

### Performance development issues in CO20 Territorial Support Group

The Territorial Support Group (TSG) exists to provide immediate and expert support to major incidents, public order and security patrols in London. To provide the level of service the people of London deserve, TSG officers are trained to a Level One standard. The TSG became an OCU in September 2000 and since that time the demand for services has increased. Since that time the TSG OCU has responded to many problems within the London, including high profile demonstrations, the Notting Hill Carnival and dealing with 7/7 demands to name but a few. To meet these demands innovative and flexible methods of providing TSG support have been introduced. Each Police Support Unit (PSU) will still have the necessary generic training, but the staff is drawn from throughout the OCU rather than from a single base as previously was the norm. This has reduced the cost of these events to the OCU and hence the Service.

The TSG Commissioner's Reserve is a Pan London Resource available to the Chief Inspector Information Room. Unless cancelled by the correct authority the TSG will provide a Commissioner's reserve each day with a minimum strength of 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 18 Constables for the following times:

1. 8am – 4pm
2. 10am – 6pm
3. 4pm – Midnight
4. 6pm – 2am
5. 8pm – 4am

Public Order Committee sets the standby level and there are five levels:

- Level One – Immediate
- Level Two – 15 Minutes
- Level Three – 30 Minutes
- Level Four – 1 Hour
- Level Five – 2 Hours

The Commissioners Reserve are an experienced resource who as well as being level one public order trained also have a command structure that provides effective supervision at incidents. The TSG supervisors are also able to provide tactical advice at such incidents and their expertise in such situations is vital. TSG officers are also trained to deal with CBRN incidents and are Street Aware Trained. When the Commissioners Reserve not deployed to incidents they are posted to priority Boroughs.

In the year to date the Commissioners Reserve have been called out 698 times to incidents that vary. The five main categories of callout are: Critical Incidents, Public Order, Terrorism, Rapid Entries, Searches and dealing with violent persons. The following are just a brief insight into the essential work carried out at some of these incidents.

In November TSG were called out to assist the duty officer at Charing Cross to carry out a level 1 entry after a male involved in a domestic incident took a large quantity of tablets and barricaded himself inside a bedroom with a knife. TSG removed the barricades and the male was safely detained and handed

over to local officers.

In August TSG 2 were called into Lambeth to deal with public order problems where local officers needed support. Apparently during an arrest, the arresting officers were surrounded and abused. There are high levels of community tension in area. When attempting to effect entry a small group of youths formed very quickly and were vocal. A few stones were thrown in police direction and bottles brandished. TSG helped to restore order in a professional and restrained manner.

In October, TSG4 were called out to Camden Borough regarding the alleged abduction and unlawful imprisonment of two males in a squat in Kentish Town Road. Victim stated that he and a friend had been approached by 15 males, assaulted and then taken against their will to a squat where they had been further assaulted. The informant made good his escape and alleged that his friend was still in the premises seriously injured and unconscious. The allegation had some degree of credibility due to the injuries sustained by the informant. Tactics deployed were a call out followed by a slow time entry in full protective clothing until persons on premises arrested and victim located. Six persons were arrested for assault and kidnapping.

These examples are just a small snap shot of the type of incident the TSG is expected to deal with. On these 648 occasions so far this year the incidents were beyond the capabilities of our borough colleagues in terms of resources and/or training. The conclusions of these incidents were brought about swiftly by TSG intervention. This allowed our colleagues on borough to resume normal service to their communities without the need for lists of unanswered calls or hotspots left unsecured. In fact, the boroughs requesting the TSG most for callouts are also our priority ones. So the Commissioners Reserve have played a part in reducing street crime in those areas by releasing borough officers at an early stage.

The TSG are a core element of policing the challenges that a capital city such as ours presents. The examples referred to exemplify how TSG officers are frequently assisting Borough colleagues with tasks that are beyond them and that without TSG support could have either escalated or had other serious consequences. Other core aspects of policing, particularly our ability to reduce crime and reassure the public would suffer without the presence, professionalism and fortitude of TSG officers.

#### TSG Community Engagement

The current TSG action plan shows an action under the 'together' priority to work with all our citizens, all our partners and all our colleagues to put the needs of individuals and communities first. This objective led to the following action: Each of the TSG bases to engage with a local priority borough, CPCG - Rec. 61 group. At the TSG half yearly review, each base gave a presentation on how far this action has progressed.

TSG 1 and TSG 2 have jointly engaged with the community groups from Ealing Borough. A Chief Inspector has become a member of the Ealing stop-

search monitoring group. This has proved to be useful in discussing both tactics and road closures with groups approaching religious festivals in the area. This early intervention in planning has stopped later problems developing with groups that can lead to increased tension. Presentations have been given on the work of the TSG to the PCCG for Ealing.

Members of this group have been taken out with the TSG so they can see first hand how officers deal with stop and search. This has helped diffuse many tensions and myths with regard to stop and search tactics. In this close working environment TSG has worked with Ealing Borough to produce a community impact assessment for the Somali community as TSG 1 and 2 were to be posted there under Operation Safer Streets.

In addition, officers from TSG2 have also assisted on Barnet Borough with the Jewish community in Golders Green and Hendon with conflicts arising from Eastern European migrants who are settling in the area. They have also carried out three schools visits and presentations - 2 x secondary and 1 primary. The last one was to Woodhouse School in Barnet in front of 150 pupils aged 14-16. This TSG base also had a stall at the Jewish fair in Barnet.

TSG 3 has attempted to engage with four borough community groups in their areas. These were Newham, Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Waltham Forest. The aim was to engage with the borough and the community groups to present TSG stop and search performance. To reassure the community, address concerns and listen to feedback with a view to improving service and performance.

In Newham, there was a well-established monitoring group. TSG 3 attended their first meeting in August. It was a very positive meeting and good feedback was received from the attendees and the borough. No areas of concerns were raised. TSG3 were invited back to attend quarterly meetings.

In Waltham Forest, the stop search monitoring group has recently been re-established. TSG 3 attended the meeting and performance was presented that received positive responses. The TSG and other specialist units are to be invited back to the meetings on occasional basis.

In Tower Hamlets, the Borough Liaison Officer (BLO) sits on the monitoring group. The TSG role at this stage is to visit local youth groups seeking feedback and explaining stop and search tactics. At this stage the borough do not want TSG attendance at this phase of process but will make contact again when formal meetings are re-introduced.

In Hackney, there is no formal stop search-monitoring group although the Safer Neighbourhood Chief Inspector is attempting to reintroduce one. TSG3 will be invited to give presentation when re-established.

TSG 4 has engaged with both Lewisham and Southwark boroughs and was the pilot for this type of interaction with the community. This began with TSG

attending a meeting of the Lewisham REC 61 Group at which they provided statistics on stop and search. They have also met with the chair of Southwark stop and search group and become involved in a youth involvement programme.

Throughout the year, officers from TSG4 have attended schools and youth summer initiatives at the request of the council with support from the BOCU Superintendent. Also TSG4 have been involved with a youth project in the inner cities called 'Second Wave' These interactions involve officers listening to the young persons from both boroughs talking about their experiences of stop and search. The officers then give explanations of the necessity and reasons for why and how they carry out such operations. The feedback from such meetings had been very positive. TSG4 have also now been at Southwark REC61 meeting.

TSG5 has engaged with the Lambeth Borough stop and search forum. They have attended meetings along with the local Superintendent and Chief Inspector, Community. These are irregular meetings. One of the attendees is a representative for youth community projects and he and two youth workers were engaged in insight patrols with the TSG in April and July. In April, they went out on a carrier and the first stops carried out ended with two arrests. In July, they travelled in a police vehicle following the carrier. However, the group did not feel as exposed and in future they will be on the carrier.

The TSG stop search data was presented to the group and were impressed with the success rate achieved by TSG officers.

This objective will continue on throughout the year and is an example of TSG recognizing the need to ensure the impact of their tactics on a community is explained and understood by all groups particularly the young. The impact made by the TSG on the areas they are posted to can be significant. More than 45,000 stops a year are conducted, with an arrest rate of over 30% will register with communities and those that act for them. It is therefore vital that TSG is both sympathetic to the needs of the population where they work and are able to explain the tactics they use and why they do things. It was with these intentions in mind that, at the beginning of the year, each base was set objectives to make and maintain community contact in the areas they work.

#### CO20 Territorial Support Group headline performance

<b>Arrests</b>		<b>Stop and search</b>	
Street Crime	519	Stops	40,749
Burglary	250	Arrests from stops	11,810
Offensive Weapon	1,020	Arrest rate	29%
Other Arrests	13,349		
Total Arrests	15,138		

## Glossary of abbreviations

ANPR	Automated Number Plate Recognition
ARV	Armed Response Vehicle
ASU	Air Support Unit
BOCU	Borough Operational Command Unit
BTP	British Transport Police
CEC	Character Enquiries Centre
CJU	Criminal Justice Unit
CO	Central Operations
CO4	Disclosure Service OCU
CO10	Central Communications Command Unit
CO11	Public Order Branch OCU
CO12	Olympics OCU
CO14	Clubs and Vice OCU
CO15	Traffic OCU
CO16	Centralised Traffic Criminal Justice OCU
CO17	Transport OCU
CO19	Force Firearms OCU
CO20	Territorial Support Group OCU
CO MMR	Central Operations Monthly Management Report
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
CSS	Customer Satisfaction Survey
DAC	Deputy Assistant Commissioner
DAC CO	Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Central Operations
DSU	Dog Support Unit
EWMS	Electronic Warrants Management System
FET	Firearms Enquiry Team
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
LOCOG	London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games
LSPC	London Safety Camera Safety Partnership
MMR	Monthly Management Report
MoPI	Management of Police Information
MPA	Metropolitan Police Authority
MPS	Metropolitan Police Service
MSU	Marine Support Unit
NIPs	Notices of Intended Prosecution
NSY	New Scotland Yard
OCU	Operational Command Unit
ODA	Olympic Delivery Authority
PA	Public Announcement
PC	Police Constable
PCN	Penalty Charge Notice
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PND	Penalty Notice for Disorder
PPAF	Policing Performance Assessment Framework
PSA	Public Service Agreement

RPI	Revenue Protection Inspector
SFO	Specialist Firearms Officer
SLA	Service Level Agreement
TCJ	Traffic Criminal Justice
TDA	Taking and Driving Away
TOCU	Transport Operational Command Unit
TRRL	Traffic and Roads Research Laboratory
TSG	Territorial Support Group
TST	Tactical Support Team
UCSST	Underwater and Confined Space Search Team