



**OPERATION GRAFTON  
BUSINESS NEWS  
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Relevant to:	Operation GRAFTON Policing
Summary:	Summary of Operation Grafton activities in January 2006
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Issue **23**

Period **January 2006**

**Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS**

*Welcome to issue 23 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.aimss.info).

## **CRIMES**

- On 29/12/2005 there was attempted alarm wire cut burglary at a warehouse premise in Armadale Road, Feltham. Grafton and Hounslow officers attended the scene. Fortunately there was no “follow up” burglary on this occasion.
- On 29/12/2005 a burglary occurred at a warehouse in Feltham, which stored high value designer clothes worth in excess of £1m. The suspects cut through a perimeter fence then severed the external alarm cable before attacking the premises. They were however disturbed and subsequently made off before entry into the warehouse was achieved.
- On 05/01/2006, suspects cut the external alarm wires to a commercial warehouse on the Horton Industrial park, West Drayton and approximately 2000 satellite GPS systems were stolen.
- On 24/01/2006 a robbery occurred at a high value warehouse in Iver, Bucks. This venue has now been the victim of 5 major robberies in the last five months. On this occasion the security guard was rammed as he sat in his armoured van by a 7.5 tonne lorry. He was then threatened with a gun as the attackers drove a transit van through a rear brick wall of the premises. The suspects then broke into the vault before making off with £960,000 in INTEL P4 CPU's.

## **CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES**

- On 28/12/2005, suspects attempted to break in to a tobacco warehouse in Chingford, Essex. They cut through a high voltage perimeter fence before severing the alarm cable and then attempted to force entry. Two vehicles were seen nearby, both on false number plates. A second attempt was made at the same venue two days later. Fortunately the suspects were once again disturbed by security whilst they were in the process of attacking the alarm cables on this occasion.
- On 31/12/2005 a burglary occurred at a warehouse premise in Winchester, Hants resulting in the loss of £10k worth of power tools. The method of entry used was to cut the alarm cable before forcing open a fire door. Suspects subsequently used fire extinguishers in order to try and remove forensic opportunities.
- On 04/01/2006, alarm wires were cut to a warehouse premises in Oxon, Bucks. Enquiries suggest that the suspects concerned had made a concerted effort to deactivate the alarm over the Christmas period. A vehicle was then driven through the warehouse door. Once inside the assailants stole a consignment of computer graphics cards, motherboards and memory.
- On 12/01/2006, a number of calls were made to Logistics Company transporting razor blades in an attempt to isolate a HGV making a run between their depot in Reading and the delivery address in Milton Keynes. Unknown persons rang the company impersonating police officers, representatives from

the razor manufacturer and the intended receiving retail outlet in order to try and identify whereabouts the load was. It was also apparent that someone had been watching the load leave the warehouse in Reading. Eventually, they tried to have the load diverted to an address in Canning Town London (an area widely used for such offences). The logistics company concerned were however alert to the activity and immediately called Thames Valley Police. No property was lost on this occasion.

- On 17/01/2006, armed assailants in a Black Volvo V70 Motor vehicle attacked a van near to a phone warehouse in High Wycombe, Bucks. The driver's window was smashed and one of the assailants gained access to the cab. The victim's vehicle was then driven off by the suspects who forced the driver's mate to jump from the cab whilst it was travelling at approximately 30 mph. This victim suffered head injuries and concussion as a result of his fall. As the vehicle continued the other victim / driver was also forced to jump from the vehicle. The victim's van was later found abandoned at Long bottom Lane, High Wycombe with the load intact. The load consisted of approximately 1000 mobile telephones valued at £150,000
- Arson – Court Lane, Iver, Bucks. On 18/01/2006, between 9.45pm and 10.45pm, police were called to a fire at a vehicle car storage premises where offenders had set fire to two cars. This however expanded to at least 60-parked vehicles causing up to £100,000.00 worth of damage. It is thought that the suspects may have been trying to destroy a vehicle recovered by police following an earlier crime.
- On 02/01/2006 between 6.30pm and 07.15am the following day, a burglary was reported at a warehouse premises in Blacklands Way, Abingdon, Oxon where unknown offenders gained access by driving a vehicle into the warehouse door. Computer motherboards and graphic boards worth £0.25m were stolen. It was also subsequently discovered that the alarm cables to the premises had been cut.
- There have also been a number of attempts to divert loads to Canning Town, London during this period.

## **OPERATIONS**

- Following a joint Grafton / Customs operation Feltham/Colnbrook company director Peter BARNETT was sentenced on 10/01/2006 at Maidstone Crown Court to six years imprisonment. He and his five co defendants were sentenced to a total of 23 years in total.
- On Thursday 19/01/2006, as a result of a joint initiative officers from Operation GRAFTON working together with Thames Valley Police engaged in an operation against seven individuals operating in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport. Those concerned travelled to a local farm premises where they were seen to load a 7.5-ton lorry with property taken from an out building. Police entered the premises and arrested five individuals who were in the process of loading a consignment of Gillette products into the lorry. A further search of the farm resulted in the recovery of a quantity of class C drugs and a substantial amount

of electrical goods (IPODs, audio equipment and accessories). Many of the items recovered had airfreight markings. A further two males were arrested nearby on suspicion of complicity in a conspiracy to steal or dishonestly handle the recovered property. Those men arrested included two aged 25 and 46 year from Shepperton, Surrey, a 47 year old from Lingfield, Surrey a 44 year old from Iver, Bucks, a male age 48 year from Cowley, a 30 year old from Sutton, Surrey and a 48 year old of no fixed abode. Four of those concerned remain in custody the others have been released on Police bail. The value of the property recovered is estimated to be worth £1.8 million and was identified as having been stolen from a warehouse in the vicinity of the Oil depot fire.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Operation GRAFTON has now received a lump sum from the Home Office to buy equipment. We are grateful for this contribution, which will be put to good use. Thank you for your support.

## 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](http://www.aimss.info) website where you can also obtain a self-assessment pack on line without cost.
- Operation Grafton is currently assisting the Road Haulage Association with a crime reduction project.
- The AIMSS website has now been revamped. We thank Mark Beale and Mick Tricker for their work on this project.

## 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 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](mailto: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**