



To: Richmond City Council **Date:** January 22, 2008
From: Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt, Chair **File:** 09-5350-12/2008-Vol
Community Safety Committee 01
Re: **LOWER MAINLAND DISTRICT - IHIT AND ERT 2006 ANNUAL
REPORTS**

The Community Safety Committee, at its meeting held on January 15, 2008, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

That:

- (1) the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team and Emergency Response Team 2006 Annual Report be received for information; and*
- (2) the LMD be requested to provide statistics regarding average response time and general patrol time per municipality immediately and in the next ERT annual report.*

Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt, Chair
Community Safety Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that Committee added the words *immediately and* to Part (2).

Staff Report

Origin

The Lower Mainland District has committed to providing reports on its integrated teams annually to municipalities. There are two reports which have been forwarded to the City – the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team 2006 Annual Report (Attachment 1), and the Emergency Response Team 2006 Annual Report (Attachment 2).

The following report provides a brief commentary on each report.

Analysis

Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT)

IHIT was the first regional initiative implemented by the LMD. It is in its fourth year of operation. This is the second report produced by IHIT. Its purpose is to provide an overview of the past year's activities, thereby ensuring accountability to the funding partners.

The following table shows indicators for 2003 to 2006:

| Performance Measures | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Homicide Clearance Rate | 80% | 77% | 68% | 62% |
| Budget | 6,155,277 | 7,550,000 | 8,995,691 | 9,315,000 |
| Actuals | 5,750,782 | 7,932,932 | 8,684,885 | 9,161,193 |
| Number of Homicides* | 26 | 36 | 53 | 43 |
| Number of Other Serious Offences Investigated | 25 | 22 | 34 | 17 |

* This represents the number of incidents, there may be more than one victim involved in an incident.

Wayne Rideout, the IHIT OIC has stated that, "while IHIT cannot guarantee the resolution of all murders, it can guarantee that a consistent pool of experienced investigators will respond with the appropriate investigative structure. Homicides are expensive investigations and they represent extreme financial pressures for individual agencies." IHIT also ensures that a detachment's resources do not have to be diverted from their regular policing duties to investigate a homicide. Superintendent Rideout also advised that the decrease in the clearance rate in 2006 is attributable to the increasing complexity of homicide investigations. Many of the files were high profile investigations that involved teams of investigators occupied for long periods of time.

IHIT currently has 76 investigators, with a further 8 being added in 2008 (the business case for the increases was provided to Council and approved in 2006). IHIT has a stable workforce which can attract and retain highly qualified officers from both RCMP detachments and independent police forces. At the CAO/PPC meeting held in December, staff were informed that West Vancouver Police Department had withdrawn from IHIT (this is the equivalent of one member), however Delta Police Department has recommended joining IHIT and is awaiting the decision of Delta Council.

With the exception of 2004, IHIT has operated within its budget. Municipalities pay the actual costs, not the budgeted amount.

ERT

Up until 2006 the RCMP maintained a part time ERT, which relied on a callout process in the event a tactical response was required. In April 2006, a full time ERT was implemented through a phased approach with an initial intake of 27 members. In 2007 - 20 members were added, and in 2008 (the final phase) - 20 more members were added; for a total of 67 members. ERT's primary mandate is to be ready at any time to respond to a wide range of tactical emergencies. It's second priority is to provide tactical support through routine patrol to detachments across the lower mainland.

2006 was the first year of operations for ERT. It has been successful in acquiring a base of operations; staffing, training and equipping members; developing and maintaining a schedule of preventive patrols in communities; and responding on an emergency basis to a variety of calls.

When the business case for ERT was approved the RCMP committed to provide an annual report which would identify:

| Performance Measures | 2006 |
|--|--|
| ▪ the number of calls for services and locations | Investigations of interests are appended to the Annual Report. |
| ▪ average response time and general patrol time per municipality | The OIC, ERT has committed to work with local detachments to develop a system that will allow it to track the effort expended in each community. |
| ▪ vacancy patterns | The staffing of ERT was designated a priority by "E" Division. At the end of 2006 all positions on the team had been filled. |
| ▪ budget dollars | \$4,485,131 - 2006-07 budget \$3,257,100* - 2006-07 actual costs billed |

*municipal 50%, Provincial 30%, and Federal 20%

An area of particular concern to Council was the amount of time ERT would be patrolling in Richmond. Community Safety Committee were advised June 13, 2006 that "members of the team are expected to spend their time in each community in proportion to the share of the service each community pays for". Although the OIC of the ERT has made a commitment to develop a system to track this time, it would be worthwhile to reinforce to the LMD, Councils' desire for this information.

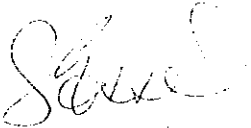
Financial Impact

There is no financial impact, (the budgets for IHIT and ERT are line items in the detachment's budget).

Conclusion

IHIT was in its fourth year of operation at the end of 2006. It continues to demonstrate that a regional model to homicide investigation is more cost effective and efficient than the previous approach.

ERT had successfully completed its first year of operation at the end of 2006. It has not reached full implementation, therefore some performance measures are still in development. It is expected that these will be forthcoming in the next annual report.



Shawn Issel
Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs
(4184)

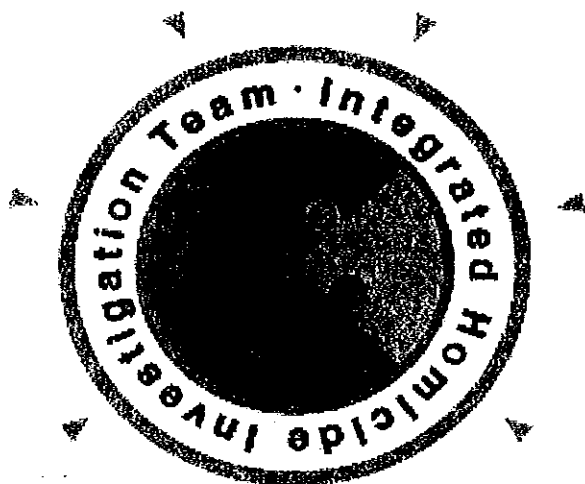
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IHIT

Integrated Homicide Investigation Team

12992 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada V3W 2V6



IHIT

2006 Annual Report



IHIT

Integrated Homicide Investigation Team

12992 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada V3W 2V6

Executive Summary

IHIT has recently completed its fourth year of operations. The unit strength now stands at seventy-six investigators, eight civilian members (electronic file administrators) and twelve public service employees. The total establishment is ninety-six persons, of which, the Province of British Columbia provides twenty.

In 2006, IHIT investigated forty three homicide cases and seventeen other investigations. These "other" investigations include police-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, suspicious sudden deaths, high profile attempt murders and missing and kidnapped persons in which homicide remains a possibility.

The IHIT operational budget, achieved through the IHIT funding formula, has been met in 2006.

To date, IHIT has cleared sixty two percent (62%) of its 2006 homicide investigations, with several still very active. Many 2006 files were high profile investigations that involved teams of investigators heavily occupied for long periods and utilized significant human and financial resources.

Comprehensive homicide investigation is non-discretionary. While IHIT can not guarantee the resolution of all murders, it can guarantee that a consistent pool of experienced investigators will respond with the appropriate investigative structure. Homicides are expensive investigations and they represent extreme financial pressures for individual agencies.

In 2006, IHIT became one of the primary units for the "police shooting - observer project". The Commission for Public Complaints embeds an independent observer, to report on IHIT's independence and neutrality during these investigations. This will not effect municipal police department partners.

In 2006, IHIT became the pilot project for the "crime scene liaison officer" program. All IHIT homicides are now attended by members of the Forensic Laboratory Evidence Recovery Unit in addition to Forensic Identification Section personnel. These efforts are designed to streamline and prioritize laboratory submissions. The attendance of a laboratory specialist ensures a collaborative approach to analysis decisions and is assisting with the forensic lab backlog.

Over the course of the last year, IHIT has had several opportunities to be showcased nationally and internationally. It is widely recognized that IHIT's model is modern, progressive and meets the needs of our current environment. IHIT is the envy of many in this country.



Integrated Homicide Investigation Team

12992 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada V3W 2V6

Integrated Homicide Investigation Team - 2006 Annual Report.

2007-09-11

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team has recently completed its fourth year of operations. The unit strength now stands at seventy-six investigators, eight civilian members (electronic file administrators) and twelve public service employees. The total establishment is ninety-six persons, of which, the Province of British Columbia provides twenty.

IHIT includes investigators from four Lower Mainland Municipal Police Departments, (Abbotsford, New Westminster, Port Moody and West Vancouver) and all lower mainland, RCMP Detachments. Leadership roles within the unit are occupied by representatives from both Municipal and RCMP partners. The unit currently operates from two locations. Team one through six are positioned at the RCMP's Surrey Satellite complex. Teams seven and eight are located at the Upper Fraser Valley Regional office in Chilliwack.

In early 2007 IHIT Inspector Bill Fordy joined IHIT as the Operations Officer. He is widely recognized as one of the country's leaders in interview and interrogation. He brings with him an extensive interview, polygraph, major crime and undercover background. His mandate will be to maintain oversight of operations and directly liaise with each partner agency on operational matters.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team has maintained its philosophy of accountability to the partner agency Chief of Police or Officer in Charge. The team works towards the resolution of all homicides on behalf of the partner agency. IHIT is the homicide unit for the agency rather than a separate investigative entity. IHIT has received outstanding cooperation from all partner agencies throughout the past year. IHIT has continued its presence at the monthly Regional Operations Police Management Committee meetings as well as at the IHIT advisory group. Operations officers from each partner agency's are briefed on investigations and provided an opportunity for direct feedback and input. In addition each partner agency's Operations Officer is provided a thirty day report on the status of each homicide investigation within their jurisdiction.

Members of IHIT are experienced and sought after investigators. The unit benefits from highly experienced investigators and nationally recognized subject matter experts in a variety of investigative specialities. Many lecture at a variety of police colleges throughout the country. The unit has maintained high morale despite extreme demands. This has largely been achieved through a culture that supports investigators to be successful. Many investigators remain at IHIT for lengthy periods, foregoing promotional opportunities elsewhere. This dedication and commitment is unparalleled. It has provided the partner agencies with real solutions to staffing and attrition pressures. Small investigative units have a very difficult time gaining and maintaining sufficient experience and expertise to investigate a wide variety of homicide cases. The pooling of expertise and the rapid training of new investigators in the IHIT team environment provides for consistent broad based expertise. This concept has and will continue to train the Lower Mainland's future police leaders, and managers of high-end investigative units.



IHIT

Integrated Homicide Investigation Team

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In Spring 2007, IHIT underwent its first Management Review. The results of this review were very positive. Morale was consistently found to be high. Investigators indicated that they were supported in their efforts.

As the unit has grown, office space has become a challenge. IHIT will soon open a third work site located at 132 Avenue and 76th Street in Surrey. This location will house two full investigative teams. The Surrey satellite complex will then be remodelled to provide a more suitable work environment. Current plans call for the integration of all IHIT teams into a single office environment in Surrey. The three offices will be closed upon completion of the new RCMP facility currently being constructed and planned for occupancy in 2012-2013. This new facility will have suitable interviewing, project and exhibit facilities.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team has centralized records management in conjunction with Prime implementation. The unit has recently secured a records management specialist and will now take conduct of all its records, PRIME and CPIC data. All records remain available to the partner agencies.

The IHIT concept was designed to provide modern structure, philosophy and support to homicide investigators faced with increased demands by Crown Counsel, the Courts, as well as by organized and cross-jurisdictional crime. The complexity of homicide investigations and the demands on the Crown and courts have continued to increase over the past four years. The unit handles numerous organized crime, "gangland" and contract murders annually. They are complex, require a myriad of expensive covert investigative techniques, and take months or years to complete. Partner agencies face the same challenges with respect to serious crimes other than murder. Offences such as kidnapping, home invasion, extortion, robbery and sexual assault face the same increased demands. Partner agencies can remain focussed on their serious crimes while IHIT takes responsibility for homicide investigations.

In 2006, IHIT investigated forty three homicide cases and seventeen other investigations. These "other" investigations include police-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, suspicious sudden deaths, high profile attempt murders and missing and kidnapped persons in which homicide remains a possibility. The team also continued several complex, long-term investigations from 2005.

As in past years, I have forwarded a separate package to each partner agency Chief Constable or Officer in Charge. That package provides a synopsis of each IHIT investigation for 2006. The document contains protected information that could compromise ongoing or future investigations and therefore cannot be widely distributed. The synopsis describes each investigation, unique challenges, and the investigative strategy, effort and resources applied to the case. All homicides are not the same. Some are solved quickly, while others take years and the dedication of a team or teams for protracted periods of time. The complexity of a single case and the pressure of multiple, complex cases directly impacts the units capacity to handle other investigations.



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I am proud to say that IHIT investigators continue to investigate cases from 2004 to 2006 in an effort to resolve them. The ability to advance historical cases is always directly proportional to the complexity and rate of new cases that the team must handle. The synopsis of each will provide partner agencies with an understanding of the efforts applied. The annual (calendar year) IHIT investigations are as follows:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. | 2007 Homicides - 23 (to date) | 2007 Other - 8 (to date) |
| b. | 2006 Homicides - 43 | 2006 Other - 17 |
| c. | 2005 Homicides - 53 | 2005 Other - 34 |
| d. | 2004 Homicides - 36 | 2004 Other - 22 |
| e. | 2003 Homicides - 26 | 2003 Other - 25 |

The following represents the 2006 IHIT investigations by policing jurisdiction:

| Partner Agency | Homicides | Other | Total |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Abbotsford | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Burnaby | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Coquitlam | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Langley | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ridge Meadows | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mission | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Vancouver | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| New Westminster | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Port Moody | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Sea to Sky | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sunshine Coast | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Surrey | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| UBC | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Upper Fraser Valley | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| West Vancouver | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| White Rock | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assist Other | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 43 | 17 | 60 |



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The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team considers an investigation cleared when, after review of an IHIT Crown brief, Crown Counsel lays appropriate charges based on the facts and evidence outlined in the Crown brief.

In the Province of British Columbia, police agencies including IHIT, do not have the authority to approve charges. Ultimate authority for the charge approval lies with the Crown. In British Columbia, Crown Counsel evaluate police investigations against the standard of a “substantial likelihood of conviction”. This means that all cases must meet the Crown’s standard for charge approval, for each person involved in a case, before a charge is laid. The standard applied to charge approval has increased over the past decade, evolving annually in response to case law decisions and complexity of crime.

This standard creates numerous challenges for investigators. Many gang and organized crime investigations involve multiple offenders or persons party to the offence. The Crown standard for charge approval means a significant case must be built for each individual before a charge is laid. Homicide investigators go to great lengths to obtain evidence through a variety of means including complex covert operations, for each suspect. The high Crown standard also results in high rates of conviction for those ultimately charged.

There are other variables that complicate a clearance rate measured on cases in which Crown has laid charges. These factors represent a percentage of cases investigated annually. They impact on overall clearance rates as they cannot be categorized as cleared despite the challenge the specific issue presents. Cases such as described below remain in the under investigation category. They include:

- a. Following a thorough homicide investigation and analysis of the evidence, investigators and Crown Counsel believe murder charges are not warranted. Alternative charges may be more appropriate. Examples of this include, self defense, an accident or in cases such as police shootings where the actions are found to be justified. These cases represent complete homicide investigations but would not be calculated as a murder charge.
- b. Following a thorough homicide investigation and analysis of the evidence, investigators and the Coroner can not conclusively determine the case is a homicide and it must remain an unexplained sudden death.
- c. Investigations in which a substantive body of information and evidence identifies a suspect. The suspect dies prior to conclusion of investigation. This can occur in the case of gang activity, often with the murder of the suspect.
- d. Cases where the homicide investigated is linked to a larger investigation, as part of a larger organized crime or multiple murder investigation involving common suspect group and charges laid in a series of murders but not necessarily the single murder. The suspect may be charged, but not necessarily for murder of all victims. The incarceration of the suspect for life precludes additional investigative techniques that could resolve the outstanding case.



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- e. Following a thorough homicide investigation and analysis of the evidence, investigators submit a Crown brief. The unsavory nature of victims, associates and witnesses, preclude believable testimony and Crown Counsel declines to lay charges in the face of substantive evidence. This is a common scenario in relation to organized crime and gang activity.

To date, IHIT has cleared sixty two percent (62%) of its 2006 homicide investigations. Several are still underway and very active. 2006 was a challenging year with several high profile investigations. These investigations involved teams of investigators heavily occupied for long periods and utilized significant human and financial resources. In part, they include:

- a. In April 2006, fourteen year old Chelsey Acorn's body was found in a shallow grave outside of Hope. She was reported as a missing person from Abbotsford. It was determined that she had been befriended by a father and son from Surrey. These two suspects are alleged to have sexually exploited young, vulnerable females. A lengthy two part covert investigation lasting over one year and operating in jurisdictions throughout the LMD, Vancouver Island and Alberta was conducted. Two persons are charged with Chelsey's murder. This investigation cost approximately 1 million dollars, not including the annual salary for investigators. The case and expenditures are ongoing.
- b. In November 2005, pregnant Tasha Rossette was murdered in Surrey. This contract killing resulted in charges of two men following a dedicated year long investigation. This very challenging investigation was complicated by the ongoing chronic crime by the two suspects. All police investigative techniques were utilized. The cost of this investigation exceeded 1 million dollars, not including the annual salary of investigators. The case and expenditures are ongoing.
- c. In November 2005, Anthony Serdoncillo was murdered in Richmond during a home invasion. Anthony Serdoncillo was visiting a home which became the subject of a home invasion. He was murdered by the gang perpetrating the crime. He was an innocent victim in the wrong place at the wrong time. An extensive initial investigation identified a suspect gang. The suspects lived throughout the LMD. In the spring of 2007 an extensive covert investigation resulted in the charges of three persons for murder. Two suspects were identified in Halifax, Nova Scotia and had no ties to the LMD. Months of police work were involved. This investigation continues and costs exceed \$700,000 not including the annual salary of investigators.
- d. In January 2006, Brian Sinclair was murdered in Coquitlam. This investigation required an innovative covert investigation. A young offender has been charged with the murder. Months of investigation and several hundred thousand dollars were expended, not including the annual salary of investigators.



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- e. In June 2006, Lilly Rong disappeared from a casino in Richmond. IHIT investigators identified two suspects after a lengthy investigation. The investigation was conducted in various locations throughout British Columbia and a suspect has been charged. The suspect led investigators to the buried body of Rong in the Jerricho beach area of Vancouver.
 - f. In June 2006, Kee Woo was murdered in a home invasion in Surrey. This organized crime murder investigation identified suspects living in the LMD. The suspects were found to also be engaged in criminal activity throughout the LMD. A project investigation, lasting many months, resulted in murder charges. The investigation costs were in excess of \$500,000 not including the annual salary of investigators.

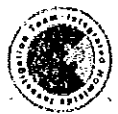
Clearance rates for IHIT homicide investigations in 2003 were approximately 80%. Clearance rates for IHIT homicide investigations in 2004 were approximately 77%. Clearance rates for IHIT homicide investigations in 2005 were approximately 68% with many investigations still active. Rates for 2006 indicate the current clearance rate for homicide cases, to date is 63%.

In early 2004 IHIT examined homicide clearance rates for seven of the larger Lower Mainland RCMP Detachments as well as the Abbotsford Police Department and New Westminster Police Department. There are many variables to be considered when analyzing historical data. They include data entry and scoring failures. They do not consider the continually evolving complexity of crime or the changing, and ever more demanding requirements of crown counsel and the courts. The study determined that between 1998 and 2002 clearance rates were approximately 50%.

IHIT investigates numerous complex murder cases each year. These expensive investigations represent extreme financial pressures for individual agencies. The IHIT operational budget, achieved through the IHIT funding formula, has been met in 2006. Each partner agency contributes to IHIT based on an accepted funding formula. This formula utilizes a percentage of a five year rolling average of criminal code statistics combined with a percentage of population, to arrive at agency budgeted costs. To illustrate this further, a partner agency may be required to pay, for example, \$400,000 annually to become a IHIT partner. That \$400,000 is used to pay the salary dollars, benefits and overtime for any investigators from that partner agency embedded in IHIT. All residual funding is pooled into an operational budget.

The following details the IHIT municipal budget over the past four years:

- a. 2006-2007 budget \$9,315,000 - Final expenses of \$9,161,193.
- b. 2005-2006 budget \$8,995,691 - Final expenses of \$8,684,885.
- c. 2004-2005 budget \$7,550,000 - Final expenses of \$7,932,932
- d. 2003-2004 budget \$6,155,277 - Final expenses of \$5,750,782.



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The 2004-2005 budget overage was shared by all partner agencies based on the same formula used to determine their IHIT participation.

In 2006-2007 IHIT became the pilot project for the “crime scene liaison officer” program. All IHIT homicides are now attended by members of the Forensic Laboratory Evidence Recovery Unit in addition to Police Forensic Identification Section personnel. These efforts are designed to streamline and prioritize laboratory submissions. The attendance of a laboratory specialist ensures a collaborative approach to analysis decisions and is assisting with the forensic lab backlog.

IHIT is scheduled to implement one additional team in April of 2008. IHIT continues to champion “canvassing training” and the coordination of a flexible pool of trained personnel to canvass large areas for information. In 2007-2008, IHIT plans to continue with training LMD agencies and is adding a first responders element to assist in educating front line personnel with their critical function when attending homicides or other serious crimes.

In addition, both “E” Division Major Crime Unit, and IHIT are the primary units for the police shooting - observer project. RCMP jurisdictions experiencing an officer involved shooting may be involved in the project, as a result. The Commission for Public Complaints will embed an independent observer, to report on IHIT’s independence and neutrality during these investigations. This will not effect municipal police department partners.

Over the course of the past year, I have had several opportunities to showcase IHIT both nationally and internationally. It is widely recognized that IHIT’s model is modern, progressive and meets the needs of our current environment. IHIT is the envy of many in this country. In my view, it’s success cannot be measured in clearance rates alone. It must be noted that the IHIT model increases our partner agency’s ability to continue to conduct other serious local investigations. IHIT, by pooling financial resources, has managed to successfully conduct numerous high end project investigations and remain within budget. This provides municipalities the ability to forecast homicide costs rather than react to unexpected costs that result from complex multi-jurisdictional investigations.

IHIT’s team structure provides intense training and develops experience in personnel. The benefit of the case load and number of annual project investigations results in a continued pool of experienced investigators that would be difficult to maintain at a local level. Comprehensive homicide investigation is non-discretionary. While IHIT can not guarantee the resolution of all murders, it can guarantee that a consistent pool of experienced investigators will respond with the appropriate investigative structure. Those resources work with a single professional ideology and are supported when innovative and complex investigative techniques are required. Every stakeholder can assure a victim’s family that, all that could be done, was done.



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The nature of crime, the sophistication of criminals, and the complexity of prosecution have changed in the past decade. The personnel who make up IHIT sacrifice much in order to achieve success. Long hours, periods of on call and unpredictable call outs create extreme pressures and demands. Project investigations which are increasingly necessary, require a level of expertise and tenacity unparalleled in policing.

I am confident that the dedicated investigators, civilian members and public service employees that make up IHIT and represent each partner agency will continue to be highly successful in the upcoming year. This inspiring group of people are, and will continue to be, supported in their difficult task through the structure provided by the partners commitment to IHIT.

I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you in person and provide you with further information on the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team or answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at the numbers below.

Original Signed By

Superintendent. Wayne RIDEOUT
Officer in Charge
Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT)
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**Lower Mainland
Emergency Response Team**



LMD ERT

2006 Annual Report



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



Executive Summary

The Lower Mainland District Emergency Response Team (LMD ERT) was established on April 1, 2006 and completed its first year of operations as a “full time” emergency response team on April 1, 2007.

The LMD ERT team is being phased in over three years. 2006 was the first year of the implementation phase with 25 tactical officers joining the team. 2007 allows for an additional 20 tactical officers and 2008 allows for the final 20 tactical officers.

When the LMD ERT team was implemented in 2006 the part time and volunteer South Fraser ERT was disbanded. Their equipment and firearms were turned over to LMD ERT.

LMD ERT members are assigned a designated patrol within the Lower Mainland District in areas North and South of the Fraser River. Speciality vehicles and essential equipment are secured overnight at local RCMP detachments. This strategy affords responding LMD ERT members immediate access to their equipment if activated from their personal residence during time off. LMD ERT members start their shift at a multitude of LMD District detachments and currently have 20 hour coverage in the LMD District.

The occurrences referenced in this 2006 report are indicative of the more serious calls and do not generally include the daily “routine” assistance files managed by the team leaders and team members of LMD ERT.

The sheer number of daily “routine calls” from detachment members seeking an elevated tactical component generally does not allow these occurrences to be outlined in this report. These interventions are constant as LMD ERT members are broken down into smaller teams and respond to any number of incidents throughout the region on each and every shift.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



2007-09-30

Lower Mainland District Emergency Response Team Annual Report. 2006

The Lower Mainland District Emergency Response Team (LMD ERT) was established on April 1, 2006 and completed its first year of operations as a “full time” emergency response team on April 1, 2007. As outlined in the original business case, implementation of this model of full time lower mainland emergency response service delivery was to occur over three years. Phase I, in 2006, was the first year of the implementation phase. In the spring of 2006, twenty five (25) tactical officers and one public service employee were identified and transferred to LMD ERT. Phase II, in 2007, is allowing for an additional twenty (20) tactical officers, a training officer, an administration officer and an additional position for administrative office support. Phase III, in 2008, will allow for an additional (20) tactical officers, a tactical operational support officer and an information technology support employee.

In order to meet the objectives of implementation, the part time and volunteer South Fraser ERT was disbanded in early 2006. Equipment and firearms were inventoried and turned over to LMD ERT. The equipment was assessed, tested and, if found suitable for operational deployment, re-issued to members assigned to new duties with LMD ERT.

April 1, 2006 marked the first “official day” of operational readiness for LMD ERT, however the team had been tasked with a number of tactical deployments prior to this date and literally “hit the ground running”.

The first quarter of 2006 was extremely intensive as only a limited number of officers were assigned to the team and responsible for many of the tasks of unit establishment. Tasks ranging from equipment inventory to team candidate identification, testing and selection were undertaken. Suitable quarters were identified to house LMD ERT and the necessary lease agreements, office furnishing procurement and IT equipment was acquired and installed. There were a variety of human resource issues to resolve that surrounded the release of suitable team candidates, shift schedules, performance agreements and transfers. It must be noted that during this period of commencement, all members assigned to LMD ERT, regardless of their tasks related to implementation, were responsible for tactical response on a moments notice and were frequently deployed.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



In addition to supporting the RCMP Lower Mainland District operational units with uninterrupted emergency response, team members have been heavily involved with “tactical profiles” involving research and development, writing of “standard operating procedures” and equipment requisition. Due to the expertise and tenure of some members on the team, LMD ERT members were also occasionally tasked with a variety of instructional duties on National ERT training courses.

As the Officer in Charge of LMD ERT, I recognize that instructors for tactical courses are supplied from “the field of operations” and am proud of the fact that LMD ERT is viewed as a source of some of the best instructors available in Canada. It must be further recognized that LMD ERT is the source of the largest number of course candidates, so LMD ERT have an interest in providing the best instruction available. Course instruction also provides team leaders the opportunity to assess candidates for LMD ERT suitability prior to actually transferring them on the team.

In order to provide timely response and foster clear lines of communication with the LMD first responders we support, team members are assigned designated patrol within the Lower Mainland District in areas North and South of the Fraser River. Speciality vehicles and essential equipment are secured overnight at local RCMP detachments. This strategy affords responding LMD ERT members immediate access to their equipment when activated from their personal residence. LMD ERT members start their shift at a multitude of lower mainland detachments, attend general detachment shift briefings, frequently provide training and, in general, assist in areas requiring less lethal and specialized equipment.

In 2006, due to the agreed upon graduated staffing levels LMD ERT was divided into two equal squads or units. Units were shifted on a ten hour shift, providing twenty hours of coverage five days per week. The final two days of the week were covered using voluntary stand by from existing team members.

LMD ERT has enjoyed a great deal of success providing service in a seamless fashion in support of clients representing the three business lines that fund the team. The following is a synopsis of team deployments for 2006. Included are examples of call response for a wide variety of geographical areas and for units assigned various operational responsibilities within the Lower Mainland District.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



LMD ERT attended numerous locations with their patrol partners in all of the simulated jurisdictions, yielding several self generated files. The Repeat Offender Parolee Apprehension Program was also launched. Liaison was established with partner agencies in order to reduce the load of persons going to warrant while on patrol and thus re-offending in the process.

The serious criminal occurrences referenced below for 2006 are indicative of the more serious calls requiring the involvement of an accredited Critical Incident Commander and do not generally include the daily "routine" assistance files managed by the team leaders and team members of LMD ERT. The vast number of examples of daily "routine calls" from LMD detachment members seeking an elevated tactical component does not allow them to be outlined in this report. These interventions are constant and routine, as the LMD ERT members are broken down into smaller teams of two and respond to any number of incidents throughout the region on each and every shift. Unfortunately, this report is unable to outline all of the various assistance they have provided in the various communities. At any one given time, LMD ERT members could be assisting in Mission, Richmond, North Vancouver and Langley simultaneously. It has been demonstrated that the deployment of LMD ERT members at the local level, frequently maximizes the ability of detachment unformed members to respond.

Investigations of Interest:

March 2006

Assist Surrey: 2006-15418 (Drug search warrant)

Search warrant execution at known drug house. The occupant was suspected to be in possession of a hand gun for the purposes of running his business. ERT members had conducted search warrants on the suspect's residence on two prior occasions. LMD ERT approach the residence and announce intentions when several persons inside attempt to flee out the back. LMD ERT contain the fleeing suspects and others are arrested without further incident. Firearms were located.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



Assist Burnaby: File # unavailable (Kidnaping investigation)

Victim of a gang related kidnaping identified a residence in Richmond and a property in Vancouver as the locations where they were held against their will. Vancouver Police ERT conducted a simultaneous entry on the Vancouver property, while LMD ERT entered the residence in Richmond. Suspects were arrested by LMD ERT while making a meet with a drop. The suspects were said to be armed while holding the victim, and physical evidence was left behind that could easily have been destroyed, including computer memory of messages sent to the victim's family. LMD ERT arrested one male at the Richmond location. All intended evidence was recovered.

Assist Coquitlam: 2006-8317 (Shooting complaint)

LMD ERT members received a call for assistance from Coquitlam to attend a residence with a report of shots fired. On attendance members noted the magazine of a pistol laying in the drive way. First responders were quick to establish a perimeter. LMD ERT assisted in the facilitation of a telephone call to the residence and 4 persons surrendered to Coquitlam members waiting outside. The residence was cleared by LMD ERT, and it was determined that these persons were the victims of a drug related home invasion.

April 2006

Assist Surrey: 2001-108616 (Witness protection)

LMD ERT was requested to facilitate the secure transportation and care of a protected Crown witness while they attended Supreme Court in New Westminister for trial and testimony. The very nature of the suspects involved in this trial, being organized crime figures, lead to these enhanced security measures. Three days of witness protection and transportation provided without incident or threat to the witness.

Assist Vancouver City Police: (Mr. Graham McMynn hostage rescue)

LMD ERT were requested to assist with search warrant executions on fourteen (14) different locations throughout the lower mainland. Every tactical resource was utilized in this unprecedented operation. Search warrants were obtained that authorized entry at numerous locations as it not precisely known where the victim was being held. LMD ERT members made entry at residences in Surrey on 76 Avenue, while a second team entered a residence on 169 Street. The victim was located bound and gagged in the basement of the 76 Avenue residence and was quickly re-united with his family. Speed of entry and house domination were the keys to the success. Five suspects taken into custody.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



Assist Burnaby: 2006-10693 (Home invasion)

Multiple suspects were intent on attending a residence in Burnaby for the purpose of taking drugs the occupants that were trafficking from the residence. The four suspects were arrested in possession of a replica hand gun.

Assist Surrey: 2006-49851 (Kidnaping)

LMD ERT members on local patrol arrived on scene to find an attempted kidnap in progress where multiple males were attempting to force one male into a vehicle at gun point. Five males were taken into custody and a loaded hand gun was seized from the suspect vehicle still in the area. Further investigation lead to the belief that there were more suspects in a near by hotel room. LMD ERT entered the hotel and located one more suspect laying on the gun he possessed.

Assist UFVRD: 2006-52449 (Drug search warrant)

LMD ERT requested to execute a search warrant at a known drug house, where the suspect was said to be in possession of a hand gun, a rifle, and a shot gun. After risk assessment it was decided to surround the residence and telephone the residence to have the suspect exit and meet police outside, where he could be disarmed. Firearm was locate in the residence.

May 2006

Assist Whistler: File # unavailable (Assault & Mischief)

LMD ERT on routine foot patrol in Whistler and observed an intoxicated male smashing a bus window, male was arrested and local detachment advised. While in area, members responded to assist local detachment with several males (approx 10) fighting at 7-11 store. ERT members issued violation/by-law tickets for open liquor.

Assist Langley: 2006-56574 (Barricaded armed suspect)

Male suspect assaulted his mother and then barricaded himself in his residence in Langley Township. The suspect refused to talk to negotiators and members on scene were forced to enter the residence after a loud bang was heard coming from the room. The suspect was located in the attic hiding under a tarp. The suspect eventually was extracted but no weapons other than knives, swords, and live snakes were found.

Assist Surrey: 2006-62440 (Search warrant with weapons)

Suspect believed to be in possession of a loaded hand gun at a hotel in Surrey. Search warrant obtained and executed by LMD ERT. The suspect was found in the room in direct proximity to the loaded hand gun sitting on the bed.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



Assist Surrey: 2006-56754 (Drug search warrant)

LMD ERT assisted the execution of a search warrant for drugs at a Surrey residence where the suspect associated to the residence was known to wear body armor and was associated to many incidents involving firearms. Upon search warrant execution the residence was found to be unoccupied and the suspect not present.

June 2006

Assist North Vancouver & Richmond: 2006-17152 (Kidnaping)

Subject was kidnaped at gun point in North Vancouver and was being held at an unknown location in the Lower Mainland. Investigators lured suspects out of their hiding into a meet to exchange the victim. Once the victim was positively identified as being transported in the vehicle that surveillance were following, LMD ERT conducted a tactical vehicle take down and rescued the hostage. The suspect was arrested, and the victim was found to still be suffering from a gunshot wound from the original incident where he was kidnaped. Later, an apartment unit was also entered and cleared by LMD ERT where the victim had been held.

Assist Vancouver Police Department & Burnaby: 2006-135753 (Search warrant)

Request from VPD to execute a search warrant for drugs at a Burnaby location. Primary suspects were earlier taken into custody and the residence was found to be vacant.

Assist Mission: File 2006-32247 (Search warrant)

Mission Detachment required assistance to execute search warrants to search for drugs at rural locations involving two residences across the street from each other. Weapons were suspected to be in both houses. As a result, two teams were deployed and five persons were taken into custody. Two loaded rifles, with armor piercing ammunition, and a loaded shot gun were seized near the front doors.

July 2006

Assist Squamish: 2006-4807 (Canada wide warrant)

LMD ERT members attend Squamish to assist local GIS unit with the arrest of a male wanted on a Canada wide arrest warrant. Members assisted with file review and surveillance. Suspect was not located at the residence. ERT took over file as further surveillance is required to apprehend the suspect.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



Assist Richmond: 2006-32125 (Break and Enter in progress)

Members attend location to assist local detachment members with B&E in progress. Suspect vehicle outside residence with two males inside. ERT members in area clear residence and assist with getting both suspects into custody.

Assist RCMP (Federal) Commercial Crime Section: (Controlled delivery)

Standard operating procedures were developed as a result of this file and the intended future use of LMD ERT in monitoring the "controlled delivery" of large sums of money.

Assist Coquitlam: 06-32247 (Shooting complaint)

Shots fired at a residence in Coquitlam with several occupants located in the house. First responders had quickly contained the location and made observations of a male with a hand gun enter the house. Several persons surrendered and entry was made to clear the house. An indoor marihuana grow operation was located. It appears that this was an attempted home invasion of a marihuana grow operation.

August 2006

Assist LMD Detachments: (Repeat Offender Parolee Apprehension Program)

As a result of robust patrols throughout the entire District and increased attention towards this program, members of LMD ERT arrested 9 subjects who had outstanding warrants of arrest for violating parole.

Assist E Division (Provincial): (Recruiting - Abbotsford Air Show)

Members of LMD ERT attended and displayed a great deal of equipment for the general public to experience and inquire about. Members remained on site and fielded numerous questions from the general public. Efforts went towards boosting recruiting for the Division and Nationally.

Assist Surrey: 2006-103068 (Kidnaping)

LMD ERT required to shadow surveillance teams of accused persons involved on the kidnap of a Surrey business man and being extorted for a large sum of money. Suspects broke the victims arm and dropped him on the side of the road.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



September 2006

Assist Richmond: 2006-52749 (Kidnaping)

LMD ERT requested to assist with kidnaping investigation. The suspect and victim were both apprehended by LMD ERT without incident.

Assist UFVRD: 2006-31759 (Search warrant with weapons)

LMD ERT were requested to assist and were required to conduct a dynamic entry on the residence, in order that the suspects would not be permitted opportunity to gain access to the firearms or destroy evidence. Multiple suspects arrested and firearms seized.

Assist Maple Ridge: 2006-23290 (Drug search warrant)

Members of the local drug section obtained a warrant for a large rural property with an extensive indoor marihuana grow operation. LMD ERT team was deployed and provided tactical assistance. Two suspects attempted to flee the residence, but were apprehended by LMD ERT.

Assist UFVRD: File # unavailable (Search for suspect)

Dangerous suspect was suspected to be armed and dangerous and was involved in uttering threats to a Crown witness on a matter at trial. LMD ERT assisted in the arrest of the suspect. The male attempted to flee upon his arrest but was apprehended by LMD ERT.

October 2006

Assist Maple Ridge: 2006-25658 (Search for suspects)

LMD ERT assisted local resources as they attended a location to remove squatters. The suspects threatened police and refused to leave. Suspects brandishing a knife upon approach by police. LMD ERT utilized less lethal options to gain suspect compliance. Another suspect fled but was apprehended later by local patrol members.

Assist Mission: 2006-9737 (Drug search warrant)

A warrant was executed on an indoor marihuana grow operation and investigators suspected a methamphetamine lab was also present. Upon entering the property local members were attacked by guard dogs. Fearing further bodily harm from the suspects the owner was called out and taken into custody. A loaded firearm in addition to the grow operation were located inside.



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Assist North Vancouver: 2006-23850 (Search for weapon)

Members assisted North Vancouver Drug Section with search warrant execution on local residence for cocaine and firearms. Multiple ounces of cocaine and firearm was located. One male was taken into custody. Further firearms were suspected of being buried in the yard.

November 2006

Assist Surrey: 2006-143128 (Search for suspect)

Members requested LMD ERT to assist with a barricaded suicidal male armed with .303 caliber rifle inside his residence. Containment was established and contact made through the use of negotiators. All attempts to continue negotiations failed. LMD ERT members were authorized to deploy a stealth entry into the residence surprising the suspect and took him into care.

Assist UFVRD: 2006-43979 (Barricaded male with a gun)

Members attended Boston Bar area for a suicidal male armed with .303 calibre rifle barricaded inside his residence. ERT attend scene establish inner perimeter with G.D. Use of negotiator unsuccessful. ERT stealth entry made into residence and suspect was taken into custody without incident. .303 rifle and ammunition was located.

December 2006

Assist Surrey: File # unavailable (Search for suspect)

Suspect involved in violent crime was observed entering a hotel in Surrey. LMD ERT members arrived on scene and established containment. A call was placed into the suite and the suspect along with his girlfriend surrendered. A loaded hand gun was located inside the microwave oven.

Assist Surrey: 2006-155600 (Drug search warrant)

LMD ERT assisted in the execution of a search warrant. Located inside was AR15 magazines, AK-47 magazines, fifty boxes of ammunition including .22 cal, 9mm, 44 magnum, 40 cal, 45 cal, 223 cal, 38 special, and spent 357 magnum shell casings. In addition, a Luger 9mm semi-automatic pistol with magazine was seized. Body armor, tactical utility vest, marijuana, and items used for marihuana grow op rips were also seized.

Assist Whistler: File # unavailable (New Years Eve)

LMD ERT members were on foot patrol with a large number of Whistler members for the New Years Eve festival, known as First Night, in Whistler. Members assisted with a wide variety of calls for assistance.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



Training:

In order to ensure a professional and highly skilled tactical response, LMD ERT members are mandated to participate in the equivalent of sixty (60) training days per year. The training is scheduled and monitored by a full time training officer.

Individual and team training records are maintained. These records document everything from scenario based exercises to recording every training shot delivered by an expert marksmen. In the event of a court of inquiry or review, all actions must be supported by the existing training profile and training records may be disclosed for court purposes.

In addition to the weekly maintenance training, LMD ERT members participated in a multi agency scenario involving an active shooter in a school. LMD ERT members lectured and presented at the Coquitlam Youth Introduction to Policing workshop and participated at the RCMP Youth Academy. LMD ERT members participated in the annual aircraft assault re-certification and were trained in explosive forced entry.



Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team



I hope you enjoyed reading the 2006 LMD ERT Annual Report. Although 2006 was our implementation year we had many achievements in both establishing the team and providing the full time tactical response that is necessary in the LMD today.

As the Officer in Charge, I am very proud of the team and the direction we are going. I know that the members and staff of LMD ERT are dedicated to providing the highest level of emergency response for your community.

I look forward to any opportunity to meet with you in person and provide further information about the Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team and answer any questions you may have.

original signed by

(D G Debolt), Insp
Officer-in-Charge
Lower Mainland District
Emergency Response Team