



Grafton Business News

January 09 to August 09

This newsletter will hopefully fill the recent void in the reported activities of Operation Grafton. We are now two thirds of the way through 2009 and the unit has participated in a considerable amount of proactive work, which is still ongoing.

Mail/Parcel Thefts

In the latter part of 2008 and the initial stages of 2009 the unit pursued an intelligence led investigation into the wholesale theft of airmail and parcels, transiting through Heathrow. Significant breaches of security and DfT regulations were uncovered, which resulted in a proactive operation, codenamed SALWICK, being initiated to combat the problem. As a consequence of the operation, four individuals were arrested at three addresses. In excess of fifty mailbags were recovered from each address, 150 in total. Three of the detainees were employees of a mail handling facility at Heathrow. They worked on one shift and had all been vetted and in some instances had secured airside passes. It subsequently transpired during the course of the investigation that one of the individuals, a supervisor, had entered the United Kingdom illegally in 2002 and was using an assumed name and false identity documents. The three employees were subsequently convicted and received custodial sentences.

The operation highlighted significant issues regarding the handling of mail at Heathrow and resulted in a collaborative review (Police, DfT, HMRC, Royal Mail, UPU and other stakeholders) of procedures. This review was led by Heathrow police and resulted in the commission of a detailed and incisive report. The review is ongoing and thanks must go to PC Ian Nightingale at Heathrow, for researching and preparing the in depth report.

This investigation, amongst many others, highlighted the need for robust and intrusive vetting procedures when recruiting new staff, particularly those businesses that are regulated by the DfT. In this case all three employees were foreign nationals possessing identity documents for the European Union and Russia. The case re enforced the need for companies to carefully scrutinise ID documents, follow up and verify references and review CRB checks.

It also revealed the need for proper housekeeping in and around access control, supervision of staff at weekends, search policies and audits of freight and cargo held at facilities. This is a theme that seems to feature in many of the interactions this unit has with industry.

Load Diversions

We continue to receive reports from industry and our borough colleagues of load diversions. Again, the commodities span the whole spectrum of high end and bespoke products. We ask that you review your procedures and policies regarding the movement of freight, the security of information, particularly the disclosure of details regarding such movements. Organised criminal networks are exploiting this information. They will telephone any part of your logistic chain and incrementally get you to disclose details that will assist them to fraudulently divert or recall a shipment. They are plausible and resourceful. Always verify and check whom you are speaking to and if in doubt, give the police a shout!

I am pleased to report that there is breaking news in relation to the load diversion crimes. In the last week we have arrested and charged two individuals responsible for diverting freight to Romford and East London. This investigation has been ongoing since last year. As a consequence of this operation we also identified and closed down a Cannabis factory in Kent, arresting and charging two individuals and bailing a third. We will be reviewing all the reported offences over the last year and contacting victim companies to secure further evidence if appropriate

Bogus Police committing robberies/Aggravated Burglaries

In 2007 and 2008 there was a series of violent robberies and aggravated burglaries of warehouse and telecommunication facilities. The criminals were dressed as police officers and entered the venues on the pretext of investigating suspicious activity or executing search warrants. The target commodity was invariably CISCO Routers. I am pleased to report that after a lengthy investigation and series of trials, three of the principal protagonists have been convicted. Three have been sentenced to 10, 11 and 16 years imprisonment each respectively.

Although we have significantly disrupted this particular criminal network, a copycat team have committed a burglary at a telecommunications centre in the Thames Valley Police area this year. To coin a phrase used by the sentencing Judge in the recent convictions, "These offences strike at the heart of the confidence of the public at large, regarding the visible presence of uniform police and their sense of security". We at Grafton would like to reassure you that these types of offences are very rare. If you are in any doubt as to the authenticity or identity of uniform officers at your premises then dial 999.

Theft of Mobile Telephones

During the course of this year we have seen an increase in the theft of mobile telephones that have either, just been imported into the UK or were due to be exported. Many of the phones stolen, mainly those for export, are used mobile telephones that are being legitimately resold in Far East markets. These phones have either been stolen in transit, obtained by the presentation of fraudulent documents, presented at freight facilities, or by means of burglary. We are currently assisting a number of police units investigating these allegations of crime. Many of the instances of theft occur when the freight has been allowed to languish in a facility over a weekend or release procedures not being adhered to by staff and the non-disclosure or investigation of weight discrepancies on outgoing shipments. Our advice is "keep it moving".

Robbery/Hijack in Hayes

On Monday 10th August 2009 at approximately 9.45 am a robbery was committed on Dawley Road, Hayes, Middlesex near the Hambro Arms Public House. The victim was driving a Saints delivery van, which was stopped and the driver dragged from the vehicle. The suspects made off with the consignment of computer chips in numerous vehicles, taking the delivery van with them, over the railway bridge and in the general direction of North Hyde Road. No firearms seen or used. We are appealing for witnesses. This is serious crime, but thankfully this type of criminality is now rare around Heathrow. To put this event into perspective the last such similar crime was an attempted hijack in January 2008.

Express Courier Crimes

Operation Grafton has been actively engaged with the express courier sector this year and deployed covertly in and around vulnerable routes identified by companies. The most recent Carrier Intelligence Group (CIG) meeting was held at Belgravia Police station. Representatives from CIG highlighted the ongoing criminality targeted at their vans, particularly in the West End and North London. They offered to collaborate and assist any police operations.

Grafton Operations and other business

Frustratingly, we would like to report on all our activities and successes, but are currently constrained by the fact that we are progressing a number of covert proactive operations, that will hopefully significantly disrupt criminality linked to our remit. We ask that you continue to contact us about any suspicious activity or concerns that you may have.

Where we have intelligence about proposed criminality we will always seek to contact and include the key decision makers within the target company. We have seen an increase in such cases over the preceding year. Many of the proposed offences involve the participation of employees who are colluding with criminal networks. To assist us to assist you, we ask that you identify and nominate key individuals in HR or Security, that if the need arises, can identify covertly the movement of consignments, access personal details and duty rotas of staff (subject to the receipt of properly authorised Data Protection Act requests). These representatives must be able to handle sanitised source sensitive intelligence that cannot be used or relied on in any subsequent HR procedures. In

many instances we successfully intervene and disrupt criminality, but find that many companies are left to deal with the residual consequences of insufficient evidence to arrest or convict complicit staff. We will advise and assist companies to handle those risks.

AIMSS

AIMSS is very much alive and a huge success. The scheme is in the process of consolidation around Heathrow. There are 211 premises currently accredited or in the process of being accredited. We recently undertook the training of officers from Essex, Manchester and the Thames Valley Police areas.

The existence of AIMSS has demonstrably assisted Operation GRAFTON to secure and gather high-grade intelligence and evidence of criminal activity in around Heathrow. This is in no small measure due to the excellent reports submitted by members of the AIMSS community who in one instance have allowed us to disrupt and thwart a planned robbery of freight.

The AIMSS group, principally made up of industry partners, has recently ratified the terms of reference and constantly seeks to update and improve the AIMSS document and accreditation criteria.

The management of the AIMSS website now rests with Mike Moore at Heathrow Police station, who I believe will significantly improve and revitalise the site. On that note we would urge you all to sign up and regularly visit the airportcommunity.org website, which is also managed by Mike.

The next AIMSS group meeting is the 15th September 2009

TAPA (Transported Asset Protection Association)

Operation GRAFTON participated in the TAPA Cargo Crime Conference at Schipol in September last year. Industry representatives, politicians, law enforcement, Government departments and the Dutch media attended the event.

If you are not a TAPA member we would strongly recommend you visit their website and familiarise yourself with the aims of the association. They have comprehensive standards for the secure handling of freight and transport (FSR and TSR).

We remind those of you who are members that the autumn (Q4) TAPA Conference and Exhibition, which coincides with their 10th anniversary, will be held in Vienna between 15th and 16th October 2009.

Please visit www.tapaemea.com for more information.

ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS)

We continue to receive and share intelligence with The AVCIS, which incorporates TRUCKPOL, is based in Warwickshire and is the dynamic response nationally to vehicle crime. They have recently received funding from the Home Office and Industry. Like Operation Grafton, they are dependent on support from partners to make it successful. They are seeking to forge new relationships with industry partners who may be able to help in supporting TruckPol in the future. Please contact them on 02476 516 246 for more information.



Useful Websites

In this newsletter we have alluded to a number of useful websites. We never miss any opportunity to give you free advice. The following websites may assist you in relation to security and risk management issues:

<http://www.cpni.gov.uk/>

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/>

<http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

<http://www.truckpol.com/>

<http://tapaemea.com/public/>

<http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/>

<http://www.bsi-global.com/en/Standards-and-Publications/Industry-Sectors/Security/>

<http://www.bsi-global.com/en/Standards-and-Publications/Industry-Sectors/Security/People-and-Employee-Security/>

<http://www.bsi-global.com/en/Shop/Publication-Detail/?pid=00000000030155502>

<http://www.bsi-global.com/en/Shop/Publication-Detail/?pid=00000000030161532>

Not Protectively Marked

We cannot stress the need for you to constantly evaluate, review and monitor your exposure to risk and interruption to business continuity, as a result of organised crime. Our Industry Liaison Officer, DS Jose DeFreitas, is always available if you need advice. All issues are dealt with on a confidential basis.


Finally....

The numbers of crimes that fall within the Grafton terms of reference thankfully continue to remain low. We would like to thank Industry partners for your continued support. Operation Grafton is running a number of proactive operations, which for obvious reasons, cannot be disclosed.

In many instances in order to protect confidentiality the information released is limited. Where possible and if appropriate, incidents will be expanded upon.

If you have information that you think is relevant to Operation Grafton please contact a member of the Grafton team on 0208 246 9972 or e-mail operation.grafton@met.police.uk

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT OPERATION GRAFTON FOR CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

 METROPOLITAN POLICE Working together for a safer London	
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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 95% 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.