

Police partner up to reduce car theft

STAFF REPORTER

A NEW unit within the Gauteng Traffic Police, involving a partnership with stolen vehicle recovery company Tracker, is adamant that it will reduce the number of stolen and hijacked cars.

The Gauteng Traffic Police anti-hijacking unit consists of 40 members in high-powered vehicles whose mandate is to patrol highways, hot spots and busy intersections throughout the province.

Their vehicles have been installed with sophisticated Tracker computers, and their specialist officers trained on how to track stolen vehicles fitted with a Tracker.

Tracker's recovery technology is installed in more than 1 200 police vehicles and about 50 aircraft.

The partnership with the police has already resulted in 7 990 arrests.

Tracker spokesman Gareth Crocker said they had already managed to recover about 45 000 stolen and hijacked vehicles since the com-

pany's inception in 1996.

"The police are really empowered because we have about 600 000 vehicles fitted with the Tracker, so the police actually get immediate signals of a stolen or hijacked vehicle," said Crocker.

Tracker's operations manager, Ronnie Knott-Craig, said they were delighted with the new partnership. "We believe that linking arms with the specialist team will be of significant benefit to the police and the public," he said.