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Petra Taskforce

Steering Committee Update: 22 March 2010

Op. LORIS

Investigation relating to double murder of Terence and Christine HODSON.

Updates (as per Interpose) –

Form 10A received from defendant – DALE. 25 witnesses requested, including [REDACTED] and Witness F.

Form 10A received from defendant – COLLINS. 18 witnesses requested.

Committal commenced - 9 March 2010.

Three members, Detective Sergeant Solomon and Senior Detectives Davey and Simpson will run committal for duration.

All subpoena required material served – 32 volumes.

Expect to be served with more subpoenas.

After two sitting weeks, committal has not technically commenced and no witnesses have given actual evidence in relation to the charges.

Committal hearing has been adjourned until 30 March 2010 where further subpoena argument will commence. Committal bogged down with these issues; I gave evidence for day and a half (last Thursday & Friday) in answer to five specific documents.

Major subpoena issue is the [REDACTED] matter – have been accused of deceptive conduct and withholding documents in relation to this.

Not expected to get to witnesses until 12 April 2010. [REDACTED] rebooked for [REDACTED]

Hearing on Friday 12 & Monday 15 March by counsel for Witness F, seeking application for 'F' be excused from giving evidence. Magistrate rejected affidavit and instructed that witnesses attend. Called three doctors who gave evidence and as a result, Magistrate refused to set subpoena aside but adjourned her evidence until 17 June. He also instructed that the court be supplied with regular medical reports.

Likely scenario is that all witnesses will give evidence and committal will be adjourned until 'F' is called.

In relation to [REDACTED] application by the Crown will be heard in the Supreme Court today regarding appeal against the non-granting of suppression order by Magistrate. Lawyers for press and defence granted leave to appear.

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Dale Bail Application

Application for bail refused by Justice Byrne in Supreme on 10 August 2009. Found that he was an unacceptable risk in relation to witnesses.

Application for leave to appeal heard by Court of Appeal on 11 September 2009. Granted appeal and proceeded to grant bail on following conditions;

- Two sureties in the sum of \$500,000
- Reside at home address.
- Surrender passport etc
- Report daily to Wangaratta between 6.00 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- No contact with witnesses or current serving police members.

OPP comment that there are no grounds for appealing decision

Discussions completed with Acting Superintendent Rotherham and Divisional Instruction promulgated.

No issues known in relation to compliance with Divisional Instruction.

[REDACTED]

- Ongoing negotiations continuing with [REDACTED] in relation to the provision of further statements. He has recently commented that he will consider it after committal.
- Ongoing contact by myself with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] has provided a signed statement and will be a required witness for the committal.
- Risk Assessment has been prepared in relation to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] concerns held due to common knowledge of [REDACTED]'s home address and phone number – request to be submitted to have [REDACTED] temporarily relocated from home address to [REDACTED] location in week leading up to committal and him giving evidence.
- Williams [REDACTED] on 27 – 28 February 2010 for the purposes of pre committal preparation with OPP prosecution team. Taken to [REDACTED] area with [REDACTED]. I remained overnight with both [REDACTED]; returned to [REDACTED] 11.00 a.m. on 28 February.
- [REDACTED] remains at home address; will not [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] has been kept apprised of committal and remains prepared to give evidence. Level of co operation may change dependant on success of suppression order hearing in Supreme Court.

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Witness 'F'

- Op. QUEAZY commenced re threats to Witness F.
- **Is still refusing to make second statement.**
- Ongoing discussions between F and VGSO via letters.
- F Advised by OPP that supportive medical evidence is required to be produced before being excused from giving evidence.
- **F still residing at home address.**
- **Petra still has no current contact with F as per her demands in letters received.** *→ cons off on risk...*
- **F is currently contacting or attempting to contact Briars and Purana members.**
- *Refer to previous comments in this report regarding her status as subpoenaed witness.*
- (Ref: to letter from F dated 19 March re accommodation and risk issues).

Op. BERIME

Investigation relating to double murder of Ramon and Dorothy ABBEY. Offender – Rodney COLLINS, charged with Murder (2 counts)

COLLINS trial commenced 8 October 2009.

COLLINS convicted – 2 counts murder.

Awaiting Sentencing – Plea hearing adjourned from 18 February as Collins has sacked counsel. No new date at this time.

Op. HETMAN

Armed Robbery / Serious injury shooting on 14th May 1987 at Samco Meats 5 Lyon St, Coburg North. Suspects: Ray ABBEY (deceased) and Rodney COLLINS.

Trial Date – 3 May 2010 (3 weeks)

Op. MINCER

Investigation into the murder of Brian KANE in November 1982 at the Quarry Hotel, Lygon Street, Brunswick. Two unknown males, wearing balaclavas, observed committing the murder. Nominated Suspects – Russell COX and Rodney COLLINS.

- Witness – [REDACTED] – has provided information that COLLINS admitted involvement, with COX, in the murder. Statement obtained from [REDACTED]
 - Nominates COLLINS and COX, COLLINS as the “shooter”
 - COLLINS admits to murder [REDACTED]

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- Describes background / lead up to the murder and the associations of those involved.
- Telephone Intercept on Mobile phone commenced 21 August. Cox uses a number of different aliases and appears to be involved in building industry in some capacity.
- LD installation occurred on 09 October 2009. Being monitored from St Kilda Road with assistance from monitoring staff.
- Media release (together with reward increase) conducted on 21 October 2009. Some activity on LD and several CrimeStoppers IR's, nil evidentiary.
- POI canvass commenced, good intelligence gained at this time; nil evidentiary statements.
- Installation of LD in vehicle on 22 November 2009.
- TI / LD monitoring continuing – intell only.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- ESD Surveillance being utilised yesterday and today to confirm movements to and from address.
- Propose installation of LD at above address and TI on [REDACTED] mobile phone.
- **Intend to proceed with [REDACTED] LD and TI but h [REDACTED]**
- **Three members travelled to Qld today and will;**
 - **Interview a number of POI's**
 - **Retrieve LD from Cox home and car.**
 - **Formally interview Cox in relation to Kane murder.**

HEFTI FILE

On 11 July 1988, Dominic Hefti was employed as an Armaguard security officer assigned to an armoured vehicle delivering a payroll to the Coles New World Shopping Centre Barkley Square Brunswick. Hefti was ambushed and fatally shot by Santo Mercuri. Mercuri was later arrested, charged and convicted of this murder.

Advice received is that Cox was involved in the preparation and planning of the armed robbery but never interviewed or charged. Further advice is that evidence exists linking Cox to the armed robbery and possibly the murder.

Full review of file commenced by Detective Sergeant Horan. Liaison with OPP commenced. Linking this in to Op Mincer strategies.

Review of file concluded.

Identified evidence of Raymond Denning (deceased). Denning made statement against Mark Moran (deceased) and Russell Cox implicating them in the Hefti murder.

Submission prepared and forwarded to the OPP to have this evidence admitted under the Uniform Evidence Act 2008. Advice from OPP that evidence of Denning admissible against Cox for murder and armed robbery.

net. Wed 1. Aug.
Q. Pol. day 1 Aug.
security

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ISSUE – currently have four members working on Kane and Hefti murders. One member, D/Sgt Kos commences Advanced DTS next Monday.

Request for one additional member to transfer to Petra to assist with these investigations.

Requirement to;

HEFTI

- Complete review of Hefti (and Graeme Jensen) file – 32 boxes remaining.
- Review of forensic examination of exhibits; some exhibits not examined.
- Interview of witnesses and re interview of other witnesses.
- Commence compilation of brief against Cox.

KANE

- Manage conduct [REDACTED]
- Manage existing TI's and LD's and review discs.
- Complete POI canvassing.
- Manage installation of [REDACTED] LD, [REDACTED] TI and preparation of affidavits re same.

Nil update re above – but have been advised that one vacancy will be filled on 19 April.

← by [REDACTED] sp = Crime Dept.
(in gazette today).

Op. DANDER

Investigation into the unlawful dissemination of SSU document

Investigation report completed and submitted with Operation Plyers with recommendations, namely;

- (i) Operations Dander and Plyers are no longer actively investigated by the Petra Taskforce as all possible avenues of inquiry have been exhausted.
- (ii) That recommendation (i) be ratified by the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee following perusal of the attached final reports.
- (iii) That consideration be given for the investigations to be transferred to the Ethical Standards Department for review.
- (iv) That a formal debriefing occur at an appropriate time and that a representative from all police units involved attend, as well a senior representatives from supporting and external agencies.
- (v) That any formal recommendations arising from debrief be recorded and forwarded to the Executive of each involved agency.

Final investigation report completed and forwarded to OPI following ESD review.

Operation KRISES

Investigation targeting – Darren HAFNER

Committal – 21 October 2009 (4 days)

- Hafner committal in relation to armed robbery on postal van conducted on 02 September. Hafner discharged due to three witnesses not swearing up to statements, nil costs; obvious interference from Hafner and wife Biliana.
- Hafner and wife Biliana formally interviewed and charged with Pervert the Course of Justice and Incitement to Pervert, Hafner remanded and Biliana bailed.
- Hafner directly presently for trial on armed robbery charge.
- 10 other accused committal for trial on various drug and deception, theft charges

Op. PLYERS

Investigation into the unlawful dissemination of document to Mohammed OUIEDA

See Operation Dander

Op. QUEAZY

Threats received via phone by Witness F.

On 26 May 2009, Witness F received 4 SMS text messages, between 1.58 pm and 6.03 pm, which contained threats to the life of the witness.

Final investigation report to be submitted. Unable to identity person responsible for sending threat SMS's.

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Personnel issues

- D/Sgt Julian Horan Belier TF has commenced at Petra Taskforce.
- S/D Shepherd Belier TF commenced at Petra on 15 February 2010.
- S/D Morse transferred to Region 1 Sergeant position on 01 February, 2010.
- S/D Arnell commenced 6 month secondment to DTS on 01 February 2010. **Has been advised that she is preferred applicant for Sgt's position at SPU.**
- S/D Nicholson commenced 6 months LSL on 28 February 2010.
- Two members (Kos & Hansen) remain on secondment from ESD.

Currently carrying two vacancies plus one seconded and one LSL.

The authorised strength of the Petra Taskforce is

- 1 x Detective Inspector
- 1 x Detective Senior Sergeant
- 2 x Detective Sergeants
- 8 x Detective Senior Constables
- 1 x TIO

Currently carrying two vacancies with one secondment.

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Establishment Profile		Schedule		
INSP	1	In position		Where possible, please insert a comment when using these colour codes
S/SGT	1	Assigned In		
SGT	2	Assigned Out		
S/CONS	8	Vacancy		
TOTAL	12	Long Term Absent		
		Upgraded		
Workgroup Manager				
SENSUPVR 147	Det Insp SMITH			
Detective Senior Sergeant				
SENSUPVR 239	Det. S/Sgt. O'CONNELL 23964			
Crime 401				
SUPERVSR 614	Det. Sgt. SOLOMON 21136			
DETECTVE 181	D/S/C C. ARNELL 32543 [SECONDED]			
DETECTVE 878	Det. S/C DAVEY 29012			
DETECTVE 211	VACANT			
DETECTVE 161	Det. S/C NICHOLSEN 32162			
Crime 402				
SUPINVST 44	Det. Sgt. HORAN 27520			
DETECTVE 197	Det. S/C CHADWICK 32155			
DETECTVE 1081	Det. S/C SHEPPARD 31140			
DETECTVE 148	Det. S/C SIMPSON 30229			
DETECTVE 228	VACANT			
Crime 403				
	Det. Sgt. KOS 25592			
	Det. S/C HANSEN 31663			