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LITHUANIA EDITION

„Being a police officer? In the last 15 years this is my lifestyle”, decisively states detective of the year 2004 Sandra Maščinskienė.

The case of 2004 was the second murder that Sandra was assigned to investigate. “The inquiry was comprehensively interesting, starting with the interviews and finishing with the preparation of the victim’s body to be transported over the border of the Republic of Lithuania”, maintains the officer. “Investigation of this case required a lot of work, personal time and – most importantly – patience which I would list as one of the key characteristics of an investigator”, Sandra continues. When asked whether today she would do anything differently investigating the case, the officer boldly replies: “I can’t say that I would do anything in a different way, however, experience accumulated in 10 years would have been really useful at that time. Most importantly we managed to focus on one goal – disclose the crime. We would meticulously prepare for each action and this would be the result of our joint work”. The investigator emphasizes the importance of team work which, in her opinion, is the basis of successful investigation. Therefore the detective of the year reward was earned by the whole team that worked with the case in question.



is interest in new methods of inquiry and their application in cases that I investigate”.

Answering the question about investigation techniques that are usually applied, Sandra enigmatically utters: “Each investigator has their own “non-standard” methods which they apply in inquiries. I believe that in this case such methods were the key factor that helped disclose the crime. I will not reveal those “methods” as I continue to successfully use them in crime investigation. Each of us has something inside that “switches on” when pursuing certain goals. I believe that what helps me

Below is description of the best case of 2004.

FIRE AND WATER FAILED TO ERASE TRACES

On the seventeenth of August, in a water body in Šiauliai district a holiday-maker spotted a strange object surfacing from the water. When the holiday-maker pulled the object out on the shore, he saw a rolled up rug tangled with steal wire and electricity cord and an attached car wheel with punctured tyre. Filled with curiosity the man started unrolling the rug from one side when his nose was

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stricken by appalling stench and he saw the head of a disintegrating body protruding from the rug.

Without any doubts the police were immediately informed about the finding. Police officers of Šiauliai district unrolled the rug and wrap, and found the body of an about 40-year-old black-haired man, 180 cm in length, dressed in shorts and T-shirt, wearing a white-metal watch and a yellow-metal pendant on a strap.

Police officers disseminated information that an unidentified male body had been found. A response was received from officers of Šiauliai city Missing Persons Division who had been in search of Russian businessman Gennadyj K. since May 17. A number of attributes suggested that it might be the body of the said businessman. The remaining doubts were dispelled by relatives of the missing person, namely wife Galina and brother Aleksandr, who came from Bryansk (Russian Federation). They recognised and confirmed that it was Gennadyj's body. He would frequently come to Lithuania to purchase used cars which he would later resell in Russia. Most often he would visit used car dealers in Radviliškis. On market days buyers would go there to purchase cars.



Žilvinas M. from Šiauliai would come to this market for several years, however, did not consider himself a serious businessman. He claimed that he would buy a car or two and then try to resell them at a higher price. Not all deals are profitable, sometimes Žilvinas M. would sustain losses. There was another business. Not very profitable but not loss-making either. When his mother relocated to live to the United States, Žilvinas was left with a three-bedroom apartment. Too much space for a single person, so he started offering accommodation for car purchasers who come from abroad, usually from Russia. There was no strict rate for accommodation at Žilvinas' apartment. Usually he would have a drink or two with guests from the East and would partake of their food. Some tenants would leave products in Žilvinas' fridge, others would pay a few Euros or Dollars.

Žilvinas could not be viewed as a very serious guy: in 1997 a criminal proceedings was initiated against him in relation to robbery and thefts from vehicles and damage of property. In 1999 he was sentenced to 26 months in prison.

On May 11 Žilvinas was celebrating his birthday. The celebration was amply supplied with alcohol though the spirits were not particularly high as the business

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was going wrong and debts were causing headache. It chanced that three days later Gennadyj K., who was involved in purchasing and reselling of used cars, came to Radviliškis car market. Gennadyj would buy not the oldest of cars, drive them to his homeland and resell at a higher price, therefore he would always bring a good sum of money. Gennadyj had known Žilvinas for a long time and would use the offered lodging when required. Thus, on his routine visit to Radviliškis Gennadyj stayed at Žilvinas' apartment. A couple of Žilvinas' friends came round, including his girlfriend Ilona, Lukas with girlfriend, Viktoras, nicknamed Kipšas, as usual entered through the window. The drinking spree was organized in the kitchen. Gennadyj K., who had no clues about Žilvinas' intentions, also wished him a happy birthday, had a few drinks and went to bed. Around ten o'clock in the evening the girls left. Gennadyj was not sleeping heavily when he felt a loop being tightened on his neck. He started struggling as hard as he could, however, his attempts to struggle free from a metal loop were brought to nought by blows on the head.

The threesome expected to easily strangle Gennadyj while he was sleeping. Žilvinas rushed to help Viktoras who was strangling the victim and started hammering on Gennadyj's head. Lukas knifed the struggling businessman on the buttocks. Walls, floor and furniture were spattered with blood. Blows on the head resulted in skull fracture and the metal wire strangulated the airway and arteries thus causing Gennadyj's death. Viktoras urgently searched Gennadyj's clothes before his body even turned cold. He found the money hidden in the man's shorts. The blood-spattered body was wrapped into a rug lying on the floor and tightened with the electricity cord that came to hand and the same wire from curtain holder that was used to strangle the victim. The men went out of the room to share the loot.

At dawn, when the traffic in the city started intensifying (not wishing to draw attention), the accomplices took the body in Žilvinas' car Audi 100 outside the town and threw it into a muddy lake. The body wrapped in the rug and bedclothes would not sink. Žilvinas took a spare wheel out of the boot of his car, cut its tyre, tightened it to the body with a cable and threw into the water. Once he got home, Žilvinas started eliminating evidence of the crime: tore the bloodstained wallpaper, collected blankets and bedclothes into a single pile. He found a friend nicknamed Vašia and borrowed his van. Žilvinas together with his friend Lukas loaded all the stuff including the wardrobe and bed that were in the room into the van. Everything was taken to the forest and burnt. Only then he could breathe freely again – no traces seemed to have been left.

Shortly the victim's relatives called from Bryansk and Žilvinas explained that Gennadyj stayed at his place, however, in the morning said goodbye, explained that friends were waiting and left for car market in Marijampolė to look for the proper car.

Everything looked perfect, no traces of the crime left. Shortly Žilvinas was

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summoned by officers of Missing Persons Division and questioned about Gennadyj K. who had gone missing. Žilvinas had created a story for Gennadyj's relatives and shared it with the policemen. Speaking with the officers he added that Gennadyj had problems with his wife, would hide from her, had girlfriends in Lithuania. Žilvinas was convinced that police officers believed his explanations.

Almost three months had passed since the day that Gennadyj went missing, however, Šiauliai city criminal police officers did not twiddle their thumbs all that time. They were collecting evidence. Officers found it suspicious that several pieces of furniture were missing from Žilvinas' apartment and part of the wallpapers in one of the rooms were ripped off. The arrested guy claimed that he was preparing the apartment for renovation and refurnishing. But the eyes of criminalist experts were caught by the rug on Žilvinas' balcony. Under it officers found remains of stinky liquid very much reminiscent of rotten blood.

Žilvinas, however, continued to persuade that he had started renovation of the apartment and had thrown old furniture and carpets away. He claimed that his mother would send funds for renovation and refurnishing from the United States. Unfortunately, the young man's explanations failed to convince criminalists from Violent Crime Investigation Division and investigator **Sandros Maščinskienė who was in charge of the criminal case**. Sandra accumulated every detail in the murder case, identified the driver of the van nicknamed Vašia, the girlfriend who would stay overnight at Žilvinas' apartment, his friend Lukas S. who helped dispose of the evidence by burning them. Gradually pooled information helped the investigator to arrange the picture of Gennadyj's murder.

Initially Žilvinas was detained for 2 days but later the arrest period was extended to ten days. His friend Lukas, who had previous convictions for theft, forgery of documents and swindling, was also detained. Ten days had passed from the day of arrest. Lukas' nerves were highly strung, however, he did not wish to talk about the murder.

And then the investigator of Violent Crimes Investigation Division Sandra **Maščinskienė** decided to make the guy talk. It was unlikely that the young, slender officer who had graduated from Lithuanian University of Law with the Bachelor Degree and had six year of experience working in the police would be able to do what physically strong, cool-headed and quick-thinking criminalists failed. Sandra thoroughly analysed Lukas' psychological characteristics, chose the right communication method, selected questions that would not provoke the suspect's hostility and arranged a meeting with him. To everybody's astonishment the latter started talking with the young investigator. At last, on the first of September in the presence of the prosecutor and attorney Lukas related all details of Gennadyj's murder: how they shared the stolen money, took the body to the lake, burnt his clothes, documents, bedclothing, bloodstained wallpapers ripped off the walls and furniture. The circle of suspicions that was narrowing around Žilvinas and Lukas at last was closed. Another accomplice to the crime Viktoras, nicknamed Kipšas, who

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had had previous encounters with the police in regard to disorderly conduct and theft, did not live to appear in front of the court. On July 24, during a conflict he tried to hang on a moving car but fell on the ground. Viktoras' skull was fractured and he died shortly in hospital. Hence the most violent participant of the crime was the first to face God's judgement.

And the officers of Šiauliai police jokingly say that whenever criminalists fail, Sandra should be called.

Arvydas AUGAS
Jelena ZUJ

“Since the onset of my work in the criminal police I realized that only thanks to daily diligent work may I serve the justice,” says Birutė Jurgelionytė, announced the detective of the year 2009.

“There are no invincible criminals, sooner or later they all “fall down”. We have achieved the goal aspired and this means we followed the right course. In the course of the investigation we applied a number of unusual methods; however, I wouldn't like to reveal them. I intend to use them in future. This has been one of the longest investigation I've ever had in my career as a police officer. At the same time it's been one of the most complicated ones since a lot of efforts, time and energy was consumed. Besides, this was my first case where the existence of a criminal association was proved and the largest part of the suspects was prosecuted,” said Birutė Jurgelionytė, when enquired about the investigation she was acknowledged for as the detective of 2009.

When asked about whether or not she had faced the crimes of similar character before, Birutė Jurgelionytė stated: “There happen to be similar cases with similar circumstances under which we are to investigate them but this was one of the most complicated case I've ever investigated. Today I know a lot of details and particulars that would have facilitated the investigation of this case. Nevertheless, it is always far easier to evaluate the work done and to notice the drawbacks instead of making decisions in the process of investigation when one is unaware where events will lead to. Being aware of all details I'd surely correct minor mistakes, however there would be no essential changes into this inquiry.”

She further went on saying: “I wouldn't have managed without my colleagues. This case required a lot of human resources. The investigation success depended on every officer participating in the investigation. What is crucial in our work is a good team whose members conscientiously perform their duties. As for myself, I can only add that I have a special vein that was reinforced and developed by my daily thorough work and by my colleagues, but the most important of all was the feeling that by doing my work, I can be useful to other humans. Presumably I had a good teacher.”

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The most distinguished case acknowledged in 2009 demanded a great deal of work and efforts, perception and patience and surely, a great number of officers. You are kindly invited to get acquainted with it below.

GANG “ALFUKAI” CRUSHED BY KAUNAS CRIMINAL POLICE OFFICERS

In May 2009, following a three-year-lasting operational investigation, Kaunas police officers detected an underground laboratory of psychotropic substances on a remote homestead in Alytus district and interrupted the activities of “Alfukai” criminal association engaged in international organised crime.

The first signs of operation of this lab were already observed in October 2006 when officers discovered equipment intended for the production of psychotropic substances, a relatively large quantity of already produced methamphetamine and other substances intended for its production on a farm in Varėna district. In relation to this criminal activity, 2 (two) individuals were arrested; both had been known to the police and had been suspected for participation in production of psychotropic substances. The conducted investigation presupposed the fact that the process of production of psychotropic substances was not limited to the activities of the lab found, but comprised a far greater extent. Officers embarked on the analysis of all collected criminal intelligence data and information gathered from criminal cases on the individuals linked to and possibly participating in trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances. Special attention was paid to links among arrested persons. The officers’ attention was attracted by a person under the name “Arūnas”, in the underworld known under the alias of “Grūnius”; since he was previously known for distribution of home-made vodka and subsequently – drugs.



After conducting analysis of the change in prices of narcotic and psychotropic substances in Kaunas city, in the course of criminal intelligence investigation the fall in the price of the psychotropic substance methamphetamine, was observed. In 2007 in Kaunas a group of persons who attempted to sell 3.5 kg

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of methamphetamine was arrested. Shortly after, the consignment with 20 kg of the same substance was seized in the Kingdom of Sweden. Swedish officers suspected that the consignment travelled from Lithuania. The conducted examination revealed that the constitution of the substance in both the cases was the same. Certain collected criminal intelligence data implied links between "Grainius" and this criminal activity. On examination of the connections of Arūnas and his environment, it was established that Arūnas and his wife's brother Alfonsas under the nickname "Alfukas", who returned from the USA in autumn 2007, substantially differed from other individuals even those holding high positions in criminal structures by modes of their lives and living conditions. Even though they were unemployed, they possessed considerable sums of cash. They bought deluxe trips abroad and drove luxury cars, such as "MB" and "BMW" makes. Arūnas resided in a posh private house its value reaching nearly 4 million Litas. The curtains alone, embroidered with "Swarovski" crystals, cost 80 thousand Litas. "Alfukas" did not lag behind his brother-in-law either, i.e. his luxurious house with a well-equipped security system was under construction at that time. The construction of the house was taken care of by Mindaugas, a good friend of "Alfukas" and "Gruinius". In the light of these facts one can make an assumption that it was only illegal business that could make such a rapid enrichment for both of them possible.

Officers possessed information concerning previous "Gruinius" connections with "Daktarai" organised crime groups members ("Daktarai" organised crime group is one of the largest-scale organised crime group in Lithuania having committed crimes of different character); however, a few facts made the officers evaluate these connections in a different aspect. The data was received that in autumn 2007 "Gruinius" was plunged into a motor vehicle by force, taken to woods where he was frightened by shots from a firearm. Besides, "Alfukas" brother Romukas was taken out of his luxury vehicle and was beaten up. The fact that coercion measures were applied not only towards "Gruinius" but to his close people as well, once more confirmed the fact that it was not only Arūnas who was involved in criminal activities but also his brother-in-law Alfonsas; and the reason for violence was the demand to divide proceeds from crime.

All these circumstances even more supported the expediency of surveillance of the selected targets. Upon the check of information obtained from various sources, the conclusion was made that the role of the key organizer and leader of production and handling of psychotropic substances fell on Alfonsas. His brother Antanas, under the nickname "Fantomas", well-known to the police, was serving his long-term sentence in prison for possession of a large quantity of narcotic substances.

Gradually the circle of individuals belonging to the criminal association was established during the investigation. 14 individuals belonged to the criminal association. Antanas had served a sentence together with some of them in one of the imprisonment places while others became engaged in criminal activities being

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tempted by enormous proceeds. Activities of the association were well organised with a clear distribution of members' roles: some of them were responsible for smuggling and supply of precursors, others for production and another group was in charge of transportation and handling of the output. Although production was carried out in Lithuania, the principal part of produced psychotropic substances was intended for the Scandinavian market with another part intended for Latvia; therefore, during the investigation there was active cooperation with foreign law enforcement authorities. The criminal association members' connections with perpetrators of Russia, Belarus, Poland, Spain, Holland, Scandinavia and other countries were established. The leader of the group "Alfukas" created well-masked drug trafficking networks and actively searched for new methods of acquisition and smuggling of narcotic substances. In this way, cocaine, heroin and cannabis emerged in the circulation. This only witnessed the fact that activities of "Alfukas" criminal association crossed the borders of Lithuania and became engaged in the global drug trafficking.

The individuals observed had a rather good perception of and possessed certain information on criminal intelligence methods; therefore, their criminal activities were well-planned and were fully covert. Due to these reasons, it was indispensable for pre-trial investigation officers to thoroughly and attentively evaluate every single action and behaviour of the persons observed. First of all, the the officers' attention was captured by "Gruinius" "disappearance" for a few days a few times a year. Those departures were never planned in advance and during the "disappearance" period, the observed person never used mobile communication devices. There were rather reasoned grounds to believe that the abovementioned special security measures were taken to some purpose.

Practical officers' experience made them think that "Gruinius" could not produce psychotropic substances on his own. At least one more person must have been involved in the process, the one who had good knowledge of chemical dissociation reactions, had a good understanding of the composition of chemical substances and knew ways to use them. Obviously, it could not have been an accidental individual; therefore, a self-educated chemist was being looked for among members of the criminal association. Later on, officers noticed that the abovementioned unscheduled "Gruinius" departures coincided with analogous "disappearances" of one of the association's member, i.e. "Arvis", an unemployed Kaunas citizen, previously convicted abroad. It was established in the investigation that "Gruinius" with "Arvukas" were using one and the same garage. The vehicle for the purpose of conspiracy used for travelling to the laboratory and for transportation of chemical substances, was established as well. Subsequently, findings showed that they were visiting a solitary homestead situated in Kelmé district. It was evident that "Alfukas", together with „Gruinius“, were in the process of equipping the laboratory for psychotropic substances. The well-progressing investigation was aggravated by the fact that the local police, in search of arms, conducted a search at the homestead. As a result, Alfukas“ and „Gruinius got frightened and never showed up in the homestead any more. In this way, the

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garage became the balancing point in the investigation. However, “Gruinius” maintained good relations with the janitor of the garage; therefore, it was risky to resort to other methods of criminal intelligence.

The officers took notice that the group members were highly cautious and vigilant while using their means of transport and in order to avoid being followed by the police, chose various ways to escape them: on noticing a suspicious car, they used to change a direction of movement or used to unexpectedly pull up or turn in out-of-the-way roads or drive along forest paths or use diversion roads. At the mere suspicion arisen, they interrupted their driving and returned home. Taking into account these reasons, the officers conducting the investigation could not resort to reasoned predictions of the actions of the persons under surveillance and to impose adequate control measures. The circumstances dictated the organisation of the criminal intelligence operation in such a way that the persons under surveillance would be observed from the moment they get up to the time they go to bed.

Having analysed the information obtained, the conclusion was made that the equipment and material used for production of psychotropic substances were stored in Kaunas city or not far away from it. Taking into account that cautious and incredulous leaders of the association followed the principle not to admit strange and unreliable individuals to their criminal “business”, it was suspected that the premises belonged to extremely close and reliable friends or relatives and they necessarily had to be well protected. What aggravated the search for premises, was that the perpetrators used a selected location for a very short time and did not come back to it. Thanks to the thorough evaluation of destination places of the observed vehicle and taking into account the moments when special conspiracy actions were taken, a hangar situated in Prienai district was established that was vigilantly protected. The owner of this hangar was one of the gang members under the alias “Sabas”. “Alfukas” together with “Sabas” had set up a company which was used as a front for laundering of proceeds derived from drug business.

The hangar was enclosed by a high fence and its territory was watched by the childhood friend of “Alfukas”, Remigijus, who lived nearby and the territory was guarded by two loose Staffordshire bull terriers. The situation was only facilitated by the fact that the janitor abused alcohol. The police officers, by means of criminal intelligence measures, managed to establish that substances were stored in this hangar and a certain preparatory process for the production of psychotropic substances was carried out. However, as usual, the persons under surveillance did not stay long there and after some time moved to the community gardens located in Lapės in Kaunas district, and after that to a homestead in Raseiniai district.

Then new circumstances unpredicted in advance emerged, i.e. “Gruinius” health started failing. The data indicated that already on returning home from his “mysterious trips”, he complained about his worsened health. Presumably due to these reasons, the production process was becoming to fail which meant that due

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to the shrunken production, the risen demand for drugs would not be satisfied and as a result, the profits would noticeably go down. The predictions could be made that “Alfukas” would have to engage more people to the production of psychotropic substances; therefore, criminal intelligence actions had to be focused more on “Alfukas”. This aided in establishing the role of the persons who built private houses for “Grinius” and “Alfukas” in “Alfukas” gang. Their engagement was construction of houses; moreover, they ran a company. However, this “did not preclude” them from joining criminal activities committed by “Alfukas”. The data in pre-trial investigation was obtained that brothers intended to get engaged in production of psychotropic substances. Only the question was –where?

Having evaluated the principles of modus operandi of the association, the inference was made that the lab could have been arranged in a solitary homestead belonging to close people of the persons under surveillance. Having compared the data of the Register and Cadastre of Real Estate and analysed all accumulated data on the targets’ departures and directions of movements, it was decided to search for a homestead with a pond nearby which was necessary for destruction of production waste of large quantities. The observation of a few suspicious farms were undertaken. In one place extravagant fishing rods were spotted which did not match the common surroundings of the farm altogether. The police officers already had information that “mysterious trips” were deciphered as fishing outings. The farm which was located in Metelytė village, Simnas eldership, was lurking behind tall trees and dense bushes and was out-of-the-way from neighbours. Having evaluated all accumulated information, the inference was made that production should be launched on the first weeks of May 2009; therefore, an ambush was prepared in the localities of the aforementioned homestead. The remaining doubts were dispelled as the persons already known to the police emerged on the scene.

The conditions for observing the activities carried out within the building were not favourable in terms of both, the relief of the locality and air conditions: the officers were forced to lie on the ground in the open-air; moreover, it was raining. The surveillance spot was in the very area of hunting and it was the time for hunting then; hunters’ shots were heard at night. Fearing to be treated as hunters’ targets, the officers had to night watch two shifts without being replaced at night. But the surveillance was not in vain since the actions of the persons under surveillance did not resemble preparations for fishing at all. Suspicions regarding the mysterious walkouts from the house were even more fortified by what the officers saw.

From their experience the police officers knew the detention must be abrupt, without leaving time and chances for the perpetrators to destruct clues, i.e. already produced substances and chemical substances necessary for their production. Approaching the homestead unnoticed was practically impossible. So, a cunning plan was resorted to. It was decided to detain one of the producers who was near the closest shop. Following his detention, using the car of the detainee and resorting to the assistance of the antiterrorist operations squad “Aras”, the officers

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drove to the farm and arrested all the persons present there without giving them time to get a handle on the situation.

The results of the search conducted on the farm were impressive. The laboratory equipment was discovered, over 100 kg of already produced



methamphetamine and prepared substance for producing the same amount was seized. A part of the output was already poured into potato sacks. Upon handling the above-mentioned output, "Alfukas" gang members would have received at least 1 million unlawful proceeds (the street price of the mentioned quantity would have been 4 million Litas). Seized quantities of chemical substances demonstrated that the production scale of the group was enormous. It was the largest unlawful production extent Lithuania has ever seen. Proceeding with the operation, 12 persons belonging to the criminal association were arrested and the following was detected and seized: a number of firearms, narcotic and psychotropic substances, precursors, equipment for their production, forged documents, considerable amounts of chemical substances (spirits, mercury

and the like), devices for blocking and detecting signals and radio communication devices which the perpetrators were using for intercommunication.

Suspicious were announced to the arrested persons in relation to production of a large amount of psychotropic substances and participation in activities of a criminal association. A criminal association acting at the international scale was disrupted with the prevention of its further criminal activities.

“Metų seklys“ – in Search of the Best Lithuanian Criminal Police Officer

October 27th is the professional day celebrated by Lithuanian criminal police officers. The most distinguished officers from different divisions of Lithuanian police agencies are honoured and awarded to mark this occasion. Each year, approaching the 27th of October, the achieved work results of criminal police officers are summarized and evaluated and the most worthy officers awarded the special title called “Metų seklys” (Engl. “The Detective of the Year”). Since 1993 the most significant criminal acts that were disclosed by criminalists of the country have been evaluated in the event annually organised by Police Department. In this contest the detectives of the year are announced with the presentation of symbolic Sherlock Holmes pipes to them for their diligent, intensive and arduous work.

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The aim of the “Metų seklys” contest is to identify and encourage the most deserving Lithuanian police officers conducting investigations of criminal offences who have professionally and efficiently disclosed and investigated criminal acts, demonstrated shrewdness and initiative in preventing and revealing criminal acts or professionally and innovatively conducted examinations of objects.

The first winner of “Metų seklys” was selected 20 years ago. “In order to be a police officer, one must be hardworking and unafraid of challenges that a police officer faces every day. It is always difficult to single out a case that is the most memorable and most significant for him/her and the same is with me, i.e. I’ve had a number of such cases during my whole work in the police. I’ve constantly faced murder cases in my work. There were different murders – negligent, cynical. Every case is special and one can learn something from it, i.e. it is from their mistakes that humans, especially police officers, normally learn. The particularities of our work, consisting of criminal intelligence activities, requires maximum concentration, dedication, determination and persistence from every officer. We spend a lot of time analysing motives and circumstances of a murder, etc.,” Vytautas Bruknys, the first police officer recognised as the detective of the year, has shared his ideas.

When asked about the importance of team members in a police officer’s work, the



officer of the year responds: “Chiefs supervise the work performed, nevertheless is the team, staff, which constitutes the foundation and contributes to arduous daily activities and performs the basis of the work. Not a single murder case has been investigated by one officer. I had to go to work not only on weekdays, but also on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. A police officer must never forget one is an officer twenty four hours and seven days a week. We ourselves chose this work and that means we have chosen a path

that we are going to follow the greatest part of our lives; therefore we must be ready for everything.”

“In my opinion, without such personal qualities as honesty and diligence, none of the police officer can be imagined. Experience, which is acquired only thanks to consistent and thorough work, matters a lot in our work. A police officer must regularly train one’s qualifications, alter oneself and apply new investigative methods at work. Continuous dynamics of the criminal world prompts alteration of and development of police officers and all law enforcement system.”

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In the period of existence of “Metų seklys”, it has been twice that female police officers have become winners. In 2004 Sandra Maščinskienė and in 2009 Bitutė Jurgelionytė were awarded the titles of the detectives of the specified years. All filled with joy and pride, they maintained they had been immensely pleased to receive such a high appreciation of their work. When inquired about what determined their success, both the police officers admitted: “the most important thing is wholehearted work, belief in yourself and in your colleagues, then your work cannot be successful.”

TRIBUTE PAID TO THE BEST POLICE ATHLETES OF 2012

It is already five years that a nice tradition has been cherished by Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior: every year results of police sporting events are summarized and tribute is paid to the most outstanding athletes.

The best police sportsmen, coaches having achieved the greatest results in this field and chiefs of police agencies annually come to Vilnius where they are met by the Police Commissioner General and his deputies.



At least a few tens of sporting events, both professional and amateur, are annually held by police agencies with the participation of large numbers of police officers. A number of them achieved impressive victories domestically and internationally, thus promoting both Lithuania and police.

Saulius Skvernelis, Police Commissioner General, supports the idea of maintaining and fostering police sporting traditions. “I am happy to see people who, alongside with their work duties, also devote some of their time for sports and achieve great results, both individual and team ones. I take pleasure in those who make the police name prominent.

However, sports is also indispensable for keeping fit and finally, sports is for own pleasure. Thus to my mind, heads of the police should create conditions for police officers to express themselves in sporting activities; so we are awaiting for as many police employees on a field of play as possible,” the police chief says.

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The best police athletes are selected by giving votes by police agencies for candidates from the list provided; the regulations prohibit voting for colleagues working in the same institution. It is noteworthy to mention that women athletes dominated on the list of the best police athletes last year.

Having summarized the results, it emerged that the title of most distinguished police athlete of 2013 was awarded to Eglė Vaitkutė from Šilutė who has held the title of best athlete for four years running. It must be mentioned that in 2013 she became the European and World Champion in both right-handed and left-handed arm-wrestling. The Lithuanian police may take pride in the achievements of the following policewomen:



Eglė Vaitkutė (arm-wrestling; 1st place), Silvija Morkūnaitė (martial arts; 3th place), Aurelija Šukytė (wrestling; 5th place); Lina Martinkė (ping-pong; 6th place), Andžėla Burbo Stančaitienė (sambo, judo; 8th place), Aleksandra Čechova (rowing; 9th place).

LITHUANIAN POLICE OFFICERS APPRECIATED ABROAD AS WELL



countries.

Representatives of Lithuanian police i.e. one woman police officer and one man police officer participated in the 12th professional skills contest organised by the Estonian Police. Police officers from Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Finland competed in the contest that was held in Estonian Police School (Piarnusko distr.). Lithuanian officers were the best in the tactics event among 23 teams from the four

The representatives of the Lithuanian Police were the following officers: Vaidas Giršvildas, Chief of Patrols Unit of the Public Police Board of Police Department under the Mol and the officers from Marijampolė County Police Headquarters – Lina Augustaitytė (Patrol of Patrols Squad of the Public Police Division, Jurbarkas District Police Unit) and Audrius Leonavičius (Senior patrol of Traffic Patrols Squad 1 of Traffic Police Division), both 3rd place winners of the final contest of the best public police patrol of Lithuania.

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The professional skills contest of the Public Police and Border Guard Board of the Republic of Estonia aimed at encouragement police officers to improve their professional qualifications, aspire for better results, to extend knowledge, to be capable to apply them practically, to promote cooperation and friendly relationship and to raise the level of personal culture.

Teams in the contest were made up of only two police officers; however, they were required to have a great number of competencies. They took part in a car driving, tactics, shooting, information provision to the public and aliens' migration control competitions; moreover, they had to go through an obstacle belt which required stamina and a good physical education. According to Audrius Leonavičius, not only did the contest leave him with distinct impression, but also provided novelties and experience to him. "Most of the events were known to me since in competitions in Lithuania I take part in tactics event, an obstacle belt, shooting and acrobatic driving events, however, such tasks as document checking procedure or provision of information to its producers (simulated situation) were a novelty to me. We were successful with Lina as we were best at performing the procedure of document checking, whereas provision of information to mass media was new and so, it was beneficial experience to us", - A. Leonavičius shared his ideas.



The atmosphere was amiable during the contest. The participants, especially guests' teams did not feel as rivals, they sincerely supported other teams, enjoyed success together and tried to aid one another. It should be noted that organisers did not set the requirement for patrol pairs to be mixed. However, following traditions, the patrol pair representing Lithuania was mixed and competed as equals with other teams made up of 2 men.

The Lithuanian police team were ranked the best team taking the 1st place in the tactics event. The organisers of the contest emphasized during the consideration of the events that tactical actions chosen by the Lithuanian police team were correct and the tasks were fulfilled most precisely of all. Lithuanian team was the only guest team which succeeded in winning one of the events of the competition whereas all other events were won by host teams.

Edition by: Ausra Dovydeniene. Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau.