

Grafton Business News

New Look Bulletin – April 2006

Arrests after Armed Robbery

On Saturday 29/04/2006 just before 0815 hours six suspects armed with shotguns attempted to rob a Computer Distribution warehouse in North West London..

The duty manager had just opened for business when he was approached by a suspect wearing a jumper of a well known courier company. The suspect informed the manager he had a parcel for him. The manager went outside to the rear of the suspects van and was set upon by a further four suspects who were hiding in the rear. A sawn off shotgun was held against him.

All the suspects then searched the venue and made attempts to get into the strong room. Fortunately they were unable to gain access and fled empty handed.

An Intelligence led operation, supported by teams from Thames Valley and the Met arrested two suspects almost immediately after the offence. A third suspect was arrested as he was boarding a plane to Spain Enquiries are very much ongoing in relation to others involved



Processors similar to those sought in the robbery.

It has been decided to try and improve the content of the monthly newsletter and maybe add some other sections. If anyone has any ideas on what they would like to see included, please e-mail operation.grafton@met.police.uk

If you have information
about any crime, phone

 **CRIMESTOPPERS**
0800 555 111

- Your call is free
- You are not asked for your name
- You may receive a reward



AIRFREIGHT INDUSTRY MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARDS (AIMSS)



Crimes This Month...

- ◆ Working with loss adjustors, Operation Grafton assisted in the recovery of £300,000 worth of computer chips from the premises of a suspected VAT Carousel Fraud. These had previously been reported stolen during transit but subsequently reappeared in the sending warehouse concerned over a weekend period when enquiries were made.
- ◆ 03/04/2006 One of a number of pallets of satellite navigation kits were stolen from a courier van between an airline cargo facility and the courier warehouse in Hayes, Middlesex. Enquiries ongoing.
- ◆ Sunday 09/04/06, between 0138hrs and 0145hrs, Police were called to a plumbing supplies warehouse in Uxbridge, Middlesex by alarm activation. On checking the premises a large dent was found in a rear roller door. The door was damaged but entry was not gained. Damage would appear to have been caused by a large vehicle possibly a Ford Transit or larger type vehicle. The significance of this report is the attempted ram-raid, the most popular type of offence at present.
- ◆ 13/04/2006 An off-airport freight-forwarders vehicle was en-route to Dover when the driver alleged he was hijacked in Kent and the load taken. A number of leads are being explored to establish the authenticity of the allegation.
- ◆ 13/04/2006, a convoy of five Mercedes Sprinter vans laden with NOKIA 8800 mobile phones was inbound through Dover from Paris to Southall, Middlesex.. As the vehicles travelled up the M20 towards London the front van became separated from the convoy as it approached the Maidstone exit. At this point the three occupants of an unmarked blue Vauxhall car (no better description) who were all said to be dressed in police uniforms, signalled to the driver of the lone vehicle to stop. Having stopped the two-man crew was forced into the rear of their vehicle, which was carrying a load worth £450,000. The suspects then handcuffed one of the crewmembers who was subsequently freed in the Blackheath area. The van, load and second victim then disappeared. Two hours later the second victim walked into the company premises in Southall. Op Grafton is now assisting Kent Police with their enquiries.
- ◆ 26/04/2006, - an off-airport freight handling facility in Hayes, Middlesex was the victim of a ram-raid style attack. Offenders appeared to have knowledge of the premises. A vehicle was rammed through the shutters, but the assailants were thwarted by the enhanced security in the premises. Computer processors and

mobile phones were believed to be the intended target. This was the third time that the premises had been attacked.

- ◆ Various (Herts). Several crime reports around the area concerning robbery and thefts of high performance cars. These cars are being used in furtherance of Grafton related crimes around Heathrow and the home counties. Operation Grafton are currently liaising with Herts Police and Thames Valley regarding these matters.

One Year Ago...

This column will hopefully serve as a reminder as to what was happening this time last year. This maybe a pointer towards seasonal trends etc

- ◆ A number of prominent Grafton nominals were arrested for armed robbery at a Jewellers in Richmond, Surrey by the Flying Squad. They were all remanded in custody and later sentenced to terms between 8 and 12 years.
- ◆ Allegations were received of goods being released against cleared cheques. Later the funds were withdrawn as the funds had not been fully cleared.
- ◆ Operation GRAFTON investigated a linked series of burglary offences against premises in the Met and Thames Valley. Following a pro-active joint operation, 2 individuals were arrested and charged with multiple offences.
- ◆ Operation GRAFTON were finalists in the Public Sector team of the year awards at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London.
- ◆ Reported this time last year was an aide-memoir on security risk-assessment as below...
- ◆ Improving Security within your company.

The following has been taken from the SECURITY MAINPORT ROTTERDAM document created by the Project Group Security for the Rotterdam Port & Industrial Zone. It has been supplied with the consent of Eugene in Het Veld, Commissioner of the Port of Rotterdam: -

Have you made a proper assessment of your crime risks?

Do you know how to assess crime risks?

Do you know how to analyse the crime risks you have assessed?

Do you know what a security policy is?

Do you have a security policy?

Is your present security policy based on a risk assessment?

Has your security policy been written down on paper?

Are your staff, customers and suppliers familiar with your security policy?

Is your security policy an integral part of your company policy?

Does your organisation have someone in the top management who holds the portfolio for security?

Does your organisation have a staff member who is responsible for security?

The answer for most companies to the above questions is bound to be 'yes' and it is not our intention to patronise. We do however want to cater for all our members. Some may find the list useful. Please disregard it if this is not so in your particular case.

- ◆ **DS Tony Moore and DC Arun Chandra-Bose have taken over the role of Partnership and Crimes from DI Paul Douglas. DS MOORE will be making contact with as many groups as possible over the forthcoming weeks to establish points of contact and provide a continuing service taken on from Paul. If anyone has any views or wishes to make contact, the team can be contacted on 0208-246-9978**

The Back Page...



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London



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Operation GRAFTON was formed in March 2003 in response to industry concerns about the level of organised, high-value crime being committed near Heathrow. The unit comprises of Detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Directorate responsible for tackling serious and organised crime across London. Close links are established with Thames Valley Police, Surrey Police and HM Revenue and Customs. Operation GRAFTON communicates to approximately 8,000 companies and organisations world-wide, and is often called upon to provide expertise and assistance to law enforcement agencies. Since it's inception, the unit has seen a decrease in serious crime in excess of 70 % and was a finalist in the 2005 Public Sector Team of The Year Awards. Operaton GRAFTON strives to reduce organised crime further, thereby making Heathrow and it's environs a safe place to work and conduct business.

Confidential Helplines...

Operation Grafton is always keen to hear from anyone who has information about crime taking place at or near Heathrow. You can call confidentially and you do not have to give your name. You may even be entitled to a reward. The office is staffed between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday. Alternatively you can call crimestoppers on the number below.

Operation GRAFTON are particularly interested in those persons who are providing information on consignments of freight, handling the proceeds of offences, or are in unlawful possession of firearms. **TEL – 0208-246-9972**

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