



Chief Constable's Report to the Police Authority



Monday 31st January 2005

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AREA COMMANDERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS – MONTHLY REPORTS

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Special Reports

Severe Weather 7/8th Jan 2005

On the weekend of 8 & 9 January 2005, flooding and severe weather across Cumbria, struck particularly hard in Carlisle, Keswick and Appleby. Within 36 hours there had been three fatalities, serious road and utility disruption across the County and well over six feet of floodwater in the Centre of Carlisle. Flood damage devastated thousands of homes in the city leaving many residents either homeless or in great peril.

Whilst the situation was severe across the County, Carlisle, in particular, became the focus of the emergency response due to the scale of the devastation and the potential threat to life necessitating an evacuation of the affected area. This was accomplished despite the fact the flooding rendered uninhabitable key buildings including the Civic Centre, Rickergate Police Station and Fire Station. A further complication was the lack of effective communications caused by the failure of the main power station, which was also under water at Willowholme, Carlisle.

Critical Phase – Command

As soon as the scale of potential impact of the weekend storms became apparent, the following policing measures were activated:-

- The Deputy Chief Constable, Christine Twigg, activated the County Emergency Plan, conferring with senior colleagues in Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, Cumbria Ambulance Service, Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council and other key partners. Gold Command was based at Police HQ in Penrith. DCC Mrs Twigg and ACC Graham Sunderland were the Gold Commanders. At this critical point the gold strategy was focussed on the protection of life and co-ordinated the emergency response across Cumbria initiating rescue work .
- A joint agency Silver Command was activated at The Castle, Carlisle to co-ordinate rescue services and public assistance.
- Specialist support was obtained from HM Coastguard, RAF and Army helicopters and experienced rescue co-ordinators from Merseyside and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services.
- Policing support for the City Centre was decanted to neighbouring police stations. Welsh Road LPT Base proved especially useful.

Critical Phase - Operational

- A temporary police post for public contact was established in English Street, Carlisle to serve the City Centre.
- Aid and Evacuation Centres were opened for members of the public and BBC local radio provided continuous public service reporting and announcements.
- An Enquiry Bureau was opened at Police HQ to manage public enquiries about missing persons and flood enquiries

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- Rescue and subsequent recovery measures were significantly hampered by the extensive blockages to roads caused by felled trees and flooding. The same difficulties faced communications, utility and transport services in their initial efforts to restore services to thousands of households
- Emergency Services rescue teams were assisted by numerous members of Cumbrian Mountain Rescue Teams throughout the critical phase.
- The M6 Motorway was closed at the northernmost Carlisle interchange due to a large number of HGV's being blown over on the carriageways. This left only one safe route remaining into the City.
- Despite HM Coastguard rescue boats being deployed in Carlisle City Centre, these were insufficient so a public appeal via BBC Radio Cumbria quickly provided at least six further small boats for rescue work.

Recovery Phase – Strategic

- Severe weather started to subside by Monday 10 January 2005 and a decision was made to hand over the recovery operation to the Public Authorities, Agencies and Utilities.
- Longer-term measures to minimise the disruption to normal policing operations caused by the flooded Police Station were initiated.

Recovery Phase – Operational

- Carlisle Police establish a City Centre public enquiry office in the Citadel, to replace the mobile police post
- Extra policing measures have been implemented to reassure the public, reduce the possibility of opportunistic crime and to focus upon the need to support flood affected communities
- Emergency supplies of police uniform and equipment were secured from both inside and outside the county
- Constabulary resources were prioritised to re-supply and support policing in Carlisle
- A Policing Recovery project team was created, led by ACC Neil Rhodes.
- The public are still receiving virtually the full range of policing services in Carlisle

Business as Usual

- Rickergate remains closed, but the public can visit the Citadel Police Office or their local LPT offices, as before.
- In an emergency the public must still dial 999 and will receive a priority response if required.
- For normal public enquiries, police telephone numbers remain the same
- The means of routine public contact with individual police officers has not changed – new lines of departmental communication are being established with key partners and agencies.
- Emergency arrangements are in place for Criminal Justice and support functions, with the full support and assistance of key partners.



A74 Fatal Incident Mossband Viaduct, 22nd December 2004

A double fatality occurred at approximately 03.45, Wednesday 22nd December 2004, on the A74 at the north end of Mossband Viaduct when a southbound HGV breached the central barrier, overturning as it did so, and crossed onto the northbound carriageway colliding with two northbound HGV's. The A74 was completely blocked as a result of the collision. The driver of the vehicle that crossed over was killed together with a passenger in the same vehicle.

A full closure of the M6 was implemented northbound at Junction 44 (Greymoorhill) and the Southbound A74 at Guards Mill. The southbound vehicle was laden with powdered paint, called 'Cromophtal', in plastic sacks. The powder contained a toxic chemical, which was an environmental hazard. A large number of the plastic sacks were damaged on impact causing a major spillage and contamination of the site.

A total of 23 persons came into contact with the chemical and were either taken to hospital or treated on/off site for mild nasal, skin and eye irritation. As a consequence of the number of people affected the Cumberland Infirmary declared a major incident.

The Fire Service evacuated the scene and placed an exclusion zone around the incident site at approximately 09.00 until further tests had taken place on the chemical.

A northbound diversion via the M62 and A1 was put in place. VMS signs on the M8 and A74 (M) south of Glasgow were showing A74 closed.

A Silver Command Centre was set up at Harker, Cumbria Emergency Planning Unit along with Dumfries and Galloway Council, opened emergency reception centres at William Howard School, Brampton and Lockerbie respectively at approximately 16.00 to provide a facility for motorists who had been delayed to have rest and refreshment.

Specialist sub-contractors arrived on site at approximately 16.00 in readiness to begin clean up of road surface and repair barriers once the Police had completed their tasks. However, this work did not start until 20.30 due to the complex nature of recovering the bodies and vehicles/loads.

The provision of a contra-flow on the southbound carriageway was not an option due to the restricted width of carriageway over Mossband Viaduct, the safety of the travelling public (damaged barrier).

Specialist sub-contractors commenced cleaning the carriageway at 20.30, once the full recovery had taken place. It was proposed to clear the southbound carriageway first and open up 1 lane to traffic. However, due to constraints imposed upon the sub-contractor in the method of working, the weather conditions and the physical difficulty in cleaning the carriageway it was not possible to open up 1 lane until 02.00.

Barrier repair to damaged section of central reserve barrier and further sections cut out for access for the emergency services commenced at 08.50 on the 23rd. Carriageway cleaning continued throughout the day. By 17.00, all works had been completed, but concern had been expressed about the condition of the surface. It



was therefore agreed to delay opening up the carriageway until an inspection had been completed. The engineer recommended the surface be heavily sanded prior to re-opening.

This was a complicated and difficult incident to deal with but in the interest of public safety necessitated the closure of the main North-South route for the time period taken to ensure that essential work was carried out to make it safe for road users.

A debrief is to take place with the Highways Agency and already it has stimulated some national debate in respect of simultaneous accidents on major routes and the implications for the road infrastructure.

The resources of the Constabulary managed the incident with assistance from Northumbria and Dumfries and Galloway Police Forces.



Area/Department	West Cumbria
Month	October – December 2004

Crime Issues

- Operation Lara (Historical Baby Murder investigation), the coroner is now in possession of the completed file and the inquest date is anticipated within the New Year.
- Operation Barometer (1 & 2) – Both operations centred on the supply of class A drugs within Workington town. A total of 10 arrests were made in relation to the supply of controlled substances. Search warrants and a proactive stop and search policy were instrumental to the success of these operations.
- Operation Leprechaun – concerned the issues of burglary and theft within the Maryport LPT. Area Targeting Unit, Dog section, CID and local LPT staff combined in an effort to reduce the incidence of these crimes utilising surveillance, targeted patrols, stop and search and relevant investigation plans for reported crime.
- Operation Litre was the successful follow up phase to this operation, which involved the secondment of two Detectives to the Maryport LPT to provide investigative expertise and consistency for the ensuing investigations.
- Operation Vulture – initiated within Wigton LPT to address the rise in residential burglaries. The operation was similar in nature to Leprechaun given the success that had been achieved within Maryport.

Crime Reduction initiatives /issues:

- The high profile Nightsafe campaign has been conducted throughout this reporting period and will be formally reviewed in December. The campaign has revitalised the Pub Watch schemes throughout West Cumbria and enabled the Area to bring these schemes to a required standard. High profile prosecutions of establishments have provided a positive message to the community and have also led to a stronger partnership between the police and local businesses.
- Together Campaign - This national initiative was taken to heart within the Whitehaven LPT and became the foundation of all anti-social behaviour initiatives for the section. A representative from the Home Office attended the recent "Taking a Stand " awards ceremony where 4 Members of the public were recognised for their individual efforts in relation to anti-social behaviour. The efforts of the LPT have been formally recognised within the campaigns review document " One Year On " which dedicates a full page to the efforts and results achieved within the LPT.
- Financial Investigations - An officer has been seconded full time within Area to conduct these investigations. He secured the seizure of £47000 from a local target criminal, which received substantial media coverage and sent out a positive message to the community but also to those involved in crime. The

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area has nominated further officers to receive training into this type of investigation in an effort to build on our initial success.

Community Safety Issues:

- CDRP Audit - The respective groups within the CDRP spent September and October assessing their performance against the targets set three years ago. The statistical analysis of these results is completed and the CDRP is now using the SARA process to identify the key streams for the next strategy. Consultation on these streams commenced in November.
- Operation Lament – concerned the community impact following the death of a Cleator Moor man. The inquest passed without incident and all indications are that the tension has settled. A detailed diary of potential flashpoint dates is maintained and will be proactively managed.
- Casualty Reduction – The success of the initial Rural Speed Camera initiative established within the Cockermouth LPT led to the purchase of a similar camera by a community group within North Whitehaven LPT.



Area/ Department	South Cumbria
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Month	October – December 2005
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Crime Issues

- South Cumbria applied for first closure order on a crack house in Cumbria and magistrates have granted this.
- CID are currently investigating a series of eight burglaries The majority of premises targeted have been bungalows – a male person has now been arrested in connection with three of these burglaries and property recovered.
- A robbery occurred at Crooklands garage over the Christmas period when cash was stolen. Masked person entered shop and threatened attendant with golf club. Enquiries are continuing.
- Six warrants were executed resulting in five arrests three local prolific offenders were remanded in custody the other two remaining on curfew bail.
- 26-year-old female has made an allegation of being raped by two men on 27th December 2004 in Windermere. Two males from Merseyside area have been arrested and advice being sought from CPS.

Crime Reduction Initiatives/ Issues
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- Persistent & Prolific offenders (PPO's). Two meetings have taken place in Area where our PPO's have been discussed. We have identified 17 PPO's and graded them in respect of risk of re-offending into high, medium & low. We have identified lead agencies in respect of each and are in the process of developing a ' tactical menu ' in respect of how to respond to each of them.

Community Safety Issues

- The introduction of a permit system for access to Morecambe Bay across Holker estates land contributed to some cockling groups using the public access at Kents Bank near Grange. This generated considerable local concern and problems of noise, nuisance and obstruction that required regular police intervention. Work is on going to resolve this particular problem. In order to better co-ordinate cockling related activity between the police and the other agencies and to provide a more consistent approach, Constable Steve Helmsley has been seconded from within South Cumbria to work fulltime on cockling liaison for an initial period of 3 months. Police efforts to improve our knowledge of and contact with the minority ethnic groups involved in cockling continue. The development of a "drop - in" facility for the Chinese cocklers at Barrow has proved useful.



Area/Department Issues/Updates

- Class A drug supply remains a priority for South Cumbria. Financial year to date we are 30% up on the numbers of persons arrested in connection with supply compared with same period last year. A Drug Team has been created in Barrow to tackle the issues. Drug Dealers from outside the County continue to target South Cumbria, particularly Barrow. One recent warrant resulted in the arrest of a boy from Merseyside who had just turned 14 years of age now charged with supply offences. This illustrates that dealers will use couriers of any age.



Area/ Department	Operational Support
Month	October - December

Crime Issues

TSG

- Operation Boa – Ring of Steel West Cumbria (Targeting Violence and Crime)
- Pre Christmas Disorder patrols across the Force
- The Southern unit were involved in Operation Stop Out carrying out surveillance and searches resulting in seizure of 880 ecstasy tablets, 44 x LSD, 3 x 9oz bars of cannabis resin and property from various burglaries being recovered. A local man was arrested and charged.

MSG

- In this period, officers from Western MSG have arrested a total of 56 persons for various offences. Of these, 8 have been arrested in relation to violent crime – of note was the arrest of a male for an offence of GBH at a Working Men's Club at Whitehaven. This male had attacked a number of people with a spade and made good his escape in a car. The vehicle was stopped by MSG and the male arrested for the offence.
- A total of 3 fatal traffic collisions have occurred in the West Cumbria area, which have been investigated as potential unlawful killings. There have been an additional two fatal collisions within the HQ area one the November 27th on the A66 at Crackenthorpe also A686 at Edenhall on December 26th.

Specialist Crime Support Unit

- A Carlisle man was sentenced to ten years and 344 days in prison following a lengthy trial at Carlisle Crown Court when he was found guilty of conspiracy with another, to supply heroin in Cumbria. The Specialist Crime Support Unit, who carried out the lengthy investigation, seized half a kilo of heroin, which was destined for the streets of Cumbria during the investigation. This is the largest amount of heroin seized in Cumbria. During a hearing during the last week in December 2004 the offender was deemed to have benefited by £34,000 and an order was made against him.
- Following the forces first conviction for money laundering at Carlisle Crown Court, his honour Judge Batty awarded a £1Million confiscation order against the main defendant This was a protracted investigation carried out by the Specialist Crime Support Unit over a year, and involved enquires throughout the United Kingdom and Holland.
- Each year this Force, in common with other United Kingdom Forces receives hundreds of complaints about unsolicited approaches from West African organised criminals who are attempting to extort money from members of the public and bon fide businesses. The approaches are centred on requests to deposit vast sums of money in the victim's accounts in return for a large fee. The

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Specialist Crime Support Unit adopted a pro active approach to one such request and this resulted in an undercover operation at Heathrow airport London when a high level conspirator in one such team was arrested in the process of extorting money from a Cumbrian individual. This is the first time in this Country that a member of a West African fraud enterprise has been arrested during an attempt to extort money in such a manner. Interrogation of his lap top computer recovered during searches have revealed a network of criminality on an International scale that is being disseminated by the National Criminal Intelligence service to various Countries. The investigation has also revealed approximately eighty further victims in fifteen Countries and a substantial number of those persons have been traced and will form part of the prosecution pending at Carlisle Crown Court.

Crime Reduction Initiatives/ Issues

- MSG still continues to lead the way in respect of Operation Takeaway, and have now seized a total of 58 uninsured vehicles, 16 of which have been seized in this period. Information has been provided to a number of outside forces in relation to the operation. Officers were also filmed as part of the Crime fighter's television series seizing vehicles and this will be shown nationally in March 2005.
- Operation Velocity was run in November. This targeted driver behaviour on the A595 and A596 in the Wigton area, and was conducted as a response to two fatal collisions that had occurred in October. A total of 52 offenders were dealt with for a variety of traffic offences.
- The Christmas Drink Drive Campaign for the force was planned and co-ordinated by PS 615 Brown. High profile road checks were conducted on a twice-daily basis in West Cumbria, with approaching 1000 drivers being subject to a breath test.
- Officers from MSG HQ were involved in a multi agency operation with VOSA, and the Department of Work and Pensions targeting market traders. This resulted in 16 criminal offences being detected and 7 people identified as falsely claiming benefit.
- On the 26th November Operation Mermaid took place at the Harker weighbridge targeting offences committed by HGV's. 36 vehicles were stopped with 25 vehicles found to have offences.

Community Safety Issues

- PC Simon Taylor continues to carry out work in relation to the 'Cruise' phenomena that has emerged in West Cumbria. He recently completed a road safety lecture at Lakes College, West Cumbria aimed at young drivers. The content was frank and at times shocking, clearly making an effect on the audience.



Awards & Recognition

Certificates of Commendation

- Constable 751 Cleasby
 - Constable 194 McGinn
 - Inspector Mark Pannone
- ...are commended for their brave actions at the scene of a road traffic accident at Plumpton, near Penrith in July 2004.
- Constable 674 Morgan
 - Acting Sergeant 205 Patrick
- ... are commended for rescuing a man from the Irish sea at the Port of Workington on 1 August 2004. Both officers have also been awarded Parchment Certificates from the Royal Humane Society.
- Constable 179 Blackburn
- ...is commended for attempting to save the life of a man who had entered the River Kent at Kendal to rescue a child in August 2004.
- Detective Constable 79 Bird
 - Constable 251 Blyth
 - Constable 156 Cartmell
 - Detective Constable 431 Carton
 - Detective Constable 239 Elgey
 - Detective Constable 1591 Fitzgerald
 - Detective Constable 801 Hodgson
 - Detective Inspector S Holmes
 - Detective Constable 1040 Nazir
 - Detective Constable 1092 Rogerson
 - Detective Inspector P Stanfield
- ...are commended for their individual contributions to Operation Shadow, a covert drug investigation carried out in late 2003/early 2004, aimed at tackling the proliferation of street dealing in specific areas within Barrow in Furness.
- Detective Constable 242 Hartley
- ...is commended for his determination, commitment and file preparation, qualities which brought about guilty pleas from a gang of vicious criminals in February 2004.
- Constable 1162 Friend-Glover
- ...is commended for her highly determined and professional qualities, evident through the diverse duties she carries out as part of the Kendal Rural Local Policing Team.



Good Policing Awards

- Constable 593 Bailey
- Constable 1465 Tuer
...in recognition of their professionalism at an incident on Eden Bridge, Carlisle in August 2004.

- Constable 617 Whicker
...in recognition of defusing a potentially lethal situation at a school in Kirkby Lonsdale in May 2004.

- Constable 694 Tanner
...in recognition of his consistently high standard of work and exemplary personal qualities whilst carrying out his duties within the Criminal Justice Unit at Kendal.

- Constable 898 Dent
...in recognition of his hard work and commitment during Operation Mombassa, run to combat the supply of heroin by street level dealers in Carlisle.

- Constable 58 Glanville
- Constable 899 Whitfield
...in recognition of their patience and good communication skills which brought about a safe conclusion to an incident involving a student armed with a knife.

- Constable 153 Hamilton
...in recognition of his dedication and commitment to his role as the Community Officer for Ormsgill, Barrow.

- Constable 1778 Cole
...in recognition of assisting Constable Blackburn and attempting to save the life of a man who had entered the River Kent at Kendal to rescue a child in August 2004.

- Constable 1637 McEwan
...in recognition of his high standard of work since joining the Carlisle City Centre Local Policing Team in March 2004.

- Sergeant 736 Cameron
- Constable 1102 Maclean
- Inspector W Woan
...in recognition of their multi-agency approach to the policing of an International Evangelical Christian Convention, attended by members of the Gypsy Traveller Community, which was held in the summer of 2004 at Brougham, near Penrith.

- Detective Sergeant 123 Brown (investigation)
- Constable 821 Hollier (arrest)
- Detective Constable 450 Murray (investigation)
...in recognition of their high standard of work displayed during the arrest and investigation of offenders responsible for a number of burglaries in Burneside, South Cumbria, which subsequently led to their guilty pleas and imprisonment.

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Certificate of Merit

- Mr Roger Mallett
...in recognition of his consistently high quality of work as the Traffic Management Officer within the COPS Team for the South Cumbria Area.
- Mrs Christine E Gate
...in recognition of her instrumental skills in revising warrants systems, resulting in a significant improvement in West Area performance.
- Mr David Ian Wragg
...as Crime Scene Investigator, in recognition of the diligent and professional forensic evidence gathering skills he displayed at the Burneside burglary scene examinations, recovering evidence which proved to be crucial in securing the conviction of the offenders.

Certificate of Appreciation

- Mr Paul Penrice
...in recognition of rescuing a man from the Irish sea at the Port of Workington on 1 August 2004. Mr Penrice has also been awarded a Vellum Certificate from the Royal Humane Society.
- Mr John Appleby
...in recognition of his individual contribution to Operation Shadow.