



**OPERATION GRAFTON
BUSINESS NEWS
Tel: 0208 246 9972**

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| Author: | Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS |
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Issue **15**

Period **May 2005**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to the fifteenth issue of our 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.

Court Success

- On 28th December 2004, as a result of a joint initiative between Operation Grafton and the Metropolitan Police Central Task Force, five persons were arrested whilst they were in the process of stealing £140,000 worth of computer products from a warehouse in Aylesbury.

On 27/05/2005, the subjects appeared at Aylesbury Crown Court in connection with this burglary. Those concerned were sentenced as follows: -

Frank Manuel STEVENS **five and a half years imprisonment**

Lee BANNISTER **five years imprisonment.**

Darren CHADBAND **five years imprisonment.**

Daniel CROWLEY **five years imprisonment.**

William HEARN **four and a half years imprisonment.**

CRIMES

- On 12th May 2005, three suspects forced a door in order to gain entry into a warehouse premises in Sunbury, Surrey and used a code to bypass the interior door entry system. The suspects then stole a quantity of COBRA vehicle alarm/immobilisers and a number of 'in car' DVD systems, which were made to specifically fit into Land Rovers. A white Ford Transit van was used during the offence. Total loss value £50,000.
- On 20/05/2005, £42,000 worth of second hand mobile phones were collected from Muswell Hill. They were then driven to Hatton Cross, Feltham, Middlesex where they were subsequently stolen. As a result of joint enquiries between Operation Grafton and the Territorial Policing Crime Squad (North) one person has now been arrested in relation to this incident.
- On the 29th May 2005, a lorry driver and his wife were 'gassed' as they slept in the cab of a lorry parked on the Poyle Industrial Estate in Slough. £500,000 worth of Nintendo consoles were stolen on this occasion.

CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES

- Operation Grafton was informed this month of the theft of £40,000 worth of CHANEL sunglasses, which took place on the 1st April 2005. The driver discovered the goods to be missing when he delivered them to a commercial premise in Greenford, Middlesex.

- On 6th May 2005, suspects attended a warehouse premises in Ashford, Kent in possession of a forged collection note, which they presented before successfully driving away with £132,474 worth of designer cosmetics. The 'victim' company concerned distributes 'make-up' all over Europe. In this case the delivery that was stolen was ready to go to Italy and Spain. Of interest is the fact that the genuine haulage company sent a van and driver to collect the items. However, whilst on his way the driver suffered two strokes and had to be taken to Hospital. Shortly afterwards however, a Volvo lorry (white cab and blue trailer) turned up at the warehouse concerned where the bogus driver specifically asked for the Italy/Spain load. The said items were then loaded onto his vehicle and he drove away. On collecting the goods the suspect driver signed in the name of D. ALLEN. He also wrote down his vehicle registration number as P384FOG. Needless to say, this was is a false registration. Operation Grafton has circulated pictures of the stolen property to the Industry.

On 6th May 2005, four or five Suspects dressed in black, wearing balaclavas, baseball caps and gloves disabled a Red Care alarm system and entered a warehouse premises in Ruislip, Middlesex via a roller shutter door. They then used a forklift truck to load 6-7 pallets of computer equipment onto a vehicle and removed them from the premises. The telephone/alarm wires had been cut at circa 1:00am on the Saturday, when the alarm company informed the manager of a fault. Computer equipment valued at approx £500,000 was stolen during this offence.

- On 9th May 2005, two persons were stopped by police officers in Hayes, Middlesex and found to have £35,000 worth of FUJI XD computer cards in their vehicle. The officers contacted Operation Grafton and the property was subsequently identified as coming from a warehouse burglary in London, NW10, which occurred in 2004. The two individuals were subsequently arrested with regards to their possession of the stolen property on this occasion.
- On 29th May 2005, suspects attacked / 'steamed' a mobile phone shop in Ruislip, Middlesex and stole £5000 worth of equipment.

OPERATIONS

- **Operation TAIN (MPS) / CHEVETTE (TVP) –**

On 10/05/2005, two individuals were arrested in a blue BMW motor vehicle, which was being driven on false number plates. The arrests occurred as a result of a joint initiative between Operation Grafton and Thames Valley Police. Both men were charged with 2 substantive burglaries and handling the stolen BMW.

MISCELLANEOUS

- On 12th / 13th May 2005, the “Operation Grafton – The Way Forward” conference took place at the Renaissance Hotel, Heathrow. Assistant Commissioner Ghaffur hosted the event and 210 delegates were in attendance. The audience listened to presentations on Intelligence, Detection and Prevention. This was given from National, European and International perspectives. 80% of the delegates came from the industry with the remaining representatives coming from both domestic and international law enforcement backgrounds. After a full programme of presentations on Thursday, the delegates relaxed over a superb evening meal whilst being entertained by the British Airways Band. The second days events included presentations on the benefits of the industry / law enforcement partnership and presentations from Belgian, Dutch, US and Canadian officers. We are grateful to all those who helped organise this event and to those who took part.
- Operation Grafton gave a presentation to the Scottish Law Enforcement Crime Group this month and we congratulate Fraser Murray on his promotion to Inspector.
- Operation Grafton was also represented at the European Association of Air and Sea Ports Policing (EAASP) meeting for the first time this month.
- **FRAUD** - Please be aware of a current non-freight related fraud circulating Heathrow. There are currently bogus individuals claiming to be from the Data Protection Agency who are telephoning companies and informing them that they are committing an offence by not registering with them (the suspects) under the auspices of the Data Protection Act. The cost of registration is between £130 and £150. However, the whole thing is a fictitious scam to obtain money by deception. If you are contacted with regards to this ‘scam’ please obtain as much detail as possible and contacted your local police.
- **CONTAINER THEFT** - Please be aware that there have been a number of recent container thefts from various seaports. This occurs when drivers turn up with a list of pin numbers taking “pot luck” as to what is in the containers they drive away with. There is also evidence to suggest that some drivers are specifically provided with pin numbers, which allow them to steal specific loads.
- **COUNTERFEIT** - There is also evidence to suggest that there are a number of counterfeit cameras currently in circulation. All bear the model number 7000. The goods, which are a cross between a digital camera and a video camera, are fitted with what appears to be a Lithium power pack. However, in order to power the unit you have to detach the power pack and insert two ordinary batteries into it. Cameras recovered at Heathrow include those labelled as a JVC 2A MX 7000 and the CANNON “A DV 7000. When the goods arrive at Heathrow from Hong Kong apart from the 7000 marking the space for the manufacturers label is however more usually left blank. A bogus company logo is subsequently fitted at a later date. For those who wish to see a photograph

of the said product please search for the item on E Bay. 2000+ of these cameras have recently been recovered from various shipments at Heathrow.

- **COUNTERFEIT** - For those who wish to purchase the ultimate 'in car' DVD player, please be aware of the following counterfeits, which are also arriving at Heathrow from Hong Kong. The product is manufactured to fit into the radio space within the vehicles consul. Once fitted a pull out screen is available to facilitate viewing. The give away is the fact that there are no manufacturers marks on the unit. If you spot either of the two items being offered for sale please contact your local Trading Standards.
- **STOLEN** - Between 1730 hrs and 1845 hrs on Sunday 6/6/05 a Mercedes Sprinter registration number B1 SST was stolen from the outside the home address of a sub contract driver at Ilford, Essex. The vehicle is equipped with ANC logos.

CRIME PREVENTION

- Operation Grafton crime prevention officers acting under the auspices of the Airfreight Industry Minimum Security Standards for cargo (AIMSS) have now certified 75 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.
- **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.

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

1. Do you screen a potential staff member before you employ the person in question?
2. Do you use the same selection criteria for temporary employees as for your regular employees?
3. Do you always make use of the same employment agency?
4. Do you make a distinction between sensitive and non-sensitive functions within your company?
5. Have you drawn up reliability profiles for 'sensitive functions'?
6. Do you use clear job descriptions?
7. Are there any employees present, with your knowledge, on the premises at unusual times?
8. Is there structural consultation with your staff on risks and security?
9. Do you have standing employment conditions?
10. Employees have to monitor processes; do you monitor these employees well?
11. *Do you have a clear section within your application form asking potential employees whether they have any declarable convictions? Does this entry contain a sentence pointing to the potential employee liability for a criminal prosecution if a false declaration is made (This entry should require a specific signature from the employee who should also be asked to write in 'yes' or 'no' so as to be unable to state that they ticked the wrong box or misunderstood the question.*

- Are you aware that various studies have demonstrated that: -

- a/ Approximately 10% of employees will never become involved with crime
- b/ Approximately 10% of employees exhibit criminal behaviour to a greater or lesser extent
- c/ Approximately 80% of employees first assess the risks attached to the measures taken by the employer. If these measures are effective, they will not exhibit criminal behaviour.

OPERATION GRAFTON SUMMARY

- The above crime prevention questions are only intended to cause a period of reflection. They are not intended to be condescending.
- 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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Paul E DOUGLAS
Detective Inspector
OPERATION GRAFTON