

## **Stirling police**

### **Interview with ACC Norma Graham and Superintendent Andy Barker**

**21 Jan 04**

- 1) Toni might call the police as soon as she believes a crime has been committed, i.e. suspects that Michael Ross stole the missing drugs. Alternatively, she could call at a later stage. *This will have been decided in advance.* The police would know that there was a site in their area where biohazardous materials are dealt with. They would have met with the company long ago and agreed a protocol for dealing with biohazard. At police headquarters there would be a commander (probably a superintendent) with responsibility for CBRN—chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.
- 2) The likeliest moment for things to go wrong is in the first hour—Golden Hour—or even the first minute. Non-identification or wrong identification of the hazard. Toni's phone call will be answered by a PC or even a civilian communications operator. This person could fail to recognise the incident for what it is and delay the implementation of the agreed plan. However, there would be a high local awareness of the existence of the lab, so this is unlikely.
  - a) (If she had dialled 999, she would first have got a BT operator, who would have connected her with the appropriate service, and she would get a sergeant.)
- 3) The first step would be to send a patrol car to the scene to verify the details. Two or more police officers, plus a detective to look at a dead body.
- 4) Now or possibly after the patrol car has reported in, HQ would implement the agreed emergency plan. This would be a pre-set screen on the command and control network.
- 5) HQ would notify the CBRN commander and the Harbourmouth Health Board (which would be the lead agency). They too would have a plan, or rather a role in the previously agreed plan. They would have a predetermined person to co-ordinate. This would be a consultant in public health medicine.
- 6) An Inspector would be sent to the scene. The immediate responsibility of the police would be to secure the area and prevent public access; ensure that the virus cannot spread by for example air ducts; and ensure that persons who might have been contaminated remain at the scene and do not leave.
- 7) The CBRN commander would go to the site where there would be a meeting of all involved parties, in this case Health Board, police, and the company.
  - a) The murder inquiry would unquestionably take second place to the public safety priority. The police duty under the Scotland Act is to "guard, watch and patrol to preserve life".
- 8) Staffing at Stirling police HQ at 2am on Xmas Day would be 1 inspector, 2 sergeants and 6 constables. There would also be a duty superintendent on call. There would be 20-30 officers on duty at distant outposts, and that's it. However, they would quickly call in many more personnel to deal with an incident such as this. "All hands to the pump." The on-call superintendent would phone the CBRN commander, who would notify the Assistant Chief Constable, who would probably notify the chief constable.
- 9) As soon as it became known that firearms had been used, the situation would change. Unarmed officers would be told to watch for the getaway vehicle but *not* to attempt to stop it. Instead, keep it under observation from a safe distance.

- 10) Stirling police do not have 24-hour armed response capability. (Glasgow has an armed response vehicle with the guns in the back.) Firearms-trained officers would have to be called in, taken to the armory, equipped, briefed. This would take at least 1-2 hours.
- 11) Police would not initially follow the snowplough. They would set up static patrols at key road junctions. They would also alert neighbouring police forces. Even though the gang have switched vehicles, a car with four people in it would be unusual enough to attract attention. The registration could quickly be checked to show whether the car was either stolen or rented.
- 12) Road clearing is the responsibility of local councils and the Highways Department. They would normally cooperate with police requests, but it is not guaranteed and might depend who answered the phone.
  - a) For example, if the police received a phone call from a stranded motorist with a medical emergency, they would have to try to get to the car.
- 13) The police would not do more without further intelligence. Information would be their top priority at this stage—especially with firearms involved. They would try to find out where the gang were and what they were doing. **They might send the snowplough with officers dressed as road clearers for a look.**
- 14) There might be involvement by the Justice Department in Edinburgh, but terrorism is reserved to Westminster, so the Cabinet office is the likeliest.
- 15) Glasgow police have one helicopter. But in this situation military helicopters from either Prestwich or HMS Gannet are 40 minutes away. The Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBRA) would be able to make this happen.