

Chief Constable's Report to the Police Authority



Wednesday 28th June 2006

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AREA COMMANDERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS – MONTHLY REPORTS

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Incidents of Note

West Cumbria

- A report was received of a disturbance at Cleator Moor. On arrival, a man threw a knife at them from the window, followed by pieces of broken glass; he then armed himself with two kitchen knives and barricaded himself into a room in the house. Officers entered the building and restrained the man. He was charged with affray.
- A 52-year-old male, who had previously shown suicidal tendencies, was reported missing from Isel, Cockermouth. After enquiries a large-scale search led by the police, with colleagues from mountain rescue teams (MRT) and an RAF helicopter. The search concluded with the discovery of the body of the missing man near Pillar Rock.
- A boating accident occurred on Derwentwater, a boat driven by its owner with 7 others on board collided with semi-submerged rocks. This resulted in a rescue operation involving police, coastguard and Keswick MRT. All were brought safely to land. The owner of the boat suffered serious injuries and 3 other passengers were slightly injured, all suffered from shock. The MCA were the lead agency in this enquiry. This incident received national publicity.
- Two men were arrested at Maryport following a report of a man having been stabbed. Armed officers were deployed with taser capability. The situation was resolved using public order officers and tactics.
- Reports were received of shots being fired at Esk Avenue, Whitehaven. There had been a dispute between two males at that location. The ARV was armed and deployed to the area whilst enquiries were made with witnesses. The home address of the suspect was searched and he was arrested.
- A domestic robbery where the offender used a machete type weapon took place in Maryport. A man assaulted the victim with the machete type weapon and then took £30 from the kitchen area. The man was subsequently arrested following a public order operation.
- Report from Cue-doc of a woman having been stabbed at Belle Isle Street, Workington. The ARV was immediately deployed to put containment in place. The situation was resolved using public order officers and tactics and one man was arrested.
- Two known criminals were seen in Moorbanks Road, Workington, one believed to be carrying a shotgun and the other carrying an air rifle. No threats were made to members of the public. An armed containment was set up and armed officers made an entry into their premises. A number of air rifles recovered but no shotgun. Two men were arrested.
- A male armed with an iron bar attempted to gain entry to his ex-wife's home at Rowe Terrace, Workington. Officers attended the address and were threatened by the man with the bar. A firearms & public order containment was put in place whilst negotiators negotiated over an extended period. The man surrendered himself peacefully through negotiation and was arrested for affray.

South Cumbria

- On the morning of Saturday 27th May an incident occurred on the West Coast Main Line when rail staff on the Southbound Express contacted police via Network Rail Emergency. The train stopped at Oxenholme and it was found that a young male passenger had suffered fatal injuries following an incident. A number of police officers, some of which were armed and supported by Lancashire Police Air Support helicopter, began a search of the area for a suspect who had left the scene. Through good police work a suspect was

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fairly promptly traced and arrested by PC Hollier, an OS Dog Handler from Barrow. A man not local to Cumbria has been charged and remanded in custody following this incident. The case is in the process of being handed over to British Transport Police, who are presently based at an Incident Room in Kendal Police Station.

- Early in March a report was received by police from the father of a young man in South Cumbria that he had received a phone call from a person using his sons mobile phone, to the effect that his son had been kidnapped over a drug debt. The call was treated as genuine and an extensive police operation was mounted using specialist teams of officers from both Cumbria and Lancashire. In view of the kidnap aspect, two Cumbria Hostage negotiators were also alerted and assistance received from National Crime Squad. Fortunately enquires revealed that the calls were a hoax, the young man in question was safe and well but had lost or been parted from his phone whilst visiting Lytham in Lancashire.
- Towards the end of March Police in Barrow were called to a flat on the edge of town where a young man armed with a knife was wanted for domestic violence offences. The man had barricaded the entrance and at one point was threatening to explode the gas supply. Negotiations failed and in view of the levels of risk to the public, officers used protective equipment and shields to gain entry to the flat. As he threatened to use the knife, the man was warned using the red-dot sight from a Taser. An arrest was quickly made and one police officer sustained a suspected fractured finger during the entry.

North Cumbria

- In March '06 a 75-year-old man from the Appleby Area suffering from Alzheimer's syndrome reported missing. Extensive searches made utilising RAF, Mountain Rescue, local volunteers and Police without success. Eventually the body of the man was discovered in late April 06.
- A man was arrested at a bus station in Carlisle for attempted armed Robbery on a taxi driver in the West Midlands; he was in possession of toy pistol.
- In April '06 damage was caused to a United Utilities water pumping facility, Heads Nook causing disruption to local drinking water supply. This was linked to numerous other incidents of damage to similar sites. Two arrests have been made and one person has admitted numerous offences.
- Arson at Newman School Carlisle that caused extensive damage. Two 16-year-old pupils have been arrested.
- Violent disorder involving a large group of youths armed with weapons in Dowbeck Road, Carlisle where a man was hit over the head with a machete. One person has been arrested for attempted murder and remanded in custody.
- In May '06 national enquiries were conducted into a High Risk missing person in company with a known offender who had previously caused harm to her and was wanted for failing to appear at Carlisle Court. There was a multi agency response and she was eventually located in Middlesborough after 4 weeks without any contact
- In May '06 a 33yr-old man died in an industrial accident at Auto Recoveries, Carlisle when heavy machinery [metal-folding press] became dislodged from its mountings and fell on him. A full investigation in accordance with workplace death policy commenced and has initially been investigated as Manslaughter.
- Attempt murder / wounding of a man in Mount Pleasant Road who was stabbed. Disruption was caused by local residents immediately following the attack that was quickly subdued by community officers. An offender has been charged with a wounding offence.

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Operational Support

Mobile Support Group (MSG)

- On 15th March 2006 officers from HQ MSG and Southern MSG stopped a vehicle on the M6. The vehicle was found to contain approximately £250,000 cash, which was seized as proceeds of crime, and a financial investigation is on going.
- Shortly after 6am on a morning in early May an MSG officer, PC Tony Hill, was making his way home after night duty when he saw a woman lying face down in the river in Kendal Town Centre. The officer immediately entered the water and pulled the woman to safety. The lady was found to be still alive and was taken to Westmorland General Hospital for treatment.
- On 17th March MSG officers from Workington conducted an investigation into a fatal collision involving four vehicles that resulted in two fatalities. A man was arrested and enquiries are continuing.

Tactical Support Group (TSG)

- Provided a firearms support team to West Cumbria BCU to assist at a siege following a domestic incident. A peaceful resolution was ensured by one of the team using communication skills to talk the man out of the house.
- Murder at Oxenholme - TSG officers were involved in initial deployment and subsequent – recovery of items (initial callout of firearms team but subsequent use as search team over 2 days providing mutual aid to British Transport Police).
- Search team provided assistance to South Cumbria at Levens, near Kendal. Over £5,000 cash recovered. 2,500 counterfeit compact discs. Cannabis cultivation equipment and drugs were also recovered.

Collision Investigation Unit

- Provided assistance to gather evidence and provide expert witness evidence at fifteen serious/fatal collisions.

Firearms

- VIP Protection operations were carried out for the Prince and Princess Michael of Kent on their visit to Keswick and Carlisle.

Civil Contingencies and Protective Services Unit

- The team provided assistance in developing plans to deal with a number of events including avian influenza, Industrial action by police staff and participation in Exercise Watershed with the environment agency linked to flooding across the county.

Dog Section

- Whilst carrying out patrol directed at disrupting rural hotel burglaries in West Cumbria PC 149 Morgan attempted to carry out stop check of a motor vehicle. The vehicle made off and crashed, the occupants then made off. One man was chased and detained by the dog. PC 149 Morgan then tracked over farmlands and roads to a garden where the dog located 2 men hiding in a coalbunker. The men from the Liverpool area were responsible for a hotel break in Keswick and wanted in connection with an offence of robbery in the Merseyside area.
- Murder on the Intercity train at Oxenholme Kendal. PC s 397 Jenkinson, PC 821 Hollier, PC 754 Bainbridge & PC 767 Strickland worked closely as a team, located and arrested the offender.

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- Operation Molten-Carlisle-March. PC 705 Sowerby with drug/cash search dog recovered £8000 cocaine & £2200 cannabis & PC 979 Hodgkinson with drug/cash search dog recovered £2000 of class A drugs.
- Operation Austere-Aspatia-05.05.06. PC 610 Yelder with drug/cash search dog recovered £9000.

Force Intelligence Bureau

- 11th March, Officers from FIB supported Operation SHRIMP in South Cumbria regarding blackmail. Officers provided Telecoms SPOC work & intelligence development. The offender was quickly identified through this work
- 15th March, due to information that was developed and coordinated by FIB, a vehicle was stop checked on the M6 by MSG officers and £250,000 cash was recovered. FIB also conducted further work to support the operational response to this seizure.
- May. FIB officers conducted initial intelligence support to a murder at Oxenholme.
- Two FIB officers provided 'witness protection' duties to a witness during the Operation ASDA trial in Liverpool.

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Reducing Crime

West Cumbria

- A multi-agency initiative with a targeted audience of 2 groups of pupils (age 11-16) on the brink of exclusion for using illegal substances and alcohol. Agencies include Dave Smith Rising Sun, CADAS, Turning Point, Police, PCSO, Citizens Advice and Maggi Messenger, an ex user. This is a 6-week programme to explore the issues surrounding drugs (including alcohol), giving facts regarding drugs, looking at health issues, the effect on the family of a drug user and the life of an ex user.
- Penalty Notices for Disorder – Pilot started in West Cumbria Mid May where officers can now issue fixed penalty notices for minor offences on the street without arresting and bringing people into custody. This initiative was launched under the Respect banner.
- West Cumbria CDRP together with RSLs in identified Hot Spot areas are undertaking a property marking initiative with residents using the Smartwater Tracer product in an effort to further reduce burglary dwelling figures in these areas. Neighbourhood Support Team, LPT and PCSOs are also actively involved in
- Operation Bobbin is tackling youth disorder, nuisance, litter and damage in Castle Park, Whitehaven. This is run in conjunction with the Special Constabulary and the Probation Service for the clean up.
- High visibility windscreen stickers to alert patrols are being re-introduced to target emerging hotspot ward (Moss-Bay, Workington) for thefts of motor vehicles as a deterrent to offenders. Community Team officers and PCSO's targeted owners of older vehicles for issue of stickers free of charge. The scheme is to be re-launched across area.
- Funding obtained from the ASB task group of the CDRP to match fund 'Mosquito' devices for installation at anti social trouble spots in Whitehaven and Maryport
- In partnership with the Forestry Commission, Highways and Egremont Police, an initiative has been launched to reduce the anti-social use of motorbikes through forestry and local moorland. Witnesses, residents or forestry personnel e-mail a prepared intelligence form direct to Egremont officers with details of incidents. Funding has been allocated and wooden obstacles have been set up to slow the bikes down.
- Operation Basalt is an ongoing operation in Moor Row focused on reducing youth disorder and antisocial behaviour in the area. Working in partnership with Copeland Council and Highways.
- Operation Blackbird is a vehicle crime operation specifically targeting vehicles parked in rural car parks. We have carried out letter drops and posted crime prevention leaflet as well as performing high visibility patrols in target areas.
- Operation Blackberry is a large-scale drugs/quality of life operation in Mirehouse, Whitehaven. This is being headed by the ASB unit and has already had notable successes.
- Operation Mogul is targeting known criminals who were actively involved in cross border vehicle and plant thefts.
- Operation Robot has been looking at drug supply and misuse in Maryport Town. This operation has directly resulted in a reduction in dishonesty crime, improvement in quality of life and crack house closures in that area.
- A woman from Whitehaven was targeted for drug supply. Several warrants have been executed at her home address, most of which were positive. She was last arrested for supplying at the school gate to other parents, in front of children.

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South Cumbria

- Building upon the previous successes of anti-violence campaigns across South Cumbria, new initiatives are now being launched under the banner of Operation Respect to address drink related violence and anti-social behaviour across the South of the county. "Summer Consequences" is the latest operation mounted between the police and key partners in local authority and the CDRP to address drink related offending.
- The World Cup will be a further feature of this summer; once again unfortunately the drunken excesses of a few may mar the enjoyment of many. A coordinated operation across the BCU will see police, partner agencies and licensees working together to ensure that any success – or failure – of popular teams in the tournament is not used as an excuse for drunken, violent or anti social behaviour.
- The New Road Fair in Kendal has in recent years unfortunately proven to be a hot spot for anti social behaviour. This year Operation Sandcastle ran for the duration of the Fair and saw a number of initiatives aimed at preventing disorder and dealing with those people who's anti social conduct fell short of acceptable. Kendal LPT Community Officers played a strong part in reassuring the community and high visibility patrolling and police interventions especially where young people were trying to buy or to consume alcoholic drink in public areas, helped to reduce levels of disorder and disruption in the New Road community to levels well below that previously experienced.
- Recently granted Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) have been successfully publicised in the local press in both Barrow (North West Evening Mail) and in Kendal (Westmorland Gazette) recently. The Police, supported by our local press, make a point of publicising new ASBOs as it both shows the community what action we and our partners are taking to deal with quality of life problems they face and the publicity can act as an effective deterrent for those whose bad behaviour has yet to require this level of enforcement action.
- A series of offences of criminal damage in Ulverston prompted the LPT Inspector to initiate Operation Shield in the Town centre. One very productive aspect was in partnership with schools where letters were sent to the parents of pupils who had indulged in anti-social behaviour. This proved to be an effective intervention and a useful tactic that will be shared with other LPTs. Criminal Damage remains a serious issue across the BCU; as a frequent output of anti-social behaviour, efforts to prevent and detect crimes of damage figure high in our activities under the RESPECT campaign.

North Cumbria

- Operation Moghul is a dedicated team involving officers from West Cumbria set up to target theft of vehicles, particularly 4x4s and quads in and surrounding Carlisle. These vehicles are often driven in a reckless manner and snatch plan developed to combat this. There have been 37 arrests and approximately £50,000 of property recovered.
- City West LPT – following increase in anti social behaviour particularly in the Dowbeck Road area of Raffles a total of 9 anti social behaviour orders and acceptable behaviour contracts have been obtained.
- City North LPT under Operation ACORN the local GAZETTE newspaper was used to insert crime prevention flyers. Local Residents Associations and NHW coordinators contacted to flag up crime prevention advice and provide leaflets.
- City North LPT following previous dispersal order in the Stanwix and Belah areas 3 young people who were involved are now subject of acceptable behaviour contracts.

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- Using anti Social Behaviour Legislation premises on Belmont Road, Carlisle was made subject of a "Crack House" closure order.
- Positive intervention, in partnership with Eden District Council, with licensed Premises in Penrith Town re incidents of serious violence and disorder as part of Operation Respect. This resulted in tenant being removed and closure of Miners Arms. This is the second closure of a pub in Town in past couple of Months. There is full support of Penrith Pub Watch Scheme in this robust approach.
- Operation Magic - dedicated deployments in Penrith Town Centre at weekends re violent crime and disorder has been reinforced with funding support from Operation AMEC 4.
- Penrith LPT PCSO involved in high profile patrols (supported with extensive media coverage) re youth anti-social behaviour & underage drinking in Castle Park, Penrith. Several confiscations of large amounts of alcohol. LPT Insp to attend Pub Watch Meeting specifically to discuss Licensing Trade commitment to eradicate under-age sales.
- Crime prevention activities in Lake District National Park as part of Operation Acorn, with specific warning notice issued to every car/family staying on Ullswater campsites re ongoing problems re thefts from cars and tents. All Hotels in the area provided with crime prevention advice following attempt burglary/thefts at 3 Hotels during May 06.
- Deployment of PCSO to support local LPT officer at Corby Hill has seen a dramatic reduction in complaints from residents.
- Secured by design principles have been adopted by one of areas biggest house builders, Storey Homes. All new builds will integrate approved security into design. Work is ongoing to expand these principles to other local building companies.
- Safer Homes in North Cumbria has secured funding for another 12 months from a local businessman and the CDRP. The scheme, which provides security measures free of charge to vulnerable householders, has got through to the final stages of the National Problem Solving "Tilley" Awards that will be presented later this year.
- Officers have been actively involved with Carlisle United Football Club and local schoolchildren in the show racism the red card initiative.

Operational Support

Force Intelligence Bureau

- FIB continues to coordinate Crimestoppers appeals.
- The traffic intelligence officer has contributed to Bike safe campaign.
- FIB analysts have coordinated activity relating to Operation ACORN (spring rise in crime)
- FIB has conducted research and development regarding identifying the number of Organised Crime Groups operating within the force. This has led to a large amount of development work in support of our own strategic picture, the amalgamation picture and regional policing. Future target packages will develop from this work

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Investigating Crime

West Cumbria

- Operation Blackberry is a large-scale drugs/quality of life operation in Mirehouse, Whitehaven. This is being headed by the ASB unit and has already had notable successes.
- Operation Austere is a money-laundering enquiry involving a local man. So far the operation has recovered £50,000.
- A local man has been sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for rape. Another man was sentenced to 3 and a half years for possession with intent to supply class A and class B drugs.
- Operation Mogul is targeting known criminals who were actively involved in cross border vehicle and plant thefts.
- Operation Robot has been looking at drug supply and misuse in Maryport Town. This operation has directly resulted in a reduction in dishonesty crime, improvement in quality of life and crack house closures in that area.
- A woman from Whitehaven was targeted for drug supply. Several warrants have been executed at her home address, most of which positive. She was last arrested for supplying at the school gate to other parents, openly in front of children.

South Cumbria

- In the early hours of 31 May, following a house burglary in Hawkeshead, various property and vehicle keys were stolen. A Land Rover Freelander was then driven away in convoy with a second vehicle. Prompt police action, in which a Stinger was successfully deployed at Greenodd, resulted in both vehicles being apprehended and the arrest of three men from the Liverpool area.
- The third weekend of April saw evidence once again of the disturbing developments of drug related violence in Barrow. The first incident involved reports that four men from Liverpool, one of whom was armed, were in Barrow in connection with illegal drugs. Local intelligence was developed and a police operation subsequently led to a vehicle and passengers being stopped by Lancashire Police patrols. No weapon was found. The following day in what is believed to be an unconnected incident three hooded men forced their way into a flat in Barrow and used clubs and an axe type weapon to seriously assault the occupant before he could make his escape by jumping from a window. Investigations continue.
- Later in April a 19 yr old man alleged that he was bundled into a camper van in the Broughton area and then assaulted by its three occupants, before being released from the vehicle and set down some miles distant. Police enquiries subsequently traced the vehicle and its occupants, who were arrested in Lancashire. Investigations continue.
- Just before 5am in May a farmer saw a small 4x4 or estate type vehicle towing a trailer, leaving his farm. Subsequently he found that a Quad bike had been stolen from a shed nearby. Despite observations by Lancashire, North Yorkshire and Durham police, the suspects and their vehicles have not yet been traced.

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North Cumbria

- March - May '06 CID has investigated six internal thefts from employer each to a value of £15,00 all six have been detected.
- Search warrants were executed at three addresses in Carlisle. Cocaine, cannabis, Ecstasy and cash £3240 in cash and 1800 Euros of counterfeit currency were seized.
- A human skull was found on a building site formerly St Josephs Home, Botcherby Carlisle. Enquiries revealed that there had been a graveyard used up to 1975 for Nuns who ran the home and the elderly residents.
- A high value dwelling burglary at a house on Wigton Road, Carlisle. A well-known burglar admitted the offence as a result of a comprehensive investigation, a further 10 offences were taken into consideration Sentenced to 6 years.
- After a spate of burglaries in Carlisle city centre at takeaway premises a well-known burglar was arrested at the scene of one. A thorough interview strategy and other evidence proved the case. A guilty plea was entered at court.
- In April '06 street disorder in Orchard Street Carlisle. 6 people were involved in disorder involving a golf club and knives. Following interviews and ID procedures 4 people have been charged with assaults and public order offences.
- Burglary and theft of hire car keys at 1 Car 1, Kingstown Carlisle where the offender removed bricks from premises wall to gain entry. A man from the North East was arrested and is currently on bail awaiting charging.
- Officers from the Metropolitan Police, North Area Drugs Squad, and Special Branch conducted searches at four premises in Carlisle. Two Cannabis factories under construction were found and dismantled. Two people were arrested. The operation has prevented an opportunity for large amounts of cannabis to be produced in the city.
- Drugs and Money Laundering, two men arrested on Raffles estate Carlisle after a vehicle check, £2000 cash seized along with a small amount of cannabis resin. Following house searches 30 blocks of Cannabis resin totaling 1 kg found approx street value £3500. Offender on bail
- In May '06 two men were arrested in the city centre of Carlisle having initially being stopped after purchasing numerous mobile phones in suspicious circumstances. On searching they were found to be in possession of £15,000, which was seized for confiscation. They were arrested for Money Laundering and are currently being detained by the Immigration Service.
- Series of damage/vehicle theft incidents in Alston. Enquiries led Alston officers to a local juvenile and an adult man. After extensive interviews the offences were admitted. The man is now on Bail Conditions and Curfew.

Operational Support

MSG

- The ANPR team has now been introduced. The team has already had success including the stop and detention of a suspect that had 3 large bags of 'skunk' in the boot of his car. Warrants were executed in co-operation with the Metropolitan Police, which resulted in the discovery of cannabis factories in both Carlisle and London.
- There have been 2 Operation Mermaid checks which are National road checks targeting the haulage industry, in an effort to ensure road worthiness of vehicles, compliance with drivers hours and documentation legislation and to detect and reduce crime. For the first time there was an overnight operation. Between the 2 checks there were 78 vehicles stopped and 29 vehicles found to be committing offences. The checks were carried out with the assistance with VOSA and HMR&C.

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Collision Investigation Unit

- Expert evidence gathering provided at the incident at Auto Recoveries, Carlisle. Support to BTP in connection with murder on train at Oxenholme.

Special Branch

- In May Glaxo Smith Kline shareholders within Cumbria received a series of letters indicating that animal rights extremists would be targeting the company. This has had adverse effects to other businesses including a significant drop in share price. Special Branch has investigated this matter.

Specialist Crime Support Unit

- A further 6 people were charged as a result of Operation Aquiline in relation to drug supply and money laundering offences.
- In March a man from West Cumbria was cautioned for distribution of indecent images following a computer examination.
- In APRIL the SCSU assisted with the investigation of an alleged conspiracy to murder in Carlisle.
- A man from Scotland was arrested in relation to Operation Apple, the investigation into a suspicious gymnasium fire in West Cumbria.
- In May Operation ASDA came to trial resulting in five guilty pleas and sentence is awaited in June.
- In May two people were arrested for money laundering as part of Operation Ace and a further individual was sentenced to 2yrs 8months for conspiracy to supply controlled drugs.
- In May Operation Asia was finalised at court. This was a fraud enquiry involving victims from the Far East. This resulted in a Confiscation Order totalling £159,000.

Force Intelligence Bureau

- Throughout this period FIB have collected, recorded and developed information in support of the Force wide operation APEX, targeting travelling drug suppliers. We have worked closely with the ANPR team & MSG. Numerous results have been obtained from this operation.
- FIB have collected and coordinated the force response to a regional operation ICHOR relating to travelling criminals targeting ATMs. This includes a full evidence package that has been presented to Durham Police.
- FIB have continued to collate, develop & disseminate information regarding level 2 drug supply based in West Cumbria under Operation AUSTERE. This has led to several warrants being executed and over £20,000 recovered. This is now a proactive money laundering investigation.
- FIB investigated and produced a scoping report in support of a National investigation into the sex slave industry. Operation PENTAMETER.
- FIB coordinated the intelligence & forensic response to a recent spate of hotel burglaries. A crime series had been identified but good work by officers produced arrests prior to the action plan being implemented. The work already conducted allowed interviewing officers a seamless approach to identifying like offences in this and other force areas.

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Promoting Safety

West Cumbria

- All LPTs have held operations relating to the RESPECT campaign whether targeting violence, antisocial behaviour or damage. Since its launch, 264 arrests have been made across the area.
- A joint agency scheme aimed at improving security and safety in the South Whitehaven Area for target hardening. This initiative is ongoing until March 2007 by which time we will have achieved 240 upgrades
- As part of the Nightsafe Initiative aimed at reducing nighttime disorder and violence, a DVD has been distributed to all Secondary Schools in West Cumbria. It targets Year 10 pupils as part of the educational element of Nightsafe. It has already been piloted in Whitehaven School with police delivery. It is to form part of Cockermouth School's citizenship programme.
- In partnership with 6th Form students studying drama, we took part in an initiative to look at bullying within the classroom. All Workington Junior schools attended over 250 children) and the play went on tour to Whitehaven area to include 3 targeted schools recommended by LPT officers. Funding came from the Rotary and Neighbourhood Development
- Training and implementation of processes for registered sex offender reviews have taken place for LPT staff and members of the Special Constabulary.
- Keswick Road Safety Group, led by police in conjunction with the local community, held its annual open day in Keswick town centre on Sunday 21st May. All the emergency services, and Road Safety agencies were represented and the event was well attended despite the inclement weather.
- Community officers and Specials conducted a Police Awareness day at Seascale School. Various presentations were given to the children and answered questions about what the police do and how they can help.
- Ten Parish Councils for North Allerdale LPT, the Neighbourhood Forum and a County Councillor have formed a group and purchased a speed detection device at a cost of £2000. This is a roadside device that indicates to drivers their speed. Each parish will receive 5 weeks of use and the police do site visits for suitability.
- In partnership with Highways and Copeland Council, officers conducted enforcement around an Egremont school area, where vehicles were speeding past the front gate. Funding was obtained from Highways and permanent school warning illuminated signs are now placed on the approach to the school to warn drivers and reduce the risk.

South Cumbria

- Operation Respect in South Cumbria has a focus upon drink related and anti-social behaviour, officers involved in roads policing are spreading the net more widely in addressing anti-social and public safety related matters on roads across the BCU. In supporting our operations to date, the MSG have undertaken significant activity to promote and where necessary enforce road safety resulting in 16 arrests, 110 offences of failing to wear a seat belt, 63 speeding and 61 miscellaneous offences have been dealt with by way of process report or fixed penalty notice.
- A number of complaints from the public, alongside genuine safety concerns for the users of the Mini Moto miniature motor cycles led to LPT Community, Patrol and MSG Officers in Barrow mounting a local initiative during April to educate owners of these bikes on safe usage and where education failed, to enforce the legislation which makes them illegal to use on public roads.

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- The recent HMIC Neighbourhood Policing Baseline Assessment Round 2 has indicated that South Cumbria BCU is on track in delivering Neighbourhood Policing as a Pathfinder BCU. April saw the introduction of extra LPTs within Barrow to better align policing to the new local authority Neighbourhood Management structure. There is a new LPT for the Centre of Barrow and one for the remaining town area and a further LPT based in Dalton. The changes were the result of considerable consultation and early indications are that residents have warmly received their new LPTs.
- Operation Streetsafe continues to focus police and partner activity on communities across South Cumbria. During the last three months, operations alongside colleagues from Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service and Barrow Borough Council have been undertaken on Longway (300 houses visited) Vickerstown (75 houses) and the whole of Central Ward in the town centre. A further operation targeting households on Ormsgill is to take place at the start of June. As well as providing public safety and crime prevention advice.

North Cumbria

- Operation Array BCU staff supported MSG in a seatbelt campaign 130 fixed penalty tickets were issued
- Continued commitment to 'Beacon Beat' fortnightly articles in the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald - positive messages, crime prevention advice, current planning & operations, together with breakdown of range of offences involved in recent arrests. The article is very well received in local community.
- Operation Bikesafe & Focus - new motorcycle season has commenced. Penrith LPT deployments re educational effort and enforcement activity e.g. hand held radar and disruption tactics at key locations, in support of major activity by MSG.
- Joint enforcement work with English Nature on illegal use of motorcycles on Pennine Fells. Penrith LPT officer takes lead on this, and links are to be made with re-commencement of Operation Minx.
- Continued drive to develop Neighbourhood Watch, Farm Watch and Voice Connect across rural areas in our area.

Operational Support

MSG

- Bikesafe has restarted with the advent of spring. This is an educational operation aimed at improving motorbike riders' awareness and skills. The course consists of lectures and ride-outs. The first series have been completed at HQ and South. Lectures and ride-outs have also been arranged in the West, South and HQ areas.
- Operation Astute, the targeting of HGV drivers using their mobile phones while driving, continues with great success. The traffic commissioners have been suspending the drivers' vocational license for 9 days for each offence. The region is looking at this for consideration as best practise. It has also been presented to the National Roads Policing Intelligence Forum, where a number of forces expressed an interest in adopting the operation.
- Work continues with Operation Takeaway to remove uninsured drivers from the roads by seizing their vehicles as well as prosecuting offenders. 74 vehicles were seized this quarter.

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- Officers from MSG based at Northern Traffic Unit and HQ arrested a total of 29 people for driving over the prescribed limit and 9 for disqualified driving.

Collision Investigation Unit

- Involved in organising and attending Young Drivers Road Safety event at Ullswater Community College, Penrith and the Momentum Project, run by Young Cumbria, on road safety.

Special Branch

- A significant amount of time and effort is being spent promoting 'The Richer Picture' initiative on behalf of the UK Security Services. Links with Communities and establishing dialog with hard to reach groups form a large part of this initiative. Much of the work involves education within the Police Service.

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Force Intelligence Bureau

- FIB coordinates all returns for National Community Tension Team issues.
- FIB coordinated intelligence relating to Cockle picking in the area.
- FIB coordinated all intelligence regarding Fox hunting

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Providing Assistance

West Cumbria

- A call was received from CueDoc that one of their nurses had got lost and crashed their vehicle into a ditch. Officers conducted a search in the South Copeland area and found the nurse. The patrol remained at scene and provided help until the ambulance crew arrived.
- Officers attended St Bees following a report of a man having fallen over the cliffs. Police coordinated the rescue with air ambulance, mountain rescue and the Coast Guard. The man was taken to West Cumberland hospital with a back injury.

South Cumbria

- In early April a group of Thai nationals dressed in lightweight clothing took to the fells in Great Langdale, intending to walk across the tops to Borrowdale. At the time the weather was severe and described as blizzard conditions. The party got as far as Angle Tarn before they started to succumb to the cold. Langdale and Ambleside Mountain Rescue Team were alerted by other walkers and with their help two casualties were airlifted from the fell by RAF Rescue helicopter in a police coordinated operation. The remainder of the party were provided with warm clothing and blankets and were led to safety by the MRT.
- The second weekend in March saw heavy snows disrupt traffic across South Cumbria and beyond. A large number of collisions on roads across the area added to the chaos, which came unexpectedly on a clear day with most of the county enjoying bright sunshine. Local Mountain Rescue Teams quickly responded to police requests for assistance with 4 wheel drive vehicles and in South Cumbria, Langdale & Ambleside and Kendal MRTs provided Land Rovers to allow police officers to continue to respond to calls for assistance from the public.
- The build up to Appleby Horse Fair historically sees travellers move into the rural areas around Kendal before the opening of Fair Hill in early June. Previous years have seen both unlawful parking, litter, sanitary and community problems at this time of year. For the second year, officers in the Kendal Rural LPT and our partner agencies are mounting an operation under the banner of Operation Respect, to ensure that the practical needs and the basic rights of these traditional visitors to the area are being provided for and that the legitimate concerns and issues for local residents are also being addressed. Police efforts were universally welcomed last year and similar success is hoped for again.

North Cumbria

- Party on the pitch - Brunton Park over 2000 attended two day 'pop concert' to celebrate CUFC promotion and the Pirelli International Rally.
- Carlisle United's last five games of the season saw an average attendance of just under 10,000. A record crowd of 13,414 was in attendance at the last game against Torquay United. Three of the last five games were policed with the Grimsby Town and Torquay United games having above the minimal staffing levels. Disorder took place outside Carlisle Railway Station after the Grimsby Town fixture resulting in one arrest
- Further hospital closure protest, negotiation with organisers and police deployments to 'supervise' rather than 'escort' motorcycles from Alston to Penrith on A685, then horse drawn carriage from Penrith onto Keswick on A66. All went well and no incidents of concern.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Chief Constable's report to the Police Authority

- Joint work by local officers with MSG/TSG to provide support for M6 Southwaite Services on two occasions in May 06: re large movements of Glasgow Rangers fans and Glasgow Celtic fans (25,000) re friendly/testimonial games in England

Operational Support

TSG

- Operation MISSION – Provided firearms protection for a man who was subject to a contract on his life.

Firearms

- Firearms tactical advice was provided on 28 occasions resulting in authority for issue of firearms being granted on 18 occasions.
- The Firearms Operations Unit managed migration from CS incapacitant spray to 'PAVA' across the Constabulary.

Dog Section

- Mutual aid was provided to Lancashire for the visit of Condoleeza Rice in March in the form of two explosives trained search dogs.

Specialist Crime Support Unit

- The SCSU staff provided assistance to South Cumbria during March and April to run a test purchase operation (Operation Sleeper).

Force Intelligence Bureau

- FIB has produced 11 firearm threat assessments in this period that have assisted area and other forces in a variety of operations.
- FIB is assisting Derbyshire Police regarding a long running cannabis farm investigation.
- We have deployed on a SOCA (Knowlsey) operation that led to the arrest of two west Cumbrian males with a large amount of cannabis.
- FIB area assisting Merseyside & Lancashire with a drugs/firearm operation (MATRIX)
- FIB have collated & developed information regarding the upcoming World Cup linking with SOCA & Interpol.
- FIB provided support to National Operation TRENT regarding outstanding illegal immigrants.
- FIB staff has been deployed on Operation AUBURN (full time intelligence officer - ongoing), CMIS evaluation & amalgamation work streams.
- FIB staff have provided 'on call ' Telecoms SPOC in relation to 7 suicidal missing persons during this period. Each time the missing persons were found safe & well.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Awards and Recognition

Certificates of Commendation

Chief Constables Commendation

DCI Andy Carter, DI Paul Smith, DS 338 Jeremy Campbell, DS 558 Colin Edgar, DC 1181 Christine Harper, DC 170 Andrew Mason, DC 972 Mark Tinnion, DC 1072 Jenny Wilson are commended for their contribution to Operation Lara investigation.

Mr. David (Mike) Astley, PC 790 Richard Blackburn, PS 615 Paul Brown, PC 1041 Steph Brown, Inspector Iain Clark, Mrs. Margaret Irwin, PC 1586 John Johnston, PC 296 Nigel Moffat, DS 892 Peter Proud, DC 1510 James Robson, PC 747 Euan Stitt are commended for their diligence, teamwork and dedication in securing the conviction of a man responsible for causing the death of a young man by dangerous driving on the 7 November 2004 at Blackford.

DCI William Whitehead is commended for his leadership skills in 2004 bringing to justice a number of individuals from Carlisle who had committed a number of serious violent crimes including murder and rape.

Mr. Terence Belshaw, PCSO 5115 Stephanie Fielden, PC 1416 Michelle Tomlinson are commended for initiating a multi-agency approach to tackle retail crime at Kendal in September 2005, which resulted in receiving the Safer Business Award.

Mr. Gareth Airey is commended for his quick actions that saved a man's life. He is also receiving a certificate from the Royal Humane Society.

PC 1775 Keith Hunton is commended for rescuing a woman from the North shore, Whitehaven on the 25 October 2005. She is also receiving a certificate from the Royal Humane Society.

PC 455 Bruce Kemp is commended for his calm and controlled manner when he apprehended a man seen with a 9-inch knife gaining access to The Butchers Arms public house in Maryport on the 30 May 2005.

PC 1808 Stephen Brown, PC 906 Dave Whild are commended for their courage and perseverance shown when dealing with an aggressive individual armed with a knife putting themselves at risk in order to offer protection to others on Saturday 18 February 2006.

Certificate of Merit

ACC (Ops) Certificates of Merit

Mr. Tom Brimley, PC 1228 Sarah Grundy, PS 1597 Peter Holgate, Mr. Martin Parker, PC 576 William Richardson, PC 853 Mike Scott, Dr Jonathan Whitaker in recognition of their contribution to Operation Lara investigation.

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Chief Constable's report to the Police Authority

PC 1613 Eric Hugh McKinley in recognition of his courage, leadership, good interpersonal skills, initiative and his officer safety skills in preventing a person harming himself with a kitchen knife under the influence of excessive alcohol.

Inspector Nick Coughlan, PC 1782 Paul Herman, PC 552 Steven Kosak, Mr. Steve Davidson (Vehicle & Operator Services Agency), Mr. Matthew Grieve (VOSA), Mr. Brian Hayhurst (VOSA), Mr. Keith Henry (VOSA), Mr. Mark Hirons (VOSA), Mr. Keith Smith (VOSA), Mr. Andrew Wallace (VOSA), Mr. Anthony Wilson (VOSA), Mr. Paul Wilson (VOSA) in recognition of their successful complex investigation involving the false issue of vehicle test certificates to motorcycles in South Cumbria resulting in a successful prosecution.

BCU Commander's Certificates of Merit

PC 1200 Melanie McBride in recognition of her work toward securing the conviction of man for the abduction of young girls.

PC 1734 Philip Dickinson in recognition of his efforts in the apprehension of a man brandishing a large knife.

PS 316 John Stephens in recognition of his supervision of the Kendal Detention Officers.

PC 793 Paul Burke, PC 1794 Rebecca Hunter, PC 190 Keith Williams in recognition of their efforts in the resuscitation of a man.

PC 1146 Christine Williams, PC 1473 Claire Wills in recognition of their outstanding performance.

PS 321 Richard Higgin in recognition of the introduction of Licensing Law changes.

PS 321 Richard Higgin in recognition of dealing with imitation firearm.

SC 7227 Stuart Woodward in recognition of his good performance

DC 949 Gary Taylor, PS 245 James Skeer, CSI Mike Astley, CSI Alistair Lee, CSI Dave Archbold, CSI Jack Golightly, CSI Alistair Kerr, CSI Don Reay, CSI John Routledge, CSI Ian McCrone, Elaine Robertson, Susanna Phillips in recognition of Operation Converter.

PC 1607 David Pattinson in recognition of his outstanding performance.

Mr. John Burns in recognition of his efforts in the running of the video unit.

PC 1781 Alarna Butcher in recognition of the role of sexual offences trained officer.

DS 479 Robert Kerr, DS 886 Douglas Marshall, DC 985 Michael Wallace, DC 450 Brian Murray, DC 236 Mark Pollock, DC 1022 Amanda Spedding, DC 1540 John Paton, DC 908 Craig Wakefield in recognition of their efforts in the detection of numerous burglaries in 2005.

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