Besides selling iconic consumer products, like Post-It Notes and Scotch Tape, this US-based multinational with total assets of US$30 billion, is also a major military supplier. For instance, of the US$280 million in contracts that 3M had with the US government between 2000 and 2009, US$214 million (76%) were for various military departments and agencies.

For example, in 2000, 3M sold components to US Aviation and Missile Command for AH-64 “Apache” attack helicopters. The US transferred about 50 AH-64s to Israel’s military, which has used them in various attacks including the bombing of Lebanon in 2006, and Gaza in 2008 and 2009.

The website of 3M’s subsidiary, 3M Israel Ltd., has over 150 webpages describing products with military applications. These 3M products include electronic and electrical parts, fasteners, containers and ballistic eyeliner.

One of 3M’s divisions, its “Safety, Security and Protection business,” sold US$3.18 billion worth of products in 2009. One such “protection business,” 3M Electronic Monitoring, has its international headquarters in Tel Aviv, Israel. It “offers technologies to support law enforcement, corrections and security operations.” It came to the fore in 2010, when 3M paid US$230 million for a Tel Aviv-based “homeland security” firm called Attenti Holdings. The general manager of 3M Track and Trace Solutions, Rory Yanchek, said the acquisition would make 3M “a leader in the high growth electronic offender monitoring market and add Global Positioning System and active Radio Frequency technology and capability to our portfolio.” 3M Israel’s managing director added that “For 3M Israel, this acquisition will strengthen our presence and contribute to growth in our local market.”

Founded by three former Israeli Air Force pilots, 3M’s Attenti Holdings makes “remote people monitoring technologies used for a variety of offender monitoring applications.” Its wholly-owned subsidiaries, ElmoTech and Pro Tech Monitoring, make electronic devices to track prisoners. ElmoTech’s “TRaCE” and “Group TRaCEr” products are used to monitor inmates in penitentiaries and to supervise modern-day chain gangs, which are called “off-site work crews.”

In 2005, Israel’s business paper, Globes, said Dmatek Ltd. (the original name of Attenti) had partnered with Hashmira Security Technologies “to ensure that the [Israeli] police and the Israeli Prison Service [would] order the modern-day chain gangs, which are called “off-site work crews.””

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