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(MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATION COMMANDER, BRIGADIER POTGIETER)

Crime Brief – 01 August 2010

Security companies must please warn their guards at complexes to be very alert at night when they are on duty, as more and more guards are held up during the evening and robbed of belongings and forced to open gates for suspects. Please ensure that guards are in possession of emergency panic buttons as well as a list of all emergency phone numbers.

Business Robbery (North Riding at 04:00): A security guard at a guest house was threatened with a knife and keys and remote controls demanded from him. The suspects took the guard with them and they ransacked the houses on the property and fled with bedding, electrical equipment etc.

Robbery with firearm (North Riding at 01:20): The security guard was on duty patrolling inside the complex when he was approached by one suspect armed with a firearm. The suspect robbed the guard of his cell phone and personal belongings.

House Robbery (Cosmo City): At about 01:15 the complainant was at home in his bedroom busy on his computer when he heard a noise at the kitchen. He went to investigate and found four unknown men inside; they had broken the back door to gain entry. The suspects held the complainant up with a firearm and instructed him to lie down on the floor. He was tied up and the suspects ransacked the house taking various electrical equipment.

House Robbery (Townhouse in Ruimsig): At about 03:40 the complainant was in his room watching a movie when two unknown males came into his room (the one armed with a firearm and one armed with a knife). The men grabbed the complainant and fetched the other occupants in the house. All the occupants of the house were tied up with. The suspects fled the scene with clothing, laptops and computer equipment.

Hi-jacking (Little Falls): At about 19:20 the complainant arrived back home. She got out of her vehicle to unlock the gate. As she got back into her vehicle she noticed a green 3series BMW with three occupants approaching her. The complainant quickly drove into the yard and tried to close the gate. The occupants of the BMW jumped out of their vehicle and ran towards the complainant, and pointed a firearm at her. The suspects pushed the complainant into the back seat and drove off with her in the vehicle. The complainant was dropped off in Florida and the suspects drove off with the complainant's vehicle and personal belongings.

TRIO Task Team successes:

Arrest:

- Two House Robbery suspects were arrested one for a Honeydew case of 2008 and one for a Roodepoort case of 2007,
- Two suspects for Hi-jacking,
- One suspect for Possession of Hi-Jacked motor vehicle,
- One suspect for Business Robbery,
- One suspect for Possession of stolen motor vehicle.

Sentence:

- One suspect was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and declared unfit to possess a firearm. The suspect was found guilty for a House Robbery that he committed in 2003 in Honeydew.

ISSUED BY: WARRANT OFFICER KAREN JACOBS, SPOKESPERSON FOR SAPS HONEYDEW
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