

OPERATION GRAFTON

BUSINESS NEWS

Tel: 0208 246 9972

Month ending - **30th November 2003.**

Forward by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

This is the first of what I hope will become a monthly summary of the Operation GRAFTON activities that are undertaken by staff in the intelligence cell based at Northolt. The history of this operation is well known to those reading this bulletin and therefore will not be repeated here. If you do require further information please do not hesitate to contact our team on the above telephone number. The information contained in this report is intended to be both brief and informative. It will not however (as you would expect), include details concerning police methods. If you are able to suggest ways of improving this publication please feel free to contact us.

CRIMES

30/11/2003 - ROBBERY. SAINTS TRANSPORT for BAX GLOBAL. Lorry carrying Hynix Memory Modules (chips) value £300,000. Driver stopped by two males standing at a bus stop in Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex. Driver forced into back of vehicle and locked inside once the property concerned had been removed. The driver's mobile phone was also stolen. Vehicle had been driven a short distance by the suspects after it was stolen and the property loaded into a white van (no further details). The vehicle was recovered nearby in Ascot Road. Hounslow CID are investigating this matter.

26/11/ 2003, - DECEPTION. Tottenham, London, N17. An ALL PORT driver arrived at the premises of SYNERGY where as he was waiting his turn for entering the warehouse an unknown male approached him and asked if he was carrying the 'Shanghi' load. When the driver said "yes", the suspect said that the load had to be moved quite quickly and that he would reverse his lorry up to the rear of the ALL PORT vehicle. The 'back to back' transfer was then completed and the suspect drove away with £320,000 worth of stolen clothing. Of note is the fact that a similar offence took place in the Midlands on the same day. On that occasion £300,000 of property was stolen. Haringey officers are investigating this crime.

22/11/2003 - BURGLARY. KOTECH, Hayes, Middlesex. Suspects lifted an external utilities (manhole) cover and cut wires to the alarm system. The key holder attended and took steps to ensure the security of the premises. Once the premises became unoccupied again the suspects returned and forced entry via rear door. They then stole a large quantity of computer chips. Value £50,000. Hillingdon officers are dealing with this crime.

21/11/2003 – AGGRAVATED BURGLARY, BENAIR, Colnbrook, Slough. Member of staff attended the location in order to open up the premises for the day. The suspects concerned followed him into the yard, assaulted him and tied him up. They then stole a quantity of Pro-Line portable DVD players. Value £80,000. Slough CID are investigating this offence.

OTHER CRIMES

28/10/2003 - Burglary / ram raid at SATURN COMPUTERS, Woking.
Operation GRAFTON informed 14/11/2003.

08/11/2003 – A ram raid occurred at the *SONY SERVICE CENTRE, Harmondsworth. The suspects stole a lorry from a nearby lay-by and reversed it through a wall. They then stole a large quantity of boxes and loaded them into a silver car before leaving the scene.

26/11/2003 - Another ram raid occurred at the same *SONY SERVICE CENTRE. On this occasion the suspects again stole a lorry from a nearby street, which they reversed through a wall of the premises. The suspects then stole a large quantity of boxes, which were loaded into one of two silver cars before they left the scene.

*The Sony Service Centre values fall below the GRAFTON base value but have been referred due to the nature of the method used by the suspects.

Digital photos of the property stolen in connection with the above offences, which have been received by Operation GRAFTON, have been circulated to TAPA, ASM, TRUCKPOL and also throughout the Metropolitan Police and County Constabulary areas.

OPERATIONS

July 2003 - Flying Squad officers arrest five suspects for conspiracy to rob a warehouse in Surrey of £2m worth of mobile phones. All the suspects were remanded in custody.

August 2003 – Customs and Excise officers arrest three Operation GRAFTON subjects in possession of firearms. A further four suspects were subsequently arrested by the Flying Squad in relation to Operation GRAFTON offences.

August 2003 – Following a report of a vehicle seen acting suspiciously in the vicinity of a warehouse at an 'on airport' industrial estate, enquiries were made which led to the arrest by Heathrow Crime Squad officers of an individual who was subsequently charged with numerous Operation GRAFTON related offences. These 'identified' crimes had occurred in three Police Force areas.

October 2003 - Flying Squad officers arrested four suspects attempting to hi-jack a lorry containing £200,000 worth of computer equipment. On this occasion police officers at the scene recovered a loaded handgun and several stolen motor vehicles.

November 2003 – Operation GRAFTON officers working together with the Heathrow Crime Squad arrested a known warehouse burglar and recovered a quantity of stolen property. In addition to being dealt with for this offence the suspect was also recalled to prison in order to continue serving a previously imposed 3 year custodial sentence.

November 2003 – 500 mobile phones recovered by Hounslow officers. Two suspects arrested. The matter was originally referred to Customs and Excise but is now being investigated by Hounslow CID and the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit.

November 2003 – At the beginning of this month a driver was identified working for an airport company who was known to be stealing significant quantities of property from within his loads. The matter (although below the GRAFTON limit) was researched by the team and passed to Hounslow CID for further investigation.

CRIME PREVENTION

The following information is based upon this month's enquiries and investigations.

1. If your company is protected by a 'RED CARE' alarm, please ensure that you have a GSM back up.
2. The DFT are conducting criminal records checks into all airside pass holders. Certain individuals may therefore be looking for alternative employment or a move to 'landside'.
3. Please ensure that 'back to back' transfers are done in company-approved areas, preferably in those controlled by CCTV.
4. CCTV must be maintained in efficient working order. Tapes (etc.) and recording devices must be kept secure. Recent offences have seen tapes being removed by suspects from company recording equipment.
5. Please pay special attention to recording registration numbers from non-liveried vans and lorries. In many cases it is preferable to record details from the vehicles tax disc. If no tax disc is available and you are unsure as to whether or not to release the goods, telephone somebody known to you within the receiving company and verify the matter. If you still remain unhappy with the circumstance, do not release the goods and consider calling the local police.
6. Check and copy driver's identity badges whenever a collection is made. Also ensure that internal 'void' company badges (old or replacement) are torn or shredded upon disposal.

7. Do not hand over goods to drivers using non-headed collection notes. If hand written collection notes are presented further enquiries should be considered in order to confirm the legitimacy of the collecting driver.

OUTSTANDING PROPERTY

We are still looking for YAMAHA DVD'r S120 home cinema systems.

If you have any information which you think may assist with any of the crimes listed above or which may be relevant to any OPERATION GRAFTON offences, please call us on **0208 246 9972**. Alternatively you can call **CRIME STOPPERS** anonymously on **0800 555 111**. All information received will be treated in strictest confidence.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Paul E DOUGLAS
Detective Inspector
OPERATION GRAFTON