

Tracker and Gauteng target crime

MOTERING STAFF

Tracker and new anti-hijack unit aim to crack down on Gauteng crime

STOLEN vehicle recovery company, Tracker, has joined forces with the Gauteng Department of Community Safety's new anti-hijacking unit in a partnership that is set to push Tracker's arrest record beyond the 8 000 mark – a figure equivalent to the inmate population of a large South African prison.

The new unit, known as The Gauteng Traffic Police Anti-Hijacking Unit, was established in December last year and consists of 40 members in 20 high-powered vehicles whose primary mandate is to patrol highways, hot spots and busy intersections throughout the province. While they also respond to a host of other crimes including traffic infringements, drug trafficking and other transport-related offences, their main focus will be on countering vehicle theft and hijackings.

Their presence will further boost security in the

province as South Africa heads towards the World Cup in 2010.

"We already have our recovery technology installed in more than 1 200 police vehicles and almost 50 aircraft and believe that our linking arms with this specialist team will be of significant benefit to both the police, Tracker's customers and the South African public at large," says Ronnie Knott-Craig, Tracker's Operations Director.

"Our relationship with the police has already resulted in around 7 990 arrests and, with the support of the new unit, we are confident we will soon surpass the 8 000 mark.

The unit's head,

Control Provincial Inspector, Malose Phalane, believes that they are now ideally posi-

tioned to make significant inroads in vehicle crime in Gauteng.

"In only three months, we have already had numerous successes and have arrested



Members of Gauteng Traffic Police's new Anti-Hijacking Unit gather together at the end of a two-day training session with members of Tracker. The 40-member team's primary mandate is to patrol Gauteng's highways and combat hijacking in the province.

suspects for a wide variety of offences including vehicle crime, illegal weapons possession, fraud and drug smuggling," says Phalane.