

Talk Through

The Magazine of the
Ministry of Defence Police



Fighting corruption

**MDP leads
the way ...**

Also inside:

- 'MOD Your Say' – what happens next?
- CID Successes
- Community Police Officer of the Year

Issue 145 Summer 2010

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FRONT COVER:
Caught in the act – counter-fraud training
in progress

Photograph by Paul Kemp

'MOD Your Say' – What happens next?

■ *Since the 'MOD Your Say' survey last took place in October 2009 (writes Claire Ferguson, of the HR Business Partner Special Projects team) Chief Constable Steve Love has tasked his senior colleagues with creating action plans to address the survey results relevant to their specialist areas.*

Each AMB member is responsible for delivering one or more actions from within the Agency Action Grid, which can be found on the Intranet, on the Human Resources pages.

Progress against these actions is reported upon at the monthly AMB meetings and then issued via a quarterly staff newsletter, launched in July, which can also be found on the same HR pages on the Intranet.

The survey highlighted four key areas of concern, which have been picked up on the Action Grid. They are:

- My Work
- Leadership and Managing Change
- Inclusion and Fair Treatment
- Organisational Objectives and Purpose

The 2009 survey results will be used as a benchmark against which to assess progress in future surveys, starting with the 2010 survey in October.

What happens now?

Further updates will be produced to keep staff informed of what is happening and what progress is being made against each action plan. Check the Intranet pages regularly and read the notices and articles that will be published over the coming months.

TalkThrough was invited by the Chief to delve further into the Agency's response to the survey and so we began by asking him:

Why are you taking 'MOD Your Say' so seriously?

Because it is really important for me and everyone on the Management Board to know how the people in our organisation feel, what they are saying and what they're asking. We make the effort to find out by getting out and about and talking to people, but given the geography of the organisation it just isn't physically possible to be everywhere all the time. The 'MOD Your Say' survey fills an important gap.

Everyone is experiencing a lot of uncertainty about the future. Is now really the time to ask them what they think?

When we last ran this survey, in October last year, there was a lot of uncertainty, too. The PR09 recruitment freeze and overtime ban had just recently started. The Hutchinson Review of the Agency was in full swing and there was a lot of anxiety around the organisation, but we still did the survey, as did all the rest of the MOD. Since then it has got tougher still. We have had a General Election, the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the prospect of major cuts right across Government funding. In the year ahead we're going to have to implement a lot of this, so it is even more important for us to know how people feel, what they think and what they want to know.

You have said it was useful – how did you use it? What did people say and what did you do?

Around the same time we got the 2009 'Your Say' survey results I did quite a number of station visits and ran focus groups to help me fill out the picture.

Some of what people said was very practical. Both MDP and MGS were very clear on one issue, for example – they

need uniform that is more fit for purpose. So, what we did was set up a Road Map project under the AMB to make that happen. Since then, we have committed MDP to the national police uniform and decided what the basic uniform will be, following trials. We will not be able to procure and re-equip the entire Force in one go under present financial conditions and I am clear that we will not spend money on new uniform if it is going to make us unable to pay salaries. However, we are now going to move to the new uniform every time there is an opportunity to buy it, through normal replacement or cashing in on other savings.

On the MGS front, the first priority is high visibility jackets. Once we have the MDP under way, we will then assess the extent to which standard MDP items are also the best option for MGS work.

Another practical area was training – people were saying that we need to standardise it and make it happen. What we have done is to completely review and republish all of the Agency's mandatory training requirements – the training it is essential to complete to do the job safely, legally and to our standards – and then make sure everyone has a mandatory training plan to go with their reporting year. This is starting in September for the MDP and, because it is mandatory training, the Agency will make sure that it takes place and is not left to chance.

People said they actually wanted to be more involved in changes and what is going on. I think this is really encouraging and we need to do more to make use of this energy. One thing we have done is to test how much energy there is, through the 'Chief's Challenge' – the invitation to everybody in the Agency to identify ways we can increase our competitiveness by trimming our price tag.

We have had around 250 suggestions, some we are not be able to do anything with because they are Departmental or national policy which we are not able to influence, and others we had in fact

Talk
Through

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We welcome articles and photos of interest to readers, but reserve the right to shorten/edit contributions.

Staff contributing articles should ensure they are suitable for open publication. If you would like to discuss your contribution, please contact the Editor.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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'MOD Your Say'

already looked at. But there are many new and bold suggestions and we are working through them – I have kept my promise to read every single one. But the level and quality of the response confirms for me that what 'You Said' is true – people do want to be more involved.

The two things which you said most, however, were:

- Tell us what is happening
- What is being done to market the Agency?

That is what 'You Said' most, so that is where we have done most. It's clear that, through all the change that is taking place around us, we do not have the full picture and there are many decisions yet to be made, mostly outside the Agency. But the sorts of things that we have done to make sure people know **what is happening** include:

- Continuing to publish **TalkThrough** and **Flashlight**, even though we have come under pressure to cut our in-house publications. We presented the case to the centre that both TalkThrough and Flashlight – as separate publications, with printed copies for the many people without ready access to computers – are an essential part of telling people what's happening. The argument worked: they are both still here.

- We have really stretched out to involve and consult trades unions and staff associations, both so that they can represent their members effectively and so that they too are in a position to tell people what's happening. We have held open briefings, on the basis of 'Ask anything you like and we will tell you', and have also done something very important which we have never done before, which is to invite the Defence Police Federation and a trade union representative to attend Agency Management Board meetings – not as silent observers, but to participate in and contribute to the debate and take away all the papers to share with their executive bodies.

- I hope, too, that people will have noticed the approach we are taking to the Core Brief. We published a Core Brief in late June which set out to capture everything – and I mean everything – that we then knew about the state of play on the new Government's agenda as it relates to us, and all the other developments that affect people,



Andrew White, Chief Executive of the National Security Inspectorate, presents MGS Head of Profession Sandy MacCormick, with the NSI Gold Accreditation Certificate at a short ceremony at MOD Main Building, in the presence of Agency Owner Susan Scholefield (right) and Chief Executive and Chief Constable MDP Steve Love (left)

whether they come from inside or outside the Agency.

About every three weeks we publish an update, capturing what has happened since, but also with the 'Frequently asked Questions' that come up to us via focus groups, in emails or even occasionally as rumours. We will continue to communicate in this style for the foreseeable future, at least until all the changes are known and in place.

The other big thing which 'You Say' said is around **marketing the Agency**, looking for business and raising our profile. Key things we are doing here, or have done, are:

- Achieving the MGS National Security Inspectorate gold standard. As **Flashlight** has already made plain, this is a huge achievement for the MGS. It could be seen as the culmination of 18 years' work since its foundation, and could not be

better timed, to demonstrate that the MGS has met national industry standards at the top level.

- Needless to say, I am also particularly active at present, making sure that the MOD top brass know who we are, what we do and what we bring to the party.

- On the MDP side, although these are lean times for funding all round, we have in recent months secured new funded posts in Northern Ireland, in Critical National Infrastructure Protection, and extended a current tasking in the north of Scotland.

- There has also been a funded uplift in Afghanistan, where the profile of our officers is so high that they have already been met in person by outgoing Prime Minister, Gordon Brown and incoming Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox.



Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown meets MDP officers serving in Afghanistan earlier this year

CID SUCCESSES

Charity cash stolen by SSAFA treasurer

■ **Detective Sergeant Paul Goodwill recounts a successful MDP Fraud Squad investigation into the theft of more than £100,000 of MOD funds, charity cash and donations:**

“Our suspect, Major Colin Morris, was based at 6 Regiment Army Air Corps, Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmunds. He was the Regimental Admin Officer in charge of financial matters.

In July 2008 the Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch (RMP SIB) began an investigation into False Claims and Fraud against the Regimental Account. This totalled approximately £10,000 and during a subsequent court-martial Morris received a nine month prison sentence.

At the time of the SIB investigation it was found that the remit of Morris included being treasurer of the Salisbury Plain Division of SSAFA (Soldiers Sailors, Airmen and Families Association), a charity solely for the benefit of the serving and ex-forces personnel and their families.

As Casualty Visiting Officer he also administered 'Pete's Arm and Leg Fund'. This fund was started by the Sun and Daily Mail newspapers after Captain Peter Norton was badly injured in Iraq in July 2005. He was a bomb disposal expert and suffered horrific injuries, including the loss of an arm and a leg. Even when injured he had continued to relay instructions to colleagues, and subsequently was awarded the George Cross.

As these were two civilian funds, and outside the jurisdiction of the RMP, it was decided that the MDP Fraud Squad would investigate, and ascertain whether any crime had been committed against either the SSAFA or Pete's Arm and Leg Fund.

The initial investigation began in August 2008, and it was quickly established that a crime had been committed against both.

However, the full criminality could only be proved through financial evidence which required a detailed investigation of the various accounts involved. Detective Constable Ian Rose was nominated as the Officer In Charge of the case and Police Constable Matthew Nobbs as the Financial Investigator.

PC Nobbs had joined the Fraud Squad's Financial Investigation Unit in December 2008 and he became the FI on this case in February 2009. He was on a very steep learning curve, and had to understand, collate and progress a whole range of information for the ongoing investigation.

But he put a huge amount of effort into gaining the required information from a range of financial institutions and by August 2009 had successfully detailed the money trail.

He obtained production orders through the Crown Court and these were served on 12 financial institutions. This in turn involved examining 29 different accounts. This not only involved financial statements but also credits, and copies of hundreds of cheques. These all had to be exhibited and 'statemented' by these different financial institutions.

Whilst PC Nobbs was carrying out this work, DC Rose was acquainting himself with the case to see what was required. He liaised closely with PC Nobbs, prioritising what was needed and how this was to be evidenced.

He was very methodical in his approach. All cheques that Morris had been involved with had to be obtained. When these cheques were traced they often required further inquiries to find out whether they were part of the fraud.

But the result of these investigations was clear: Morris had used the SSAFA and Arm and Leg Fund as his own accounts to fuel his gambling habit. He had also paid his parking tickets, credit cards, loans and debt companies with money from these accounts.

And he had switched money between the accounts to try and hide discovery of his dishonesty.

DC Rose also identified a further offence: Morris had submitted MOD claims for more than £7,000 for trips purportedly made by Mrs Norton to visit her injured husband in hospital. Although Mrs Norton did visit her husband, it was never for the quantity claimed, and she was unaware Morris had claimed this money.

By the time the case was evidentially ready, Colin Morris was still serving his prison sentence from the original court-martial.

In June 2009, DC Rose and I took Morris from prison, and arrested and interviewed him in the presence of his solicitor at Chelmsford Police Station. DC Rose served written pre-interview disclosure upon the

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DS Goodwill and DC Rose
brief ACC Robert Chidley
on the Morris case

solicitor, and appraised him of anything further that was relevant.

DC Rose had organised the hundreds of exhibits to be shown, so that each was able to be produced in logical sequence during interview. He was also able to extract detailed answers from Morris regarding each exhibit.

During interview Morris admitted all the offences. He was returned to prison, although he was technically bailed to Wednesday 26 August 2009.

He was produced from prison on that date and charged with the theft of £61,154.43 from Pete's Arm and Leg Fund, the theft of £38,620 from SSAFA, obtaining property by deception on MOD travel claims to the value of £3715.17, obtaining property by deception on MOD

travel claims to value of £3625.52, making an article for use in Fraud, and two counts of false accounting.

Although still a serving prisoner, his early release was imminent, so after charge he was put before Chelmsford Magistrates Court.

On Monday 8 March 2010 he was sentenced at Chelmsford Crown Court with his Honour Judge Gratwicke presiding. He pleaded guilty to all seven counts and was given a total of three years imprisonment.

At sentence a confiscation timetable was set which is being conducted by PC Nobbs.

There is no doubt that it was down to the perseverance and thoroughness of both officers that the true criminality of this case, as reflected in the sentence, was

revealed. Besides the collation, appraisal, and submission of evidence, both officers had to contend with other issues as they arose; and it is to their credit that neither allowed these issues to hinder them.

PC Nobbs was tenacious, thorough and methodical and through his regular meetings with DC Rose they both knew what was required and the direction the case was taking. DC Rose showed a great knowledge of investigative and legal procedure and had an innate understanding of how to pull the evidence together to ensure we had the best chance of securing a conviction. They are both a credit to the Force and valued members of the Fraud Squad.

Jailed for theft from Sea Cadets

By Steve Partridge

An office manager has been jailed for two and a half years following an investigation by MDP detectives into the theft of £130,000 from the Sea Cadets.

Christopher James Payne, aged 62, of Locks Heath, near Southampton, was given the prison sentence at Portsmouth Crown Court after admitting the theft over a seven year period whilst based at HMS Nelson in the city.

The MOD Police investigation had begun after colleagues had become suspicious about the number of bills for legitimate Sea Cadet services which had not been paid.

Detective Sergeant Gardy McKay, of MDP Portsmouth CID, said: "We began our investigation in June 2009 after receiving reports that there were concerns about irregularities within the accounts for the Sea Cadets.

"Our initial investigations established that the suspect had set up two additional bank accounts which no-one else had been made aware of. He then took advantage of the systems in place at that time to filter funds from the main accounts into these."

Members of the MDP's Financial Investigation Unit and accountants were called in to examine the money trail and trace where the money from the unauthorised accounts had been spent.

DS McKay said at this point sufficient evidence had been uncovered to warrant making an arrest and on Monday 13 July 2009 the suspect was arrested at his home address on suspicion of the theft of MOD funds and Sea Cadet subscriptions.

He was then taken to Fareham Police Station for interview before being released on police bail pending further inquiries.

"We had a good case file of evidence put together," said DS McKay, "And when we confronted him with our information at the interview he immediately admitted the offences."

The suspect reported back on Monday 5 October 2009 when he was charged with six counts of theft

amounting to more than £130,000 of MOD funds and Sea Cadet's subscriptions.

He appeared before Portsmouth Magistrates Court on Monday 12 October 2009 and was bailed to appear before Portsmouth Crown Court on Monday 8 February 2010 for a plea and case management hearing. At this hearing he admitted the offences and was bailed pending the preparation of pre-sentence reports. He reported back for sentencing on Friday 16 April 2010.

The court was told the money should have gone towards rowing boats and a minibus for the Sea Cadets, but instead he had abused his position to filter off the funds into accounts he had set up.

Jailing him Recorder Stuart Jones QC said: "This money was spent not on making ends meet nor on what could be construed as everyday living but on holidays, air travel, airport shops, jewellery, electrical goods from Comet. I regard these as luxuries rather than everyday items for living. All of this happened over a period of seven years involving a very serious breach of trust."

Payne was given two and a half years in prison. He was also dismissed from his job.

DS McKay said: "This was a relatively straightforward job as all the required evidence to prosecute was there but it still required good co-operation between the Portsmouth CID team, the Financial Investigation Unit and a team of auditors.

"Even the most simple of cases can still go wrong unless attention is paid to the detail of the case and everyone knows exactly what they are doing. From the outset we continued to liaise with the Sea Cadets about the nature of this fraud and they have now been able to put in place a series of robust measures to help greatly reduce the chance of any similar theft happening again.

"The case is not over yet though as we are continuing to pursue the offender for the money he stole under the Proceeds of Crime Act and we are confident that we should be able to retrieve a substantial amount of this cash.

MDP leads the way on Anti-Corruption Training – at home and overseas



■ **Anti-corruption training being pioneered by MDP is attracting keen interest at the top level, from both within the MOD and other agencies with a remit to prevent and investigate corruption.**

Earlier this year the Training College at MDP HQ Wethersfield was approached by the Serious Fraud Office, seeking trainers to train members of the investigative agencies in Malta, to combat fraud and corruption there, with all costs being met by the SFO and Maltese authorities.



Maltese Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi addressed the first course, which took place in March this year at the Malta Council for Science and Technology.

Maltese Attorney General Dr Silvio Camilleri delivered a comprehensive session on anti fraud and corruption legislation in Malta, and international conventions to which Malta is party.

This was the first part of a two week course – part two was delivered in May – and was organised by the Internal Audit and Investigations Division, designated as the Anti Fraud Co-ordinating Service Malta by OLAF (the European Anti-Fraud Office), and the implementing body for the National Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy, which was tabled in the Maltese Parliament by Dr Gonzi in November 2008.

The course fulfils Malta's obligations in terms of the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe and forms an integral part of the National Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy.

The aim of the course was to enhance participants' understanding of fraud and corruption and their causes and familiarise themselves with anti fraud and corruption legislation.

It also means that the public administration in Malta now has a cadre of trainers in anti fraud and corruption, who can pass on this training to colleagues who manage, administer or work in the finance, accounts and corporate services sections of government and to all public officials directly involved in the fight against fraud and corruption.

Participants also gained further knowledge on how fraud and corruption can be prevented, deterred and detected.

The course was facilitated by MDP Crime Trainers PS Glenn Goodwin and DS Mike Betts and was attended by 33 public officials from various fraud and corruption fighting public organisations within Malta.



National Training Lead

DS Mike Betts has responsibility for both design and delivery of the UK's National Corruption Investigation course, part of National Fraud Training available to all officers involved in the Investigation of Economic Crime.

The course is delivered both at ATC Wethersfield and twice a year as a joint venture with Greater Manchester Police at its training facility at Sedgley Park, Manchester.

Attendees have included members of the City of London Police Overseas Anti-corruption Unit, who undertake high profile overseas corruption investigations, and representatives from many other Police Forces.

Anti-corruption training for MOD personnel includes bespoke DE&S workshops and the MOD Saudi Arabian Project Team, particularly important with the introduction of the new Bribery Act 2010.

Recently MDP crime trainers have been asked by the Serious Fraud

Office to deliver corruption investigation training to SFO staff. A bespoke course was delivered at the ITN Building in London. The course covers the corruption legislation and the investigative process.

MDP Crime Trainers also deliver a bespoke Economic Crime Investigation course which meets the National standards for members of the MDP, Service Police and Defence Fraud Analysis Unit (DFAU) at the Agency Training Centre.

The course was designed and delivered by DS Betts and PS Goodwin, working closely with CID management.

"We are the only Fraud training delivery centre to be using a 'Hydra' exercise for fraud training," said DS Betts. "This is seen as being innovative and is of interest to other Forces, including the City of London Police."

The scenario was written by DS Betts and is bespoke to the investigation of fraud and corruption in the MOD. The training underpins MDP's Crime Strategy.

Challenging times ahead...

Interview with Agency Owner Susan Scholefield

■ *With the Strategic Defence and Security Review moving towards its final stages in the autumn, senior MOD figures have been engaging with staff at all levels to make sure that they are fully involved in the process of shaping Defence for the future.*

Director General Human Resources and Corporate Services (DGHRCs) Susan Scholefield – whose role includes ‘ownership’ of the MDPGA – took time out of her busy schedule during a visit to the Agency’s Wethersfield Headquarters in August, to answer questions about the current state of play of the SDSR as it impacts upon the MDP and MGS.

TalkThrough began by asking Susan about her visit. She said:

“It has been an interesting day, as ever, and I have had sessions with people I have not had a chance to meet on previous visits. These have included the Exercise Planning Team,

the CIS department and I was also introduced to the mysteries of the HOLMES2 computer system, used in handling large major enquiries.

“All of it was very interesting and helped me to understand some of the issues around IT and the varying ways in which the Force and the Agency make use of it and the different pressures that these different requirements can place on the CIS department.

“It was also good to meet the Exercise Planning Team and to note the use they make of your Corporate Communications Department for film injects and mock media, which help to provide important realism to these very important exercises. We are soon to have a major exercise at Main Building and part of the purpose of my visit to the team was to help me to prepare for that.”

TT: *The Grimstone Report on the role of civilians in Defence has now reported, but the findings are not yet published. How will Grimstone be co-ordinated with all the other reviews of this Agency which are taking place?*

SS: There are going to be a great many strands of work through the autumn, including a whole range of financial exercises, and of course the SDSR must underpin all of them as we determine how we position ourselves for success for Defence for the future. The co-ordination of this is going to be complex and we are discussing currently how precisely we will manage the results coming out ahead of the key milestone of the Budget on October 20.

It is entirely possible that not all the answers to our questions will come out at the same time. Gerry Grimstone’s work on Defence reform will be running alongside the SDSR and it may be that some decisions that are not so concerned with the future character of conflict – the big high level strategic Defence and Security Review issues – can in fact be made in slightly quicker time.

I think that might well be the way that Ministers would want to take forward some of those issues. The straight answer is ‘we do not yet know’ and this is going to be one of the things, following the work that has been done over the summer,

that Ministers will want to check the progress of when they return to their offices.

TT: *It is apparently the Department’s intention to ‘programme’ the outcome of the SDSR in Planning Round 11. Does this mean that 2011 is a crucial year, or will the implementation be a phased affair over several years?*

SS: Both are true. This will be a crucial year as we set the shape of Defence for the next generation, aligned to our resources. I am not sure that every question will necessarily be resolved so swiftly, I can see it being a phased approach and I don’t think the two things are incompatible.

TT: *What is the main purpose of the ‘MOD Your Say’ surveys from the Centre’s point of view?*

SS: We really want to hear what our people feel about Defence business at the moment and, particularly with so much change happening, how confident people are in our approach and how involved they feel in what we are doing. It is a very important piece of information for leaders throughout the organisation. It’s a dispassionate piece of feedback which is invaluable to us as we go through the very difficult period that lies ahead.

We really do want to carry the organisation, in all its parts, with us. We really do want people’s

engagement in what we are doing. It is not a separate exercise to “action-plan” what people told us in the last ‘Your Say’ survey. Those plans are the same plans that are, in a sense, taking us through PR11 and the SDSR. There is one strategic way forward and we need to know what people think about it, have their views changed since last time and, if not, how can we engage people in the strategic way forward?

It enables us to be continuously aware of how people feel about the Department’s direction of travel and so the ‘MOD Your Say’ survey in October will be absolutely as important as ever. In difficult times really strong organisations need improved engagement.

TT: *To what extent is the Department still committed to unarmed guarding, or will the Services be allowed to make their own arrangements if they wish?*

SS: I don’t think we have come to conclusions on that question any more than all the profound questions that we are asking as part of the SDSR and all the other exercises we spoke about previously. The position we are in is that we want to be delimiting from first principles the size and shape of Defence for the future.

All the fundamental questions need to be asked and we will get the answers coming through in a phased way. You’ve asked an important

question and it’s one we will want to be addressing with all the others. In every aspect of our business, the SDSR gives us the chance – which only happens every decade or so – to go back to first principles and seek a strategic and coherent view of what should be the size and shape of Defence for a generation. This is a really important opportunity to review fundamentals.

TT: *There has been some discussion on and off over the past six months about whether we in MDPGA will remain in an Agency structure. Does the Centre have a view about Agency status in general, or are you happy to leave it to us to decide on that?*

SS: Again, when we have decided through the SDSR the future size and shape for Defence we will then need to look at the kind of organisation we will need to deliver that. All these questions are good questions, but we will need to fit the form to the function. It may be that in some areas we can come to decisions and we do not need the entire panoply of the SDSR to be completed first, but it will be a difficult balance to strike. We don’t want to find ourselves unable to proceed, with reduced budgets making some things impossible. What issues we can resolve earlier will be a fine judgment.”

Busy time

Before returning to Whitehall Susan said that she fully understood the desire among staff to know the outcomes of the SDSR and other reviews as early as possible.

She said: “What we will seek to do is to keep people informed just as soon as we know an outcome. Our aim will be absolutely to be straight and open with people.

“We will know the size of the envelope we have to work with on October 20. Fitting our business to that envelope will be a very, very important task in which you will be involved.

“It is going to be a very busy time, a very exciting time, but a very challenging time.”



Chief takes stock as MOD's future role is mapped out

■ In a year which has seen several reviews and studies of Defence policing and guarding and with the Strategic Defence and Security Review currently under way, Chief Constable Steve Love and his Agency Management Board colleagues have been kept especially busy.

TalkThrough caught up with the Chief, as he took stock of progress around a number of critical issues and asked him to share his thoughts on how the Force and the wider Agency is faring during this period of intense scrutiny.

We began by asking him:

What is happening to the Woolley/Hutchinson Review? Has it been scrapped?

Here you are referring to the first Woolley Review which is about the future of the MDP and Mark Hutchinson's work which followed it. The second Woolley Review is about MDP terms and conditions of service and is still very much on-going. The important point about the (first) Woolley Review was that it confirmed the requirement of the MDP and also confirmed that we are developing in all the right areas, which are the specialist, niche high value policing areas. The Hutchinson work which followed was to prepare some options for the 2010 Defence budgeting round, but as we know

By TalkThrough Editor Norman Hicks

Photograph by Paul Kemp



those have rather fallen by the wayside, given that the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) is now in full swing.

When can we start to recruit again and is it true that all recruiting, down to the lowest level, has now to be signed off at a high level within the MOD?

We don't have any indication when we can start to recruit again. With the clear message from Government that all public services have got to look to cut back, it would be perverse to recruit people now who we won't be able to afford. So, it is indeed true that all recruiting, even for the most junior positions, has to be signed off at two star level in the MOD.

Are we likely to remain an Agency?

I believe so. On balance, it does give us a little more room to manoeuvre and so, unless Government policy on Agencies changes, we have no intention of offering up our Agency status voluntarily.

Given that the MOD is unlikely to have the funds for large scale redundancies, what other measures do you think are likely to be considered and where is the pain most likely to be felt?

At the present time I know no more than is reported nationally in the newspapers covering the civil service generally, rather than the MOD or the MDPGA specifically. I do not actually know how the Government intends to square the circle between staffing reductions and the cost of redundancies and, like everyone else, I am waiting to see. In the case of the MOD, the SDSR also needs to be played in, because that is what will shape the future Defence requirement, both operationally overseas and the footprint back in the UK. Where the pain is most felt is therefore likely to be defined by what the SDSR says about the UK's defence and security requirements – we do not yet know what it says.

What is the Agency Management Board doing to ensure that the MDPGA remains a coherent policing and guarding operation once the various current reviews are complete?

A lot. We are conscious that although there are a number of top level reviews and studies taking place at national level, all of which could affect us, they do not necessarily all have a good knowledge of exactly who we are and what we do. So, what we have done is identified all of the reviews and work streams that affect us or that we are relevant to, inside and outside the MOD,

mapped these out, identified who is in charge and then set up a programme to make sure that they are all suitably briefed, but also so that we know as far as we can what they are proposing and where they are leading to.

We have a planning meeting in my office every Monday morning to follow the various twists and turns and plan who else we need to target and with what message or information. It is very much driving my own work and I would say that I am now spending about three-quarters of my time on this alone.

The 'Big Society' concept being pushed by the coalition government encourages departments to think outside of their individual silos to look at cost-saving measures that cut across traditional boundaries. That being the case, why is there resistance to merging MDP with the CNC, which would seem to be an obvious savings option?

I am not actually against combining the MDP and the CNC and I think there could be distinct operational advantages, particularly in establishing a single UK, or even European centre of excellence in nuclear protection and security. There are not, so far as I know, any moves afoot to bring this about, but the need of the Government to save costs and cut across traditional boundaries has, I think, still got some way to run.

How can individual members of staff or teams contribute to the debate about the future of the Force/Agency?

In truth, it is not a debate we can all take part in as much as we would like – some of the most important discussions will take place at top level and we are following the 'track and target' approach which I

outlined in my earlier answer. But what everyone in the Agency can do individually is to help stack the odds in our favour. Every single thing we do, large or small, individual, local, regional or national, that takes a bit of cost out, makes us that bit more efficient, satisfies the customer that bit more, gets the job done better, all helps when I am in a position of presenting us as a cost-effective and match-fit option for the future. Now is not the time to let up on that.

Are you concerned that the current level of uncertainty about our long-term future is having a negative effect on staff morale and/or operational effectiveness?

Yes. I think it is entirely understandable that people's concerns about the long-term future have an effect on their morale. The fact that this makes us no different from millions of other public sector workers is not really the issue. I would prefer that this did not affect our operational effectiveness, because even with frozen recruiting and reduced resources, it strengthens the case I am making to the Centre if we are seen to be giving the best possible service we can.

Members of the Agency Management Board, as well as working hard to present ourselves to our customers and stakeholders, are seeking to be on the front foot in keeping everyone informed, for example through regular 'Core Brief' updates, and involved, for example through the 'Chief's Challenge'.

But these are difficult times and I am full of appreciation and admiration for the way that the men and women of our Agency are getting on with the job of keeping UK's defence secure and supporting its operations overseas, even in the face of all these difficulties.

Thank you and well done to one and all.

Community policing 'is right on track'



By Norman Hicks

Photographs by
Paul Kemp

■ **The first seminar for Defence Community Police Officers since the title was changed earlier this year, took place at MDP HQ Wethersfield.**

More than 60 DCPOs, together with their supervisors, Divisional and HQ staff and guest speakers gathered at the Briefing Centre for a wide-ranging programme that included a number of case studies, policy updates and input from customers and partner agencies.

Deputy Chief Constable Gerry McAuley, in his welcoming address, posed the question: "At a time when we are encouraging economy and challenging all our spending, should we have put this event off or not held it in the first place? The answer to that is a very clear 'No'.

"As a Force, the MDP cannot afford to stand still. Our direction of travel is clear – niche, high value policing services – working directly in support of the MOD and our non-MOD repayment customers. You are a critical part of this."

"The fact that you are providing . . . niche and high value policing services

therefore places your work at the heart of the Forces' provision of capabilities to our customers. To summarise, community policing is right on track."

DCC McAuley recalled that he had set up some time ago a fundamental review of community policing, led by Chief Insp John Coffield, which had recommended developing MDP community police officers in a more structured way, bringing them together at least annually and giving them the chance to meet colleagues and share good practice.

He continued: "I am a strong advocate of community policing because I have seen what you can achieve, day in day out. I have met your customers and many representatives of Service families, parish councils, local and Service police and others who speak of remarkably similar things no matter where I am visiting.

"These constant themes are:

- **You understand the community you serve**
- **You care about it and take action to support it, and**
- **You are visible and approachable**

"But of course we do need to make sure you are being supported by the Force – and that is the main focus of our recent work under the auspices of the Head of Community Safety (seminar director Insp Darrell Barber)."

Mr McAuley added: "The armed services vary in their approaches – what applies within an ATR establishment might not work on a Service Family Estate. Community policing strategies are different in Scotland from those in England, a rural community faces different challenges from an urban one, and a mixed estate different still.

"I have seen our officers operating within these diverse communities in many different roles. From acting as the day-to-day policing adviser to a Major General, to arresting an offender for stealing lead off the roof. From playing an important role in the repatriation of fallen soldiers, to preparing anti-drug initiatives. And from traffic enforcement, to the day-to-day core role of visible, reassurance policing. From working with ethnic minority military communities to running HomeFront schemes. All different, all equally relevant," he said.

"And our senior customers do notice what you do. Major General James Everard CBE GOC 3(UK) Division, has on several occasions commented to me about your work and has asked me to say this on his behalf to you today:

"We are often slow to recognise a success. In my role as General Officer Commanding 3 (UK) Division, I have visited a large number of units across the UK where MDP have established community police stations in support of the Army and our families. It has impressed me how much the quality of life of our families can be improved by only one or two police officers taking time to understand and support those communities.

"As senior officers, we spend a great deal of our time dealing with the macro or strategic issues facing the Army but time and time again it is the micro or local issues that cause our families difficulties which, if not dealt with, can be magnified and potentially impact upon the morale of our troops. I have heard and seen at first hand just how well the rollout of community policing is working and how it can deal with such local problems.

"This is a success and we should be proud of our achievements in this area. The Army and our families place much value on what you do."

DCC McAuley said that it was right that the Force took the opportunity to acknowledge the work being done by Defence Community Police Officers and that this is further underlined in the creation of the annual Defence Community Police Officer Award of the Year.

"I hope that this becomes a landmark event and provides an even greater shop window for your work and an opportunity

to enter the national arena through the annual **Police Review** awards.

"I wish you every success both during the conference and as you resume your duties back in your respective communities. I look forward to continuing to be a strong supporter of your work. Thank you for supporting our armed forces and their communities in the way you do, especially during these times of significant pressure upon service personnel and their families. It is highly valued."

Among the guest speakers at the seminar were Col David Cowan, CO at Arborfield Garrison, Ann Marie Wilsdon, of Defence Housing, who both spoke of the positive impact of community policing in their domains; Det Sgt Louise Wall, of West Mercia Police, who spoke about the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme and the DCPOs' role within it; Tina Proctor of the HIVE at RAF Coningsby, who described the benefits of partnership working with DCPO PC Pete Smith and colleagues; Dr Parvaiz Ali, of the MOD Police Committee, who described its role; and Det Insp Pat Curran, Deputy Unit Commander for the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre and Royalty Protection department, who outlined some recent case studies and advised officers on signs to look for in individuals who may have criminal intent towards members of the Royal family and other high profile public figures.

Other sessions covered youth engagement, community safety, data protection, IT concerns, training, criminal justice issues, covert policing and communication data investigations, making intelligence work and, finally, two further case studies of DCPOs working with diverse communities in Edinburgh (Fijians) and Brecon (Nepalese).

The seminar host, ACC Div Ops David Allard, announced the winner of the DCPO Award as PC Lee Maplesden, of MDP Corsham.

He described PC Maplesden, an MDP officer for 22 years, as an 'excellent representative of the Force', who will go forward later this year to represent MDP at the national Community Police Officer of the Year' awards run by **Police Review**.



PC Lee
Maplesden

Commendation certificates were also presented to SE Community Safety Manager PC Fiona Franklin and Phil Houghton DCPO Arborfield, for their work in setting up the HomeFront initiative and NE Community Safety Manager Sgt Gavin Alcroft, for his work promoting Defence road safety in NE Division and around the UK during Road Safety Week.

Wrapping up the seminar ACC Allard told delegates it had been 'extremely worthwhile and relevant to your job'.



ACC Div Ops
David Allard

He thanked the seminar organisers and all the visiting speakers and other presenters for their time and trouble.

"What I have picked up from this seminar is that what you do is far and beyond what is expected of you and I thank you all for that on behalf of the Force."



Photographs by Leading Airman
(Photographer) Dan Hooper
Crown Copyright/MOD 2010

POLICE
DOG HANDLER

Our youngest recruits

The first MOD Police Service dogs to be born to the police dog unit at HMNB Devonport were pictured last month, aged three weeks, as they learned to walk and eat solid food for the first time.

The 12 Belgian Shepherd Malinois pups are the police dogs of the future and are destined to patrol MOD assets worldwide, but for now they are one of the main attractions at the Base.

Sergt Matt Robertson, supervisor of the police dog unit in Devonport, said: "Not surprisingly, people are queuing up to come and see them. The puppies are learning to walk and their eyes are opened fully. They have all put on a healthy weight and are very well and thriving. We are very proud of them and their mother Willow."

This is the third litter of puppies to be bred especially for and by the MOD Police, with the previous two taking place at the breeder's kennels and then at the MOD Police headquarters.

The police dog unit used to bring in German Shepherds as new recruits, but they have increasingly become susceptible to health problems which shortened their working life.

It was decided that the best way to guarantee good quality, healthy dogs and provide value for taxpayers' money was to breed in-house and switch to Belgian Shepherds of the Malinois variety.

Sergt Robertson said: "The breeding programme guarantees us a high standard of dog, we know the origins of the dogs and their genetic history and their temperament. This breed is already known for its sociable character and they are easy to train with a high level of fitness. The breeding programme means we can trace their lineage and parentage – the father is the same in both litters and the mothers are sisters."

Once the pups reached eight weeks, they began development training – a major step towards playing a crucial role in the UK's security.

Explosives Search Training

By Judith Slater
Photographs by Paul Kemp

for 'brand new, straight out of the box', MDP spaniels



Benson's powers of smell win through

■ As Course Tutor, PC Kenneth Angus, so aptly put it: "These spaniels are brand new, straight out of the box. The handlers here are 'green'; they have all handled General Purpose Dogs but this is the first time they've dealt with Search Dogs. Nor have they been on an 'Explo' (Explosives Search) course."

"Explo dogs and handlers are trained to specialise in finding explosive devices and do not cover arms, weaponry or drugs. This is all about people's lives at potential risk."

Sergt Paul Tobias, Special Search Dog Team Leader based at Melton Mowbray, is Course Director for this course. He explained how all previous Explo Courses had been run at the DAC Centre, Melton Mowbray so this was the first structured course carried out by the MDP Dog Section.

TalkThrough caught up with the three handlers on the course during a break in training.

First up was PC Dick Culpeck from AWE with his English Springer, Benson who he has had since June last year.

What have you done in preparation for this course?

"Benson and I have been going to shopping centres to explore the sights and sounds of everyday life. We call this 'socialisation'. I'm impressed as not a lot fazes him."

Is he made a fuss of at home?

"Oh yes, but he is treated much like any other dog. I allow him to 'switch off'. He knows the difference now between work time and 'down' time."

Have you had to teach him commands?

"I stick to the commands I've used for other dogs but I have had to introduce new ones for the actual role of search."

What is the range of his vocabulary?

"If you can call it a 'vocabulary', he responds to what I say, put it that way!"

PC Geraint Jones (AWE Burghfield) has been paired with Dylan, a black and white Cocker spaniel since September last year.

How does he compare with your German Shepherd?

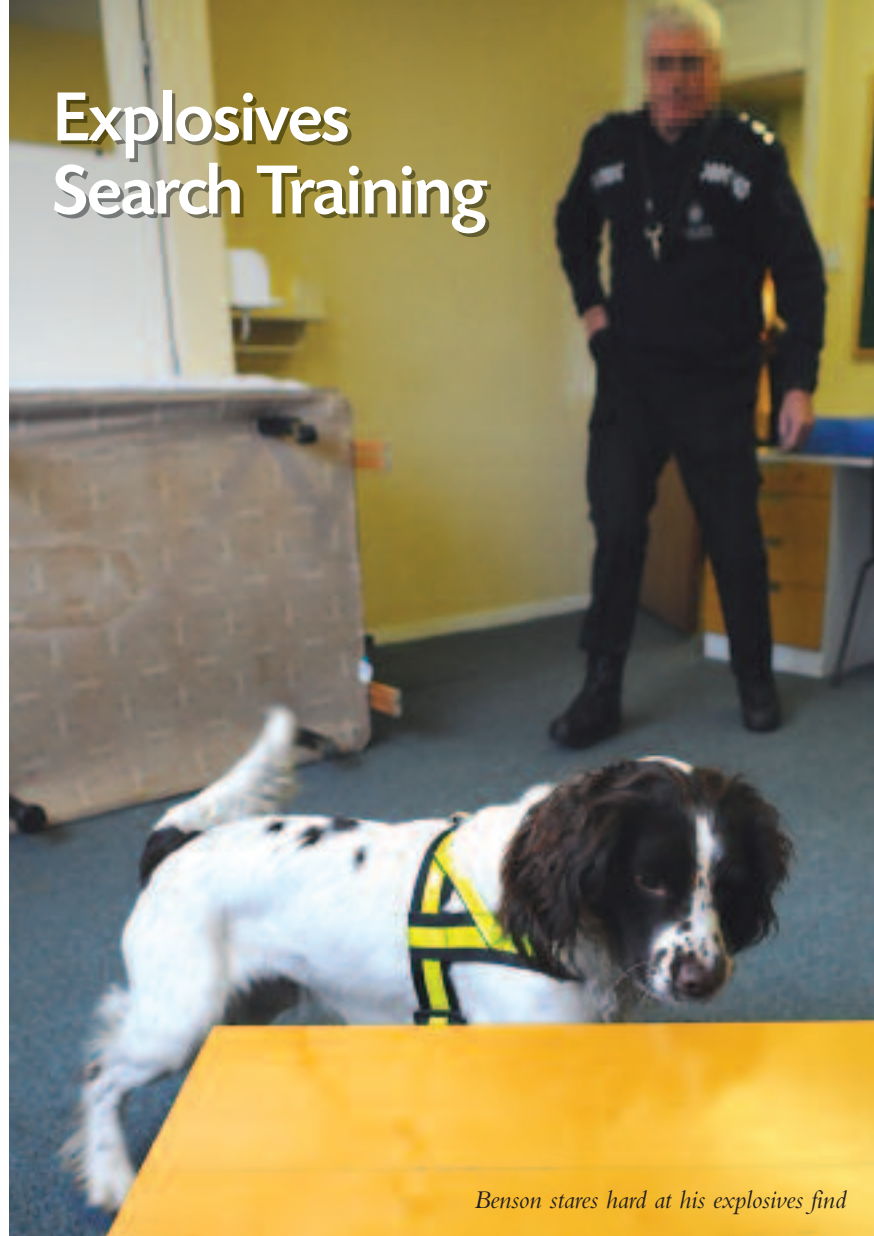
"Dylan only weighs 11kgs so is a lightweight compared to my other dog who was 40kgs."

What have you learned after your third day of the eight-week course?

"Seeing how the dog indicates on certain substances."

CONTINUED . . .

Explosives Search Training



Benson stares hard at his explosives find

Finally, **PC John Wing** (AWE Aldermaston) who got his Springer spaniel **Finn** in May 2009.

What would you like to add to the others' comments?

"I've found out that this is a very different form of handling but I'm very much looking forward to working with him."

Course Director

Before watching the dogs in action, Sgt Tobias told **TalkThrough**: "The stations pay for the dogs and so, once trained and qualified, they will be used solely for that station's use; it's their asset if you like. These dogs will be in addition to the existing complement due to security enhancement.

"Whilst PC Ken Angus has set the course up, my role is looking after the rest of the search dogs but I will be with the course until they finish.

"The normal dogs we're using are labradors, but we do have spaniels too. These dogs here have been donated. The emphasis of this course is on the risk to people's lives; they can't afford to miss the terrorist. We need to be perfect every time.

"It should be noted that when these dogs pass out, they will be independently validated by an external person from another police force. We've asked PC Pete Rayner from Wiltshire to do an assessment mid-way and then at the end of Week eight to test and license the handlers. That keeps the process transparent."

Course Tutor

PC Ken Angus then told **TalkThrough** how, early on in the course, they would get these spaniels used to one building and learn that they get rewarded for finding hidden



Dylan, eager to get to work

explosives. "Of course, being young dogs, there is a lot of playing too. We don't want to take the fun out of them."

He continued: "For the first two to three weeks we'll be concentrating on the dogs' indication and introducing new odours. There are twelve elements in explosives in total. The handler knows the dog has found something when he freezes, staring in the direction of the scent. The dog knows to wait for his 'toy' as a reward before coming away."

What makes a successful police officer and dog team?

"You can have a dog which can find all the explosives, you can have a police officer who's really good with his/her dog, but if that person can't work in a safe system then he/she will not pass. Like humans, not all dogs learn at the same rate."

The spaniels are put through their paces . . .

Each dog and handler took their turn searching four bedrooms in a controlled manner. Only three of them had hidden explosives and the dogs were allowed to re-search the same rooms a second time with the explosives hidden elsewhere.

"We've also used a different explosive in one of the rooms; it smells differently," explained PS Tobias.

At that point, PC Jones crouched near the door to Bedroom No.1, holding on to the harness of Dylan, whose tail was wagging furiously in

eager anticipation. Then, the door swung open and they were instructed to enter by the Course Tutor.

PC Jones, one step inside the room kept well back, allowing his dog to carry out a 'free search', covering all areas; Dylan soon homed in on the chest of drawers, and then froze, rooted to the spot. This was a good indication.

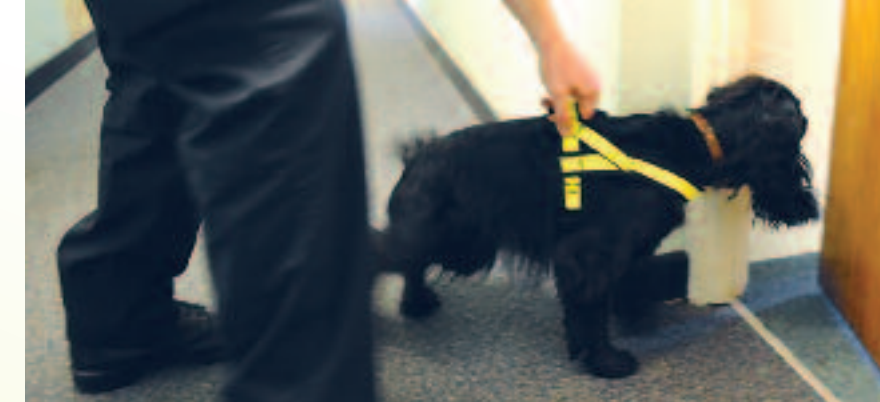
PC Jones threw the toy which Dylan snatched up eagerly and rushed into the hallway, where he was praised by his handler and made a fuss of.

After they'd all had their turns, PS Tobias said: "We are now at the level of looking for a good indication. There is no real involvement from the handler at this stage of 'free searching'. Later on we'll teach methods for 'systematic search'; the handler will then help the dog by using body language.

"You saw Finn in Room 2 getting excited. He'd smelt something but because of heating, draughts and body movements the scent wafts around. He found it though.

"We next get the dogs used to distractions such as audio tapes with

Dylan makes a find



different noises such as explosions and kiddies playing with toy guns. I think we'll add the clicking of cameras to this recording after today!"

The steady yet fun approach

PS Tobias explains that by bringing new dogs on slowly, keeping the fun element, they remain interested. "You can see each dog waiting for his command. By bringing them on nice and slowly, means you can introduce the control element. It is all a process of control and repetition."

Stamina

These young dogs look extremely healthy and will gradually build increasing levels of stamina. By the end of the course, the dogs will also be more 'streetwise'.

What next?

Before **TalkThrough** left the course to continue, PS Tobias added: "The handlers write their assessment each day and then PC Ken Angus and I will compile our observations. As Course Director, I'll have to verify them.

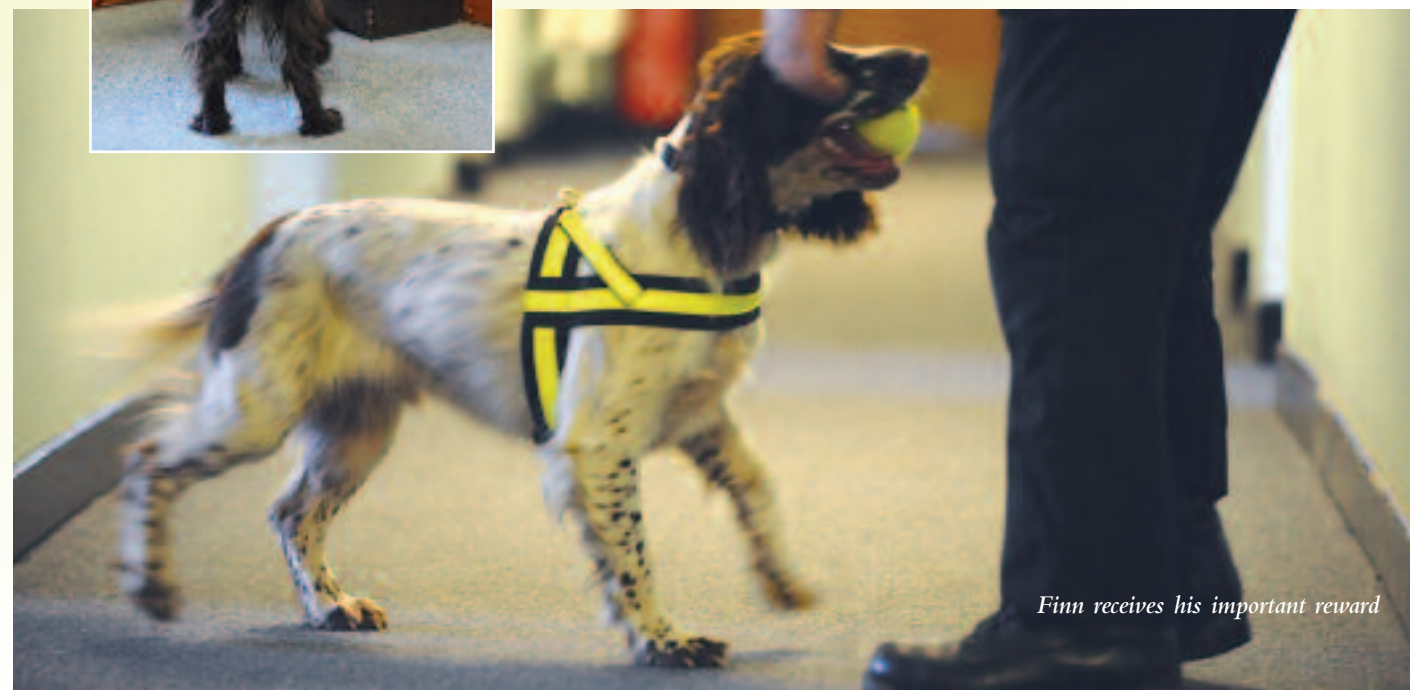
"Starting next Monday, we are at Portsmouth. We've arranged access to a shopping centre and military establishments to give the dogs a variety of experiences. In the coming weeks we'll go to builders' yards, railway stations, an airport using the hangars, there will be ships and ferries, HMS Warrior, Haslar Hospital and Portsmouth FC football ground – all sorts of venues."

Four months later . . .

Four months later and the training is over. How did they do?

Inspr Bruce McMurchy, the Force Dog Officer, said:

"We had one dog and handler who passed the course in its entirety. As you indicate in the article, we set high standards. We need to, if our dogs are to be effective and do the job required of them. It is stiff but that is all to the good. We are happy to have one extremely good team go through to qualify as Explo qualified dog and handler and they will be put to immediate use within their Division."



Finn receives his important reward

RIAT 2010 joint policing operation success

Photographs by Paul Kemp



Silver Commander and Tactical Advisers from both Gloucestershire and MDP.

With no extra resources available to them, the MDP officers based at RAF Fairford worked extremely hard in the run up and draw down to the event, which is a very busy period in which normal duties still need to be performed as well as those specific to the air tattoo.

During the event MDP officers carried out a very high profile armed role in front of the media and thousands of people including many VIPs.

The Inspector assumed operational control from Gloucestershire Police each evening and had operational responsibility for MDP, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire officers on duty within and in the vicinity of RAF Fairford.

MDP Silver liaison Officer was Chief Insp Dave Watson from Porton Down, who had overall responsibility for the welfare of MDP officers.

A joint firearms cell was established, involving the Firearms



■ **The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) – the world's largest military air show, attracting up to 200,000 visitors over three days – took place at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire over the weekend of Friday 16 – Sunday 18 July 2010.**

This year's event held special significance, as it marked the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, featuring Spitfires, Hurricanes and Messerschmitts among the 250 aircraft on display in the air and on the ground over the three days.

Policing was a joint operation between MDP, Gloucestershire Police, Wiltshire Police, RAF Police and USAFE Security Forces.

Overall command and operational control of the event rested with the Gloucestershire Silver T/Supt Gary Thompson, supported by the firearms Silver T/Supt Tony Godwin.

The Gloucester Gold Commander was T/ACC Steve Ackland, who was also the Gold Commander for Wiltshire Police. MDP Gold Liaison Officer was ACC John Bligh.

An MDP Inspecting rank was on duty 24 hours a day over the event.



Duties consisted of static duties at public and other designated gates. Officers detailed for duty at the USAF aircraft enclosure were responsible for providing a visible armed deterrent as part of the protection for USAF aircraft, whilst unarmed officers worked with unarmed Gloucestershire Police on the showground along with MDP CID.

Planning for the event had been ongoing for months before July, with various planning meetings, table top exercises and briefings held to examine and test exactly who would do what.

A joint firearms protocol was signed at ACPO level defining who would be carrying firearms where and at what times. No armed military personnel were on the show ground during public times.

The joint policing operation made use of the shared Silver Control Suite based within MDP Fairford's Police Station. This has had heavy investment with built-in communication links for all parties and also serves as a back-up Control Room for Gloucestershire Police outside the event.

Another aspect of the joint operation was the shared communications links, with all officers sharing the same radio 'Talk Groups'.

Resources supplied by MDP included firearms officers, unarmed showground officers, CID, Special Branch, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and Arms and Explosives Search (AES) dog officers. These officers came from

mostly the Western Division DSGs and Hereford.

The ANPR equipment was a joint operation on public roads around Fairford providing a ring of ANPR coverage, whilst the AES teams were responsible for searches each morning of the high profile areas.

Sergt Gavin Thomas, who was heavily involved in organising the MDP involvement with RIAT 2010, said:

"From the policing perspective this operation was a great success. It was attended by over 20,000 vehicles and approx 80,000 people each day. A few minor issues were dealt with effectively and there was no recorded crime or arrests throughout the period."

Specialist role for MDP during Royal visit to Scarborough

■ On 20 May 2010, Her Majesty the Queen paid a formal visit to Scarborough – her first to the area since 1977, the year of her Silver Jubilee.

The main purpose of the visit was to open up the Northstead Open Air Theatre, Scarborough, at the site of the North Bay Miniature Railway.

The event was clearly a major policing operation for North Yorkshire Police to protect and welcome the head of state to Scarborough. As a result MDP received an initial request to provide advanced search officers to assist during the security operation at the theatre and at five other venues within the area.

The resources requested by NYP were specialist working at height and confined space search trained officers. PS Jimmy Carr, the POLSA lead in relation to WICS issues, attended the initial planning meetings confirming that OSU North did possess the necessary specialist policing skills to complete the required task.

During the planning process and owing to a lack of POLSA resources within the North Yorkshire force area, MDP was requested to formally plan the search within the open air theatre. This was then done by PS Jimmy Carr.

The planning process became a multi-agency approach, involving NYP, MDP, BTP, (The Queen was arriving at Scarborough by Royal Train) Scarborough City Council North Bay Miniature Railway and the new owners of the theatre venue Apollo Leisure (Scarborough) Ltd. The planning process also included many other facets of police planning, including Road Policing, Public Order and firearms protection and response.

The theatre itself can be best described as an open air bowl with little or no perimeter security. The site has been re-development using council funding to enhance the area with the total cost of the rebuild being £3.5 million. The theatre has been designed to seat 6500 and holds the middle ground between traditional music and stage theatres and large stadium venues. It is the only one of its type in the UK.



By PS Jimmy Carr, OSU (North)

MDP involvement in the event began with a series of planning meetings at silver commander level. It was clear that although this represented a major policing operation for the force the theme of the response was very much based on "Policing Professionally around the Potential threat".

This added a degree of importance to the search within and around the theatre venue as this was the only public engagement during the visit and likely to attract a significant crowd. As it turned out, not only was the theatre full to capacity but a significant crowd of two thousand people had turned up on the day to welcome Her Majesty as she entered the theatre.

On Wednesday 19 May 2010, under POLSA direction, MDP deployed an advanced search team of confined space and heights officers from Dishforth to begin the search task, this day proving to be the pivotal day of search when all street furniture and buildings were pre-searched in anticipation for the event the next day.

The advanced team under the direction of team leader T/PS Stuart Lepoidevin attended to all the specialist search issues, whilst PS Jimmy Carr managed a North Yorkshire police search team to deliver the general searching issues.

The key role of search scribe was undertaken by PC Richie Howcroft, who also found time to pictorially record HM The Queen's visit, and the photographs attached to this article.

The most interesting issue surrounding the search occurred during

the pre-search element at the stage building within the theatre, where a large void was discovered behind a newly built wall which offered no access. OSU North officers had used an endoscope, through freshly drilled small holes to confirm the integrity of the area behind the wall.

However, the officers using the endoscope noticed on the camera screen a plastic bag, a plastic bottle with wires protruding from the plastic bag. Initial checks with Tolent builders were unable to shed any light on what it was behind. As no-one was able to identify the object, the builders were asked to cut a hole in the wall to allow Police Search officers to confirm what the item was? This was done, and officers discovered a bag of rubbish lying on wire cable.

Although the offending article was not of a security concern it confirmed the accuracy of the endoscope used to carry out the task, and the diligence and expertise of the officers using it.

The next day started early for the search team and Her Majesty arrived shortly after completion of the search. She received a huge ovation from the near seven thousand capacity crowd and was treated to a stage performance in perfect weather, before officially opening the theatre.

The search operation received praise from the silver commander and Police Search Coordinator North Yorkshire Police. The day passed off peacefully and safely and the operation was deemed to be a complete success.

MDP escort for Bordon Freedom Parade

■ *The people of Bordon in Hampshire turned out in force on Wednesday, 23 June to witness 104 Equipment Support Group REME Battalion march through the Garrison town's main street to the local recreation ground, for a Declaration of Appreciation Parade.*

The purpose of the Public Military Event (PME) was to enable the Mayor, Cllr Adam Carew, and members of Whitehill Town Council to thank the Battalion, which has been resident at Bordon in one form or another since 1863 and which had recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

MDP officers from Bordon Garrison station, in two fully marked police vehicles, assisted by two motorcycle officers from HMNB Portsmouth, provided the escort for the marching Army parade and band on public roads to a local VIP reception.

The march was from Prince Philip Barracks, through the town to the Jubilee Park Recreation Ground for the official 'Thank You' ceremony at the Pavilion.

VIP guests included the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson, senior Army officers, the chairman of Hampshire County Council, local Mayors of surrounding areas, as well as County, District and Town councillors.

The roads policing operation – aimed at ensuring public safety – was organised in partnership with Hampshire Police, with MDP operations organised from Bordon Garrison station.

Approximately 350 soldiers took part in the parade, which was led by a Military Band.

The MDP detachment at Bordon is responsible for providing a policing service throughout the Bordon Garrison areas.



Photographs by Paul Kemp

MDP Chief Insp Graham Wright pictured with Capt Chris Haugvik, of 104 FS Bn, before the start of the Freedom Parade

These include the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Regiment, 4 BN REME (3(UK)Div), Headquarters REME TA, Headquarters Army Training Estate (Home Counties), CPU RMP Longmoor, 8 Cadet Training Team and DSDA Engineer Park Longmoor.

There are approximately 500 Married Quarters at Bordon, which are occupied by both RAF and Army personnel and their families. They form an integral part of the Bordon/Whitehill urban development.

The MDP detachment is responsible for providing year-round high profile anti terrorist police patrols, with use of Constabulary powers when necessary.



Joint operation at Armed Forces Day celebrations



■ *Thousands of people turned out to support the Armed Forces Day celebrations in Scarborough Town, welcoming back the Yorkshire Regiment from active service in Afghanistan. Also present during the event were the London based Coldstream Guards who had served with the Yorkshire Regiment in Theatre.*

The event which doubled as a homecoming parade for the troops also celebrated National Armed Forces Day and the 150th anniversary of the Cadets with the main event being in Cardiff. It included a series of stalls and military related activity, a fly-past by the Battle of Britain

Memorial Flight and the parade of the troops on the sea front before the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS) General Houghton KCB CBE.

OSU North with the support of OSU South, DSG York and Force Dog resources were heavily involved

in the planning and conducting of the policing and security operation in partnership with North Yorkshire Police and Scarborough Borough Council.

A series of meetings took place in the lead up to the event involving MDP POLSAs, led by PC Neil Errington and PS Jimmy Carr, and a detailed security plan was produced and agreed by North Yorkshire Police Silver Commander. This included a pre-search and seal of identified vulnerable points on the route, a search of St Nicholas Gardens on the



sea front and the delivery of a Remote Vehicle Search Site, so all stall holders and delivery persons could be searched prior to entering the security area.

The operation began on the day before the event with a search and seal exercise securing the vulnerable points on the route and at the parade area. PC Neil Errington was responsible for this element of the



search which he divided into five separate areas for ease of reference.

The main search commenced at 5am on the Saturday, and was initially interrupted by the need to respond to a report of a serious sexual assault which led to the arrest of two persons by the local police force.

The main search again was divided into several smaller areas for ease, and completed within the timescales required. Once completed OSU and DSG performed General Policing duties in support of the operation which included the management of thousands of people congregated on the sea front, awaiting the arrival of the marching troops.

The search and policing task ended without incident and the MDP involvement drew compliments from NYP Silver Commander in a letter to MDP HQ which praised the professionalism of the officers involved.

Safe cycling at HMNB Clyde



Pictured, left to right: Irene Dougall (MDP), PC Scott Hazley (MDP), RPO Brian Worth (Service Police), Greg Cadman (TISO) and Alan Davis (TISO manager)

■ *Cyclists at HMNB Clyde were the focus of a special event recently when the Ministry of Defence Police and Royal Navy Service Police held a safe Cycling event within the Base's Super mess foyer.*

Organised by Irene Dougall, a Police civilian support worker, the event featured both safety and security advice. The MDP has recently taken over responsibility for the maintenance of Cycle passes and Irene was on hand to issue the new passes to those cyclists who attended. The event was supported by TISO, the base's outdoor specialist shop, which kindly gave an additional discount to cyclists who registered their cycle during the event and wished to purchase cycle safety clothing or equipment.

Constable Scott Hazley, one of the station cycle patrol officers, Sergt George Smart, Divisional Community Safety Manager and RPO Findlay Harris from the Service Police were also on hand to provide cycle safety advice and property mark cycles.

Sergt Vincent Reid from the MDP at HMNB Clyde said:

"This was a very successful event which was well supported by the community. We have received numerous inquiries about it and will therefore be running another initiative around October. As well as travelling around the Base, cyclists also use the surrounding road and cycle path network and it is our aim to ensure that they can enjoy this pastime in a safe and secure manner."



PC Lynne Bennion and PC Charlotte Davison (2nd and 3rd front left) MDP Menwith Hill with Crucial Crew colleagues

'Crucial Crew' event teaches pupils to stay safe

By Sergt Gavin Alcroft,
NE Div Community
Safety Manager

■ *School students in the Harrogate and Wetherby district learned how to stay safe in dangerous situations after spending time at a "Crucial Crew" event at Claro Barracks, Ripon.*

This scheme is part of a multi-partnership approach to community policing, where the emergency services and local agencies join forces to introduce primary age school children to different problems and life-saving experiences.

Along with the MDP, the Crucial Crew agencies include North Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Asda, St John Ambulance, HSE and Northern Electric.

Approximately 2,500 Year 6 students (aged 10-11 years) visit the event each year, to work their way through scenarios designed to test their abilities in situations including road safety, stranger danger, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour. It's also an opportunity for children to practice making a 999 call as well as being advised of the dangers of making hoax calls.

MDP has been involved with Crucial Crew for a number of years, and presents a "Drug Disco" in which children are reminded of the facts about drugs and medicines, and what to do if drugs or associated paraphernalia are found. Our

connection with the event also provides an opportunity for the American children at RAF Menwith Hill to be included and to interact with local UK schools.

Menwith Hill 5th Grader Caitlin Grant said: "I'll use the skills I learned at Crucial Crew in the future", whilst Zachary Lendzian said: "I learned to be more careful and to stay off farms in case of causing damage."

PC Lynne Bennion the DCPO at Menwith Hill and MDP lead on Crucial Crew who was partnered during this year's event by PC Charlotte Davison (Menwith) said:

"The children enjoy their Crucial Crew experience because it gives them hands-on skills of dealing with potentially real-life situations. It also allows them to build a positive relationship with members of the emergency services."

The overall focus of the scenarios is to help students make smart decisions, avoid problem situations, and know where and who to go to for help. Supt Roger Phillips (at the time SPO MDP Menwith Hill) said: "We fully support this initiative as it gives us an opportunity to demonstrate MDP's community credentials alongside our North Yorkshire Police partners; it also allows us to give something back to a community where we have a high police presence."

Police tactics – and heavy rain – end RAF Fylingdales protest

Photographs by Paul Kemp



■ *Sound intelligence, early planning meetings, a well co-ordinated joint policing operation and torrential rain combined to turn what had been billed as a major protest at RAF Fylingdales on June 6, into something of a damp squib.*

Under the codename Operation Isthmus, MDP Senior Police Officer Chief Insp Howard Harding and his team prepared for a potential attendance of around 100 protesters at the 'Reclaim The Moors' event.

The SPO explained: "Excellent ground work by my local intelligence officer, Constable Tina Hodgson, identified that several protest groups were planning this demonstration, some of whom had previously trespassed and caused significant criminal damage at RAF Fylingdales.



"I undertook the role of Public Order Silver Commander with overall responsibility for the operation. ACC Robert Chidley was Gold Commander, based at MDP HQ Wethersfield.

"Essential to a successful operation were the early meetings that took place with all the stakeholders, namely the protesters, the RAF, the North Yorkshire Police and the North Yorkshire highways unit.

This dialogue ensured everyone's needs were considered," he said.

The organisers had indicated during pre-meetings with the police that they intended to conduct a peaceful walk on public bridleways surrounding RAF Fylingdales and then hold a picnic on the Designated Protest Area at the start of the approach road to the establishment – although the poor weather put paid to the second half of their plans.

"We had excellent support from the NE Divisional Support Group from York, and a combined Operational Support Unit (North and South), both delivering the policing on the ground, together with regular Fylingdales staff," said Chief Insp Harding.

"Insp Tom Huntley from OSU South did a sound job as the Public

Order Bronze and I also had sterling support from Insp Terry Aisbitt and Insp Graham Musto as my two other Bronze Commanders."

Unusually, the protesters decided to approach the Base from three different directions, no doubt in the hope of stretching police resources.

However, a number of contingency plans had been prepared to deal with different levels of protest at a

number of locations around the site, each with their own appropriate levels of police response, thereby neutralising the protesters' tactics.

This measured approach from the police and RAF Fylingdales personnel, combined with the heavy and persistent rain that marked the day, ensured that the protesters showed no desire to prolong their visit.

The bad weather also served to reduce the planned attendance from the expected 100 or more to around 30, said Chief Insp Harding.

"Happily, no arrests were made. However, all the operational objectives were achieved, and all stakeholders, including the protesters, appeared to have had a successful if a very wet day," he said.

The Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Martin Johnson, accepted a letter from the protesters and said afterwards that he was very satisfied with the policing operation.



Improved accommodation at RAF Menwith Hill

By T/Ch Supt Roger Phillips, Acting Divisional Commander, NE Division

■ *It was in a mood of celebration and optimism that our administrative staff and training support team moved into the newly-constructed office accommodation block at RAF Menwith Hill.*



Cutting the Ribbon – the Official opening
Front Row L to R: Col John Hughes (421st Air Base Group Commander), Supt Roger Phillips.
Middle Row: Inspr Danny May, Heather Beecroft (Admin), Chief Inspr John Brizzolara, Sergt Brian McConnell, Mr Mike Faass (Director of Security), a member of Maintenance Staff.
Back Row: Mr Graham White, Sandra Watkins (Admin), Inspr Terry Moody, Mr John Straughair (member of Maintenance Staff).

The opening was carried out by the Base Commander Colonel Hughes. We are all so impressed with the improvements to our office working conditions, and are appreciative of the investment by our US partners at RAF Menwith Hill.

As SPO at RAF Menwith Hill at the time, I first approached the Director of Security early in 2008 asking for more office accommodation for our civilian staff and police officers. We were working within a quite tightly confined building, but understandably these offices had originally been constructed for a smaller workforce.

This project was taken forward by Inspr Terry Moody who then put together a business case and presented it to the Station Space Allocation Board. Success was his when he eventually got an offer of six additional offices. All his hard work, attending numerous meetings, had paid off.

From October of that year, Inspr Danny May (Support) took over the project. It soon became clear to him that we could increase our request by a further three offices. The business case presented for this was

also understood and accepted by the US as being both reasonable and necessary.

What will this provide?

This resulted in the joint North Yorkshire Police/Ministry of Defence Police Counter Terrorist Unit (NYP/MDP CTU) being able to move out of their demountable building into our previous building. A great improvement on their previously cramped workspace.

The next elements to the project involved the negotiation of finance from our US customer for refurbishment purposes.

The goodwill between all parties meant that the project was completed to time, within budget and fit for the job. We all had to be aware of and follow the US procedures and protocols and create a team which could work effectively together, including civilian contractors... This all had to be achieved whilst ensuring all US and MOD regulatory criteria was satisfied, mainly in relation to the IT infrastructure.

Inspector May was exceptionally fortunate to be involved with a multi-agency team that worked tirelessly towards a single common goal. Considering what they were all up against, including no finance for new furniture and five different teams with responsibility for IT and communications alone, this project can be seen as an exceptional success.

Inspector May has told me he's been impressed with all the stakeholders involved, who together delivered exactly what was required and on time. There was of course the odd 'speed bump' on the road to completion. However, due to good communications, the project team kept the momentum going.

The new offices are certainly of an exceptionally high standard which supports all our service delivery requirements. It also stands as a testimony to the achievement of a co-ordinated multi-agency team effort.

Phase 2 of this project is the installation of a new refreshment room in our previous building, and the settling in of the joint NYP/MDP CTU. Phase 3 involves improvements to parts of our locker room facility, including partitioning and further fire detection devices. The resulting removal of three further demountable buildings means we can now open up police vehicular access to the main Police building.

All phases were due to be completed by late summer 2010. Another project, a bespoke emergency services building, will remain on the drawing board for now, with the project planned for some time in the future.



■ Motorcycle PC John Rolfe, a Section motorcyclist at HMNB Devonport, attended the 2010 National Bike Safe Motorcycle Show at the Sheffield Arena, at the invitation of South Yorkshire Police.

He told **TalkThrough**: "No officer from the MOD Police has participated before, although I have been involved with Bike Safe with Devon and Cornwall Police previously. Bike Safe is a national initiative co-ordinated by UK police Forces to promote better biking and improve safety of motorcyclists on the roads, increasing rider enjoyment and creating better riders."

"I was welcomed to Sheffield Arena, after travelling up from Plymouth on the Force Yamaha FJR1300, by the event organisers, Sergt Graham Sayner and PC David Hogg of South Yorkshire Police, and their boss Inspr Pete Serhatlic."

"After a safety briefing we met members of the team who would be monitoring our rides from the ride out control. There were 71 police riders, from 23 different Forces and a rider from the Fire Service of Merseyside, who was also a paramedic."

"We were split into three groups and set off at ten-minute intervals. Driving through Rotherham the locals must have wondered what was going on. All those police motorcyclists driving around in a group! We got a lot of comments."

"On arrival back at the arena we were assigned a dealer for the two days of the event. I was given the Harley Davidson stand with the two Devon and Cornwall officers, PS Greg Jarrett and PC "Crash" Evans."

"Along with the commercial exhibitors and dealers at the event, there were stunt riders showing their skills, emergency service displays and much more," said John.

For this popular event motorcyclists were asked to produce their driving licences, insurance and MOT to secure a free assessed ride



on their own bikes, or go out on one of the manufacturer's bikes.

MPC Rolfe completed four assessed rides on the first day of the event and five on the second, with the total amount of rides for the two days topping 400. Attendance over the two days was 11,500.

"It was a great event, with visitors coming up and chatting to you, wanting to know where you were from and what you do. We were there to promote safer biking, and it also gave me a chance to explain the role of MOD Police within the Defence community. Overall it was a very successful weekend, which is being repeated next year at the same venue, when hopefully I will have the opportunity to attend again."

DSG to the FORE!

By PS Paul
Chalmers



■ *MDP Divisional Support Group Scotland played a prominent role at the 2010 British Open Golf Championship, at St Andrew's. The world's oldest and most revered course, the very home of golf, was host to the game's longest-running major championship for the 28th time since The Open was first played in 1860.*

More than 240,000 people from around the world attended this year's event with an estimated worldwide television audience of over 4 billion. There were in excess of 500 journalists and photographers on-site and 2,500 staff involved in on-site operations during the week. The economic benefit of the Championship is estimated to be over £70M to the economy of Fife over the next five years.

One of the commercial sponsors of the event had attracted attention from environmental protest groups across the UK. Premises or past events had been disrupted by those wishing to make their message heard.

Intelligence preceding the event indicated that there might be a threat from environmental groups seeking to attract the broadcast media to highlight their causes. Fife constabulary requested the assistance of the Divisional Support Group Scotland to cover any protest action that may take place.

Before the event a good deal of preparatory work was carried out in consultation with Fife Police, Royal & Ancient (R&A), contractors and security consultants. All high priority and likely protest targets were assessed and method statements and risk assessments were put in place so that a speedy police response and removal could be guaranteed, if it were requested.

An excellent working relationship was formed with all partners involved in the operation. In particular Fife Police were excellent hosts throughout the event, providing the team with all logistical support necessary and allowing them access to all areas, which was invaluable in establishing vantage points, and positioning required equipment for any eventuality.

Having been at many major events and protests over the years the group has become adept at spotting when some behaviour just doesn't fit in with the normal behaviour of the other spectators (such as protest groups). Again Fife Police made good use of the MDP team by requesting that DSG officers followed all high profile players and others connected with any contentious issues and act as spotters for any impending actions and those who just did not fit in.

As the eventual winner Louis Oosthuizen reached the 15th hole, the operation was stepped up a gear and security around 72nd arena was tightened. DSG officers were all deployed to this area with the dual role of 'spotters' and being ready to deal with any act which would disrupt or stop the play.

As the final pairing reached the 16th green a small group of spectators was observed by DSG officers displaying some classic signs that a protest action was imminent. After further observation, the group was questioned and it was quickly established that their intention was to disrupt the event and gain publicity for their cause (opposition to the development of a new Golf course in the Aberdeen area by American developer Donald Trump). The cause had been well publicised and this action would have been seen worldwide. The protesters were in possession of large banners and it was believed that a 'streak' was also planned as the final pairing reached the 18th hole. All four were ejected from the event after having their tickets confiscated by the R&A.

The actions of the DSG have been recognised by the R&A security executive, who stated that:

"Their vigilance in recognising a group of protesters preparing a protest at Grannie Clarks Wynd at the conclusion of the championship, ensured that the threat was disrupted without any awareness of the general public.

"I would commend this excellent, skilled and professional team to you and ask that my comments be passed to their senior command team."

The Chief Constable Fife Police has also written to commend the team for their actions.

MDP in the Media

Recent extracts from newspaper and magazine articles which have featured MDP

From: The Sunday Express

MILITARY DECLARES WAR ON HOME FRONT FIDDLERS

While brave servicemen are fighting and dying in Afghanistan their corrupt comrades back in Britain are stealing millions of pounds a year from the Armed Forces.

Now the Ministry of Defence is being forced to wage a war on the home front, Operation Embroid, to protect the supply of scarce equipment for soldiers on the frontline.

A major victory in the MOD campaign was the jailing of a Royal Marine who worked in Army stores and was known to his colleagues as "Dan the Kit Man".

Over three years he pocketed £30,000 by selling stolen items on eBay and in pubs. They included a tank commanders' uniform, ration packs, under-armour body vests, boots and desert combat clothing.

Details of the case appear in the latest annual report of the MOD Police

and Guarding Agency. Its officers have also caught military personnel who have been bleeding money from the Forces.

They include two Royal Navy ratings who fiddled £200,000 of travel and subsistence expenses, an Army officer who passed himself off as a medical expert without any qualifications and a clerk in the MOD's pensions department who embezzled £172,000 of taxpayers' cash.

In January, two Royal Navy ratings were jailed at Truro Crown Court for 32 months and 16 months for fraud.

They had access to the MOD's expenses system and used fake credentials and stolen computer passwords to create bogus identities which let them claim thousands of miles of travel expenses for nonexistent officers over two years. They were able to divert all the cash to their own bank accounts.

The MOD report also highlights the case of a 61-year-old accounts clerk who was jailed for 16 months last October.

She had worked in the ministry's pensions and pay agency and stole £172,000 over four years. Her crime was revealed only after she had retired.

During £2009/10 detectives also secured the conviction of the son of an Army veteran who claimed £81,000 in war pensions four years after his father had died.

In Northern Ireland, four men are awaiting trial accused of unlawfully awarding £25million of MOD security and electrical contracts to friends.

An MOD Police spokesman said:

"The MOD and MOD Police take a zero tolerance approach to theft and fraud."

From: The Helensburgh Advertiser

Afghan awards for woman crackshot

The first female MOD police officer to train women in the Afghan National Police (ANP) has received two national awards for her outstanding work during her deployment to Afghanistan.

Isabella McManus, who is based at HM Naval Base Clyde trains female Afghan police officers to use the Sig Sauer 9mm pistol.

Sergeant McManus spent the majority of her six-month deployment in 2009 training female Afghan police officers to work as equals alongside their male counterparts.

On arriving in theatre, Sgt McManus felt she could not stand by and do nothing after seeing how the women lacked training and knowledge of equipment, and dedicated her deployment to developing their skills.

In recognition of her efforts in Afghanistan, Sergt McManus has been given the British Association for Women in Policing (BAWP) Leadership Award and Opportunity Now's Champion Award.

She was also short-listed in the final three for the Forces section of a national newspaper's Our Heroes Awards.

Sergt McManus said: "I am very humbled to have been nominated for these three awards and to have won two of them. But this is not just about me. This recognition is for every woman in Afghanistan who is brave enough to put on a police uniform. Every day they put their lives on the line to help build a better Afghanistan for the future".

From: Wales on Sunday

Black market in military goods insults front-line troops

The case of a former paratrooper busted for flogging army kit is just the tip of the iceberg of a "thriving" black market of stolen army goods in Wales, the Ministry of Defence said.

Ex-Parachute Regiment warrant officer Allan Peet, 46, from Bridgend, was labelled a "disgrace" by a Judge at Cardiff Crown Court after he'd admitted handling more than £6,500 worth of military boots, day sacks, hydration systems and ration packs, flogging them to army enthusiasts online.

But the MOD revealed another 15 probes into similar suspected cases were currently underway, some of them in Wales.

Peet was nailed by the authorities as part of Operation Embroid, a Task Force of officers from the MOD, MOD Police and Service Police set up to tackle the sale of stolen MOD property.

MOD spokesman Steve Partridge told Wales on Sunday: "UK Armed Forces fighting on the front line deserve the best possible kit and the MOD takes a zero-tolerance approach to any theft, fraud or deception which deprives them of that".



The Lyke Wake Walk

By Insp Graham Musto, MDP Fylingdales

■ *The Lyke Wake Walk is a complete crossing of the North Yorkshire moors from its most westerly point near Osmotherley to the most easterly point at Ravenscar – a distance of approximately 42 miles.*

Every person who completes a crossing of the Lyke Wake Walk on foot within a period of 24 hours and who registers it within 28 days is eligible for membership of the Lyke Wake Club. Female members are thus titled 'Witch' and males given the title of 'Dirger'.

The walk gains its origins from the 'Lyke Wake Dirge', probably Yorkshire's oldest dialect verse, which takes its name from the watching wake over the corpse (lyke). The song tells of the soul's passage through the afterlife. The end result of completing the walk was a terrific sense of achievement and the receipt of a black-edged card from the then Chief Dirger and founder – Bill Cowley.

The challenge was thus set by Constable Andy Sadler to raise funds for the NSPCC as a tribute to Constable Mickey Philipson; a popular officer at Fylingdales who passed away after a short illness in April 2009. Mickey was a patron of this charity and it was deemed to be the most appropriate fund-raising scheme.

The team of five walkers consisted of Insp Graham Musto, Constables Eric Mills and Andy Sadler, plus Steve Barron and Brett Nixon, both CSO5 MGS officers, all based at Fylingdales, with the support vehicle team role carried out by

Constables Ray Thomson and Paul Corcoran. Ray had completed the walk several years ago and Paul is an experienced walker.

After stopping to deal with a single vehicle road traffic collision at the hamlet of Gerrick – putting us behind by 45 minutes – we eventually arrived at Osmotherley and commenced the walk at 2230 hrs. At first all was well, but a slight navigational error put us on the wrong track. However, with some excellent map and compass work by Eric Mills we finally got to the first checkpoint. After a short break we were onto stage two; a nine mile stretch between the Cleveland Way and Bloworth Crossing. Having successfully negotiated this stage, it was now stage three across the old railway line, heading towards the Lion Inn at Blakey – some of you may be familiar with the inn as it was featured in the recent TV programme 'Oz and James drink to Britain'.

After an extended stop and a welcome hot breakfast served up by our gourmet chef Ray, we were back on the walk; a 'simple' stage over five miles of moorland, water, bog and marsh. Due to recent rain this section was quite difficult to pass as a significant area of the route was under water. Incredibly, we actually made up time on this phase, getting to the fifth checkpoint slightly earlier than anticipated. Then it was on to the most arduous stretch – a nine mile undulating stage between Wheeldale road and Ellerbeck – one mile away from Fylingdales. Here, due to the extremely warm weather and in some cases, extreme fatigue, we took an extended break in order to take on more water and food in order to prepare us for the final push.

Now onto stage six – a five mile stage between Ellerbeck and Jugger Howe. For some strange reason this leg seemed to be longer than ever... we were then met by Paul, who encouraged us up the embankment for the final mile of this stage. In fact at the end of the stage, Graham Musto thought we had reached the end of the walk... only to be told by Ray Thompson there was another two miles to complete! After the final 15-minute break we were off on the final leg of our adventure – to the radio mast at Ravenscar. Our aching bodies soldiered on, knowing we were almost there... in fact, we completed the last two miles in record time and even managed to beat the support vehicle to the mast as there is no direct vehicular route.

We had finally done it – we had all completed the walk. Although it had taken us slightly longer than our projected time of 18 hours, we finally recorded a time of twenty hours, fifty-one minutes. It was also estimated (by Paul Corcoran) we had probably covered 45 miles! Of our numerous injuries – we all suffered from badly blistered feet, jarred knees, aching backs and several hamstring twinges – it was probably the teamwork, the camaraderie plus the will and determination to succeed that enabled us all to get to the finishing line.

We would like to thank Paul Corcoran and Ray Thompson for their excellent support and encouragement along the way – we certainly would not have completed it without them. A big thank-you also goes to Andy Sadler and Eric Mills for organising the walk. In addition, thanks to everyone who sponsored us – we raised £380 for our chosen charity the NSPCC.

HELP for HEROES

■ *In June 2010 officers from MDP Gosport CID and DSG officers undertook several charity fundraising events to raise money for 'Help for Heroes'.*

By DC Phil Phillips, CID Gosport

Day two (Pyecombe to Buriton, near Petersfield, approx 75 miles into the ride) will – without mentioning any names – be remembered for two spectacular crashes which saw one officer end up in a barbed wire fence recreating the Steve McQueen moment from the film The Great Escape!

Day three (Buriton to HMNB Portsmouth) saw completion of the official South Downs Way at Winchester (King Alfred statue) before riding the remaining 30 plus miles back to the Naval Base, where all the group were met by family and friends at the arena next to HMS Victory.

The idea to raise money for this charity came after I watched a TV documentary called "Wounded", that followed the return of several injured soldiers to the UK from Afghanistan and their medical treatment and rehabilitation from life threatening injuries. The courage and positive attitude shown by these Servicemen in times of great adversity compelled me to try and do something to assist the charity in raising funds to build "recovery" centres for injured Service personnel.

As a result several press ganged colleagues agreed to cycle the South Downs Way from Eastbourne to Winchester and then onto HMNB Portsmouth – a distance of approximately 130 miles, over 90 of which were off road.

This cycle ride took place over the weekend Friday 4th – Sunday 6th June in glorious and very hot weather (up to 29 deg C). The group consisted of Det Insp Frank Mason, Det Sgt Jim Pullinger, PS Jon Cleford, PC Ray Stringer, PC Steve Beard, PC Steve Davis and myself. The support vehicle was crewed by Detective Constable Nev Hortin.

Highlight of the first day (Eastbourne to Pyecombe) was completing and surviving the 'Seven Sisters'. Frank Mason deserves special mention for completing the climb with a basket and charity bucket attached to the front of his bike! Needless to say as the day went on the bucket got filled as generous walkers and cyclists out on the South Downs Way contributed to the charity.

During the cycle ride the group suffered two punctures, four crashes, one resulting in cracked ribs and others in minor cuts and bruises! Despite this it was a fantastic weekend carried out in good weather with the usual good natured camaraderie between colleagues!

In addition to the charity bike ride a fund raising evening event was held at the HMS Collingwood Warrant Officers' and Senior Rates' Mess on Friday 11th June, attended by around 160 guests.

The evening got off to a fantastic start with members of the HMS Collingwood Volunteer Band "Drum Corp" led by Mr Neil Anstee performing "Mess Beatings" to the guests. After their performance a charity raffle and auction saw guests

generously contribute in excess of £1,000 to our charity fund raising efforts. A buffet and disco into the early hours rounded off a fantastic and very successful fund raising evening.

An on-line charity auction finished off our fund raising efforts, bringing the total amount raised by all our sponsorship and at HMS Collingwood to just over £4,000.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in our charity fund raising efforts in particular all the members of the Agency both MDP/MGS and members of the local MOD community in Portsmouth that supported our efforts and especially the following individuals, companies, and local attractions for their generosity in making donations and contributions which helped us reach our total:

Brittany Ferries, BAE Systems, Jack Tighe, Ulster Rugby Club, Cal Crutchlow, Charlie Boorman, Morrisons, Tesco, Clarence Pier, Spinnaker Tower, Legoland, Paultons Park, Marks and Spencer, Beaulieu, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Mountbatten Centre, Hair OTT, Solent Hotel, Marwell Zoo, Queens Parade News, Advanced Vending, Marriot Meon Valley Hotel and Country Club, John Lewis, Fontwell Race Course, Goodwood Race Course, Sparkly Party, Go Bowling, CharDanElle Inflatable's, Monkey Bizness, WO and SNR Rates Mess HMS Collingwood, (WO HANNIBAL and Mrs Annette NASH) and Sodexo.

Finally special thanks also go to: Ms Laura Green (CID Portsmouth typist) for all her assistance and fundraising efforts, Sandra Browne (loan of support vehicle) and my two daughters Amy and April for their expertise in producing posters and tickets for the events!



Well done, and thank you...

From: **Group Capt John Gladstone, Station Cdr/Hercules Force Cdr RAF Lyneham**

With reference to **Operation Engage**, May 24-26, 2010: Thank you so much for a great night out with your team last evening! I enjoyed the experience hugely and learnt a great deal in the process.

I was really impressed by the support enjoyed from MOD Police and Revenue and Customs and the seamless way in which everybody worked with the Wiltshire Police team from Wootton Bassett under Martin Alvis.

I am buoyed by the presence in the community of such a well drilled and experienced team of operators and I am hugely grateful for the work you do and for allowing me to witness it first hand. Thanks again, a great experience.

From: **Lt Col E P Parks, Royal Marines, HMS Excellent, HMNB Portsmouth**

We are absolutely delighted with the way in which the South Coast Proms worked so well. A significant part of the success was very definitely the presence of your officers and efficient conduct of policing support.

We have had a large number of positive comments and we really have achieved something very special in getting literally thousands of people in and out of Whale Island so efficiently and in an astonishingly short time, both before and after the programme of music.

This is in no small way thanks to the careful preparation and detailed execution of the policing support plan by all of your officers, who went out of their way to help make the experience of our guests a good one.

We were very impressed with the professional look and attitude of your officers, vehicles and equipment.

We will certainly wish to be supported by the Ministry of Defence Police again when we plan and conduct South Coast Proms 2011.

From: **Sergt Martin Avis, Neighbourhood Policing Team Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and Malmesbury Community Area, Wiltshire Police**

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone over the last three nights for your attendance on **Operation Engage**.

Special thanks have to go to Marc Bevan, Jarra Brown and all the MDP officers who made this operation possible. I was very conscious of the long distances travelled by the staff from Devon, thank you.

I'm sure you would agree with me that this was a very worthwhile operation. We will never know what we have prevented but I know that the word has got around and the community is very impressed. Confidence is on the top of our agenda for all Forces and you should all be proud of yourselves in what has been achieved.

There is no doubt that this is the kind of operation we all joined the job for, being out there, being proactive and working as one big team.

FOOTNOTE: Operation Engage took place over three nights in May in North Wiltshire and involved MDP, Wiltshire Police, HMRC and several other agencies. It had four objectives: To deter crime; to detect criminal offences; to reassure the community and to gather intelligence and achieved success in all four areas.

Were you lucky?

See who won the MDP Central Sports and Welfare Association's Lottery draws in March, April, May and June 2010.

MARCH 2010

1st	£3,500	PC A D Bates, HMNB Devonport
2nd	£2,000	Mrs D Brown, MDPGA HQ Wethersfield
3rd	£1,000	PC C Barnett, CNIP Norfolk
4th	£200	PC J Ririe, DM Longtown
5th	£200	PS S Munro, MDPGA HQ Wethersfield
6th	£200	PC A F Neale, AWE Aldermaston
7th	£200	PS R J Kennedy, RNAS Coulport
8th	£200	Chief Insp M B Rowe, AWE Aldermaston

MAY 2010

1st	£3,500	PC D T Tee, HMNB Devonport
2nd	£2,000	PC G H Jones, RAF Welford
3rd	£1,000	PC R J Meddings, RAF Mildenhall
4th	£200	Miss V John, MDP Hereford
5th	£200	PC D B McLean, RNAD Coulport
6th	£200	PS I M Clark, DSMA Beith
7th	£200	PC M J Campbell, MDP Garlogie
8th	£200	PS J R Woods, HMNB Devonport

APRIL 2010

1st	£3,500	Ch/Supt R D Hoblin, MDPGA HQ Wethersfield
2nd	£2,000	PC T M Knapman, Coulport
3rd	£1,000	PC P Hope, Winterbourne Gunner
4th	£200	PS M L Davies, Aldermaston
5th	£200	PC R D Mather, Winterbourne Gunner
6th	£200	PS G R Fleming, Devonport
7th	£200	PC K J Exley, Coulport
8th	£200	PC G A Hore, c/o IPSO

JUNE 2010

1st	£3,500	Mr G Carter, Retired Officer
2nd	£2,000	PC R Eaton, RAF Welford
3rd	£1,000	PS A P Chalmers, RNAD Coulport
4th	£200	PC A C MacAuley, HMNB Clyde
5th	£200	PC D Trevorrow, HMNB Devonport
6th	£200	PC A J Jones, MDP Easington
7th	£200	PC M T Batt, MDPGA HQ Wethersfield
8th	£200	PS M J Jamison, HMNB Clyde

Training role recognised

Lt James Rock and Lt Chris Suckling of 824 NAS, RNAS Culdrose were presented with Force plaques by Ch Insp Dave Vaughan, Chief Insp Ops for Western Division, in appreciation of their assistance with the final phase of tactical refresher training for members of the DSG based at HMNB Devonport.

The two days training had been planned by PCs Joe Graham and Ian Taylor with assistance from Culdrose SPO PS Shaun Baskerville.

It had incorporated all tactical competencies for the DSG role and was delivered in the form of an ongoing operation of

linked incidents occurring at a number of Defence establishments in the Devon and Cornwall area, requiring officers to use their full range of policing and firearms skills within a realistic timescale.

The training culminated with James and Chris assisting as role players in a containment scenario which required DSG officers to attempt to negotiate their release from the "criminals" prior to dealing with injured parties by emergency entry.

The addition of unknown role players greatly enhanced the training benefit to the DSG officers as it required them to focus on achieving their aim.



Walter Boreham

OBE OStJ QPM

1940 – 2010

Chief Constable MOD Police 1994–2000

■ *Wally Boreham was a man who commanded great respect across the Force and led it through a significant period of positive change.*

He served briefly as DCC from 1993-94, following distinguished service with the Met Police where he reached the rank of Deputy Assistant Commissioner. Following his appointment as Chief Constable MDP, he then became the first Chief Executive of the MOD Police Agency, when it was set up in 1996.

In 1995, Wally led the biggest Force event of recent decades when the Princess Royal officially opened the Wethersfield HQ site. It was a mark of Wally that when HRH was meeting guests, he took a back seat, letting others come to the fore, even to the extent that he received a gentle reminder from a senior Royalty Protection detective (who knew Wally well) that he would have to find a way of moving the Princess along a little quicker! As always Wally managed it with flair, and the day was a great success.

He went on in 1996 to establish and personally lead a memorable series of events at Wethersfield to mark the 25th anniversary of the MDP, culminating in a massive open day where the public attended in their thousands to see a series of police and military events ranging from the Red Arrows to the Royal Marines display team, with many staff setting up stalls to raise money for local charities.



Wally was a man of vision and he encouraged all who met him to share in that vision. Nothing was impossible if you set your mind to it, was his view of life.

Wally successfully steered the MDP through the negotiation of revised policing protocols between the Force and other UK forces and was intimately involved at MOD and Parliamentary level in their introduction. This was a challenging process, in which he maintained his clear vision of the MDP concentrating on policing the Defence estate in line with the new role set out by ministers following the introduction of the MHSE (later MPGS). The process culminated in a series of evidence sessions before the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. His staff officer at the time (now DCC) Gerry McAuley recalls:

"For one particular evidence session, Wally decided that he would appear before the committee in uniform. He changed into his tunic

in the Old War Office and we both set off to walk to the Palace of Westminster along Whitehall, he in uniform, me in civvies. Every 2 minutes he was stopped by members of the public asking directions to this place or that and Wally handled them like a true professional, finding time to help them all.

"A Metropolitan police officer also came up to speak to him, reminding Wally how some 15 years before he had come to the officer's assistance at a time of personal difficulty. Wally then went on to give a barnstorming performance in Parliament.

"That summed him up, happy to be a true copper, helping the public, but able to switch and operate at the highest possible levels of Whitehall and Parliament, seamlessly."

His many successes within ACPO included the MDP gaining formal recognition to the establishment of a designated Special Branch.

Many people have cause to remember Wally fondly. His love of the Force he led was evident and throughout his tenure as DCC and then Chief Constable he worked tirelessly to do his best for the Force.

Wally is survived by his wife Anne who was his constant supporter and friend, always ready to play her part in Force life in support of her husband. They lived in Australia following his retirement. His daughter Jayne is with Anne in Australia.