



Specialist Crime Directorate / Cross-Border & Organised Crime OCU

London's Gun-Enabled Crime

Definition

- *Gun crime is defined as any offence involving the use or threat of a firearm of any description in the commission of offences within the following categories: murder, assault, sexual offences, harassment, robbery, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods.*

Background

- London saw a dramatic increase in gun crime during the final months' of 2001-2002, with a 33% rise in offences over the previous year. In response, MPS identified 10 'Hot-Spot' boroughs and concentrated on these together with the support of local communities. The result was to inhibit the increase in 2002 - 2003 to just 3%.
- For 2002/2003 an objective target was set to reduce the rate of increase to a maximum of 10%. As the result of concerted efforts by the MPS, concentrating on gun crime hotspots with the support of local communities, the level of increase for the year was limited to 3%.
- MPS is now following a specific strategy to ensure the Service benefits from a synergy amongst Boroughs, Specialist Crime Units and the Force Firearms Unit to deliver reductions in gun crime. The picture since has been a failing trend.
- The Specialist Crime Directorate has responsibility for two of these major components in the Met's assault on gun enabled crime. SCD7(5) - the Flying Squad and SCD8 - Trident OCU - are both poised ready at the delivery point.
- In January 2004 the Shootings Team moved from SCD7 to SCD8 to enable the expertise gained by Trident to assist with other shootings investigations - Operation Trafalgar.

Some Facts & Figures:

SW7(5) Flying Squad

- In 2003 the Flying Squad achieved a reduction in commercial robbery offences of 34%.
- Robbery offences at Banks and Building Societies were reduced by a staggering 79%.
- In 2003 SCD7 officers conducted 583 armed deployments an increase of 21% on the previous year.
- In the last 18 months, due to direct or indirect intervention, SCD7 have prevented 52 possible murders
- Since April 2003, SCD7 have seized 132 firearms and ammunition, an increase of 25% on the previous year.
- One operation involved the arrest of 18 persons suspected of 36 shootings and the recovery of 7 semi-automatic firearms (3 loaded), one loaded revolver, one Uzi machine gun and one shotgun. This resulted in a 50% reduction in reported gun crime in Hackney in July 2003
- In another operation over 100 firearms and ammunition were recovered from an armourer's address in South London. The workshop and production premises were uncovered. Enquiries confirmed that this was a major distribution network for firearms to criminals throughout the UK that had existed for a number of years.
- Between 2003 and 2004 there has been a 50% reduction in attempted murder and a decrease of 27% in all non-Trident related shootings - now SCD8 Trafalgar.

SCD8 Trident (focused on gun crime in the 'black' community)

- At the end of 2003, trident had delivered a 38% decrease in murders compared to 2002 and a 36% decrease in attempted murders.
- Even more significantly, in financial year 2003104, we are delivering a staggering 42% decrease in murder.
- Clear up rate for murder is currently 130%.
- During 2003, 10 Trident suspects were given life sentences for murder compared to 4 in 2002.
- During the summer of 2003 no Trident murder was carried out over three months anywhere in London.
- In 2003, Trident seized 556 firearms, converted firearms or firearms at various stages of conversion and took out three conversion factories.
- Persons arrested by Trident in 2003 were sentenced to a total of 736 years imprisonment.
- In the first two weeks of January 2004, Trident seized 4 firearms and 45 kilos of Class A drugs.

SCD8 Trafalgar (focused on gun crime in all other communities)

For the financial year 200312004 there has been a reduction of 31% in Trafalgar shootings.

SCD8 overall seized 9 firearms in January 2004.