

The Station Sergeant is... starting anew

Welcome to 2012. It's a fresh start for me as I have moved home and I'm very grateful to the Fed for letting me rant from the platform of *Police* magazine.

Traditionally, the turn of the year is a time for making resolutions and trying to predict what is likely to happen over the next 12 months. Well, resolutions are pretty pointless; like combat plans they rarely survive first contact with the real world, so I don't bother.

For those on mutual aid, you have an unmissable opportunity to be deployed somewhere you deliberately chose not to work in the first place. And for the rest, it's a chance to have your annual leave refused so that you can work like a one-armed paperhanger covering for your colleagues on mutual aid in London.

I can make some predictions though.

- there's going to be less money
- there's going to be the same workload
- there's going to be the same inane drivel from the Home Office
- the bosses will still be driven only by performance targets and an insatiable desire for promotion.

We have, of course, got the bloody Olympics to look forward to. For Met officers it's a chance to put aside normal tasks and go and sit in a van or wander round telling overseas visitors where the nearest toilet is. Don't worry though, your emails will still be there when you get back.



Photography: Andrew Carruth

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Talking about money, I hear that some forces are relying on the Winsor Review being accepted so they can factor our pay cuts into the budget. If we keep the money, they'll have to chop more staff. So it will all be our fault for being greedy.

Reasons to be cheerful? Stuff all.