



Grafton Business News



SEASONS GREETINGS



October 2006 - December 2006

Due to Operational commitments the monthly bulletin has temporarily become a quarterly bulletin. We hope to resume normal service in the New Year.

We bid a fond farewell to Detective Chief Inspector Peter Beyer and Detective Inspector Matthew Butterworth. Both officers made significant contributions to the development and success of Operation GRAFTON and have now moved to pastures new. We wish them well.

We welcome Detective Inspector Nigel WILLERTON who will be taking over the day to day running of Operation GRAFTON. Nigel joins us from the Flying Squad and brings a wealth of experience in proactive and reactive criminal investigations.

The Crime and Industry Partnership role has been undertaken by Detective Sergeant Jose DEFREITAS whom you will hear more from in the New Year.

Earlier this year the Home Office provided significant funding to Operation Grafton, providing a considerable boost to the operational team, which is in the process of being augmented by additional staff and equipment.

The Grafton website is currently being developed and should go online in the New Year. We are hoping that the website will enhance our ability to communicate with all our Industry and Law Enforcement partners, providing timely alerts and bulletins.



Earlier this month Operation GRAFTON forged significant links with the French Gendarmerie, a national unit with specific responsibility for cross border serious crime and Airport crime. We are hoping that this new partnership will be of mutual benefit to our Industry partners and ourselves

Although there has been a marked decrease in crimes that fall within the GRAFTON remit we are by no means complacent. There is significant intelligence to suggest that organised criminal networks are very active in relation to freight and warehouse crime, looking to exploit weaknesses and opportunities as and when they present themselves.

Not everything within this or other bulletins necessarily falls directly within the Grafton terms of reference, but for varying reasons are considered relevant.

In many instances, to protect confidentiality the information released is brief. Where possible and if appropriate incidents will be expanded upon. It is intended that future bulletins or the proposed website may contain photographs of unidentified suspects currently sought in relation to unsolved crimes.

If you have any suggestions or wish to offer any assistance in this process please don't hesitate to contact members of the Grafton team on 0208 246 9972 or e-mail www.operation.grafton@met.police.uk



Crimes of Interest

October 2006

GCI/838/2006

On 02/10/2006 a lorry containing CPU's and IPOD's was hijacked on the A312 in Hayes. A number of suspects wearing dark clothing and balaclavas intercepted a lorry using a stolen car. Two victims were threatened and sprayed with pepper spray. The driver's companion was kidnapped and taken away in the stolen lorry. Due to the eagle eyed intervention of a uniform police officer, the lorry and hostage were subsequently abandoned in Chiswick and the load recovered intact. To date no arrests have been made. This allegation is currently being investigated by the Metropolitan Police & OP GRAFTON

GCI/840/2006

An allegation of fraud made by a freight forwarding company on 05/10/2006. Unknown suspect(s) opened a fraudulent account in the name of another company that carries out work for said Freight Forwarding company and issued false written instructions regarding new banking arrangements. In excess of £50,000 fraudulently obtained. This allegation is being investigated by Surrey Police

GCI/850/2006

On 21/10/2006 a robbery took place at a warehouse and transport company near Heathrow. The suspects, who were all wearing balaclavas, approached the target premises in a red HGV and a white VW van. They appear to have bypassed the onsite gated security without challenge and then attacked two employees who were locking up for the night. The two staff members were threatened and tied up with tape. The suspects then stole a substantial consignment of JVC camcorders. This allegation is being investigated by Thames Valley Police assisted by OP GRAFTON



GC/868/2006

On 10/10/2006 Civil aircraft parts were stolen either in transit or from a warehouse near Heathrow. Investigation ongoing

November 2006

GC/869/2006

On 27/11/2006 a quantity of copper wire stolen from the vicinity of Customs House LHR

GCI/867/2006

On 29/11/2006 thieves stole part of a consignment of ladies fashion clothing from a Freight Forwarding warehouse yard in Harmondsworth. A silver Vauxhall Vectra or Citroen Zantia possibly linked to the suspects

December 2006

No Grafton Crimes reported

Not Protectively Marked



Suspicious Vehicles

Although there have been a significant number of reports during the last two months, there are no specific vehicles of note.

Within the last 24 hours we have had a number of reports relating to suspects attempting to walk into insecure yards with a view to possibly committing opportunistic thefts. One such report relates to the occupants of a dark coloured Ford Fiesta (3 door) partial registration Y546 R**

We rely on your continued vigilance and support and ask that you report any suspicious activity to your local police and inform Operation GRAFTON.

This unit will follow up every report and ensure that appropriate action is taken. Due to legal constraints we are not always able to give you specific feedback in relation to the results of our enquiries. Be assured that we will exploit all opportunities to develop intelligence provided by you in relation to suspected criminal activity



Arrests & Court

In the preceding two months Operation GRAFTON has been instrumental in the arrest and detention of a number of individuals for a variety of offences, which include theft of HGV's and plant, residential and commercial burglary, robbery, assaults, possession and use of firearms and handling stolen goods. The operational team have significantly disrupted a number of organised criminal networks who engage in GRAFTON offences. For operational and legal reasons we are unable to give further details.

We would like to congratulate Thames Valley Police for securing the conviction of three men concerned in an attempted armed robbery earlier this year. The three men are from the Thames Valley and Surrey Police areas and whilst armed with firearms attempted to rob a warehouse containing CPU's in North London. Their sentences reflect the severity of the crime and each received custodial sentences of 13 years, 12 years and 13 years respectively.





General Issues...

- CCTV - The management of this vital intelligence / evidence is in some instances lacking. Please ensure that systems are working correctly with dates and times being correct. Ensure that tapes or discs are regularly changed and that a daily record is kept of any insertions or removals. Please ensure that all original material is retained. On the upside we have had some cracking footage of suspects engaged in criminality, which has significantly assisted identification and arrests
- Under Reporting - is still a problem if you have instances of theft or suspicious activity please report it to your local police and advise Grafton. Where appropriate we will liaise with the borough and assist with or take responsibility of the investigation.
- There have been many reported instances of organised criminal groups attempting to compromise drivers and warehouse personnel by making direct approaches and offering considerable cash rewards for details of high value loads. Any such approaches should be reported to OP GRAFTON who will deal with the information in the strictest confidence.
- There is still a high incidence of criminal gangs contacting customers and freight forwarders, intent on obtaining details of consignments and their movements. GRAFTON ADVICE: Adhere to company procedures, always verify the callers details, if unsure **DO NOT DISCLOSE** and contact your company security department or police.

Operation Grafton 'Live'...

Operation Grafton are currently engaged in a number of operations, which for operational reasons must remain confidential.

- **Tips for consideration regarding staff; -**

- Do you screen potential staff members before employing them?
- Do you use the same selection criteria for temporary employees as regular employees?
- Do you always make use of the same employment agency?
- Do you make a distinction between sensitive and non-sensitive functions within your company?
- Have you drawn up reliability profiles for 'sensitive functions'?
- Do you use clear job descriptions?
- Are there any employees present, with your knowledge, on the premises at unusual times?
- Is there effective consultation with your staff on risks and security?
- Do you have standing employment conditions?



One Year Ago..

October 2005

- 01/10/2005 Burglary warehouse premises Greenford. Computer Equipment valued at £100,000 stolen
- 23/10/2005 Aggravated burglary at Freight forwarders and warehouse in Iver, Bucks. Premises rammed and security staff attacked. Robbers left empty handed
- 24/10/2006 lorry diversions in Romford area

November 2005

- 01/11/2005 shipment of mobile telephones hijacked in Hayes
- 01/11/2005 robbery of Inkjet cartridges destined for premises in Feltham, Middlesex
- Crimewatch appeal regarding ram raid offences in and around Heathrow. This appeal resulted in significant amount of information being given by Members of the public
- 13/11/2005 Burglary at security premises in Hayes
- Airport parking location burgled and suspects attempted to steal Audi motor vehicles
- 18/11/2005 attempted presentation of false release note for mobile phones valued £100,000.
- 22/11/2006 suspects in a white van wearing balaclavas and armed with a claw hammer attempted to hijack an articulated lorry carrying clothing and mobile phones. The presence of a marked police vehicle thwarted the robbery and the suspects made off empty handed

December 2005

- 01/12/2005 suspects dressed as HM Customs officers commit robbery in NW10
- 09/12/2005 lorry hijack in Horton. Suspects handcuffed the lorry driver, a 71-year-old male. Stolen lorry subsequently recovered in Stanwell Moor
- 09/12/2005 Lorry carrying mobile phones hijacked at J13 of M25. Four suspects wearing dark clothing a balaclavas subsequently abandoned lorry in grounds of sailing club in Wraysbury
- During December a number of warehouse premises were targeted by a gang cutting alarm cables under manhole covers

Operation Grafton and partners were conducting a number of live pro-active operations



 **METROPOLITAN POLICE** Working together for a safer London

 AIRFREIGHT INDUSTRY MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARDS (AIMSS)

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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 is responsible for tackling serious and organised crime affecting Heathrow Airport.

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 worldwide, 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.

Operation GRAFTON strives to reduce organised crime further, thereby making Heathrow a safer place.

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

