

# Countdown to the Olympics

July 27th to September 9th 2012

## Impact on the metropolis

The 2012 Olympic London venues stretch from Wembley Stadium, in the West, to the Royal Artillery Barracks in the East: a total of 34 competition venues, including the Olympic Park itself, at Stratford.

Some 5.3m visitors to London are expected during the Games with more than a million extra journeys across the busiest nine days. The ODA has reported that the proposed live sites at Victoria Park, Hyde Park and Potters Field could attract up to 80,000 people. (*London Assembly Transport Committee*)

## Impact on the City & Business

Certain events will take place in the capital, outside the Olympic Village, such as the Greenwich Millennium Dome for gymnastics, Wembley Stadium for football and Horse Guards Parade for beach volleyball.

Business concerns have centred on commuter and public transport overloads, road closures and diversions, policing, employee safety, potential terrorism and public safety, disruption occurring especially during the marathon and opening ceremonies, potential loss of network coverage for mobile phones and PDAs and business continuity issues. (*Frontier Technology*)

Twenty-two transport hot spots have been identified. The main eight are: West End, Westminster, Bank, the South Bank, Canary Wharf, Stratford & Canning Town, Liverpool Street and King's Cross St Pancras. It is estimated that 150,000 extra people will use London Bridge station, an increase of 50%. (*London Assembly Transport Committee*)

The ODA expects significant delays on the Central and Jubilee Lines and DLR network if businesses and Londoners continue to use transport as they normally do. A campaign urging the public to work from home more, change their travel routines and to organise video-conferences instead of meetings, will be launched by Transport for London early next year. (*London Assembly Transport Committee*)

## In the global media eye

An estimated global audience of 4 billion people are expected to watch the opening ceremony and an anticipated 21,000 accredited media representatives will be in attendance.

## Security

The Olympic Safety and Security Strategic Risk Assessment (OSRA) team have assessed the main threats to emanate from five areas: terrorism; serious and organised crime; domestic extremism; public disorder; and major accidents and natural events.

# Speakers

## Detective Chief Superintendent Michael McDonagh MA CMgr FInstLM FCMI

Michael has served with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) for 25 years. He is the Operational Command Unit Commander for the Counter Terrorism Protective Security Command (SO20), 'Head of Profession' for the MPS Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs), Counter Terrorism Security Co-ordinators (SecCos), The Counter Terrorism Specialist Search Wing and Specialist Police Licensed Search Advisors (Polsas).

His current responsibilities involve providing strategic counter terrorism threat assessments, security and safety guidance and practicable hostile mitigation consultancy including public, corporate/private buildings and military establishments. He specialises in overseeing overt and covert physical penetration testing, using both traditional and innovative technology combined with the latest systems thinking.

## Detective Chief Inspector Nigel Basham

Nigel has an extensive background of both overt and covert major crime investigation and specialist operations at New Scotland Yard. Previously he ran a section within the Specialist Operations Protective Security command for London, both informing and reacting to changing UK threat levels, including COBR and provision of counter-terrorism advice. He also led a covert team of investigators to carry out immediate reviews of security breaches at iconic and sensitive London sites, which included providing recommendations for future prevention.

In addition, he is a hostage negotiator for the UK and a member of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office international hostage negotiator cadre, dealing with the kidnapping of UK Nationals overseas. He has recently been deployed to Mali and Yemen in this capacity and has extensive international links across Europe, the Middle East and USA.

## Frank Gardner OBE, BBC Security Correspondent

Frank spent nine years as an investment banker in New York, London and Bahrain before switching to journalism and joining the BBC in 1995. Frank has reported extensively on the global 'War on Terror' in Guantanamo Bay, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East.

In 2004 Frank survived being shot six times at close range by Al-Qaeda terrorists in a Riyadh suburb in Saudi Arabia. He went on to write the best selling book *Blood and Sand*, the poignant story of what can happen to your belief system when the culture you have embraced ends up trying to kill you. He was awarded an OBE in 2005 for services to journalism.