people doubt that any official version of events can be trusted.

This leads directly to the question of motivation. Rather than simple greed, the Eye seems driven by a belief that institutions have lied for too long and that control over perception is the real currency of the 21st century. Some members may genuinely view themselves as vigilantes delivering “justice” where systems failed, while others appear more interested in chaos, influence, and building a world where spectacle and revelation are valued more than evidence. For Operation Sleight, the issue is that every time the Eye wins, it does not just evade the law; it erodes public confidence that the law is even real, or worth believing, in the first place.

Questions to Consider:



1. If Eye members embed themselves as everyday technicians and consultants in global infrastructure, how can Operation Sleight distinguish legitimate professionals from hidden affiliates without paralyzing international events and commerce?
2. Given the Eye's ties to data leaks, market manipulations, and viral hoaxes beyond Horsemen operations, should investigators prioritize disrupting these secondary activities to starve the network of resources and credibility?
3. With motivations ranging from vigilante justice to perceptual chaos, how can agencies profile and predict Eye recruits without falling into the trap of overgeneralizing and alienating potential whistleblowers or allies?

Helpful Links:

[The Eye](#)

[Thaddeus Bradley in the Movies](#)



Topic 2: How Do They Do It?

The operational challenge with the Horsemen is that their crimes function as full-spectrum experiences, not isolated robberies or pranks. Each act is meticulously prepared months in advance, with venues, vault routes, security systems, and media channels quietly altered so that the final “performance” feels impossible to both civilians and trained officers. They control physical space by redesigning camera grids, hiding compartments in architecture, rerouting transports, and embedding escape paths into the environment long before anyone realizes an operation is underway.

At the same time, they control human perception through scripting, lighting, crowd psychology, and targeted suggestion, making thousands of people all look in the same wrong direction at the crucial moment and later swear they saw what they were meant to see. Technology acts as the glue: hijacked live feeds, manipulated recordings, digital overlays, and engineered glitches ensure that even replayed footage reinforces the illusion instead of exposing it. This naturally raises the question for investigators and the public alike: is magic actually real? In the world of Operation Sleight, the working conclusion is that what people call “real magic” is the point where planning, psychology, and technology become so advanced that the human brain cannot tell the difference between a constructed experience and reality.

That ambiguity is exactly what the Eye exploits. The long-term risk is not only that the public has been dazzled, but that large segments have been ideologically “brainwashed” into siding with the Horsemen’s narrative over institutional reality. Possible ways to reverse this include carefully designed counter-narratives that explain events without glorifying the criminals, transparent but controlled debriefs that show selected methods, educational campaigns in media literacy and cognitive bias, and safe re-creations of key tricks that let people feel how easily their perception can be steered. The deeper issue for Operation Sleight is that unless the public can be brought back to trusting evidence over spectacle, every future investigation will be conducted in an environment where the audience is already on the magicians’ side.

Questions to Consider:



1. If Horsemen methods rely on pre-staged environments and psychological control, what venue audits, personnel vetting, and cognitive training protocols should law enforcement implement for high-risk events?
2. In an era where technology makes illusions indistinguishable from reality, how can investigators verify evidence from manipulated feeds, and what forensic standards should define "proof" in magic-adjacent crimes?
3. To counter public "brainwashing," which combination of counter-narratives, media literacy programs, and controlled trick recreations offers the best path to rebuild trust without inadvertently glorifying the Eye's techniques?

Helpful Links:

[Psychology Overview](#)

[Now You See Me's Reality](#)

