



**OPERATION GRAFTON
BUSINESS NEWS
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Issue **24**

Period **February 2006**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to issue 24 of the Operation GRAFTON bulletin for the Industry. As mentioned previously, all MPS documentation is written in order to comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. Accordingly, this Bulletin reflects the terms being applied corporately within the MPS, which are required in order to adhere to this legislation. Once again I have annotated this issue as having no restriction on publication under this Act.

Just to remind you that the Operation GRAFTON terms of reference are: -

- *Any allegation where the value of property stolen, or attempted to be stolen, is in excess of **£10,000** and where*
- *There is a connection with Heathrow Airport*

The £10,000 base figure is effective for crimes occurring post 1st January 2005.

Information highlighted in this bulletin will once again not disclose any details of Operation Grafton tactics; however if you have information about any of the crimes listed please do not hesitate to contact us on the above telephone number.

Details of all previous Operation Grafton bulletins for the industry can now be found at www.aimss.info.

CRIMES

- On 5th February 2006, a high value burglary occurred at a computer warehouse premises in Hayes, Middlesex. Suspects used an angle grinder to cut a hole through the outer wall before making off with a quantity of computer hardware. The premise concerned has previously been targeted by criminals who have cut the alarm wires in the past.
- On 7th February 2006, a van carrying 900 mobile phones on the M4 near Heston was hijacked after the driver stopped, having been “flashed” by a vehicle just after he had left Freight Company in Hayes. On this occasion the driver believing that the occupants of the vehicle concerned were Police officers, pulled onto the hard shoulder. He was then attacked by suspects armed with a hammer and received several head injuries.
- On 7th February 2006, suspects attempted to break into a freight forwarding company in Hayes, Middlesex. The company was also the subject of a previous attempt one week earlier. On that occasion the suspects cut the alarm wires.
- On 7th February 2006, there was an attempted hijack on a van carrying CPU’s as it left a warehouse premises in Ashford, Surrey. On this occasion the driver managed to force his way clear after numerous suspects attacked his vehicle.
- On 9th February 2006, a second attack occurred on a van carrying a large quantity of CPU’s as it left the previously mentioned warehouse premise in Ashford, Surrey. Once again numerous suspects attacked the vehicle concerned. However on this occasion they were unable to gain access, as the victim’s vehicle was a fully armoured security van. During the incident one of the suspects vehicles was also left at the scene after security staff escorting the load rammed it.
- On 15th February 2006, an aggravated burglary occurred at a warehouse premises in Southall when six masked males armed with handguns and knives ram-raided the premises with a large van. They then chased the security staff who locked themselves into room and called Police. The assailants were subsequently disturbed by the arrival of the Police and drove off in a silver BMW or Audi Estate. During the incident serious structural damage was caused to the building and approximately £2 million in computer processors were believed to have been stolen. Operation GRAFTON is also looking at a similar offence where a mobile telephone premises was ram raided in Greenford a week earlier.

CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES

- On 11th February 2006, a courier van carrying computer chips was attacked in Erskine, Scotland not far from Glasgow Airport. The incident occurred when the driver's van was hit by another vehicle in a staged road traffic collision. When the driver stopped and got out of his vehicle three Asian males armed with knives attacked him. He was then abducted and taken to a location nearby where he was assaulted and incapacitated. The victim was eventually found in the abandoned vehicle. It is believed that the suspects were unsuccessful because they had targeted the wrong vehicle. The courier was carrying mail on this occasion instead of CPU's . It is suspected that the gang responsible may have connections in the Heathrow area. **One of the males is described as Asian, approximately 25 with centre parting and dreadlocks down to the ears.**
- On Tuesday 28/02/2006, at 1:05 am the following vehicle a Black Saab 900/9000 registration N49 PUV was seen with three white male occupants by a lorry driver (carrying high value goods) when he was re-fuelling at the Texaco garage on the E40 just west of Brussels he became aware that the occupants of the above-mentioned vehicle were closely observing him. There is no trace of this registration ever being issued in the UK.

MISCELLANEOUS

- In April 2005, following a successful Operation between the Barnes Flying Squad and Operation Grafton four males were arrested as they tried to rob a jewellers shop in Richmond upon Thames. On Monday 24th February 2006, at Kingston Crown Court, Delroy Peters and Matthew Windless aka Elderfield (both serving prisoners on day release) were sentenced to eight and seven years imprisonment respectively. Michael Priestly from Weybridge, Surrey was sentenced to nine years; Adam McCauley from Bracknell was sentenced to seven.
- Following a joint initiative between HM Revenue and Customs and Operation Grafton Rory Finn, an airport employee from Ealing and John Creed from Stanwell appeared at Kingston Crown Court in December 2005. Finn was sentenced to 22 years for illegally importing 45 kilo's of class 'A' controlled drugs over an eight-year period. Creed was sentenced to 16 years for his involvement in the illegal importation of 15 kilo's of class 'A' controlled drugs.
- As a result of a joint operation between the Barnes Flying Squad, HM Revenue and Customs and Operation Grafton two men were convicted at Kingston Crown Court on 9th March 2006. John Beech from Stanwell was sentenced to a total of 16 years imprisonment for his involvement in the £4.5 million British Airways robbery in 2002 and the £30 million Swissport robbery at Heathrow in 2004. Bernie Burval, also from Stanwell was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for his involvement in the 2002 BA robbery.

CRIME REDUCTION REPORT

- Operation Grafton Crime Reduction Officers acting under the auspices of the Airfreight Industry Minimum Security Standards for cargo (AIMSS) have now certified 112 premises as meeting the standards required. If you require more information about this scheme please visit the www.aimss.info website where you can also obtain a self-assessment pack on line without cost.
- The European Air And Seaports Policing Association will be holding in annual meeting in Amsterdam from the 25th April – 27th April 2006. The organisation is striving to increase the input of the industry into its development process. There are a number of speakers and both air and sea port workshops. It is also an excellent opportunity to network as membership extends beyond the EU. If you would like further information please e-mail: -
- David.Crompton-Guard@gmp.pnn.police.uk
- Vacancies are now limited.

OPERATION GRAFTON SUMMARY

- If you require further information about any of the items contained within this issue please contact DI Paul Douglas on the number below or at the email address given. In addition, if you have information about the any of the above crimes or any other Grafton offences please contact us at: -

Tel: - 0208 246 9972/3

Email: - operation.grafton@met.police.uk

Alternatively you can call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Paul E DOUGLAS
Detective Inspector
OPERATION GRAFTON**