

The Magazine of the
Ministry of Defence Police



Talk Through

Welcome home!

Also inside:

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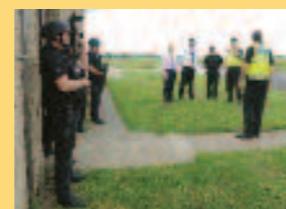
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Talk through

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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.



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Chief's farewell to early leavers

Interview: TalkThrough Editor
Norman Hicks
Photograph by Paul Kemp

Headquarters functions that are necessary to develop and deliver top end capabilities in the Operational Capability Centre.

"I am really looking forward to seeing how far and how fast we can take these.

"I suspect that the Olympic scene will start to get more interesting too," added the Chief.



With the Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS) in full swing and the new national police uniform being rolled out around the Force that same week, TalkThrough found Chief Constable Steve Love in reflective mood when we caught up with him in his office in early July.

He said:

"This is the last TalkThrough before the first of our people start to go on VERS, or at least those who put in for an early release date.

"So, unless they join the Retired Officers' Association and carry on getting TalkThrough, this might be the last one that they read.

"Although I will be, at some point, signing their letters and Certificates of Service, I just want to thank them for all they have done for the Force, and wish them all the very best for the future – and wherever their plans may take them next," he said.

New uniform

"Closer to home, this is my second day in the new police uniform and, while the capacity of all police officers, not just the MDP, to find fault with their uniform and equipment is limitless, I have got to say I rather like it," said the Chief.

"I am actually quite pleased that even in these 'financially challenging times' we have managed to do one more important thing for our match fitness and professional image.

"But we haven't got rid of the hats, so keep them on!"

Force structure

Details of the Headquarters Review are yet to go out for formal consultation with the Defence Police Federation and the trades unions, but the Chief said that he and his Agency Management Board colleagues have already been giving the proposed future structure of the Force some detailed thought.

"We are working through what it is going to take to go down from three to two Assistant Chief Constables, to go down from five to two Divisions, to establish our new Divisions, and to start to give shape to what else we are going to need to do over the next three years to tighten our belts still further, as the Department's budget, work force and footprint reduce in that time," said the Chief.

"But in among all these challenges and difficulties are two of the most exciting and ambitious things this Force has done for many years, the establishment of an end-to-end Nuclear Division and the bringing together of all the

A nice Force

He continued: "On my travels our officers always stop me and ask me things. Sometimes it is about how the Force is doing, but more often than not they are inquiring how my wife got on with her operation.

"It is very kind and confirms once again what a nice Force this is to be in. The answer, by the way, is: 'She is back home and giving me Hell'."

Your Say

Finally, the Chief said he was keen to give a plug to 'MOD Your Say' – the Department-wide annual staff survey.

He said: "The next survey is out in September. Last year, 35 per cent of our people filled it in, including me, which means that 65 per cent didn't.

"Come on you 65 per cent! We really do need to know what you say. I use the results in all sorts of ways and in particular to help me try to get the communication to the Force right and identify, out of all the competing priorities, the things which I and the rest of the management need to concentrate most on.

"So, please fill it in next time it comes round. It's not difficult – even I can do it."

Canterbury Tales



By Judith Slater

Photographs by Inspri Dee Finn

MDP marches with 5 SCOTS at their Homecoming Parade...

■ “Having never been military, to actually march to a military Pipe Band was an absolute pleasure. In all my career with MDP, it is the first time, that I know of, that MDP has actually paraded through any town, on any Homecoming Parade, of any description. It was a huge honour.”

An interview with Ch Inspri Mel Goudie, Head of the Afghan Hub at MDP HQ elicited this response of elation and pride. The reason for this was that he, and four fellow police officers who'd served on Op Herrick 12 and 13 out in Afghanistan, were able to accept the invitation from

Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Adam Griffiths of 5 SCOTS to not only receive their Afghanistan Service medals alongside their military colleagues, but also take part in the Welcome Home Service in the Cathedral.

It's down to working well with the military

Ch Inspri Goudie explained the background. "During my time on Mission, we all built up an excellent working relationship with our military colleagues in both Op Herrick 12 and 13, and particularly with 5 SCOTS. It was quite exceptional. As the MDP's Contingent Commander I'd met, and subsequently got on well with, Lieutenant Colonel Adam Griffiths of 5 SCOTS, who was my counterpart in Afghanistan."

Preparations

With approval from MDP's Chief Constable received in the early part of the previous week, it was a bit of a rush to get it all together, including sending the Afghan medals to Canterbury. Ch Inspri Goudie, who hadn't worn his dress uniform for years, realised he'd have to get a replacement outfit, and quickly, from Stores if he was to maintain decorum at the ceremony, having lost a lot of weight in recent years.

Sadly, due to leave or operational commitments, there were many who were not able to attend. They were Inspri Danny May, Sergt Elaine Webb, Sergt Richard Cottrell, Sergt Nick Barr, PC Nicki Harding, PC Ronnie McEwan, PC Mark Ralph, PC Jason Alsop, PC Graham Bedford and PC Derek Healey.

But the fortunate five who could go were Ch Inspri Goudie, Inspri Gordon Peters, Sergt Jane Underwood, Sergt Ian Connolly and PC Clint Ball.

"Certainly, from my perspective, as Contingent Commander for Op Herrick 12 and 13, we were there to represent the MDP first and foremost and all those under my command at that time. Each and every one of them did an exceptional job and deserve credit for the work they did. That also goes for those MDP officers previously serving out in Afghanistan, and for those who will follow on", said Mel.

The day arrives early

Recalls Mel: "At 6 am, crack of dawn, we were rudely awakened with the Reveille of Pipes and Drums. By 7.20 am all five of us were spruced up and ready on the Parade Square for the march-on. We formed up with the Headquarters Platoon, who are the training support, administration chefs and mechanics and they were led by Major Jake McKay. Jake was the Head of Helmand Training Centre, from the military aspect, and was Sergt Underwood's counterpart. The other military platoons meanwhile formed up in neat rows.

"Presenting medals on the parade ground were the Trustees of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Maj Gen (Retd) DP Thompson CB CBE MC, Col Bruce Russell MBE, Col (Retd) A K Miller CBE, Col (Retd) A Campbell and Maj (Retd) R Elliot BEM), the local MP Mr Julian Brazier,



The Lord Mayor of Canterbury (Councillor Pat Todd) as well as Cmdr Joint Helicopter Command, Air Vice Marshall C Dixon CB OBE. It was only after all Afghanistan Service Medals had been presented that Lieutenant Colonel Griffiths revealed that he wanted us to be part of the military parade through Canterbury city centre itself. It came as a complete surprise."

MDP March in Step with the Military

Ch Inspri Goudie explains the atmosphere as they marched through Canterbury. "Certainly for the four Scots amongst us, the fact that it was the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, part of 5 SCOTS, was just an absolute pleasure. One particular part will always stand out in my memory and that was just before we came into the Cathedral. The Pipes and Drums had formed up outside and we had to march past them – at the time they were playing

'The Atholl Highlanders' and, yes, the hairs were well up on the back of my neck."

A colleague, who'd been listening to all this, added: "It was such a joyous occasion. It was a 20 minutes march through the City and for the whole of that time the streets of Canterbury were thronged three or four deep with people cheering and applauding the return home of 5 SCOTS. The noise actually drowned out the sound of the boots hitting the ground. It was absolutely brilliant."

Will it ever happen again?

Says Mel: "It very much depends on each military unit as they have their own thoughts on how they want to perform their return parades and medal ceremonies. However, it is certainly something that Supt Joe Elder and myself at the MDP Afghan Policing Unit would certainly like to see repeated."



Our man in Palestine

By Judith Slater

Photographs supplied by
Supt Mick O'Byrne



General Moeller presenting Supt Mick O'Byrne with a letter of thanks, with Brigadier Purdy, Senior British Officer Palestine, looking on

MDP Training Adviser sent by UK Government to Occupied Territories

■ When Supt Mick O'Byrne applied as a Senior Police Officer for an International Mission, in response to a UK Government request via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for a seconded volunteer, he originally expected to be sent to Afghanistan, or somewhere similar.

He tells TalkThrough that he was most surprised when he was offered the Occupied Palestinian Territories to go and work with the Palestinian Ministry of the Interior.

"They were looking for a higher ranking police officer with a training background and, as I was a qualified teacher before I joined the police, and also a member of the Directing Staff at the Police Staff College Bramshill, it seems I had the qualifications they were looking for,"

going and what was required. Being well-prepared certainly helped and in particular the time spent studying international security sector reform theory and practice assisted me in answering some of the interview questions."

The context

The timing and implementation of training Palestinian Security Forces to an acceptable level is crucial if the Palestinian Authority is to satisfy the International Community and the Israeli Government that they have appropriate governance arrangements for security. This is one of the reasons the International community was requested to assist. The development of the PASF is part of the

explains Supt O'Byrne, who was selected from a pool of other UK superintendents for the post.

"I was very thorough in my research before the interviews. I read some very high-level papers on the Israeli-Palestinian situation, the politics of the Middle East and the work of the United States Security Coordinator, at that time General Keith Dayton, and his team. I even researched some Congress Papers on the way things were

Palestinian State building programme aimed at establishing the institutions for an independent State that builds Israeli confidence in the Palestinians' ability to manage security, and to progress the Middle East peace process. And equally important is that the process of change would ensure the PASF would be able to provide a viable and efficient service for their own citizens.

What did the job involve?

The job was to set up a Central Training Administration for the Palestinian Ministry of the Interior – to get it up-and-running, to get in the expertise, to make it self-sufficient. Mick was to join a specially selected team of international training advisers, all police officers, middle to senior ranking; one Greek, one German, one Danish and himself.

On his arrival...

Mick explains that being in Israel and the Occupied West Bank was a bit like what he experienced as a young man in Northern Ireland during the '70's. Massive walls, checkpoints, soldiers on the streets and vehicle searches wherever you travelled. One exception was that the murals he observed were all written in Arabic

slogans! Driving to Ramallah from modern Tel Aviv, passing through the main check point at Kalandia, he noticed there had been a lot of infrastructural damage within the built-up areas of the West Bank, linked to the two previous 'intifadas' – two major uprisings against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. This goes back to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 and the occupation of other Arab lands as a result of the Six Day War in 1967.



Introducing the Ministry of Defence Police

"I was very pleased to clarify to my Palestinian colleagues and friends where I came from. A lot of the UK and international military people I worked alongside were already aware of the MDP; they'd had different experiences with the MDP in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq, and already knew about us. However the Palestinians were not aware of the MDP and were very keen to know what the job entailed. Was I just passing through, as so many other international officers had done previously?", says Mick.

Where were you based?

"I was based in the West Bank, in the major town of Ramallah, currently serving as the administrative 'capital' of the Palestinian government – the Palestinian Authority. The West Bank is under occupation by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). I worked and lived amongst the Palestinians, sharing offices, drinking Arabic coffee and listening to their problems. That was a huge advantage for me and my colleagues, unlike many other

internationals who were prohibited by their own Consulates from being located in the West Bank and who had to reside in Jerusalem. You need to know their problems; not turning up for work because they'd been arrested by the IDF the night before, for example. You need also to be aware of cultural sensitivities; what can cause offence? You gain more trust and confidence with other people when you live amongst them."

The location

Supt O'Byrne's office was based in the municipal area of Al Beira Ramallah, near to the Ministerial Departments. Working with a team of local staff, he and the other International police officers were tasked with setting up a Palestinian, self-sufficient, Central Training Administration. This would, in time, be responsible for all of the training policy, doctrine and concepts for the Intelligence Services, Civilian Police, National Security Forces (more akin to a gendarmerie than military forces) and other emergency services. Mick's secondment was funded through the UK Government's Conflict Pool budget, a tri-partite funding mechanism managed jointly by the UK Department for International Development, FCO

Sharing a picnic with friends on an Olive Picking outing



Our man in Palestine . . .

and MOD, which supports conflict prevention and peace-building around the world. He was contracted through the UK Government Stabilisation Unit, and worked closely with a British military team embedded in the US security sector reform effort.

"I was delighted," says Mick, "that all my international police colleagues were very bright, dedicated and bilingual. The main benefit was that we're all police officers and so share a common creed. No matter what our differing interpretations may be, we all have very similar ideas on how to do things. There's very little difference as to our individual approaches. We concentrated on sustainability rather than a quick-fix, intended for the long-term solution."

Mick was pleasantly surprised to find that, to get around, they were not confined to a segregated military environment, under close protection. Instead, they were given the run of the area they had to cross to get in and out of Palestine. Ironically, their Palestinian colleagues did not resent them for their freedoms.

He added: "We were subject to many security checks and questioning at the various checkpoints including the main airport at Ben Gurion. On arrival, I'd have to go through Tel Aviv, and then clear check-points into Palestine, which could take up to

September 2011, the proposed date for a sovereign Palestinian state is now fast approaching and the recent reconciliation of Hamas and Fatah, the two main Palestinian political factions, has added a whole new dimension to the proposed peace process. Hamas, based mostly in Gaza, has been unequivocal in its complete rejection of the Israeli State, which will do nothing to help negotiations and dialogue. Last year, President Obama committed the US to the September Resolution, and the international community is watching closely and expecting progress.

The main approach to the task – in a nutshell

The difficulties this new team inherited from previous attempts at setting up a new training administration was that historically, training had been provided by multiple suppliers, probably from around 30 countries, with no common standard. So, it wasn't surprising that the Palestinian Police had no clear underpinning policy and doctrine to drive through change in their organisation.

The International trainers were all agreed that, rather than relying on one ideology, they'd use the best of all their composite experiences. To get the Palestinians to buy into the process they had to encourage them to look at what was on offer, then to combine it with what worked for them and finally let them take full ownership. This was hard work but incredibly rewarding when the International team started to reap the benefits of this approach.

"Our approach was to teach them the basics, the fundamentals," explains Mick. "What we did was to take the best practice from all of our countries to build in tried and tested adult educational principles, starting with a Training Needs Analysis followed by course design, curriculum development, train the trainer programmes and support them with relevant assessment and evaluation processes.

"In a nutshell, we provided them with an overarching structure and first ever 'Palestinian Curriculum' which was enthusiastically accepted by the Ministry of Interior as fit for 'their purposes'. What we delivered was something they could both accept and maintain themselves."

How did you 'sell' this to the Palestinians?

In 2009, the Palestinian Minister of the Interior asked for a team of international training experts. The team reported through the Minister of Interior's right-hand-man, Major General Jabrini. He oversaw the project and he was constantly updated on progress. The Palestinian Ministry was very cautious about any new initiative especially as a team of international experts had been sent packing the previous year for dictating what was right for the Palestinians, rather than listening to their specific needs. The biggest issue for the services was the concept of a centralised authority with the consequent loss of autonomy.

"We had to overcome a lot of cultural barriers including family bonds. Through time and perseverance much of these concerns were allayed through tangible benefits to the respective organisations. This, personally, is the benefit of a one-year deployment; where you get to know how people operate and what tolerance levels they have for change. Additionally, as one would expect from a western perspective, we continually advocated the role human rights compliance had in terms of ethicality and to ensure the services would achieve approval from the broader international community."

Slow at first, accelerating in the last six months

The key to their success, believes Mick, was persuasion, patience, and perseverance. All his Palestinian team were at some time or other members of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and all of them had been incarcerated in Israeli prisons. These



Team Group Shot: Left to right Ashraf, Raid, Deyab, Shehada, Mick and Osama

people are now the planners, the experts and organisers for the future Palestinian training regime and a lot was being asked of them. But, they showed a clear enthusiasm.

"That's the way it is. You are expected to move your staff from foundation training to subject matter expert level in a very short space of time. The staff know that the future of Palestine is in their hands."

Did you see any of the trainers giving lessons?

"My Danish colleague actually trained over 180 trainers, at basic level and advanced. I was responsible for course design and my other colleagues for curriculum development and Training Needs Analysis (TNA)", answered Mick. "Working with my colleagues, I put together a course on Course Design which their planning staff will use to compile courses incorporating key components. Before I left in May this was used to teach training staff from each service.

"I'm so pleased to have played a part in delivering to the Palestinian Authority a competent training administration. This is something of international importance and I'd say has been the biggest achievement of my career to date."

You do your best, and enjoy the rest

Mick is fascinated with the history of the Middle East and spent much of his spare time visiting archaeological sites, museums and places of great significance, including the impressive Holocaust Museum. He also visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, where the Crusaders came in 1099. He has seen the Dome of the Rock and the Wailing Wall, and other sites of spiritual and historical significance to Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

Best of all, Mick recalls with fondness, was getting to know some of the Palestinian families. One highlight was being invited to pick olives with one of the families, which apparently is symbolically important to the Palestinian people.

"I was fortunate to be taken to the hearts of my Palestinian colleagues and their families and to be accepted as a friend." Supt O'Byrne has a genuine reason for hoping the Palestinian State will succeed, knowing he played a small part in the process.

Our man in Palestine ...

The Chief Constable requested this letter be published to show the high level of esteem in which M...

Chief receives QPM from HM the Queen

Chief Constable Steve Love and his wife Hilary are pictured following the presentation by Her Majesty the Queen of the Queen's Police Medal to Mr Love, awarded to him in the 2011 New Year's Honours List.

The award, which is conferred by the Queen for services to policing, was given to Mr Love for his role in enabling MOD Police officers to deploy to Afghanistan to help mentor and train the Afghan National Police, for his development of specialist police capabilities, for his championing of diversity and equality issues and for his spearheading of the fight against Defence fraud.

On hearing of his award, the Chief said:

"This honour is a testament to the drive of everyone within the MOD Police to provide the best policing service possible to the Defence community and beyond.

"I'm very pleased to have received it, but let me say that it is entirely due to the performance of the Force as a whole, and the contribution they are making to the security of our country."

Following the investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, the Chief told **TalkThrough**: "I was absolutely delighted. I've done 33 years, in five different Forces. I've lost count of how many jobs. Sixteen houses, I think. None of my children went to fewer than five schools.

"But wherever I've been, I've always thrown myself at trying to



make operational things better while trying to stop bad things happening.

"It is really nice for this to have been recognised in this way, and be able to say thank you to Hilary, too."

Mr Love began his career with Cambridgeshire Police in 1978 before transferring to Merseyside as a Superintendent in 1992, following a six month secondment to the Metropolitan Police.

In 2000 he successfully attended the National Police Strategic Command Course at the National Police College, Bramshill, then joined Thames Valley Police on promotion to Assistant Chief Constable with a responsibility for Territorial Policing.

In 2003, he was appointed Deputy Chief Constable of Humberside Police, becoming acting Chief Constable for a time before joining MOD Police in 2005.

Overview of Ops 'Embroil' and 'Segment'

By Steve Partridge
Photographs by Neil Parry

■ There was a time when the sale of stolen goods happened at shady pubs and car boot sales but today thieves are just as likely to turn to the internet.

But the growth in the popularity of on-line auction sites to dispose of equipment is not something that has gone unnoticed by the MDP's detectives.

Since 2008 it has been carrying out Operation Embroil to specifically target offenders who have been stealing MOD property to sell it to other crooks or unsuspecting members of the public through the internet.

At the end of 2010 it had resulted in more than 70 arrests; leading to 15 successful convictions and cautions for a further 17 people. There are also another 15 active investigations taking place with a number of other potential crimes under intelligence development.

Additionally, numerous individuals have been dealt with by the Service Prosecuting Authority under Service discipline as an alternative to the civilian criminal justice process.

Detective Ch Supt Stuart Mace, Head of MDP CID, said:

"Op Embroil began after the Defence Food Services Integrated Project Team complained that large numbers of ration packs were for sale on internet auction sites.

"It was set up with the aim of proactively identifying the sellers of these packs in an attempt to locate the original sources of supply. The packs should not have been available to the public and the MOD have since clearly re-labelled them as 'Not for Resale'.

Internet and boot sales trawled for stolen MOD property ...



Officers sift through illegally obtained military kit in 2009 as part of Op Embroil

Zero tolerance

Det Ch Supt Mace said: "Our Armed Forces fighting on the front-line deserve the best possible kit and the MOD and MDP have long taken a zero-tolerance approach to any theft, fraud or deception which deprives them of that."

This list has since been further expanded to include other key operational assets such as fuel and equipment used by specialist units.

Initially, the monitoring of the internet and related intelligence gathering was undertaken by the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) team based at Foxhill, in Bath, but it was later re-assigned to FIB officers in York.

"We have estimated that, by the end of 2010, Operation Embroil had led to the recovery of property and disruption to the theft of MOD stores in excess of £1.3 million.

"The MOD has a multi-billion pound budget and deals with hundreds of contracts for military equipment and services so it's always going to be an attractive target for criminals.

"But part of the success of Op Embroil is that not only do we put the thieves behind bars, we also use Proceeds of Crime Act legislation to go after their homes and other property to compensate the public purse.

"The fact these people are being convicted, imprisoned and made to pay money back means they're not getting away with it.

"But the supply chain for MOD equipment is very long and involves thousands of people, and criminals will look to exploit that process wherever they can, either by theft, redirection, or fraud.

"So whenever we investigate a case we liaise with the MOD to let them know how a theft occurred so it can reduce the chances of it happening again."

Det Insp Phil Anthony, of MDP CID Stafford, was appointed the co-ordinator for Op Embroil in 2008 and has since maintained a close liaison with the FIB at York in order to identify the methods used by criminals and to discover any links between individuals involved in this activity.

"We usually have a number of active investigations on the go, sometimes involving tens of thousands of pounds worth of property," he said.

"**There is a thriving market in military goods but it is the buyer's responsibility to check that the kit, medals or other items they buy are being sold legally. If not, they can be visited by us, have their purchases seized and possibly find themselves before the court.**



Det Insp Phil Anthony



Ration packs stolen from RM Condor

"But the use of the internet to carry out these crimes does assist us in some ways as it is exposed to scrutiny much more easily than the more traditional 'pub car park' route for disposal."

The suspects arrested by the MDP in the course of its investigations have included a mixture of serving members of the Armed Services, MOD civilian employees, civilian contract staff and other civilians.

Positions of trust

"The offenders are usually employed in positions of trust," said DI Anthony, "This means they are then able to exploit any weaknesses in the accounting system and develop ways of circumventing the checks and balances."

"All of this has created difficulties for the investigating teams throughout the criminal justice process. Officers have been in the position where valuable items of suspected stolen MOD Property have been recovered but, at the time, there has been no official report of any such theft.

"This means that our officers may have to work backwards through the system, because it can be difficult to obtain search warrants without a statement from an appropriate person confirming that the items are of MOD origin."

"However there have been a number of successes where skilful interviewing by officers has gathered circumstantial evidence which has been used to maximum effect."

"We have also held a number of meetings, both at strategic and operational level, with the MOD to ensure that the lessons we have learnt are put into practice."

"For instance an inquiry into the theft of fuel from a barracks led to major changes in the system of fuel accounting across the MOD."

"Although this cannot 100 per cent guarantee totally to stop such thefts occurring, the additional checks and controls make this a much less attractive form of criminal activity and it will greatly assist our investigation teams should it happen again in the future."

However the success of Op Embroil does not mean that the more traditional methods of disposing of stolen property are being ignored by the MDP.

In fact Embroil investigations have often provided leads for officers which have led to them uncovering other suspects involved in the illegal supply of such goods.

Op Segment's proactive approach

This has prompted the MDP to set up Operation Segment to address these further issues.

Det Sergt Dale Hughes, of MDP CID London, said: "Op Segment began in 2009 and is very much seen as a complement to Embroil.

"It involves us taking a more proactive approach, by visiting military fairs, sales outlets and collectors. We aim to combine enforcement with education to get the message through to people that many items of MOD property should not be available on the open market."

"When we first started Segment we attended a large military show at the invitation of Kent Police and its organisers.

"We visited a number of stalls and seized MOD ration packs from four traders. They were spoken to by officers

and served with legal notices preventing them from selling the stock. Arrangements were then made for the seizure of more than 100 ration packs, with a value of around £1,000, for return to the MOD.

"One of the traders did not have ration packs on sale at the show but volunteered to hand them back in his depot and they were also seized. None of the four were arrested but all supplied valuable information about how they were obtained.

"A total of 455 ration packs were seized during that first year of the Operation, but the message has obviously been sinking in as in the second year of visits we did not have to make any such confiscations."

Along with ration packs, detectives have also taken possession of four full sets of body armour, 13 ballistic plates, and six Kevlar helmets.

DS Hughes said: "As part of the education programme we have handed a

number of contractors a list of items that are not allowed to be sold to the public.

"We have also been in touch with some Trading Standards teams and agreed to a working partnership where their staff would look for stolen MOD items and pass information to us or seize them on our behalf; providing it fitted their criteria. They will also prosecute for the sale of ration packs under food labelling legislation, as and when."

Agreements have also been reached on the disposal of unserviceable military radios and a property marking scheme for ceremonial equipment to make it easier to trace.

Det Ch Supt Mace said:

"This is always going to be a work in progress; criminals are constantly inventive in the schemes they develop but with the success of Op Embroil and Op Segment, I believe we're matching them every step of the way."

Stolen antique diving helmet returned to Diving School



A successful investigation by MDP CID at Portsmouth has resulted in the return of £5,000 worth of antique diving equipment to the Royal Navy.

The brass diver's helmet was stolen in 2007 from a display at the Defence Diving School, at Horsea Island, in Portsmouth.

The trail of the offender had gone cold at first, but new evidence came to light in early 2011 which revitalised the MDP inquiry, being conducted by DC Elaine Keating and DC Yvonne Parr.

The helmet was recovered and a man charged with handling stolen goods. He denied the offence but was found guilty at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court and fined £700 with another £700 in costs.

The MDP investigation team returned the helmet to Royal Navy Commander Tom Russell and Major Geordie Brown of the Royal Engineers.

Det Sergt Gardy McKay, of Portsmouth CID, said:

"We were very pleased to return the helmet to the Diving School, so it could be restored to its rightful place on display. It just goes to show the determination of the MDP in bringing offenders to justice and that cold cases are not lost causes."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Invitation to a barbecue with a difference!

This had to be the Invitation of the Year, writes Judith Slater. **Forget Royal Weddings and the like ...**

This was an opportunity to rub shoulders at 10 Downing Street with the British Prime Minister, the President of the United States, VIPs and those in the British and US military, men and women in uniform, who had all served on operational theatres on joint US-UK deployments, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Luckily for David and Polly McIlwraith, they were chosen from a list supplied by the Afghan Policing Unit to MOD Support to Operations department.

Says Sergt David McIlwraith; "MOD Support did insist that they wanted a police officer, who is married and who could be released at short notice to attend. I was just one of around eight police nominations, having served in Afghanistan.

"It was very informal and relaxed. We were briefed before-hand within MOD Main Building that the VIPs would be serving food and circulating amongst the guests. We were also briefed on how to address the

VIPs should they talk to us. There were strict instructions not to take in cameras or mobile phones.

"It was a bit surreal to see the two Heads of States and their wives cooking and serving up barbecue food as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

Polly chatted to Samantha Cameron when she joined us at our table after our meal. (Defence Secretary) Dr Liam Fox came over briefly, before going off to see the Prime Minister.

"We also met the US Ambassador's wife, Mrs Margie Susman. She's a lovely woman, very friendly and energetic and determined that we should meet the President before he left. So, she pushed us forwards – a bit like being on manoeuvres – and it worked. We met and shook hands with the Prime Minister who subsequently introduced us to the US President, Mr Obama.

"The PM noted the MDP badge on my uniform and I explained to him the Force's role in Afghanistan. At this, Mr Obama shook hands with both Polly and myself and thanked us for our support to US troops overseas."

Car Sharing Scheme

Staff at Wethersfield now have access to a Database, launched by IMO, for a car sharing scheme and anyone, anywhere in the country, can access it on 'G:Drive, MDP Library, Lift Share'.

To create new sheets for working locations other than Wethersfield, contact Martin Brett (pictured left) at IMO, Wethersfield, and he can add a tab for your specific location.

To date, there are just three entries for HQ Wethersfield staff coming in from Harwich, Chelmsford and Braintree who can pick up other staff from these towns, or from places which are en-route to Wethersfield. To get this excellent system working, there need to be more entries.

Says Antonio Caparco (pictured right), from the HQ Finance Department; 'I've been sharing lifts to and from work with a colleague for the last eight years. It's worked really well, although you do on occasion have to be a bit flexible.'



He continued: 'Martin Brett of IMO and I were discussing the possibilities of a car share scheme and he took up the baton by approaching the Agency Secretary, David King, who gave it his blessing.'

Martin emphasised that all lifts are set up personally and that the Agency has no responsibility for this service.

With the escalating costs of petrol, energy and food, and the current pay freeze, this is an ideal and painless way of both saving money and cutting down on carbon emissions. It's a win-win situation.

Where is MDP on the International Policing front?

By Judith Slater

Photographs by
Paul Kemp

If TalkThrough readers think that Op Herrick in Afghanistan is our main concentration of effort on the international peace keeping world stage, they would be right. It is after all one of our Chief Constable's 'key priorities'.

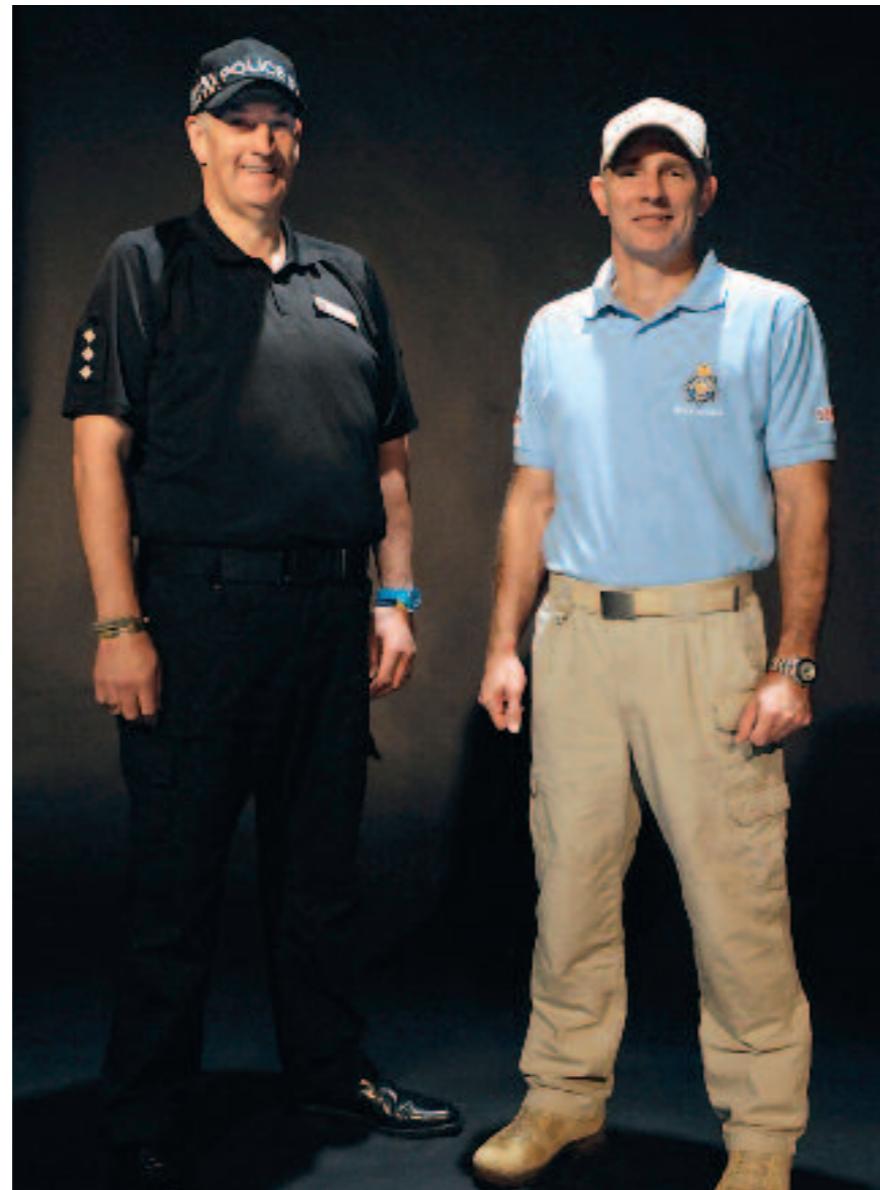
However, we've been told by Defence News that the training of Afghan police will, over the next two years, "be handed over to the Afghans." (Lt Col Rea – 10 March 2011). As to withdrawal of British troops, the Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary issued a joint statement in late March talking about a process of gradual transition which will be completed by the end of 2014. "This," says the statement "will ensure that UK forces will no longer be in a combat role in Afghanistan by 2015."

As with Iraq, this must represent a drawing down of British trainers of military and police out in Afghanistan. But, for the moment it's business as usual for the MDP who have an exemplary record on overseas deployments to help with stabilisation.

MDP continues to supply officers to other parts of the world too.

A possible clue as to where other missions are

Force Order 47/11, issued in March of this year, is a good starting point. It lists other possible missions to which MDP could be asked to send some of its officers.



AFGHAN POLICING UNIT

L to R: Ch Insp Mel Goudie and PS Dave McIlwraith. Missing from the photo: Supt Joe Elder, Insp Alistair Eivers and PC Sharon Beaney

Ch Insp Mel Goudie, to ensure MDP is in a fit state of preparedness, drafted this particular Force Order seeking Chief Inspectors, and above, to volunteer for a long list of missions that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DFID) and the British

Government are keen to support throughout the world.

These are in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Georgia, Palestine, Bosnia and a selection of UN Missions, including Africa. The Stabilisation Unit (SU), owned by MOD, FCO and DFID, manages the recruitment and deployment of both

civilian and police experts to these missions to support countries emerging from violent conflict and they manage such international deployments.

and should subsequently be managed by each officer's line manager in conjunction with PPPA and the SU. That is except for the Afghanistan missions, which we handle.



STABILISATION UNIT

L to R: Su Hanslip and Beverley Freeman. Missing from the photo: PS Malcolm Ashby

How it works

Ch Insp Goudie explains: "We and the Home Office Police are approached initially by these organisations asking for police nominations (volunteers). Although I can put out a Force Order, such as the one you mention it becomes a secondment

"The five MDP applicants who responded to that Force Order, as we speak, have not received the results of their first sift. Those that get through will have their details held on file for about twelve months, and will be approached on a case-by-case basis, as and when posts become available. They then have to face

further processes before being given a final clearance to go. The emphasis is currently being placed on Senior Detective Officers, Senior Uniformed Managers and those with a training background."

Where we are now

At the time of the interview, MDP was present in Georgia, under the EU Monitoring Mission, with one serving officer DC Graham Philip. However, on 22 May of this year, Detective Constable Yvonne Parr was sent out to begin a year's tour. As an on-going European Union monitoring mission, they will be working both with civilians and other police officers.

On Friday 13 May, Supt Beth Disher left Kosovo having completed her tour with EULEX. On the day she left, Mel explained, there were no MDP officers left in Kosovo, for the first time since the year 2000 when MDP first went out there.

Says Mel: "When MDP first sent officers to Kosovo, we all thought we might get six months out of it; but it turned out to be eleven years." Our departure is a landmark, but possibly no more than a pause as it is dependent on the Stabilisation Unit, under DFID, as to whether they require further MDP officers in the future.

Mel continues: "For now, the Palestinian mission for the MDP finished on 9th May with the return of Supt Mick O'Byrne who has been out there for twelve months. His role was the setting up of a training programme for the Palestinian Police to work to. He's had an extremely good year."

The IPSO office is no more

There have been major changes to the international policing set-up at HQ Wethersfield.

CONTINUED ...

Where is MDP on the International Policing front?

Says Ch Insp Goudie: "The IPSO (International Policing and Secondments Office) as everyone in the Force knew it up until February, or March, of this year, is now no longer."

There are now two distinct sections dealing with overseas deployments:

■ MDP Afghanistan Policing Unit (APU)

Headed up by Supt Joe Elder, who deals with policy, and Ch Insp Goudie, who looks after deployments. In the team there is also PS David McIlwraith who is the Sergeant in charge of Afghan Operations and Deployments, Insp Alistair Eivers who is the PJHQ Liaison Officer and PC Sharon Beaney who looks after General Administration and Deployments.

Under Op Herrick we continue to provide upwards of forty police

officers a year. At any one time we have 19 deployed on Op Herrick within Helmand province and two officers working within EUROPOL and NTMA in Kabul. The current Op Herrick tour is six months.

Points out Mel: "Secondments are currently being reviewed and will be dealt with in future by the officer's Line Manager at their parent station, the same as for the rest of the MOD."

■ Stabilisation Unit (SU)

Staffed currently by Sgt Malcolm Ashby, Bev Freeman and Su Hanslip. They have been seconded to the Stabilisation Unit at DFID, which is a tripartite unit made up of MOD, FCO and DFID. Their role is to deploy people as either police or Deployable Civilian Experts (DCEs) to various Missions supported by HMG. For Malcolm, Su and Bev their part is to deploy and support HO and MDP officers to non-MOD missions.

Never say never

"We've never failed to supply an officer when requested to", added Ch Insp Goudie. "Georgia was a close call when almost overnight, about three years ago, we were asked to send officers at extremely short notice.

"As to other possible locations, I would never say never on this one. I'm reasonably sure that parts of the Arab world will become areas where post-conflict policing may be something the British Government would be willing to consider. If that's the case, then once again our 'phones will be ringing, emails coming in thick and fast, but we've made sure we're ready for anything that comes our way."

Afghan Commander receives MDP helmet



Sgt Mike Bowden presents a MDP helmet to Lt Gen William B Caldwell during his visit on 17th February 2011, to see for himself progress at the Helmand Regional Police Training Centre (RTC).

Lieutenant General Caldwell is Commander, NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan.

The NTM-A/CSTC-A, in coordination with NATO Allies, partners and key Afghan stakeholders, generates the Afghan National Security Forces, develops capable ministerial systems, and resources the fielded force to build sustainable capacity and capability in order to enhance the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's ability to achieve stability and security in Afghanistan.

MDP has been delivering police training at Helmand RTC since it was opened by the UK's Provincial Reconstruction Team in November 2010. Currently, a team of eight MDP trainers are responsible to Insp Chrissie Edwards, (MDPHQ-ATC) Training Manager at RTC, for the delivery of a wide range of civilian police skills to Patrolmen, NCOs and Officers of the Afghan National Police (ANP).

Nearly 3000 ANP have been trained at RTC.

Afghan service medal for Bob

■ **Sgt Bob Locke,
Operational Capability Centre
Co-ordinator, based at MDP
HQ Wethersfield, has been
presented with his Afghan
service medal by ACC John
Bligh.**

Bob joined MDP in October 1992, after serving for 25 years in the Army (Royal Military Police), serving first at AWE Aldermaston. He went to Afghanistan in November 2010, where he served as Police mentor to Crime Stoppers 110, Lashkar Gah, in Helmand Province, returning to his present role in May this year.

After receiving his medal, Sgt Locke was interviewed by TalkThrough guest reporter Shristi Magar, who began by asking him:



Photographs by Neil Parry

What was the most memorable event you experienced in Afghanistan?

I was mentoring the Crimestoppers office in Helmand Province, based in Lashkar Gah. That was a confidential telephone service for the people of the Province to call and report incidents that they felt it was unsafe for them to tell the police or the Army. So they would call my Crimestoppers office, staffed mostly by Afghans, and they took the calls and then reported them to the appropriate bureau for investigation.

To advertise this service, I organised with the American Marine Corps a football tournament, inviting players from all the districts within the Helmand Province. Unfortunately, because of security and weather implications I was not able to actually see the final. The final occurred after I left, but that was one of my more colourful achievements!



Have you served overseas before, or was this your first time?

My first overseas tour of duty was in Cyprus in 1977 where I worked with the United Nations for six months. Then in 2000, I was in Kosovo with UNMIK and I stayed there, on and off, until 2008 – six years in all, so this was technically my third international policing tour.

Could you say how you felt when you were out in Afghanistan?

It was a job to do, and I carried on doing it. There was no fear, but I felt that I was helping the people of Afghanistan get back on their feet.

How do you feel about receiving this medal?

It's a great honour to be given this medal, because I've seen the work of the people out in Afghanistan and I've so much admiration for all the guys and girls and the work they're doing, and to have been such a very small part of that makes it an honour.



Photographs by
Paul Kemp

Low key policing for Garrison Royal visits

Colchester Garrison
Merville Barracks was the venue for two Royal visits in as many days in June.

First, the Princess Royal handed out campaign medals to members of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistics Corps and then Prince Charles, accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall, presented operational and Elizabeth Medals to members and their families of the Parachute Regiment, of which the Prince is Colonel-in-Chief.

The policing operation – planned by **Sergt Eric Hirons**, MDP Community Policing Manager for East Anglia – was low key, with pre-event searches being carried out by specialist MDP POLSA search teams, whilst local Defence Community Police Officers



and colleagues from Essex Police mingled with the good natured onlookers, to ensure that all went smoothly on each day.

The Princess Royal's visit was to pay tribute to 200 soldiers from

13 Air Assault Support Regiment, who have returned from a recent six-month tour of Afghanistan.

For many of the soldiers it was their first tour of duty on the front line.

Leading the police search team for this visit was **Chief Inspn Syd Nye**, based the Special Escort Group at Aldermaston. He said:

"We conducted a pre-search and seal the day before and a search of the venue on the day. Timings were tight as HRH decided to come an hour earlier than promulgated. We were exiting the main gate as she was landing in her helicopter!"

"I was supported by search officers from OSU and DSG Fort Halstead and two AES dog handlers."

The following day Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall presented Operational Service Medals to soldiers from 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions of The Parachute Regiment, who have recently returned from a six-month deployment to Helmand Province.



Sergt Liz Richardson, based at MDP HQ Wethersfield, described the police search operation for this high profile visit as straightforward:

"It involved one Police Search Adviser (POLSA), two AES dog teams and four search pairs. A search was carried out of specific areas within the Garrison Officers' Mess (GOM), GOM patio areas and perimeter, Parade Square and tentage area surrounding it, temporary seating areas and helicopter landing site. The search aspect was carried out without any problems."

During the ceremony some 600 soldiers who had completed their first tour received their medals at the

parade at Colchester's Merville Barracks, with Their Royal Highnesses presenting medals to around 120 soldiers each.

After the medal parade, Their Royal Highnesses presented Elizabeth Crosses and Memorial Scrolls to the families of 21 Paratroopers killed in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan and met the families of soldiers killed and wounded on the recent tour.

After the departure of Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall, the day continued as a "Fun Day" for families and veterans with static displays, stalls and sideshows. It ended with a dramatic parachuting display from the Red Devils Display Team.



With the future footprint of the MDP still to be decided, the ultimate fate of the Defence Community Police Officers' function is also in the melting pot.

But, despite this, there was a positive theme to their second annual seminar at Wethersfield Headquarters in May, when Seminar Director and Head of Community Safety Insp Darrell Barber, in his closing address, told delegates:

"What has come through for me in all the presentations we have had is that the DCPO is making a difference. You have made a difference, you are making a difference and you will continue to make a difference in the future."

Earlier, responding to comments, Deputy Chief Constable Gerry McAuley told the 76 community police officers, their supervisors, managers and guests: "I have been robust and at times vociferous in my support of DCPOs. The Force has never at any point sought to wind back community policing. The opposite is the case. It is clearly highly valued.



By Norman Hicks
Photographs by Paul Kemp



DCPOs make a difference

"I will use every opportunity to ensure that people at MOD Headquarters are aware of the work that you do," added Mr McAuley, who praised the efforts of DCPOs in not only engaging with their military communities, but also for some of their work in dealing with crimes,

such as burglaries, which had had a significant impact upon those communities.

Delegates also heard from speakers representing their customers. Lt Col Andy Jordan, Provost Marshal for the Army's 2nd Division – covering the northern half of the UK,

including Northern Ireland – told them: "The strength of DCPOs lies in their continuity of presence, allowing you to engage with station authorities and the wider community."

In a frank and wide-ranging discourse on how he saw the current relationship between the Army, Royal Military Police, MDP and local police Forces and the way in which he would like to see it develop, Lt Col Jordan said: "I am a firm believer in a collaborative approach, manifested in active collaboration between all law enforcement agencies with largely compatible aims and objectives.

"Individual agencies bring different attributes to a multi-agency environment and we all need a clear understanding of the way other agencies operate. I need to have the ability to merge the contributions from all agencies into a cohesive policing effort."

WO1 John Coles, Garrison Serjeant Major at Tidworth Garrison described the many ways in which the MDP, including the DCPOs at



involving MDP, RMP, Wiltshire Police and Hampshire Police.

Throughout the three-day seminar, officers provided updates on what had been happening in their Divisions in the previous 12 months, in terms of incidents and community safety initiatives.

The latter covered a wide range of activities, including 'Community Payback' – taking a fresh look at community service – restorative justice; making use of social media to engage with Service families; different approaches to dealing with anti-social behaviour; organising 'Watch' schemes in rural areas; partnership working with Regimental and Army Welfare Services; and organising and running Road Safety Week events among many others.

Guest speakers also covered diverse topics, including domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, the work of Crime Stoppers, the Prince's Trust, the role of the MOD Police Committee, internet security, the Defence Estate and domestic extremism. Laura Richards, leading criminal behavioural psychologist, also addressed the seminar.



Pictured, left to right: Constables Colin Everett, Pete Smith, Graham Colwill, Lynne Bennion and Andrew Simpson

The candidates who had been nominated as DCPO of the Year were each presented with commendation certificates by Assistant Chief Constable (Divisional Operations) Dave Allard.

The winner of the accolade this year was:

CONSTABLE GRAHAM COLWILL (Bulford Garrison), whose citation read: 'You are commended for your outstanding work, which has been recognised in your selection as the 'Defence Community Police Officer of the Year 2011'.

'Your commitment to the role has been shown in your working with partner agencies including your dealings with families who have had to deal with loved ones injured or lost their lives in theatre, through to your work with the military Fijian community and with Service dependant children and the local school.'

'You have made a significant contribution across a range of areas and have displayed the qualities expected of a professional community police officer.'

Runner-up was:

CONSTABLE COLIN EVERETT (RAF Wittering), commended for his 'commitment to the role (which) has been shown in your working with partner agencies and your dealings within the local community. Your commitment and professionalism has made a difference to the lives of those you have dealings with, none more so than your work in the local schools. You have made a significant contribution across a range of areas and have displayed the qualities expected of a professional community police officer.'

Separate commendations were presented to the following officers, in recognition of their outstanding work:

CONSTABLE PETE SMITH (RAF Coningsby), whose citation praised:

'Your outstanding work in respect of the delivery of the 'ThinkUKnow' internet safety training programme part of a national initiative by the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre.'

'Your personal involvement and training of fellow MDP officers has

significantly contributed to our ability to deliver such an important package to service families throughout the Defence Estate.'

CONSTABLE ANDREW SIMPSON (York) - 'Your outstanding work in the development of partnership working within Imphal Barracks, York Garrison and Strensall Common, in particular your 'Community Payback' initiative that has not only impacted on quality of life issues for local residents but also on the military capability to train its troops for front line duties. Your personal commitment and proactive approach has been pivotal in ensuring the successes that have been achieved.'

CONSTABLE LYNNE BENNION (RAF Menwith Hill) - 'Your outstanding work in respect of the delivery of the 'Drug Abuse Resistance Education' programme to United States Visiting Forces families. Your personal involvement and coordination of fellow MDP officers has been pivotal in ensuring that MDP have been able to deliver an up to date package that fully meets the needs of our customers.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

Joint working at Marchwood Military Port

The Sea Mounting Centre Marchwood, more commonly known as the Marchwood Military Port, is the main inward and outward seaward supply hub of all operations overseas for the British Armed Forces.

This can present an ideal opportunity for persons with an eye to exploit the import system.

At the beginning of May 2011, in order to demonstrate to the Defence community the commitment of United Kingdom Border Agency to enforce customs regulations, an operation took place to counter any attempt to smuggle prohibited or dutiable goods into the UK.

When the Motor Vessel Anvil Point returned to Marchwood from the Middle East a joint force of UKBA, RMP, RN Police and MDP were waiting at the



quay side to carry out a 100 per cent search of the entire cargo.



During three days of intense activity 51 containers were unpacked checked and reloaded and one hundred and 121 vehicles, from armoured carriers to Land Rovers, were thoroughly searched by hand.

Search dogs and an X-ray machine were used to assist in the searching.

All stores were later returned and the containers resealed. The operation was hailed as a success by all concerned.

OSU(N) search Ripon Cathedral

T/PS George Findlay and PCs Miles Bennett, Martin Whitfield, Adam Blackburn and Luke Taylor carried out the licensed Pre-Search and Seal and Rope Access to support the North Yorkshire Police in searching Ripon Cathedral at height.

All went without incident and the military concert on Friday 13 May by the Band of the Corps of The Royal Engineers was enjoyed by around 200 spectators. The next day, 50 military personnel provided displays in the

Market Square, and this was open to all members of the public. The Freedom Parade on the Sunday, with around 400 military personnel marching through the town to the Cathedral, was enjoyed by crowds of spectators.

Insp Gordan Bruce, of OSU(N) told **TalkThrough**: "Our specialist search team is just one example of how we can be called upon to provide specialist support to the Military for Public Military Events (PMEs). We also complement the Home Office police with our specialist services."

"This is what we like to see; nothing suspicious found and a job thoroughly done by our team. A fine example of our multi-agency service to the MOD."

Official Opening of the AWE Aldermaston Dog Kennel Development

By PS Hayley Cherry,
AWE Aldermaston



On Thursday 16th June 2011 the development to modernise the Dog Kennelling facility within AWE Aldermaston was officially declared complete and the facility was officially handed over to the MDP.

Both MDP and AWE staff marked the occasion with a small opening ceremony attended by the Head of Site Utilities, various project staff, as well as senior MDP officers and operational dog handlers.

The project began in 2008 with the intention to ensure that dog welfare provisions met mandated requirements. Alison Middleton, the AWE Project Sponsor, was impressed by the handlers' passion and remembers: "right from the beginning the Dog Handlers were only concerned about the animals. I remember being told not to allocate any funding to refurbishing the handler accommodation – just to make sure the dogs were OK!"



The original kennels were comprised of straw-filled wooden boxes within larger concrete cells with little protection from the elements. The isolation kennels, which are used if an animal is ill or if their kennel was being cleaned, were freestanding wooden huts and bathing was, of course, also an outside experience.

The completed facility now boasts state-of-the-art enclosed kennels with heated floor, access to individual outdoor runs, a newly built Isolation Unit with vet facility as well as a new solar heated 'Dog Wash' similar to that already in use at Wethersfield. The improvements made enhance the dogs' working environment considerably and have been assessed to potentially extend their working lives by up to two years.

Charlie Keith, a recently retired Dog Handler who was heavily involved during the project's initiation, was invited back to cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony which went on to include a tour of the new facility. The Aldermaston D/SPO, Ch Insp Paul Sturgess, gave an opening address in which he thanked the AWE Project Team for their continued hard work as well as the handlers for their patience during the ongoing installation. The facility is now considered one of the best examples of dog welfare provision in the country.

The improvements have not gone unnoticed by the dogs either. Laura Welch a member of the civilian kennel team stated: "the dogs like the heated kennels so much it can sometimes be difficult to convince them to come out!"

To round off the event PC Simon Adair and his six-year-old Malinois, Sky, put on an impressive capability demonstration for all guests in attendance.

For some AWE staff present this was the first demonstration of the dog unit's abilities that they had seen. The display was described as a terrific morale booster and reinforced to everybody the realisation for over two years of hard work.



Protocol signing at Aldershot is culmination of three years' work

Representatives of all police agencies in the Aldershot area got together in May for the signing of a domestic abuse protocol which marked the culmination of three years' partnership working on this issue.

Divisional Commanders of Hampshire Police, MOD Police and senior officers from the Royal Military Police were in attendance at Princes Hall in Aldershot for the signing ceremony.

Aldershot-based Defence Community Police Officer PC Dave Osborne told **TalkThrough**: "The new protocol is a written agreement that lays down formally the best practice for dealing with Domestic Abuse in north and east Hampshire. This affects MOD Police in Aldershot only and is strictly a local issue," said PC Osborne.

"The Domestic Abuse Forum at Hampshire Police, chaired by Karen Evans, invited me to attend in late 2008. At this time I was stationed at Aldershot on the Divisional Support Group and was interested in this subject, having worked with domestic abuse victims in other roles within MDP."

"I have also been instructed in submission of Child Protection (CYP) forms to Children's Services. All training from the Forum is at nil cost to the MDP.

"As there are up to 2500 families in Aldershot garrison, Karen Evans also chairs a multi-agency domestic abuse forum specifically for the Garrison, focussing purely on Garrison issues.

Traumatic Stress Disorder, with regard to the military.

"Training has also been given to the other partners in the forum. RMP now receive instruction on a rotational basis to meet their operational requirements, whilst MDP officers in the Hampshire area have also been offered and given training in the mandatory risk assessment procedure.

"The forum anticipated an upsurge in domestic abuse following the initial deployments to Afghanistan in 2009. Historically at Aldershot Garrison the reporting figures were very low, compared to local and national statistics.

"We believed that this could be due to a lack of education and were concerned that victims were not coming forward, or had reported cases to agencies and this information was not being passed on correctly.

"A number of initiatives have been used to remedy this: questionnaires, leaflets, meetings with Garrison headquarters to name but a few. Karen also speaks to Army Welfare Services and Families at meetings prior to deployment. We also use Garrison Radio and the Aldershot Herald to inform families within this area and present domestic abuse information at local schools as part of the education process."

Present day

PC Osborne said that the partnership has grown into a very successful system. "I must stress that this is purely in relation to Aldershot Garrison and the Service families within that footprint," he said.

"In practice, due to the nature of the offence, the majority of reports are dealt with by Hampshire Police. Our key role is to be an important link in the information chain. We work very closely with Karen Evans and the domestic abuse officer at Aldershot police station.

"All cases involving military families in Aldershot are discussed as they appear. MDP then ensure that all agencies within the Garrison are aware of problems and that victims are offered full support.

"Because of this close working relationship, the information sharing practices have improved dramatically. More victims are coming forward to report incidents including families from Commonwealth soldiers which very rarely occurred three years ago."



History in the making

History was made at HMS Caledonia recently when the Royal Navy handed over the ownership and running of the establishment to Defence Estates on Friday 1st April 2011.

This was also a date to remember for Defence Estates who also changed their organisational name to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

The deputy head of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Mr David Olney was present to mark the occasion, on this the first day of his 'new' organisation, commenting favourably about the future of the establishment.

HMS Caledonia was opened in the current format in 1996 when the buildings were upgraded and an MDP complement installed, conveniently moving officers from the adjacent former HM Dockyard, Rosyth.

The establishment was originally opened in the late 30's as an artificer training school and operated from the former 'White Star' liner 'Majestic', which had been launched by Blohm and

Voss in 1913 and originally named, 'Bismarck' – no, not that one!.

A shore establishment was created in the lead up to the Second World War and operated as the Engineering Artificer Apprentices training school until 1977, thereafter becoming shore accommodation for the Royal Navy. When HMS Cochrane, adjacent naval accommodation, was decommissioned in 1996, HMS Caledonia re-commissioned in its current format.

Guest of honour at the handover ceremony was the Countess of Elgin and Kincardine, who originally opened the site, and the Lord Lieutenant of Fife. Other guests included Commodore Wareham (Com Clyde) and Commodore Stevenson (Headquarters Royal Navy Scotland, Caledonia).

Pictured are Commodore Wareham, Inspector Lorne Campbell, SPO Caledonia and Inspector Gordon Thompson, SPO Crombie.

Music was provided by the band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines (Scotland).

The Police Treatment Centres

Two years ago like many of us I felt a fit and healthy 52 year old. I played squash to a reasonable standard, ate properly and generally looked after myself.

Then, whilst hill walking in Scotland in 2008, my knee seized up whilst coming down a hill called Schiehallion (3400 ft).

Oh, cartilage problem I thought. However, the eventual diagnosis was far worse. Last October a consultant gave me the news that my knee was OK but my hip had serious osteoarthritis and I required a hip replacement. Luckily, I have got away with a resurfacing procedure called a Birmingham Hip which was done in March 2010.

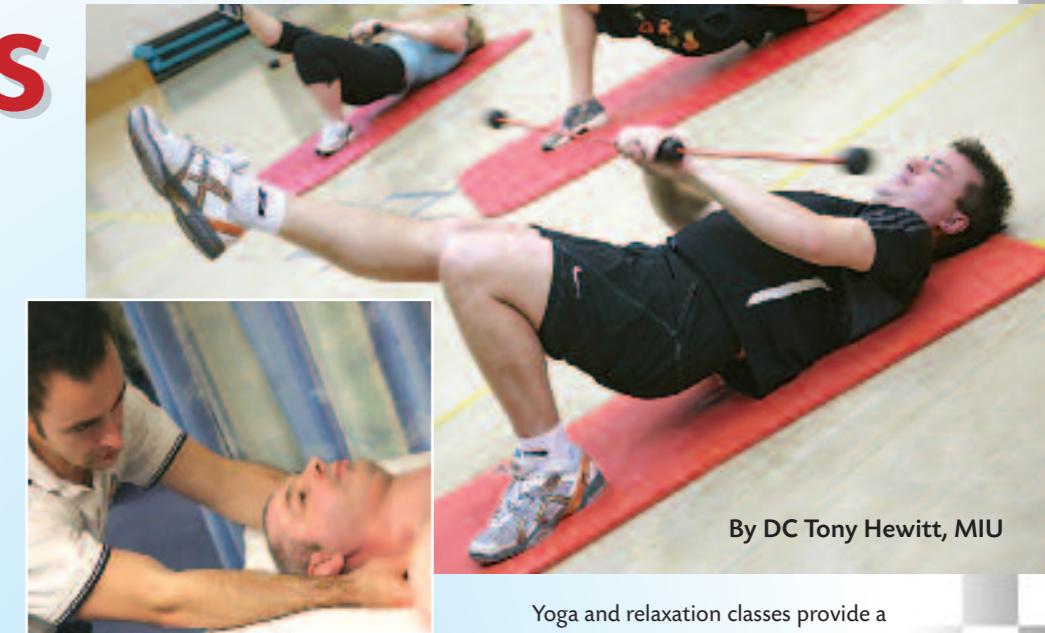
Now, as we all know the NHS is strapped for cash and physiotherapy is actually quite limited after the initial few months post op.

In April I read the Order which informed us that the MDP had signed up to the Police Treatment Centres (PTCs) at St Andrew's, in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Castlebrae in Auchterarder, near Perth, Scotland.

The PTCs are a registered charity supported by voluntary donations from serving police officers, primarily in the northern Forces of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, but also from British Transport Police, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and now the Ministry of Defence Police.

I acted immediately to become a contributor at £5.40 a month and, in October, became probably the first MDP officer to attend the PTC at St Andrew's, in Harrogate. As a full time officer I was entitled to a two-week residential stay, having been referred by my doctor and my consultant. Retired officers are entitled to one week.

On arrival I had difficulty walking any distance due to muscle spasm and cramps that had hindered my recovery for some months due to my damaging some freshly healed muscle in the hip. After two weeks of intensive treatment at Harrogate the hip was far stronger and I was walking



By DC Tony Hewitt, MIU

almost normally and my confidence had grown considerably.

So, what does £5.40 a month get you at the PTCs?

The majority of patients who attend the centres do so to receive intensive physiotherapy. Many of the officers I met had shoulder injuries from arrests. Some had injuries from car accidents and I met a colleague from the PSNI who, whilst on foot patrol in Belfast had been shot in the back at close range. Some officers just needed recuperation due to stress related issues.

On admission, each patient is thoroughly assessed by a nurse, and where necessary a physiotherapist, so that an individually tailored package of treatment can be developed. Patients are encouraged to participate in education and exercise classes, and make use of the facilities which include an exercise gym, swimming and hydrotherapy pools.

Treatment provided at the centres is holistic and the nursing team has an important role to play. They promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and encourage patients to take a more proactive approach in managing their health. As well as offering well-person checks and advice on topics such as healthy eating, regular education workshops are also held, giving useful information on topics including sleep problems and dealing with stress. For some patients, complementary therapy may be of significant benefit and will be offered depending on the individual's circumstances.

Yoga and relaxation classes provide a welcome opportunity to de-stress and the charity's Patient Support Advisers are able to provide a confidential listening ear and act as a 'signpost' to help officers identify additional support services.

The Centres also provide classes which include:

AQUAFIT – A water based aerobics class

CIRCUITS – Using a variety of small apparatus this class gives the body a full work-out

PILATES – A series of graduated exercises based around core-stability training and postural re-education

RELAXATION – Set to a background of relaxing music, nursing staff talk through relaxation and visualisation techniques

Residents have individual rooms with en suite and are of a high standard and, in the case of St Andrew's, it is within easy walking distance of Harrogate town centre.

My situation shows that you never know what is just around the corner and I can't recommend the Police Treatment Centres highly enough. £5.40 a month is a small price to pay for the benefit you will gain if the unthinkable occurs. Remember, this facility will be available to you after you retire and the NHS has no such facility.

More information can be obtained by going to:
www.thepolicetreatmentcentres.org

The National Treatment Centre
Subscriptions are rising to £5.76 as of the 1st September 2011, if anyone requires any more information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the DPF Support Officers for assistance.

Death in service of PC Dave Daunou

David Emile Daunou, 56, died on Saturday 4th June 2011, at Southampton General Hospital, of a heart attack.

David joined the Hampshire Constabulary, initially as a Police Cadet, in January 1974, serving at Fratton Police Station and Alton, thereafter joining the Traffic Department as a Police Motorcyclist, serving at Southampton Central, Portswood and Lyndhurst.

David became a keen and active member of the Police Federation, assisting many of his colleagues with operational complaints and problems.

David, being an enthusiastic motorcyclist, actively assisted the Hampshire Constabulary better riding initiative, by taking part in on road training, with members of the public, encouraging greater awareness within the motorcycling community, and in so doing, helping to achieve the Road Casualty Reduction programme.

David joined the MDP in February 2004, initially posted to DLO Andover, where he carried out armed

PC Steve Beard,
DSG Gosport

security patrols. In November 2005, he transferred to DSG Gosport, carrying out armed security tasks at MOD bases throughout south east England, including being selected for armed Royal Protection work in Hampshire.

During David's career within the MDP, he made good use of his motorcycling experience, introducing a motorcycle safety initiative called Bikesafe, which he promoted within the Defence community, enhancing the riding pleasure and safety of many Service personnel.

David leaves behind his wife Louise, children Stephanie and Alan, and step daughters Alice, Rebecca and Rachael.

David's family are setting up a charity for the benefit of the Intensive Care Unit at Southampton General Hospital and Naomi House Children's Hospice. Donations in Dave's memory can be made via the following website:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulMabey>

Officers receive their long service and good conduct medals



PC KEVIN LAING, based at the Agency Training College, joined MDP in 1990 serving first at Woolwich Garrison. In 2004 he joined the Divisional Support Group at Chatham, moving to ATC in 2005. He is pictured receiving his long service and good conduct medal from Supt Mick O'Byrne.



PC ALAN FORSTER, RNAS Yeovilton: Alan joined the Ministry of Defence Police in November 1987, following a nine-year career in the Royal Navy. He was first stationed at AWE Burghfield, as a station duty officer, then as a member of the Tactical Response Force, before specialising as a Patrol Dog Handler.

He transferred to RNAS Yeovilton in August 2004 where, for the past three years, he has undertaken the role of Dog Section Supervisor. He is pictured (above) being presented with his medal by Brigadier Mark Noble, Commanding Officer, RNAS Yeovilton.

INSPR LES ROPER (pictured right), of HMNB Portsmouth was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct medal after 22 years' service by HMNB Portsmouth Naval Base Commander, Commodore Rob Thompson RN. Inspector Roper started his service at RNSD Copenacre and then served at Larkhill, CID Colchester, Fraud Squad, AWE Division and Headquarters prior to transferring to Portsmouth.



Sergt Alison Cook retirement

Sergt Alison Cook NE Division HQ York retired from the MDP on 16 May 2011 and was presented with gifts from her colleagues.

Alison's MDP career has spanned 32 years, starting in 1979 at CAD Longtown in the then Central Area.



On promotion to Sergt in 1983 she moved to the Royal Mint Llantrisant before becoming a member of the team in the Force Intelligence Unit based at the then MDPHQ at Empress State Building, Fulham, London.

Alison then transferred to the Royal Arsenal Woolwich in London, before moving north to RAF Menwith Hill, then AFC Harrogate and then on to NE Division HQ, York. Alison's role in NE Division started as the Divisional Trainer, entertaining her students with her well known song phrase 'STOP . . . in the name of love'.

Alison's final appointment was in the equality and diversity role, which she fully embraced with her infectious enthusiasm and total commitment. In her own words Alison was happy that she was retiring from the MDP 'on a high', with some really good memories and achievements – not least the MDPGA Diversity Award which was presented to her by the Divisional Commander, T/Chief Supt Roger Phillips on behalf of the Chief Constable.

Alison intends to move to the south coast to enjoy a sunny and warm retirement, and we wish her the best of luck for the future.

'Breadth of activity' impresses HQ visitor



By Norman Hicks
Photographs by Paul Kemp

Chief Constable Steve Love played host to Stephen Barrett when he visited MDP Headquarters at Wethersfield in June.

Mr Barrett has a number of areas of professional interest in the MDPGA. In particular he is one of the Royal Air Force's non-executive directors. A member of the Air Force Board Standing Committee and the Air Command Operating Board, he additionally chairs the Air Audit Committee, having enjoyed a successful career in the finance industry.

Mr Barrett also holds appointments with a number of private and public sector entities, including as an independent member of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNC) and as a non-executive director of the National Fraud Authority.

He is also a Member of the Royal United Services Institute and former non-executive director of the Serious



Organised Crime Agency, a member of the Law Society, Fellow of the Compliance Institute and Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment.

For his visit to Wethersfield Mr Barrett was given briefings on the Agency's roles and responsibilities, the operational capability of MDP – including a demonstration at the firearms Training Wing – a briefing on MDP Nuclear Security Policing and an overview of the role played by CID, the Fraud Squad and MIU in tackling Defence crime.

At the end of a hectic day of briefings, Mr Barrett told TalkThrough:

"This was my first visit to Wethersfield and to the MDPGA. I have been particularly struck by the breadth of activity that MDPGA is responsible for and especially the difficulties inherent in its work, as compared with, for example, a Home Office police Force. The work is much more varied than I had anticipated."

He was pleased to note the moves towards closer working with CNC. "It's really pleasing to find that MDP officers and CNC officers are forging links, are talking to each other, are sharing knowledge and sharing best practice. I think this will help both Forces be more efficient in the delivery of their outputs, and so I think it is something to be welcomed," said Mr Barrett.

Asked what he thought he would be taking away from his visit, Mr Barrett replied: "I have been particularly interested in how you build a construct within the MDPGA to blend and secure good collaborative working between a more traditional police Force on the



one hand and a guard force on the other. That is a very interesting model and not one we see elsewhere across the UK.

He continued:

"The officers I have met today are a really great bunch of people and I have been struck by their enthusiasm and commitment for their work for MDPGA, in whatever work they are doing – be that protecting the perimeter of an establishment, through to those who carry arms and may have to use them in very difficult circumstances, through to the civilian staff who are supporting all that effort, to those in CID who are using investigative means to track down the bad guys."

History project discussed

The Chief, International Relations for the US 3rd Air Force-UK, Mr Tom Gill, accompanied by Ms Christine Cohn and SFC Larry Hayman, of the US Department of Defense, were guests of Deputy Chief Constable Gerry McAuley in May.

Their liaison visit to MDPHQ Wethersfield involved discussions about the USAF historical research project, with a presentation on this topic by Chief Inspn Ross Stewart and a visit to St Michael's Chapel and the USAF memorials area of the former USAF Base.



Force flies flag to mark International Day Against Homophobia 2011

By David Hubbard, Head of Diversity and Equality Unit

Photograph by Paul Kemp



Since 2009, the day has grown to focus on both homophobia and transphobia and now IDAHO sits alongside two other major events for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

In February each year, LGBT History Month celebrates the achievements of LGBT people and gives us an opportunity to reflect on the struggles and oppression they have faced in the past.

In the summer months Pride events take place across the world, where LGBT people take part in joyful marches to emphasise their pride in being themselves

The purpose of IDAHO is to remind us that homophobia and transphobia still exist and that there remains a need for everyone in the community – LGBT or not – to take a stand to eliminate discrimination against LGBT people.

Earlier this year Chief Constable/Chief Executive Steve Love gave permission for the 'Rainbow Flag' – a common symbol of LGBT unity – to be flown at MDPGA HQ for the first time ever to mark IDAHO.

ACCs John Bligh and Robert Chidley, representing the AMB, jointly raised the flag on the parade square on May 17, to demonstrate the Agency's support of our LGBT colleagues and our rejection of homophobia and transphobia.

■ **Homophobia and Transphobia may be defined as negative feelings or attitudes about, hostility towards, or fear of, lesbian, gay or bisexual or transsexual and transgendered people.**

■ **The National Day Against Homophobia was created in 2003 in the Quebec province of Canada by the Fondation Emergence and celebrated in June.**

Following this, Louis-Georges Tin, a French university lecturer, campaigner for Black and LGBT Rights and chief editor of the

"Dictionary of Homophobia", launched an initiative in August 2004 to create an International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO).

He proposed that this day be fixed on May 17th, to commemorate the day on which the World Health Organisation took the decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders and the first IDAHO was held in 2005.

Well done, and thank you...

From: Captain Ian Walker, former Military Adviser to International Relations at HQ 3rd US Air Force, Mildenhall

Thank you for your support and hard work over the past four years that I've been in and out of England. It has truly been a pleasure working with each and every one of you. We simply couldn't do the job we're tasked with over here without the dedicated group of professionals you command.

You are indispensable members of our Security Forces team and it has truly been a pleasure getting to know each of you. I regret I didn't have enough time upon my return from Afghanistan to get out and say thank you in person one last time, but please accept my sincere gratitude for a job extremely well done.

I'm heading off to Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas to be the Security Forces Squadron Commander and I'm getting promoted in the process. Whether you know it or not, you each played a role in helping me get to this stage in my career and again I thank you.

Whether it was my time as the Operations Officer or Commander at Lakenheath, or in my time here at Third Air Force, I knew if I had a problem or concern you were each available and willing to work through the issues at hand.

It is that great relationship I will miss, and I hope my replacement Major Nathan Murray can build upon when he arrives in mid-July. Thanks again, and best wishes in the future.

From: John and Gillian Whiting, Plymouth

We would like to say thank you very much for your assistance on Sunday 5th June at approx. 6pm.

We were heading out of the River Tamar – in our yacht 'Wind Cheetah' (Twister 28) – when our engine failed due to a diesel leak. MOD (Police) launch 'Watchful' came to our rescue, along with a police RIB. All of the officers on board were brilliant.

The launch towed us to the entrance of our marina at Millbay and the RIB manoeuvred us onto our berth. They were true professionals and experts!

We are truly indebted and send our huge thanks to all involved.

From: Major A M Banks, Close Protection Unit, Royal Military Police, Hampshire

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the valuable assistance that you and your colleagues provided during this unit's Exercise Watchtower.

The exercise was very successful and was considerably aided by the support of both you and your staff, in particular Sgt Steve Brockbank and his crew, who were all excellent.

The attack on the (Portsmouth) dockyard and movement by water of our VIP and CP team on 8th and 9th June proved to be an ideal test for the students.

Utilising this method of transport equates well to the real time difficulties that face our operators when their VIP is transported by boat or helicopter on operations and allows us to train our personnel far more effectively for the demands that they will meet in the future. Your assistance and support is very much appreciated.

From: Sally Tyrrell, PR and Events Manager, The Mary Rose Trust, HMNB Portsmouth

I want to record my thanks and appreciation to the (MDP) search teams for your smooth and discrete work in association with the visit of Prince Harry.

The visit was fairly complex from our point of view and involved a number of sites, including the construction site for the new Mary Rose Museum. I know the logistics of trying to ensure a job well done whilst respecting the needs of the Mary Rose as the host organisation are always a balancing act, but I very much appreciated your understanding of our circumstances.

40th Anniversary memories sought



Where were you on October 1st, 1971?

That was the day that the Admiralty, Army Department and Air Force Department Constabularies were amalgamated to form what we now know as the Ministry of Defence Police.

Research by Sergt Adrian Rookes, of RNAS Yeovilton has identified a number of serving officers who can trace their service back to those founding Forces – he himself having joined the Admiralty Constabulary at 'HMNB Portland' on April 6th 1970.

He told **TalkThrough** he had enjoyed seeking out the longest serving officers: "It has led to some interesting conversations and my being contacted by a few people that I have not spoken to in years!"

The honour of having served the longest currently rests with Sergt Ray Tidswell, of HMNB Clyde, who joined the Air Force Department Constabulary on September 23rd 1966.



which celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Force.

Also in that issue was the black and white picture shown here, of a Control Room Operator at HM Dockyard Devonport, as it was known in 1971.

The technology has moved on since those days, as the modern Force has embraced the latest police communications channels, including Airwave radios, satellite mapping, video conferencing and computers for emails and other hi-tech tools.

We'd love to hear your memories of the MDP as it was in the early days and how things have progressed since then.

Please send them in to:

'40th Anniversary Memories',
TalkThrough Editor,
Room 127, Building 1070, MDP HQ,
Wethersfield, Essex CM7 4AZ,
or email the Editor at:
MDP-HQ CORPCOM TT ED (internal)
or norman.hicks905@mdpg.mod.uk
(external).

The same contact details can be used for sending us your photographs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aaron breaks marathon three-hour barrier

An officer serving with the Special Escort Group broke through the three-hour barrier when he competed in the 2011 London Marathon in April.

PC Aaron Wilson completed the gruelling course in 2hr 56 min 15 sec, to finish in 757th place from a field of more than 34,000, a remarkable achievement, especially as Aaron only took up marathon running in 2008.

He joined MDP in April 2001 and was stationed at DStL Porton Down until he transferred to the SEG in November 2005.

He told **TalkThrough**: "Having never done any long distance running I decided at the start of 2008 to set myself the task of running my first marathon. This I did in October that year, completing the Clarendon Marathon from Salisbury to Winchester, mainly off road, in 3hr 49 min, finishing 41st out of 233.

"In 2009 I completed three half marathons and a couple of 10 mile and 10k races. I then joined Salisbury Athletics and Running Club in April 2010 which competes in the Hampshire Road Running League. The league runs from September until May with 12 races over various distances from five to 20 miles.

"Having completed my first full season completing nine out of 12 races I came 12th overall in the men's individual league, I also managed to achieve several goals by breaking the 60 min for 10 miles twice, and recording Personal Best times for half marathon and 10k.



"I managed to obtain a place for the London Marathon through the club and my goal was to break the three-hour mark so I followed a 16 week training programme to give myself the best opportunity. As this was my first experience of the London Marathon it was a fantastic day and the support along the way was amazing."

Kilimanjaro summit trek for Alex

Sergt Alex Robertson, based at HMNB Clyde, joined the force in March 1985. During 2010 he intended trekking to the summit of Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa, but unfortunately, in August 2009 was diagnosed with colon cancer which meant he had to withdraw from the planned trek.

Alex takes up the story: "I have since successfully undergone treatment for the cancer and I am now back at work. To show my appreciation to those involved in

my treatment I intend to carry out the trek to Kilimanjaro in January 2012 will all monies raised going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

"I would appreciate the support of all members of the Agency in my attempt to raise funds for this worthy cause. I am required to raise £4300 with at least 64 per cent of that money going to the charity. One hundred per cent of any amount over that will go to the charity.

"Anyone wishing to donate can do so either by visiting www.justgiving.com/Alex_Robertson1600 or by completing a sponsor form, obtainable by contacting me at HMNB Clyde. Completed forms should be returned to myself at HMNB Clyde."

MDP in the Media

Recent extracts from newspaper and magazine articles which have featured MDP

From: The Bucks Herald

Former directors charged over £2m MOD fraud allegations

Two former directors of an Aylesbury haulage firm have been charged by Ministry of Defence police with an alleged £2 million fraud.

Frederick Baxter, 61, and Gerald Baxter, 34, are accused of defrauding the MOD during their time at the helm of Baxters International Removals Ltd, between 2002 and 2007, when the company had a contract with the MOD to move equipment.

Both men, who no longer work for the firm, appeared at City of London Magistrates' Court in June and are next due to appear there in October. They are currently on bail.

Investigators claim that the government department was overcharged by the company.

From: This is Plymouth

Look-out scheme advice for boat crime

Boat owners in Plymouth are being offered crime fighting advice from the Ministry of Defence police.

The Devonport Marine Unit is co-ordinating a Boatwatch scheme and encouraging all organisations and clubs to operate a look-out and observation programme throughout the main boating season.

The initiative aims to be the eyes and ears of the boating community, reducing opportunities for marine crime by reporting any suspicious activity to the police.

The Boatwatch scheme has operated throughout the port of Plymouth since 1992 and is supported by the Queen's Harbour Master and Devon and Cornwall Police.

MOD Police also operates a free Boat Registration Scheme, which has been running in Plymouth for nearly 20 years. The scheme allows owners of all types of craft to supply contact and vessel details to the police.

The idea is to assist the MOD police and other police forces in establishing ownership of vessels, if stopped, and in helping to return recovered stolen or found property to the rightful owners.

The MOD's marine unit operates in Plymouth Sound and the surrounding rivers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It provides waterside security for the Naval Base and escorts warships to and from the Sound.

From: This is Wiltshire

Blitz in Wiltshire on off-road drivers

Ministry of Defence Police have been out in force on Salisbury Plain to tackle the problem of vehicles illegally driving across the Defence Training Area.

Officers teamed up with Training Area marshals, Landmarc land wardens, Wiltshire Police and the Royal Military Police for the action, which took place over two days.

A total of 73 vehicles were checked, leading to 14 people being issued with fines and three motorcycles being seized.

Fixed penalty notices were issued for offences ranging from driving other than on a road and number plate offences, to no insurance.

Sergeant Mark Vennings, the MOD Police senior officer for Salisbury Plain, said: "The vast majority of Salisbury Plain is owned by the MOD and it is regularly used for military exercises.

"The public are allowed access and vehicles are permitted but only if they stick to the numerous marked byways and official tracks. No vehicles are allowed to leave these rights of way, primarily for range safety reasons. But unfortunately we have been receiving more and more reports of motorists and bikers going off-road."

He also said they had received reports of damage being caused to grassland on the plain by these unauthorised vehicles and motorbikes.

From: Slough Express

Man, 25, appears in court charged in connection with barracks theft of £45k war binoculars

A former member of the British armed forces charged in connection with the theft of a pair of night vision binoculars from a Windsor barracks appeared in court on Friday (June 17).

Thomas Biddlestone, of Ilkeston, Derby, has been charged by MOD Police with three offences of handling stolen goods and ten counts of money laundering.

They relate to the theft of a £45,000 set of war-zone night sights from Combermere Barracks in St Leonard's Road sometime between February 1 and 28.

Biddlestone has been released on unconditional bail.

Were you lucky?

See who won the MDP Central Sports and Welfare Association's Lottery draws in January, February and March 2011.

JANUARY 2011

1st £3,500 ROA A J Taylor, Retired
4th £200 DCI J Grieg, Catterick

2nd £2,000 PC S A Wood, AWE Aldermaston
5th £200 PC M M Mackenzie, Fort Halstead

3rd £1,000 PS G A Chapman, RAF Northolt
6th £200 PS M J Jamison, MDPHQ Wethersfield CIS

4th £200 PS A J Robertson, HMNB Clyde
7th £200 PC G Brown, Beith

5th £200 PC D H David, CNI Garlogie
8th £200 PS P D Hume, AWE Burghfield

MARCH 2011

1st £3,500 PC A W Dennett, HMNB Clyde
2nd £2,000 PC I R Banks, MDP Whitehall

3rd £1,000 PC S Hodgkinson, RAF Fylingdales
4th £200 PC D Booth, MDP Easington

5th £200 PS R W Childs, Stirling Lines Hereford
6th £200 PC M M Mackenzie, Fort Halstead

7th £200 PC S Amery, MDPHQ Wethersfield
8th £200 PC A S Foley, AWE Aldermaston

FEBRUARY 2011

1st £3,500 Insp N F Turner, HMNB Devonport
2nd £2,000 PC R A S Denholm, Glen Douglas
3rd £1,000 Mrs E A Baker, MDPHQ Wethersfield Exam Unit

OSU(N) at Preston Military Show

Specialist search teams from OSU(N) are pictured using an extendable camera to search out-of-reach voids, ahead of Preston Military Show in June.

This standard specialist search technique and equipment is used by MDP OSU Search teams in their role of providing support to the MOD and military, to ensure the safety of military personnel and public attending such high profile events.



Doggone – it's 100 years RIP for 'Jack'



PC Karl Cowling, Defence Community and Crime Reduction Officer at HMNB Devonport, has been turning his hand to a bit of detective work, to find out more about Police Dog Jack, who has been buried behind the MOD Police HQ, near Albert Gate, for the past 100 years.

Inspr Alan Jenkins of the Metropolitan Police Dog Training School told Karl: "Whilst it is accepted that most UK Police Forces first began using police dogs as we know them today in the aftermath of the Second World War, little is known of the earliest instances of the use of dogs by police other than that by Hull Docks Police in 1909."

"The fact that Jack died in 1911, at the age of 11, suggests that he had been in service for some time prior to that, and may even pre-date the first use of dogs in Hull Docks.

"Police dogs bring a great sense of reassurance to all police officers whenever they are present and the fact that a headstone was erected to mark Jack's grave is a testament to the high regard in which he must have been held.

"Unfortunately records no longer exist that would allow us to discover more about Jack and his handler, but I am sure they would have been delighted to see that the pioneering work they did has led to the Police Dog Sections we are familiar with today."

Chief Insp Claire Pitcher, MDP Devonport said: "It is not known how many dogs and handlers may have been employed within the dockyard when 'Jack' was busy patrolling, but today we have 16 dogs and handlers who carry out the duties and responsibilities as 'Dog Teams' for the MOD Police on behalf of the Naval Base Commander.

"Dog Teams of today have developed and evolved to deal with the many different aspects and demands of Police work – trained to search for drugs and explosives, tactical firearms support and detection of criminal offenders. It is encouraging that the tradition of employing dog teams has continued in the Naval Base for what would appear to be well over 100 years. We are proud to be associated with you Jack."

Our picture shows Police Dog 'Igor' from the current Devonport dog section, paying tribute to his long dead colleague 'Jack'.