# TR-07-93 Residential Break and Enter Expert System

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TECHNICAL REPORT
October 1993

NOTE: Further information about this report can be obtained by calling the CPRC information number (613) 998-6343

#### **Executive Summary**

The Ottawa Police Residential Break & Enter Expert System is a collaborative project with the Ottawa Police, the Canadian Police Research Centre and the Institute for Information Technology at the National Research Council of Canada.

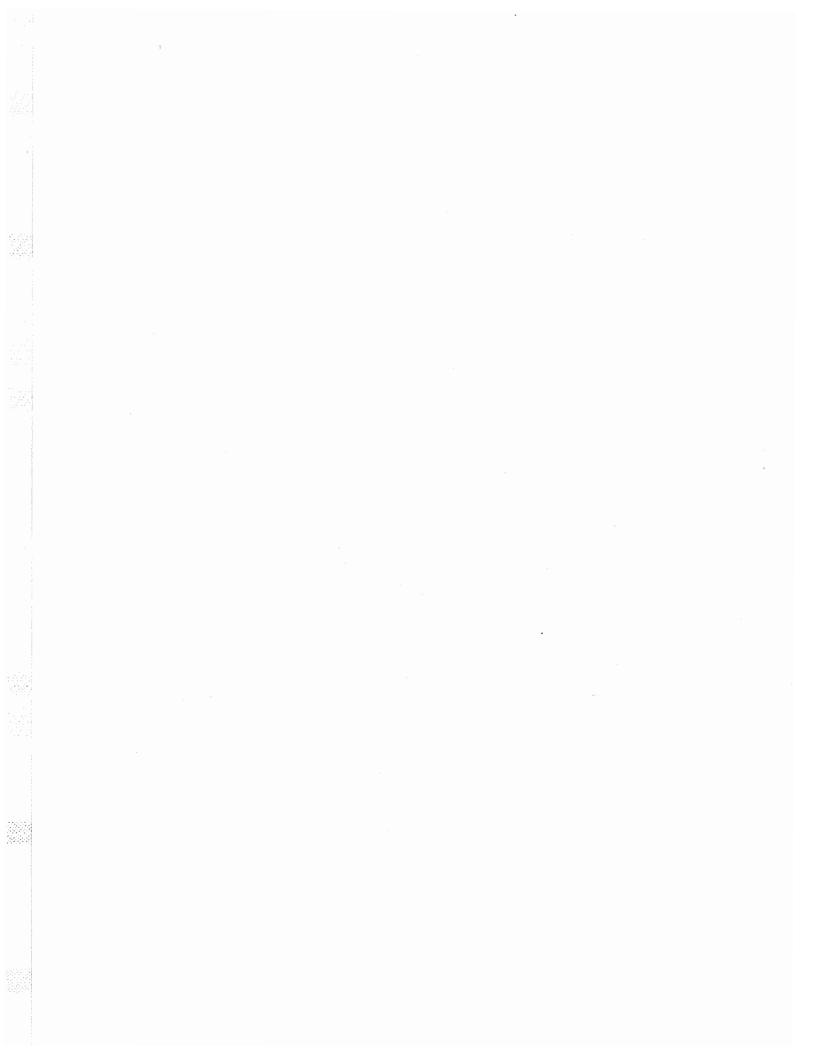
Residential break and enters are the focus of the expert system because of the volume and the low rate of solvency. The Expert system encodes rules of reasoning defined by police investigators for a given situation.

To create an information data base a work sheet was developed. This computerized worksheet is made up of 232 break and enter characteristics and 176 suspect characteristics. The NRC team is responsible for the expert system development.

Today the Ottawa police platoon officers have been trained to gather the information for the expert system.

The possibility of integrating a "Geographical Information System" into the expert system would allow the analyst to use "proximity analysis" finding the actual distance of the incidents. The G.I.S. would also pin point the location of every break and enter.

It is expected that the Ottawa Police expert system will become an extremely useful and valuable tool in their effort to provide the highest quality of service to the community they serve.



#### Résumé

Le Système expert sur les vols par effraction dans les résidences de la police d'Ottawa est un projet réalisé en collaboration par la police d'Ottawa, le Centre canadien de recherches policières et l'Institut de la technologie de l'information du Conseil national de recherches du Canada.

Le système expert a été créé pour aider à élucider les nombreux cas de vols par effraction commis dans les résidences, dont les auteurs sont rarement identifiés. Le système encode des règles de raisonnement définies par les policiers chargés de l'enquête dans une situation donnée.

On a élaboré une fiche de travail pour créer une base de données. Cette fiche informatisé e inclut 232 caractéristiques de vols par effraction et 176 caractéristiques de suspects. L'équipe du CNRC est chargée de l'élaboration du système expert.

Les policiers d'Ottawa ont maintenant reçu la formation nécessaire pour entrer les données dans le système.

L'éventuelle intégration d'un système d'information géographique au système expert permettrait à l'analyste d'avoir recours à une «analyse de proximité» pour découvrir la distance réelle entre les lieux où se produisent les vols. Le SIG indiquerait le lieu où chaque vol est commis.

On pense que le système expert de la police d'Ottawa va devenir un outil très utile et très précieux qui va l'aider à fournir un service de qualité supérieure à la communauté dans laquelle il oeuvre.

# RESIDENTIAL BREAK AND ENTER EXPERT SYSTEM PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 1993

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### **BREAK & ENTER EXPERT SYSTEM**

#### PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL 1993

The following is a progress report on the Residential Break & Enter Expert System that is currently being developed by the Ottawa Police, the National Research Council and the Canadian Police Research Centre.

#### 1992 In Review

Arrangements were made in December of 1991 to have the "Expert Team," which consists of past and present members of the Break & Enter squad as well as members of the Identification and Crime Analysis sections, meet on January 17th, 1992.

At this brainstorming session the members went over a residential break-in form being used by Tucson Police Force (part of the U.S. experiment in Expert Systems). The result of this brainstorming meeting was approximately two hundred and sixty characteristics that might describe a break and enter, such as "glass cut," "searched concealed compartment" and "victim at home at time of incident."

These break-in characteristics were divided into four groups with each characteristic being amended into the form of an "if-then" statement. On March 20th, 1992 each team member was given a book with one of the groups of questions. They were then asked to complete the book by reviewing a given if/then statement and then writing down what, if anything, this statement told them about the suspect. This process, being very abstract, was quite difficult but the response was excellent.

The books, once completed, were then reviewed and compiled onto a computerized worksheet. This resulted in approximately 2,000 if/then statements in 232 break & enter characteristics and 176 Suspect Characteristics.

These statements including their "weights" or confidence factors were then divided into four groups. On June 22nd, 1992 the Expert Team met again at the N.R.C. for an entire day (some groups did not finish that day and met again later to complete the task) to review the findings. They were asked to come to a consensus on each statement including assigning a weight to each statement.

This resulted in two things. First, the basis for the new break and enter form; second, the basis for the rules that will run the system.

The new break & enter form was completed in July and testing began with twenty officers from platoon (four per platoon) in August. The officers were provided with in depth training, lasting between 2-3 hours, on the new form and the system it will be used in. The officers involved expressed positive feedback at that time regarding both the form and the reasons for requiring it.

The N.R.C. completed an interface to be used for data entry. This interface was installed on an I.B.M. compatible 486/33. Data entry has begun and this has resulted in a number of changes to both the data entry interface and in certain rules.

On Friday November 6th, 1992 eight of the twenty officers who used the form met with J. Brahan, R. Shevel of the N.R.C. along with Sgt. Valcour and Cst. Patterson. This meeting was extremely positive with the officers providing suggestions for correcting and adding data to the form. They also made a number of helpful recommendations to assist in both the implementation of the project and in training the platoon members.

The unanimous nature of the acceptance of the new form, not only by these officers but also by fellow officers they showed it to was a pleasant surprise. A number of officers also stated that they had learned a number of new things about the investigation of break & enters by taking the new report. For example one officer indicated that he was not aware of the fact that some suspects who pick locks plug the cylinders so that the victim cannot walk in on them.

Some of the officers also stated that during the training they learned a great deal about what was important to investigators. The reverse was also true, with the patrol officers having an opportunity to express their observations and concerns to an investigator.

Even more meaningful was the response by members of the public. The officers indicated that the victims were very positive about the form. The perception was that the police were asking more questions about the crime in an attempt to catch the suspect and the public was more than willing to assist by providing whatever data was required.

Final approval was then received to commence platoon wide training on the revised form. Most of the training was completed at 05:00 hours so that the training could be completed quickly and with little interruption to the platoons. The officers were trained in groups of five to ten officers so that individual attention could be spent on all officers.

The sessions lasted approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours each and entailed a detailed briefing on what expert systems are, types of expert systems currently in use, reasons for the Ottawa Police developing a system, future potential applications and finally training on the data gathering form.

This in depth training was very well received by the officers. The common sentiment was that by taking the time to explain how and why they were being asked to complete a new form they took some ownership in the project. Their only request was that they be kept informed of the project's development.

At this time almost all of the platoon officers have been trained with the few remaining to be completed as time permits.

With the patrol officers completing the data gathering forms, the data entry has been commenced. This pointed out some flaws in the internal paper flow process of the Ottawa police. With minor alterations this problem has been rectified and the process in now flowing smoothly.

A number of data collection errors were also observed as the reports began to flow in. Many of these were written off as being the result of training officers at 5:30 A.M. when they are very tired. To rectify these problems and to brief the officers on recent developments Sgt. Valcour attended the last series of training days.

In half hour long lectures the officers were advised of the need for data integrity and the most common errors were pointed out to them. They were also updated on the new developments in the project. By keeping the officers informed it is believed that they will continue to take ownership of the new system and will attempt to complete the forms as effectively as possible.

#### **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

One extremely interesting new development has been the realization of the fact that this project could greatly be enhanced by the utilization of "Geographical Information Systems." A number of meetings have now been held with personnel from the G.I.S. Applications Group at Energy Mines and Resources with a view to obtaining their assistance in this project.

The reason G.I.S. is such an exciting development is its ability to enhance our system. For example, when investigators look at a number of break and enters they normally key on the fact that break and enters that are physically close in distance to one and another are often done by the same people. By using "proximity analysis" a G.I.S. system, running underneath the expert system, can quickly tell the true distance from one incident to another.

The fact that a river is between the two incidents is not a major hurdle as the G.I.S. system uses "routing" to determine the true distance. So one break-in that is four hundred yards "as the crow flies" to another may in fact be miles away by vehicle.

A second use for G.I.S. is its ability to place "buffers" around geographical areas such as schools, shopping centres, bike paths, parks etc.. This allows the expert system to have rules fire such as "is there a school near here..." The G.I.S. answers the question for the expert system and the system then continues firing rules depending on the answer it receives.

Of course the G.I.S. will allow for mapping the break and enters and various cosmetic tools such as labeling and colouring the maps.

Another development may be the use of pen based computing for the data gathering. While in Rochester recently the project team was given a demonstration of this new type of computing. It appears that this type of data entry tool would be very user friendly for the officers taking reports. As well the data form can be made "smart." This means that when officers fill in reports they can not close the file until all the required data has been gathered.

Finally, Sgt. Valcour has met with members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Security Engineering Unit. These officers have a great deal of expertise in safe cracking and lock picking. It is hoped that they will provide the information required to create a data gathering form to be used at the scene of break and enters where safes were attacked. The officers will also provide the information required to write rules for these specific types of incidents.

#### **CONCLUSION**

At this time the Ottawa Police are waiting for the N.R.C. to complete the development of the prototype and are anxiously waiting for the "Alpha" test stage to begin. It is hoped that this well take place in the near future. At the same time we will commence work on methods to capture suspect data including physical characteristics and sightings (suspect cards).

With time, and a great deal of effort, it is believed that the Ottawa Police expert system will become an extremely useful and valuable tool in our effort to provide the highest quality of service to the community we serve.

# RESIDENTIAL BREAK AND ENTER EXPERT SYSTEM PROGRESS REPORT JULY 1992

## **OVERVIEW**

For some time now the Ottawa Police have been working with the Canadian Police Research Centre and the Institute for Information Technology of the National Research Council on a new computer system known as a knowledge based, or *Expert System*.

Expert Systems have evolved over the years from the ongoing research into artificial intelligence. Essentially, expert systems use a new way of programing that makes it possible to encode basic rules of reasoning for a given situation. An example of rules for a break & enter system might be:

*IF*: the glass is smashed, *THEN*: the suspect is unsophisticated *IF*: the glass is cut, *THEN*: the suspect is sophisticated.

An Expert System is designed to automatically use these rules in attempting to solve a given problem, in our case, a break & enter. The system accomplishes this by generating a profile of the person responsible for a given break-in. It then looks for similar profiles or 'behavioural fingerprints' from its suspect data base and attempts to match them. The system will then generate a suspect profile and list his/her characteristics. From there a list of any suspects who match those characteristics is displayed, with each match being rated in a percentage.

Logically, it takes time to build a large enough data base, both of break and enters and of suspect profiles, for the expert system to begin to provide useful information to analysts and/or investigators.

#### Crime Analysis

As well as matching suspect characteristics with those of known offenders, the system will provide the means to analyse residential break and enters in much finer detail. This portion of the system will be of immediate assistance to its users. The user will be able to analyse residential break and enters however they see fit.

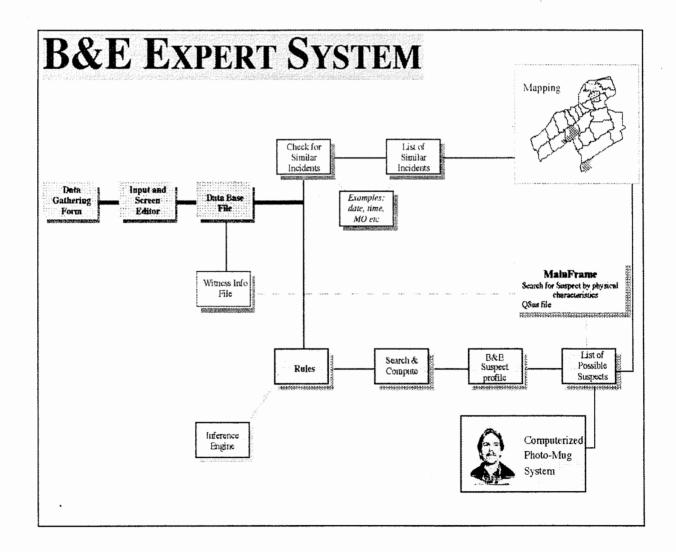
As an example of this crime analysis, the user would be able to ask for all break & enters where lock-picks were used. Another user may want to see all break-ins from the south end where the suspect defecated at the scene. The system will be designed to allow on line queries with simple commands, providing crime analysts, investigators and uniformed officers easy access to this extremely helpful tool.

It is also hoped that the Ottawa Police Expert System will utilize a software package presently available to plot the results of any search on a colour map of the city. This user friendly program is able to manipulte the data on the mapping system in any way the user sees fit.

Once the Identification Section purchases their Computerized Photo-Mug System it is expected that the expert system will interface with it allowing for the immediate display of a colour photograph of any suspect the system, or the user, wishes to view.

Another future expectation is that the expert system would interface with the CADRE system so that it can search for a suspect who matches any *physical* characteristics that a witness might provide. This will mean updating the CADRE system's suspect data base but with time this should not be a problem.

To visualize the entire system please refer to this flow chart...



#### METHODOLOGY

It was decided early in the project to use residential break & enters as the focus of the Expert System. This was based on a number of factors: volume of cases, low rate of solvency and recidivism of suspects. The decision was also based on the fact that there were a number of police agencies in the United States who are also involved in similar projects, also focused on residential break and enters.

In January of this year the project team, whose names are listed below, was formed and brought together for a brainstorming session. The members went over a residential break-in form being used by Tucson Police Force. The members confirmed that many of the characteristics that describe a break-in were the same in Ottawa as in Tucson. The team decided however, that there were numerous characteristics from the Tucson form that were not relevant in Ottawa and that many more needed to be added to any form to be used in Ottawa for various reasons.

#### EXPERT TEAM

S/SGT, RAYMOND ROY SGT. DOUG WHITE DET. BRUCE MUNRO DET. RALPH HEYERHOFF S/SGT. HURB DURAND SGT. ED FLYNN S/SGT. TERRY LYNCH SGT. KEN DUMONT CST. REG MACDONALD S/SGT, FRANK BOWES SGT. GERRY SCHARFE CST. MIKE CAYER SGT. BARRY DAWSON SGT. DOUG YOUNG CST. STU DONALDSON SGT. TONY SEGUIN SGT. RICK WILHELM CST. ALISTER MCLEAN SGT. DENNIS SMITH SGT. RON BIRD CST. GORD TANDRUP CIV. MAUREEN BURKE SGT. DAVE LENGACHER SGT. DOUG MUNRO SGT. TOM CALLAGHAN DET. JOHN RADMORE CIV. MARIANNE PETHKE SGT. BOB MEEK DET, BRIAN MCMAHON SGT. MAYNARD PROULX DET. TERRY WELSH

This brainstorming meeting resulted in the listing of approximately two hundred and sixty characteristics that might describe a break and enter, such as "Glass Cut". These break and enter characteristics were then divided into four groups with each characteristic being amended into the form of an "IF-THEN" statement. For example: *IF* Glass cut on entry..... *THEN*: the suspect is...

Each team member was then given a book with one of the groups of questions and asked to complete the questions.

The books, once completed, were then reviewed and compiled onto a computerized worksheet. It was agreed that any break-in characteristic that could not make a statement about a suspect would not be placed on the data gathering form (with the exception of Statistics Canada requirements and elements which may assist in Crime Analysis).

The final result was that approximately 2,000 statements (IF/THEN) were made by the team members in 232 Break & Enter characteristics: (IF glass cut on entry THEN......).

This generated 176 Suspect characteristics: (IF vandalisim extensive THEN **the suspect** is **sophisticated**). A portion of the actual worksheet is reproduced below. If the entire worksheet was printed on paper it would measure sixteen feet by nine feet. The break & enter characteristics are listed on the left column and the suspect characteristics are listed on the top row.

	uses body force	brought tools	uses tools		experienced	has knowledge of victim or residence	break-in did not occur	total count	total sum
tools left at scene						3		6	23
entry visually screened					5	3		7	42
entry by removing air conditioner		5	7	5	5	3		11	51
minimal body force used						5	4	7	42
excessive body force used	10	-6			6	5		7	35
glass broken on entry	•••••••					3		5	27
glass cut on entry		10	10	10		6		10	74
slit screen on entry			9			3		4	28
entry by scam				•	6	3	<u> </u>	7	45
no sign of forced entry			•		8	5	4	11	55
molding pryed on entry	. 15		10	5	7	3		6	41
window/door removed	***************************************			7	8	4		9	28
iron bars removed	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		•		8	8	<u> </u>	8	
entry through walls (garage?)					8	3	•	7	35

(Worksheer: Break & Enter Characteristics vs. Suspect Characteristics, with scoring of -10 to 10, the highest confidence factor being 10)

This allowed for the drafting of a new residential break & enter report form which you see on the following page.

This form will now be used, on a trial basis, by four members of each platoon, one officer per zone. The officer's comments will be used to draft a final form. Training of all platoon members is expected to be complete by December and the new form in use by January 1st, 1993.

### OTTAWA POLICE - Residential Break & Enter Report

Occurrence: **VICTIM & INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS SEARCH** PROPERTY TAKEN/NOT TAKEN VICTIM ASSOCIATED INCIDENT(S) Readily Available: Not Taken TYPE ☐ HOME OCCUPIED AT TIME OF B&E ☐ ARSON Taken ☐ GRAB/NO SEARCH ANTIQUES

ART ON HOLIDAYS ☐ ASSAULT ☐ No Sign of Search  $\overline{\Box}$ ☐ AT FUNERAL ☐ CAR THEFT \_ RANSACK Casa No. ☐ CAMCORDER ☐ AT WEDDING ☐ DOMESTIC ☐ SYSTEMATIC ☐ CAMERA EQUIPMENT HOMICIDE ☐ LIVES ALONE TIDY ☐ CASH ☐ HAS TEENAGE CHILDREN ROBBERY CD PLAYER ☐ IS A STUDENT SEXUAL ASSAULT EXTENT ☐ CD's ☐ IS A CELEBRITY OTHER \_\_ ☐ ENTIRE PREMISE ☐ COIN/MONEY COLLECTION ☐ JUST MOVED IN ☐ BASEMENT ☐ COLLECTABLES ☐ RECENTLY SEPARATED ☐ ATTIC COMPUTER EQUIPMENT **CHARACTERISTICS OF RESIDENCE AND AREA** ☐ KITCHEN ☐ ELECTRONIC GAMES SIGNS OF OCCUPANCY RESIDENCE ☐ LIVING ROOM Furs PEOPLE VISIBLE ☐ SINGLE FAMILY ☐ DINING ROOM ☐ HAND GUNS ☐ DOOR OPEN ☐ ELEVATED APARTMENT ☐ FAMILY/REC ROOM ☐ Long guns ☐ CAR PRESENT ☐ GARDEN HOME ☐ CHILD'S ROOM ☐ JEWELERY ☐ →OBVIOUSLY NOT USED ☐ ROOMING HOUSE ☐ Spare Room/Office ☐ JUNK JEWELERY ☐ TOOLS/EQUIPMENT IN YARD ☐ House Boat GARAGE ☐ MICROWAVE ☐ LIGHTS ON ☐ MASTER BEDROOM ☐ SAFE TAKEN ☐ → On ALL DAY/WEEKEND ☐ OTTAWA-CARLETON HOUSING In Master bedroom Property Dumped ☐ SAFE ATTACKED ☐ RADIO/TV ON ☐ ON BED ☐ SAFE OPENED NEWSPAPER LEFT OUT ON CORNER ON FLOOR SILVERWARE/SILVER ☐ AT STAIRS / ELEVATOR ☐ Mail / JUNK Mail LEFT OUT ON DRESSER ☐ SILVERPLATE ☐ RECENT SERVICES ☐ GARBAGE CANS LEFT OUT ☐ SPORTS CARD COLLECTION (CARPET CLEANING, ALARM INSTALL) ☐ NOTE IN WINDOW/ DOOR ☐ LIQUOR CABINET ☐ STAMP COLLECTION ☐ GRASS NOT CUT MEDICINE CABINET ADJACENT TO OR VISIBLE CONSTRUCTION ☐ STEREO ☐ SNOW NOT SHOVELLED PACKAGES HOUSE OBVIOUSLY VACANT (EMPTY) GREEN SPACE ☐ TELEVISION REFRIGERATOR □ VCR OTHER SIGNS TOILET TANK ☐ BIKE PATH ☐ VEHICLE CONCEALED COMPARTMENT PROTECTED → Keys for A/M VEHICLE STORAGE CONTAINER ACTIVATED EXISTS ☐ ALARM SYSTEM LIGHT SWITCH ☐ DEADBOLT LOCKS AIR DUCT ☐ CREDIT CARDS / CHEQUES ☐ VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ☐ Poor Locks ☐ MOTION SENSOR LIGHTS ☐ POOR WINDOW SECURITY OTHER ☐ CHILDREN'S ARTICLES ☐ CIGARETTES ☐ Dog Present OTHER\_ (specify) **CLOTHING** ☐ IRON BARS **FEMALE ENTRY**  $\overline{\Box}$ FEMALE UNDERGARMENTS RISK REDUCTION TYPE OF ENTRY MALE ☐ RING/KNOCK FIRST ☐ PRIED TYPE OF TOOL □ DRUGS/ PRESCRIPTION ☐ CALLS RESIDENCE PRIOR ☐ —➤MOLDING ☐ Tools Brought to Scene DRUGS/ NON-PRESCRIPTION ☐ DISABLED ALARM FORCED ☐ TOOLS LEFT AT SCENE DRUGS/ ILLEGAL ☐ CUT PHONE CABLE ☐ No Sign Forced Entry FEMALE MAKE-UP ☐ JAMMED/LOCKED DOORS ☐ GLASS BROKEN  $\bar{\Box}$ FOOD ☐ LOCK PLUGGED ☐ GLASS CUT ☐ PRY TOOL FRIDGE/ LARGE APPLIANCES SCREEN SLIT ☐ SCREW DRIVER **ENTRY POINT FURNITURE** BY OPEN DOOR/WINDOW ☐ VISE GRIPS ☐ ENTRY NOT GAINED ☐ HARD LIQUOR ☐ BY UNLOCKED DOOR/WINDOW PIPE WRENCH ☐ WINE ☐ DOORWINDOW REMOVED ☐ HAMMER ☐ FRONT ☐ Beer ☐ IRON BARS REMOVED ☐ SIDE ☐ SLEDGE HAMMER ☐ Non-Alcoholic Beverages ☐ THROUGH WALL ☐ Axe REAR ☐ LAWN/SNOW EQUIPMENT ☐ REMOVED LOCKS ☐ HAND SAW ☐ Door ☐ PASSPORT ☐ REMOVED AIR CONDITIONER ☐ POWER SAW ☐ PATIO DOOR ☐ PIGGY BANK ☐ ENTRY BY SCAM ☐ Rock/Brick ☐ WINDOW ☐ POWER TOOLS ► (E.G. GYPSES, YOUTH) ☐ BASEMENT ☐ GLASS CUTTER ☐ MINIMAL FORCE USED ☐ WALLET / POCKETBOOK ☐ GROUND FLOOR ☐ SUCTION CUP ☐ EXCESSIVE FORCE USED ☐ BLANKETS ☐ WINDOW TAPED ☐ UPPER FLOOR ☐ PILLOW CASE Possibility of ☐ BALCONY ☐ SUITCASE ☐ PASS KEY ☐ ENTRY POINT SMALL ☐ HOCKEY / SPORTS BAG ☐ LOCK PICK ☐ ENTRY VISUALLY SCREENED ☐ ENTRY POINT HARDLY NOTICEABLE ☐ CREDIT CARD VALUABLE PROPERTY STASHED IN AREA ☐ ENTRY ATTEMPTED FROM MORE THAN ONE POINT PROPERTY SHEET LEFT WITH VICTIM BEHAVIOUR AT SCENE CONSUMED BEHAVIOUR USED GRAFFITI VANDALISM ☐ BURNING MATCHES GLOVES ☐ PERSONAL ☐ EXTENSIVE BEER ☐ DEFECATION Mask RACIAL ☐ MINOR ☐ FOOD SEXUAL ☐ HANDLE FEMALE UNDERGARMENT □ Socks LIQUOR ☐ SATANIC ☐ MADE THEMSELVES AT HOME ☐TISSUE/TOWELS OTHER BEHAVIOUR ☐ Non-Alcoholic Beverage ☐ URINATION ☐ WEAPON TRADEMARK ☐ WINE (specify) Reporting Officer: Cadre: Minutes: Entered:

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The National Research Council is presently working on the software for the Ottawa Police Expert System. They will use the completed break & enter forms to review the data collection process and to assist in writing the program.

It is anticipated that a prototype will be installed in the police station sometime in the spring of 1993. The prototype will be tested and the evaluation results will be employed to further refine the system to meet operational requirements.

At that stage an evaluation plan will be developed. This plan will address system benefits, deployment considerations and future development needs.

Interim reports will be regularly filed and a final report will be submitted once the evaluation plan in completed.