

Memory Cop's Face Recognition Skill Has Identified a Mind-Blowing 3,000 Suspects—Keeping Streets Safer

A police officer dubbed the 'Memory Cop' has hit another milestone after his mind-blowing face-recognition skills helped him catch his 3,000th suspect.

A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), eagle-eyed Andy Pope was praised for his incredible ability as a 'super recognizer' with a reputation for spotting crime suspects.

The 47-year-old remembers faces of wanted men and women which has led to him picking out his 3,000th suspect for West Midlands Police in England while on patrol earlier this year.

Pope can spot suspects in crowded places and on super-grainy CCTV footage—and was even able to identify some while they were wearing face masks during the pandemic.

He identified a robber from a picture he'd seen a year earlier, and another by the mole on their face.

"I'm just glad I can assist in catching crime suspects and keeping communities safe," said Officer Pope. "It's really hard to explain how I manage to remember and spot faces, as it just comes natural."

The award-winning cop will often look through police briefings, CCTV, and video stills to keep himself updated on

people who are wanted, and he averages one recognition every other shift.

“It is hard to explain exactly how I remember so many faces. They just seem to stick in my mind. Then, when I see the person in the flesh, it triggers that recognition.”

He travels around the region on public transport, using his skills to assist other departments and increasing his chances of encountering suspects whose images he’s seen on the police computer.

“I feel a great sense of pride and satisfaction if I manage to remember a suspect from an image who is then arrested. Hopefully, there will be many more to come in future.”

Ironically, despite having a memory for faces, the officer admits he’s “useless” at remembering dates. “My wife has to deal with things like birthdays and anniversaries. When it comes to remembering dates, I’m useless.”