

BLUE LINE

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Before reaching that break-in forewarned is forearmed!

by Tony Maggay

In this day of modern burglars who are technologically adept, an increasing number of men in uniform are finding an ally in a new security technology that actually forewarns the responding police officers what to expect in a break-in site as it is happening. Just ask constables across North America that have responded to a security alarm call using Sonitrol audio technology.

The most dramatic Canadian call occurred not long ago when police were dispatched to a break-in at an electronics warehouse. As two marked police cruisers were approaching the building, the thieves were heard saying, "Oh, it's only two cars. Let's use the Uzzi." This life saving information enabled the responding officers to better assess the situation and therefore not go in the building until the Tactical Unit team arrived. The result - a successful apprehension without risk to the officers.

It comes as no surprise that this new security technology is police friendly. The company that developed the technology was actually founded by a police chief from Indiana. The company, Sonitrol Security Systems always works towards a police mind set keeping in mind the importance of providing intel-



Photo - Current Corp.

ligent information to the police officers responding to security alarms. Police safety has become a serious concern nowadays what with thieves becoming increasingly professional and well armed. The clumsy break and enter thieves common only five years ago are being replaced by felons familiar with high tech security access controls and glass break detectors and in some instances, equipped with heavy firepower to ward off police.

Recent break-ins in the electronic and computer industries, for example, have seen professional burglars bypassing normal modes of entry by doors and windows. Instead, they execute Topkapi maneuvers, crawling through

ventilation shafts or chopping holes in roofs. Once inside, they may set off motion detectors. Police responding to the alarm and checking the facility will find all secure. The danger is when the police discover the burglars and they happen to be armed. "The advantage of the Sonitrol system is that it gives police actual proof that a break-in is in fact in progress and provides them with intelligence so they are better prepared to handle the situation," says Joe Wilson, vice president of Sonitrol's Canadian operations.

The added benefit on top of police safety is that the technology is virtually false alarm free. This responds to police concern about the growing cost of responding to security false alarms. In Metro Toronto alone, the cost to Metro taxpayers is estimated at \$12 million annually. "Sonitrol is the only security company that fully supports the most recent Metro Toronto Police initiative of slapping a fee of \$73.50 for every false alarm they respond to," adds Wilson. Business and homeowners now also have with Sonitrol the solution to their recurring false alarm problem.

For more information contact Sonitrol Security Systems, 604-542-5330

Toll Free 1-866-SONITROL