

SAN JOSE, CALIF.
RECORDED FEB. 1975

San Jose (Ca) - Police Department
OPERATION IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

39900

MICROFICHE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ACQUISITIONS

Operation Identification, generally speaking, is a do-it-yourself burglary prevention program which provides citizens the opportunity to engrave their California Driver's License number on their personal property. The citizens are issued at least two decals/stickers which state the items inside the residence have been marked for ready identification and these decals/stickers are posted where a potential burglar might see the sticker and perhaps be deterred from attempting entry.

OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of Operation Identification include:

1. Assist in returning recovered property items to their rightful owner.

Operation Identification provides law enforcement agencies with a better means to positively identify the ownership of property which is recovered or is being investigated.

2. Deter burglaries, primarily residential burglaries.

This program is aimed at reducing the number of burglaries by making the object of attack unattractive to the would-be perpetrator. The purpose of displaying decals or stickers on doors and windows is to bring to the attention of the potential burglar the fact that the personal property items he will find are marked with a number that would identify the item as "hot" and traceable to the owner.

HYPOTHESIS

Burglary is a crime which provides the perpetrator monetary gain. A successful offense dictates that the offender can safely keep the stolen property in his possession or convert it to cash with a minimum risk of detection. Personal identifiers, such as provided by Operation Identification, seriously increase the risk factor and limit the safety previously enjoyed.

PROGRAM UPDATE AND EVALUATION

Evaluation continued on the effect of Operation ID on the five BBB area bounded by Sonora Avenue, N. 1st Street, Hedding, N. 17th Street, Taylor, Fox and Guadalupe Parkway. October through December were added to the follow-up period and the results are shown in Tables 1 through 4.

Table 1 shows that the estimated burglary rate in the five BBB area after implementation continued to be slightly lower than during implementation. During approximately the same time, the City experienced an increase in its burglary rate of about 6% (comparing January-April and May-November), so it can be concluded that Operation ID succeeded in decreasing burglaries in the area.

Table 2 displays the initial deterrent effect of stickers. The estimated burglary rate for premises without stickers was over four times as high as the rate for premises with stickers. It seems, therefore, that stickers have a real deterrent effect.

Table 3 shows the type of property target involved in the burglaries during and after implementation of the program. Although the percentage of cases with engraveable property actually seemed to increase, the difference was not statistically significant and could be attributed to chance. Therefore, the hypothesis that Operation ID would result in a shift in property targets has no supportive evidence.

Similarly, Table 4 shows no significant difference in use of force during and after implementation. However, the first three months after implementation did show an alarming increase in no force burglaries, and it was hypothesized that victims might be decreasing their self-protection under a mistaken sense of security. In support of this, at the beginning of the program out of the eight premises which were burglarized and displayed stickers, four did not require force. With the continued decrease of burglary risk for premises with stickers, it is possible that, after becoming familiar with Operation ID, burglars are staying away from premises that display stickers regardless of the level of security and hence the

pattern on use of force is not significantly different from what it was before Operation ID.

To recapitulate, evaluation of Operation ID in the five BBB area indicates that:

1. Operation ID succeeded in decreasing burglaries.
2. Stickers acted as a deterrent.
3. The area did not experience changes in property target nor use of force, but this may be because burglars avoided premises involved in the program while at the same time not altering their approach to those premises still being victimized.

OPERATION ID: INITIAL IMPACT IN FIVE BBB AREAS (UPDATE)

PHASE	DATES	NUMBER OF DAYS	NUMBER OF BURGLARIES	BURGLARY RATE ^a
Implementation	1/21 - 4/25	95	40	.23
Follow-up	4/26 - 12/31	250	98	.22

^aBurglary rate is defined as the number of burglaries per day per 1000 premises.

TABLE 1

OPERATION ID: INITIAL DETERRENT EFFECT OF STICKERS (UPDATE)

BBB	DATES ^a	DAYS ^b	NUMBER OF BURGLARIES ^d			BURGLARY RATES ^c		
			TOTAL	STICKER	NO STICKER	TOTAL	STICKER	NO STICKER
47	2/10-12/31	325	18	2	16	.14	.05	.18
52	4/26-12/31	250	35	4	31	.32	.10	.45
53	2/10-12/31	325	30	4	26	.21	.08	.28
56	2/8-12/31	327	18	1	17	.47	.28	.48
78	2/7-12/31	328	20	0	20	.15	.00	.21
TOTAL	4/26-12/31	250	98	10	88	.22	.07	.29

^aDates refer to the dates covered in follow-up after implementation was completed in a given area.

^bDays and number of burglaries do not add up to total since they are dependent on the date on which the program was completed in a given area.

^cBurglary rate is defined as number of burglaries per day per 1000 premises.

TABLE 2

OPERATION ID: PROPERTY TARGET PATTERNS (UPDATE)

PHASE	CASES	TYPE OF PROPERTY TARGET			
		TOTAL	% ENGRAVEABLE ^b	% NOT ENGRAVEABLE	% NO LOSS
Implementation	40	100%	48%	32%	20%
Follow-up	98	100%	59%	28%	13%

^aPercentages may not add up to total due to independent rounding.

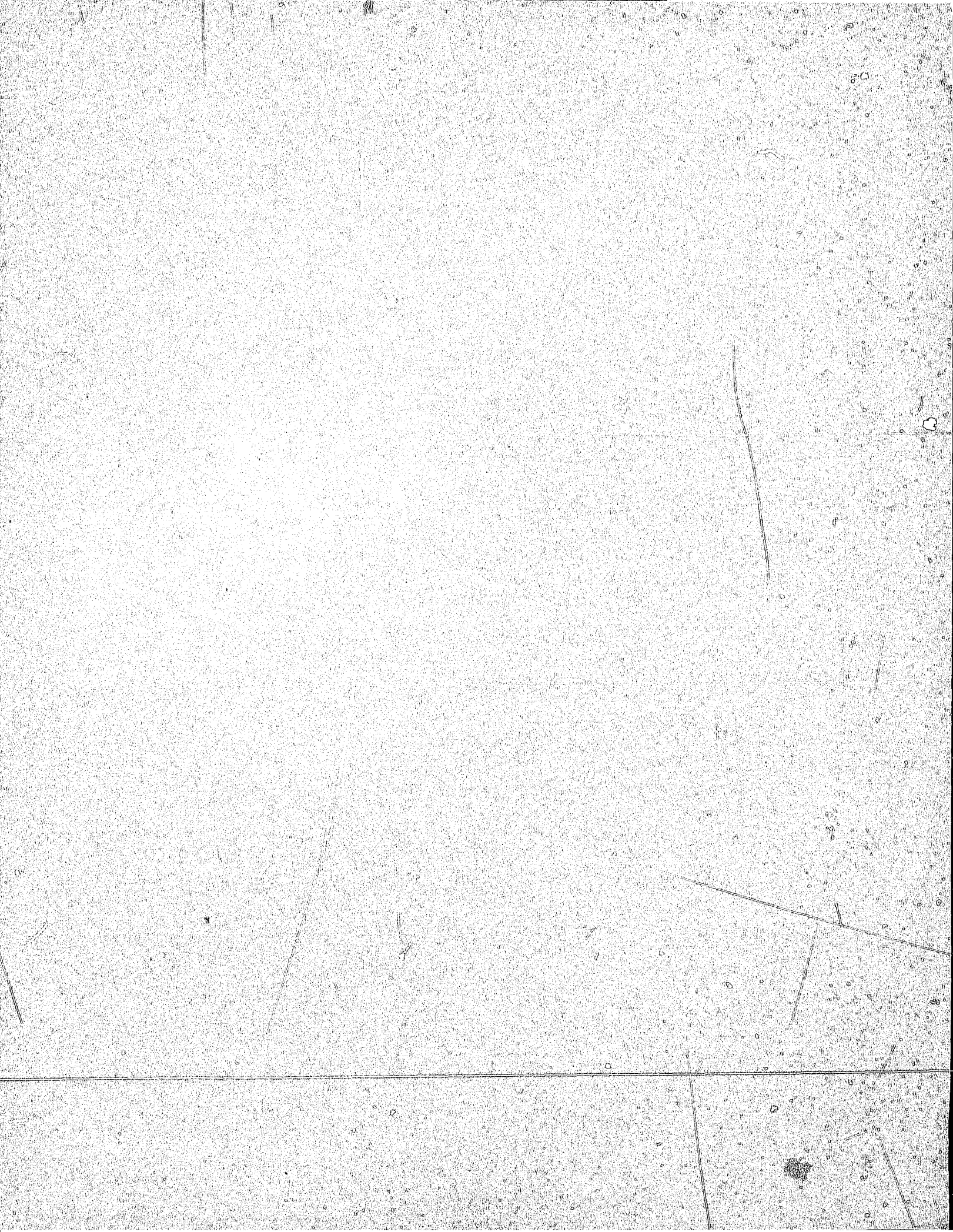
^bEngraveable means that at least some of the property could be engraved but was not necessarily engraved.

TABLE 3

OPERATION ID: PATTERN IN USE OF FORCE (UPDATE)

PHASE	CASES	FORCE	NO FORCE
Implementation	40	80%	20%
Follow-up	98	70%	30%

TABLE 4



END