



PLAINWATCH

Autumn 2009

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE PLAINWATCH NEWSLETTER

Ministry Of Defence Police Rural Beat Officers Westdown Camp

The Rural beat officers have a new weapon in their fight against crime on Salisbury Plain. Sponsored by the Commander DTE SP, Lt Col M Beard, they now have ANPR in their police vehicle. ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) is a mass surveillance method that uses optical character recognition on images to read the number plates on vehicles. As of 2006, systems can scan number plates at around one per second on cars travelling up to 100 mph. ANPR can be used to store the images captured by the cameras as well as the text from the licence plate. The system tells us instantly if a vehicle does not have tax, MoT or insurance as well as being known to be used for criminal activity. Systems commonly use infrared lighting to allow the camera to take the picture at any time of the day. Databases are loaded onto the vehicle equipment from a central police system covering data from all county force areas. The vehicle cameras can also take stills and video which is great as evidential value .



This Subaru Forester was seized by the MoD Police having found the two occupants walking in the Imber Range danger area. They had driven into a ditch after getting lost whilst on their way to Frome!! (we didn't believe them) They had three lurcher type dogs and were suspected of hare coursing. The vehicle had been reported to police having been sighted in a different area of the plain two days earlier. Coursing is an illegal activity during which damage is often caused to crops and fences. The Rural Beat Officers are working closely with the



Wiltshire Police Rural Crime Team to combat Hare Coursing. Please report any suspicious vehicle to us via the PLAINWATCH number.



How you can support PLAINWATCH



We encourage the confidential reporting of crime, security matters and suspicious incidents by all users of the plain and aim to make it a safer place to live and work. If you have information to report, call the

24 hr Telephone number
(01980) 674700

IN CASES OF EMERGENCY, CALL 999 AS NORMAL

SEE OVERLEAF FOR MORE PLAINWATCH NEWS AND STORIES FROM THE REGION

OFF ROADER GOT IT WRONG

PLEASE KEEP REPORTING



This off roader came to grief on the 'Seven Sisters' chalk slopes in the Driver Training Area, Tidworth. The area is out of bounds to civilian vehicles and he was fined a total of £220 plus recovery costs. His vehicle was written off and his insurance company refused to foot the bill. Off road driving, lamping and poaching activity, threatens the safety of training troops and cadets.

Please keeping reporting any incident you perceive as suspicious or criminal. All reports are followed up. If the incident is an emergency dial 999. PLAINWATCH reports help us to build a database of information, which then allows us to get more resources to carry out operations in order to combat ongoing offences such as hare coursing etc.

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

23 - 29 November 2009 is National Road Safety Week. This years theme is driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or the effects of drugs. At least 15,935 people in the UK were killed or hurt by drink and drug-drivers in 2007. That's 1,328 people every month, 306 people every week, 44 people every day, 2 people every hour. In fact, one in six deaths on our roads are caused by drivers over the legal alcohol limit. In the UK, 478 people were killed by drivers over the drink-drive limit in 2007.

Although accurate drug-driving figures aren't available, research by TRL, the Transport Research Laboratory, suggests that similar numbers of deaths may be due to illegal drug drivers. Researchers at TRL found that 17% of drivers who die in road crashes (almost one in five) have traces of illegal drugs in their system that may have affected their driving. TRL also found that almost 6% of drivers (one in 17 drivers) who die in road crashes have traces of medicinal drugs that may have affected their driving. Always read the label to see if they may cause drowsiness.



OPPORTUNIST THEFTS Thieves continue to operate on the Plain. A Wolf Landrover was taken from Imber whilst the soldiers were in the building next to it. Having momentarily left the keys in the ignition, it was taken. The offenders were probably dressed in combat kit and just drove it away. We often

see dog walker's vehicles parked in remote locations with personal items left on the seats. Remember. HIDE IT, LOCK IT, OR LOSE IT and always try to keep your vehicle in sight.

BANK HOLIDAY RAVE

The August bank holiday saw in excess of 4000 people attend an illegal rave on Salisbury Plain. Moving into the location during the late evening and early hours, numbers quickly swelled leaving the police and other authorities powerless to stop the event. The B390 between Shrewton and Chitterne rapidly became blocked with parked vehicles and the priority became one of safety. The event was closely monitored throughout and a number of arrests were made. One officer from Wiltshire Police was injured and two offenders were arrested on suspicion of causing Greivous Bodily Harm (GBH). Intelligence regarding the location of this rave was very sparse. If you notice a steady build up of vehicles in any one area surrounding the plain, please call the PLAINWATCH number.



SOME RECENT COURT RESULTS: A male who abandoned his car on Carter Barracks at Bulford was fined a total of £300. Two males found in the Imber Range area were fined £200 and another fined £90. A male who played DJ at a rave in Everleigh was fined £300. We have issued 14 fixed penalty notices to off roaders. Operations to combat hare coursing have resulted in fewer reports of this kind of incident.



PLAINWATCH (01980) 674700