



Policing at its Genesis

By Tomas Sanchez, IPA USA Region 11



The first paid law enforcement were night watchmen in London 1663. The watchmen conducted street foot patrol, augmenting the force of unpaid constables. During the week of September 23, I had the rare opportunity to experience modern policing at its genesis. Region 9 of the International Police Association (IPA), Hertfordshire branch, United Kingdom selected two members from IPA U.S.A. for an international work experience program with British policing. In the last few years they have had officers from Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Ukraine and Russia.

When I was selected, I was surprised and proud to represent United States policing. The other American was Police Science Instructor John Flannery from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. John who has British roots was quite at home in the UK. We had much in common with police training and became friends during the week together.



The visit was organized by IPA Hertfordshire Chairman Mark Bullen who was outstanding and responsive to all our needs. Chairman Bullen was a great ambassador for European Policing and British Policing in particular. His ability to provide information on European culture was insightful for us as visitors. The other hosts were Superintendent Simon Hawkins, PC Dean Watson and PC Chris Cowell. PC Cowell provided information from a patrol perspective and PC Watson on community policing and problem solving initiatives in communities. Each of these constables selflessly gave of their week to provide an unmatched international policing experience.

Superintendent Hawkins provided insight and an opportunity to examine areas I was interested in from a counterpart commander perspective. Superintendent Hawkins was responsible for handling one of the 2012

Olympics venues and explained the need for advanced planning, operations tracking and detail orientation. Based on my command, I was most interested in; police leadership training, CCTV, ANPR, Neighborhood Policing, Intelligence-led Policing and its application.



The visit started on Monday by meeting the Mayor of Hertford Patricia Moore, with the past Mayor David Poole and the Town Clerk Nina Villa at Hertford Castle. A traditional English lunch (tea, sandwiches and desert) was awaiting us at the castle. The royal treatment we received at the castle was certainly foreign since I usually have to pay admission to enter such a historic site. After lunch Mr. Poole gave us a tour of Hertford Castle which was built around 911AD.



Tuesday morning we visited Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters and met with Deputy Chief Constable Andy Adams. Chief Adams gave us a briefing of countywide deployment and operations. Here, we visited the County Emergency Services 999 (911 in USA) and observed dispatch in action. We witnessed the integration of monitoring CCTV and stationary license plate readers into dispatch along with the use of officer and vehicle GPS. The 999 service is the oldest emergency telephone service in the world. Police boxes were introduced in London around 1930 and the public could also use it for emergencies.

We then drove to London and met with Specialist Crime Operations Detective Inspector Sav Kyriakou who

commands the Dignitary Protection Unit. He arranged a visit to the Prime Minister's office at 10 Downey Street, one of the most famous addresses in the world.



Afterwards, Sav gave us a tour of New Scotland Yard crime directorate where he works. We also toured the exclusive Scotland Yard Crime Museum, and yes we found out the identity of Jack the Ripper! In the evening we witnessed the Key Ceremony by Military Soldiers at the Tower of London.

On Wednesday, I met with Detective Constable Inspector Mick Neville in charge of the Metropolitan Police Central Forensic Image Team at Scotland Yard. Mick explained how they manage CCTV images to recover evidence, make identifications of suspects and disseminate intelligence. *The Forensic Image Linking & Management (FILM)* does some remarkable work in identifying suspects caught on CCTV. *Face Watch* is utilized by the public to upload images captured from their private CCTV or electronic devices. It is then run through police database and published on their Crime Stoppers website. Another program is *Caught on Camera* which is used to generate flyers, wanted posters and distributes to officers in the affected area.

The Forensic Image Team has search programs for clothing and logo match. Statistically in London the use of CCTV has shown to solve crime four times more than without CCTV. It is also eight times cheaper than DNA or fingerprint identification according to their research. DNA is



collected at booking for each arrestee, along with shoe footprints. Burglaries are processed for footprints by Crime Scene Units. For robbery victims that have been grabbed by the perpetrator, the area is swabbed for DNA evidence. The United Kingdom appears to be the leaders in the world on utilization of forensic evidence.

After spending the morning in Scotland Yard, Simon and I met with commanders at the Metropolitan Police Headquarters. This building is thirty floors high and has a great view from the rooftop restaurant where we had lunch. They have a police museum and the curator noticed my curiosity and brought out a walking stick belonging to Sir Robert Peele, to shock my historical appetite. Peel established the Metropolitan Police Force for London in 1829 with 1,000 constables. Peel's methods proved successful in reducing crime and he is considered the father of modern policing. By 1857 all cities in the UK had followed and formed their own police forces.



We spent Thursday with the Air Support Unit conducting helicopter patrols over London targeting hot-spots and backing-up officers. The Air Support Unit was

fantastic in their hospitality. The technology on the aircraft was incredible; from one thousand feet up they could zoom-in on the items in a person's hand. Vehicular license plate checks are also possible from these ranges. I was able to get some great pictures flying over London in-between holding on during G-force turns! In the evening, we rode with Automatic Number Plate Recognition Traffic Units (ANPR). They use hot-spotting to determine areas of focus.



On Friday, we attended training at the Metropolitan Police Specialist Training Center in Gravesend, Kent. We joined the Metropolitan Police Territorial Support Group in Public Order Training. Public Order handles riots and large disturbances and has 5,000 officers who receive six weeks of training. Their civil disorder training was very realistic and held in a large mock inner city facility. I found their shields to be versatile and the tactics effective. They use fire retardant uniforms and equipment. At the end of the morning training we experienced being hit with Petro Bombs (Molotov Cocktails). After being hit with two Petro Bombs simultaneously, I was engulfed in flames. Thank goodness their equipment worked for this warm welcome!



Friday night we utilized the training learned to go out with the Public Order Squad of Stevenage Police Station until 0300hrs. We had to arrest a number of persons who were fighting and causing disturbances at the many pubs. All I can say is the Brits love to drink alcohol and some to inebriation.

Saturday we visited the Imperial War Museum in Duxford England. This is Britain's largest aviation museum, including nearly 200 aircraft, military vehicles, artillery and naval vessels in seven exhibition buildings. In the afternoon, our British counterparts took us to visit Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial. It was opened in 1956, and commemorates the American servicemen who died in World War II. It is maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The remaining time was spent doing ride-alongs with patrol officers. Their community policing and problem oriented policing was exceptional. An American colleague described his experience with Metropolitan

Police as "Community Policing on steroids". At the 2012 Problem Oriented Policing Conference in Providence, RI most top awards were won by UK policing departments.



On our last night, IPA Hertfordshire branch and IPA Thames Valley branch members had a going away party for us at the Victoria pub. Over forty IPA members were in attendance along with four Special Agents from the U.S. Air Force stationed in the UK. Several individuals received recognized for reaching FIFTY years as IPA members. It was a heartfelt event with stories from the past. John and I received many gifts and everyone made us feel so welcomed. We established new friendships. IPA founder Arthur Troop would have been very proud of the hospitality and service provided by his fellow IPA countrymen. No wonder IPA's genesis is the UK.

I am very grateful to the IPA for this unforgettable experience. This opportunity to learn and experience police work in the UK has expanded my knowledge and perspective of the capabilities of policing. The visions we create today are tomorrow's reality.

Servo Per Amikeco

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