

STRIKE FORCE PICCADILLY

“Countering ATM Gas Attacks and Ram Raids in NSW”



Detective Superintendent Murray CHAPMAN

Detective Superintendent Greig NEWBERY

23rd Annual Problem Oriented Policing Conference



SYDNEY – NEW SOUTH WALES (NSW)



- 4.5 Million people
- Capital of NSW
- 30,000 ATMS in Australia
- 15,000 ATMS in NSW
- 5,000 ATMS in Sydney

TYPES OF ATMS



FREE STANDING



THROUGH THE WALL (TTW)

SCANNING

- Spate of car-jackings & ATM ram raids
- Significant damage & risk to public
- Scrutiny from media & politicians
- A new recurrent crime problem



Gangs target ATMs in spate of ram-raids

Catching carjackers

Police reveal where criminals scout targets

By KARLA LAWRENCE Police Reporter
POLICE suspect carjackers of luxury, high-performance cars are using a main road in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs to scout for victims.
The claim was made by the head of a newly formed police strike force targeting those responsible for a spate of recent carjackings and ram-raids.
Property Squad Commander Detective Superintendent Ken McKay said he and fellow officers stationed themselves beside New South Head Rd, near Double Bay's shopping district, on Monday.
Within a five-minute period they saw 37 expensive vehicles such as Mercedes and Porsche pass them eastbound, towards Rose Bay.
Supt McKay said he suspected that crime — and followed the victims to their homes where they carjacked their vehicles. Cars stolen include Mercedes and BMWs.

"You've only got to sit there for any period of time to see a large number of these high-performance vehicles," he said.
The theory is supported by the locations of the recent carjackings — two occurring on New South Head Rd, Rose Bay. Another occurred in nearby Vaucluse.
Supt McKay urged owners of these vehicles to be extra observant while driving and arriving home.
The new strike force Pivocally will investigate 12 carjacking incidents, eight attempted and successful ATM thefts, and two armed robberies across Sydney since March.
Thieves have been using the stolen luxury cars as getaway vehicles after stealing the ATMs.
Several of the vehicles have been used in more than one crime, then dumped and burnt out to destroy evidence which may lead to the bandits.

"Their primary purpose is to have very fast, high-powered vehicles to elude the police," Supt McKay said. He said it was likely that more than one group of criminals were committing the crimes.
The ATM thefts — netting the criminals around \$400,000 so far — were seen by criminals as a way to make "easy money", he said.
"It's done in the wee hours of the morning. There's no people around," he said.
In one case a group of handits is suspected of carjacking a Mercedes ATM robbery at Fox Studios, \$2.5m, worth \$2100m, and plotting an armed hold-up on hotels in Peterham and Annandale.
Police urged anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



Ram raiders steal an ATM every six days



Failed attempt... a service station ram raid
Criminal nightlife
ATM men relied on for this year: 16, with nine successful
2006: 60 with 42 successful
Strike Force Pivocally's results since August 2006: 60 people arrested, 263 charges laid, 19 crime syndicates dismantled
This year alone: 19 arrests, 60 charges laid
Ram-raider profile: Male, 20- to 35-year-old. Would have firm for cocaine, break and enter, car theft and receiving or drugs.
The syndicates:
Well organized and run by one person but with the members loosely formed around family and social connections. They socialise together and commit crimes together. Each arrested crew has four or five members.

EXCLUSIVE Ram-raiders used the main entry to the Royal North Shore Hospital to steal an ATM



Play

INITIAL RESPONSE

- August 2005 – SF commenced
- Some initial success & arrests
- Ram Raids continued
- New M.O. - TTW ATMS targeted
- Police focus on investigations
- No analysis on why the increase in offences



INITIAL ASSESSMENT FIRST TWELVE MONTHS



- 69 ATM attacks. 30 Successful
- 26 offenders arrested
- Offences continuing
- Traditional policing – little impact
- M.O. spreading amongst criminals
- Further scrutiny from media & politicians

JULY 2006 – FURTHER SCANNING



- New SF Commander
- Stakeholder forum organized
- Victims & stakeholders invited
- Discuss ATM security strategies
- Police seek cooperative approach

ANALYSIS - FORUM ISSUES

- It's the COPS problem, not ours!
- Stakeholders addressing issue in isolation
- No information sharing by industry
- No information from police to industry
- ATM alarms not reported to police
- Business, customers & corporate brand affected



ANALYSIS - INCREASE IN OFFENCES?



- Increase in free standing ATMs
- Construction (reduced weight & size)
- Placement (vulnerable to ram raids)
- Perception of less risk / greater reward
- ATM Ram Raid methodology spreading

ANALYSIS - FORUM OUTCOMES

- A collective co-operative approach
- Industry to share R&D information
- Police to be supplied security data
- Information re offences to be disseminated
- Police to waive fines re false alarm reports
- Police to set up a Hot line to report alarms





FURTHER ANALYSIS

- New recording category 'ATM ram raid'
- ATM alarm data analysed
- ATM security data collected at crime scenes
- Crime scene data analysed
- Offender & informant interviews analysed

RESPONSE

- 1800 Alarm Hot line – Rapid response
- Industry Alerts emailed after an offence
- ATM Theft Reduction Booklet



1800 Hotline

- IN CONFIDENCE -
NSWP Property Crime Squad
ATM INDUSTRY ALERT
Date: 03/07/2008

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED BY NSW POLICE TO STAKEHOLDERS AND OWNERS OF ATMS IN NSW. THE AIM IS TO ALERT THE INDUSTRY OF EMERGING TRENDS WITH A VIEW OF STAKEHOLDERS BEING ABLE TO USE THE INFORMATION TO PROTECT AND PREVENT ATM THEFT AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Dear members of ABA, ATMA, Shopping Centre Council of Australia and Cuscal,

During the early hours of 1 July 2008, a break and enter offence occurred upon a "through the wall" model ATM located within a shopping Centre at Belrose, Sydney, NSW.

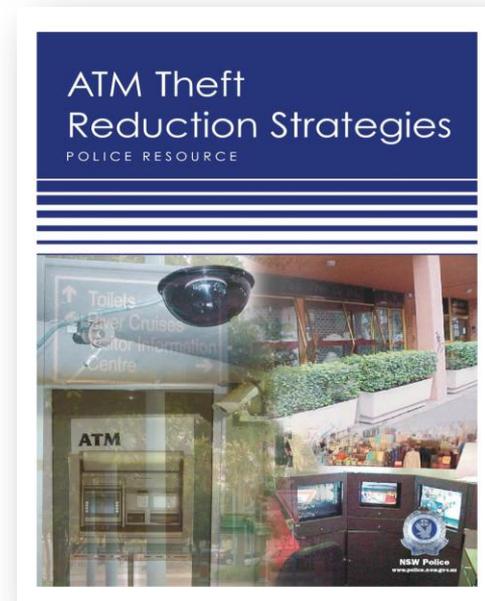
KEY FINDINGS

- Access to the ATM was caused by an explosion from within the machine.
- An unknown type of gas has been used and ignited by unknown means, causing an explosion and subsequent damage.
- Some of the cash canisters were destroyed.
- The offenders obtained a sum of cash from canisters that remained intact.
- This is the first successful incident in NSW involving a gas explosion upon an ATM.
- Similar Modus Operandi has occurred in the Netherlands, France, and Germany.
- Strike Force Piccadilly is conducting further inquiries into this offence and two similar attempts that occurred in March and June this year in western Sydney.
- The Strike Force is unable to release any further specifics regarding these offences at this time.

Strike Force PICCADILLY contact: Detective Inspector Murray CHAPMAN 02 88359649

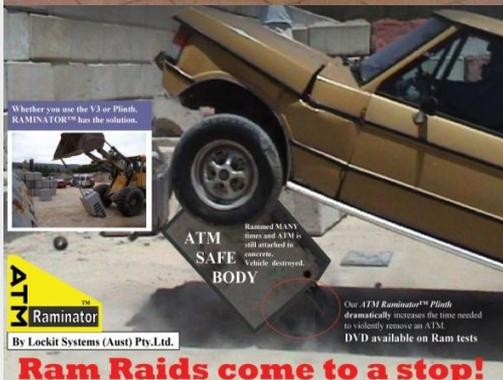
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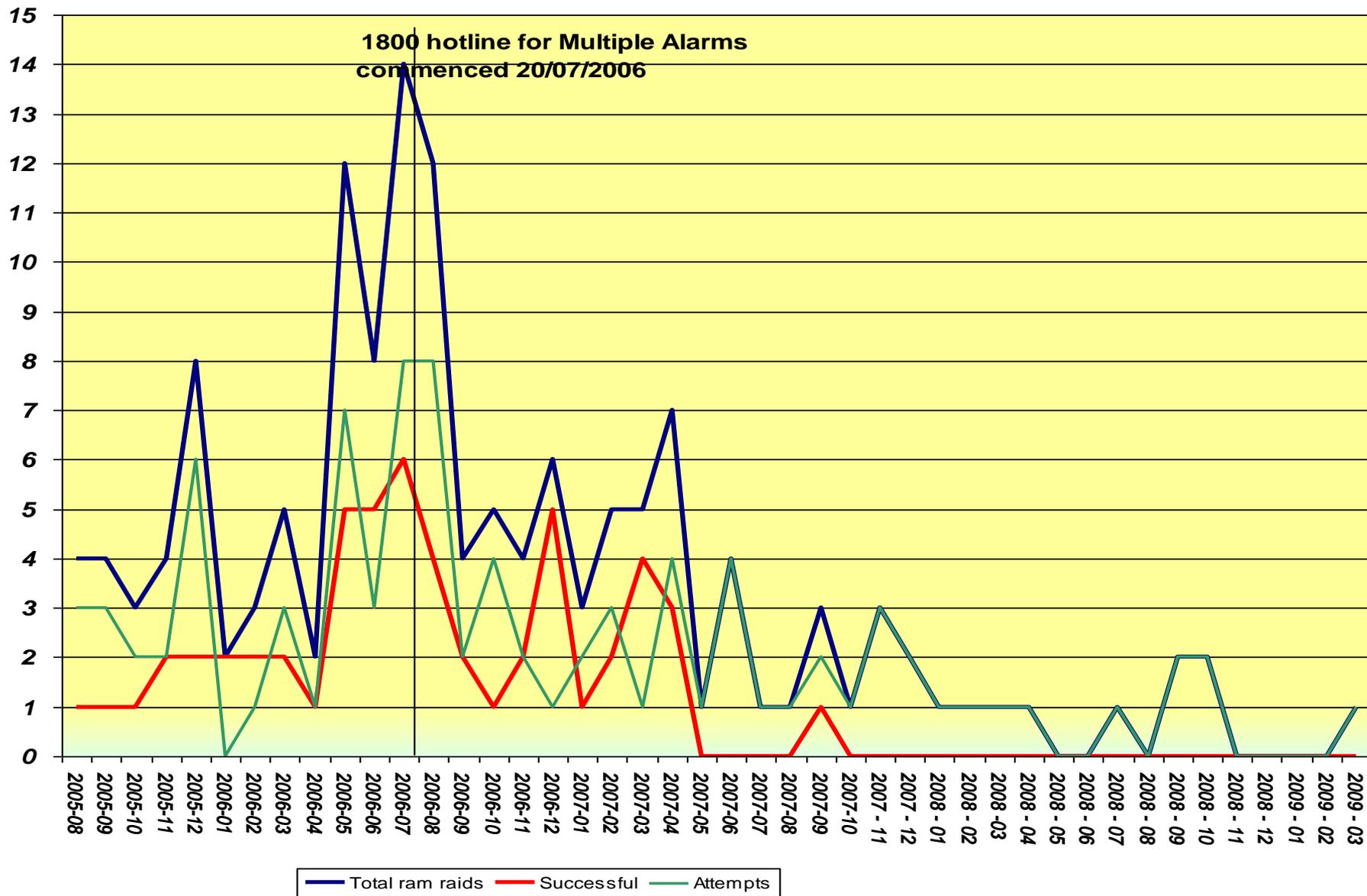
RESPONSE

- Application of situational prevention measures
- SF continued. Offences investigated
- Suspects identified, targeted, arrested
- Intelligence analysed daily & actioned
- Ongoing stakeholder consultation



ASSESSMENT – RAM RAID STATISTICS

Strike Force PICCADILLY ATM ram raids.





ASSESSMENT

- The increase in ram raids was halted
- New strategies led to capture of offenders
- ATM raid raids no longer desirable
- 120 offenders charged with 446 offences
- Situational prevention produced outcomes
- Partial displacement of crime

SCANNING - ATM GAS ATTACKS



- Early 2008 - ATM Gas Attacks
- Technique imported from Europe
- Operational police and industry alerted
- Offences caused significant damage



EXPLOSIVE DEVICES – AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES.

During the early hours of 25 June and 1 July 2008 break and enter offences have occurred upon a "through the wall" ATM at the Commonwealth Bank in Seven Hills and an ATM bunker at the Glenrose Shopping Centre Belrose. The offenders have drilled holes into the ATM with an unknown explosive gas injected into the ATM and subsequently detonated to gain access to the cash boxes. ¹ Oxy acetylene equipment was also located at the Commonwealth Bank Auburn on the 3rd May 2008. ²

The explosions have caused extensive damage of the ATM and buildings with pieces of the ATM located a distance from the safe. The ATMs are destroyed beyond reasonable repair.

These incidents are the first identified in NSW. On both occasions, the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit were required to attend the crime scene.

This Modus Operandi has occurred in the Netherlands, France, and Germany. Deaths have occurred in these countries as a result.

It is believed the explosive gases used are oxygen and liquid petroleum gas which, when combined, explodes at a lower temperature than oxy acetylene.

Police are to be aware of this MO and caution is required.

Keep a look out for persons and vehicles in the vicinity of banks and ATM bunkers with Oxy acetylene equipment.



Contact the Property Crime Squad – Strike Force PICCADILLY e/n 29666 or the Duty Operations Inspector (DOI) after hours.

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ANALYSIS - GAS ATTACK M.O.



- Glass shop front ATMS targeted
- Rear door to safe easily accessible
- High Performance Motor Vehicles
- Committed between 1am & 3am
- Short time frame for offences
- Offences spread beyond Sydney



Play





RESPONSE

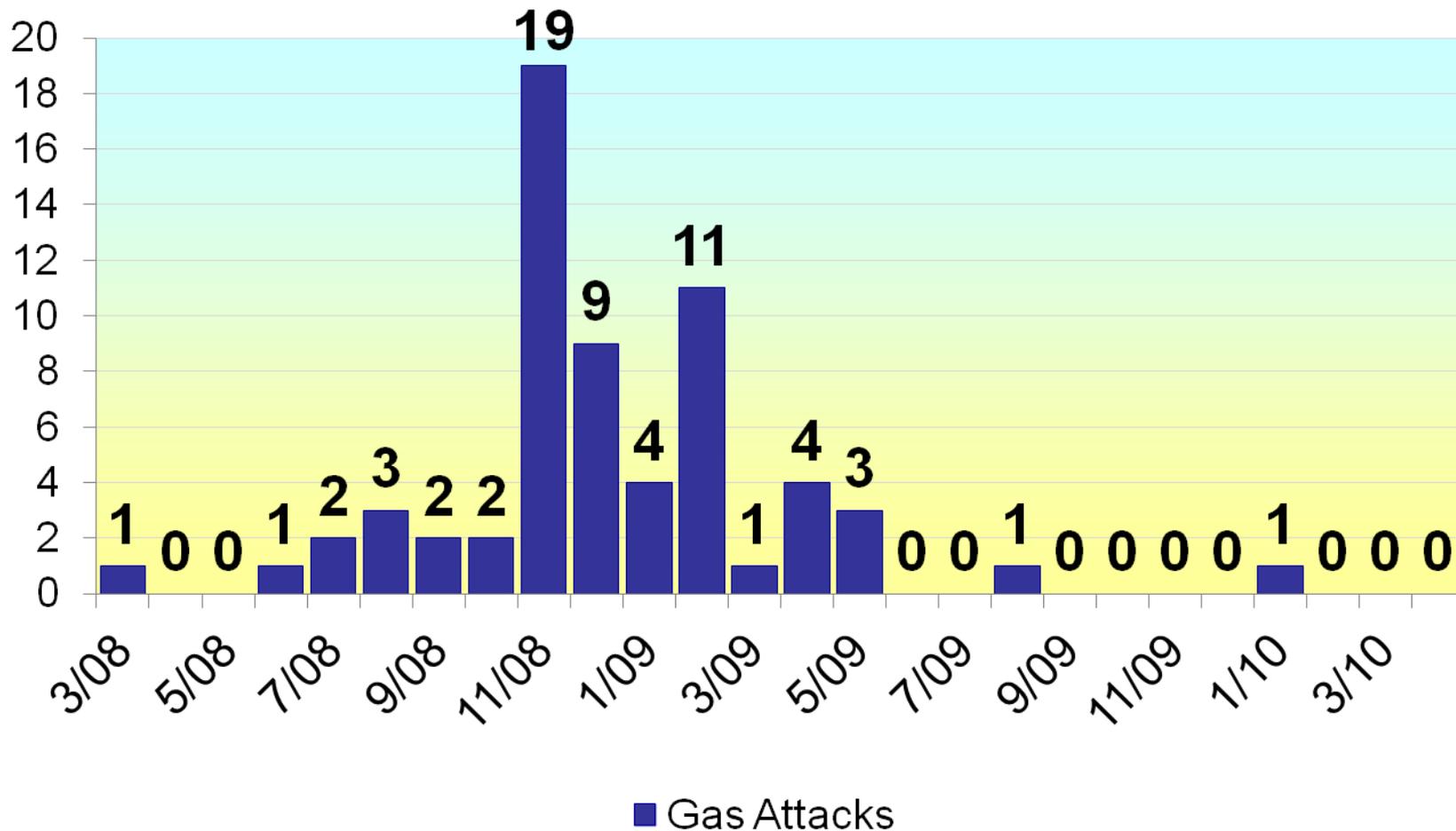
- SF Piccadilly 2 established
- ATM industry engaged. Another forum held
- Offences investigated
- Crime scene ATM, location, security data collected
- Data analysed & disseminated to industry
- Suspects identified and targeted



RESPONSE

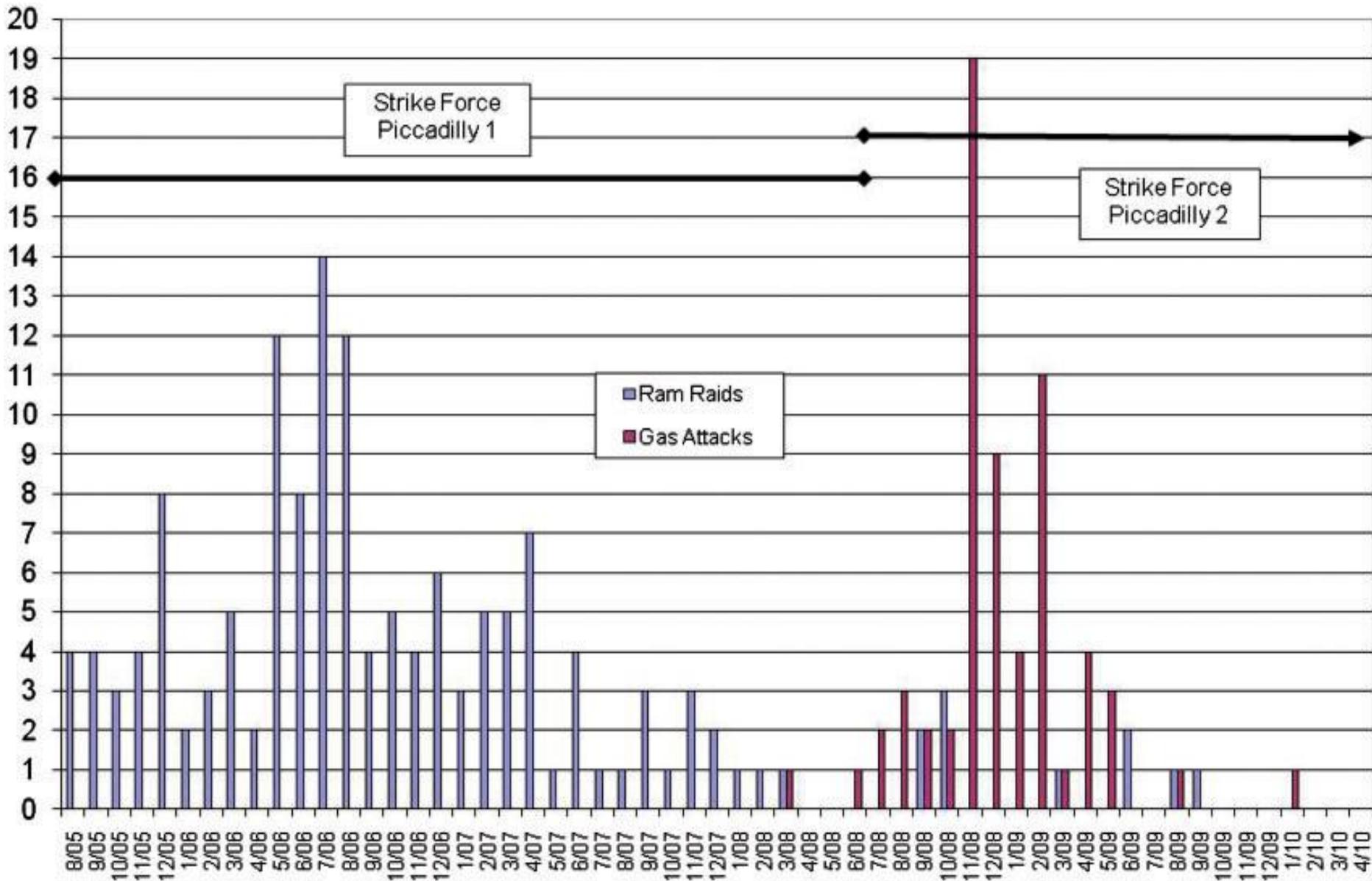
- 1800 rapid police response to ATM alarms
- Risk assessments on vulnerable ATM locations
- Preventative technology
- Improved perimeter security
- Media used to promote arrests
- Associated enabling offences investigated

ASSESSMENT – GAS ATTACKS



ASSESSMENT: ATM RAM RAID & GAS ATTACKS

Successful & Unsuccessful, August 2005 to April 2010



CONTACT INFORMATION



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