

The IMP Sect have in the past year have investigated a number of thefts. In a majority of cases could have been prevented by the owners taking adequate steps to safeguard the property e.g. by locking offices when unoccupied, locking items in draws / cabinets (even if working in the office), not leaving attractive items on display. A vast majority of crimes are 'spur of the moment' actions, when the opportunity presents itself a thief will think nothing of taking and pocketing attractive items (mp3 players, purses, wallets, even classified documents), and keeping them for their own use or for selling on.

Crime prevention starts with you the owner. Therefore you must take reasonable steps to safeguard your own and NATO property.

The hyperlink below takes you to a booklet produced by the Home Office, which is a part of the British Government.

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/yp/ypgcp.htm>

Although designed for people living in the UK, it provides useful information for reducing crime, and it can help anyone regardless of where they live and if followed it can make yourself safer, protect your home, your family and your belongings. Many of the steps suggested are common sense, but they can make a real difference. By securing your home and property, you can save yourself the distress and expense of crime, and make your community a safer and better place to live in.

Thieves look for portable, high value, easily saleable goods. An excellent means of crime reduction is by permanently marking of property with a unique reference. Such marking not only makes it much more difficult for a thief to sell stolen property on, but will also prevent the situation where the police have recovered suspected stolen property from a thief, but the original owner can not be traced. Within the military the different types of property encountered further complicate the problem of property ownership. Property can be military that is issued to an individual, military belonging to a unit, regimental property, mess property or civilian property belonging to any of these groups.


Marking of property can be achieved in many ways, engraving tools, die stamps, ultra violet marking or security etching etc. It is important to remember being forces personnel we can and do get posted overseas. To make identification easier property belonging to service personnel should be marked with the NATO recognized 3 letter country code followed by your national service number, property owned by civilians employed by NATO should be marked with the NATO recognized 3 letter code followed by name and postcode, for example:

Military - GBR12345678

Civilian - GBR-SMITH- 5555-633

Remember to tell the police if the stolen property is marked and if marked what the unique marking is because when suspected stolen property is recovered, it is examined, including under ultra violet light, with a view of tracing any identification marks. Once the person has been identified and traced, the necessary action can be taken to secure evidence of ownership and loss and the eventual return to the owner, following any period of retention if required as evidence in a criminal investigation.

The IMP Sect hold a property marking kit which can be used by all staff members to mark their property, If you wish to use this service please contact the undersigned.

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