

Talk Through

The Magazine of the
Ministry of Defence Police

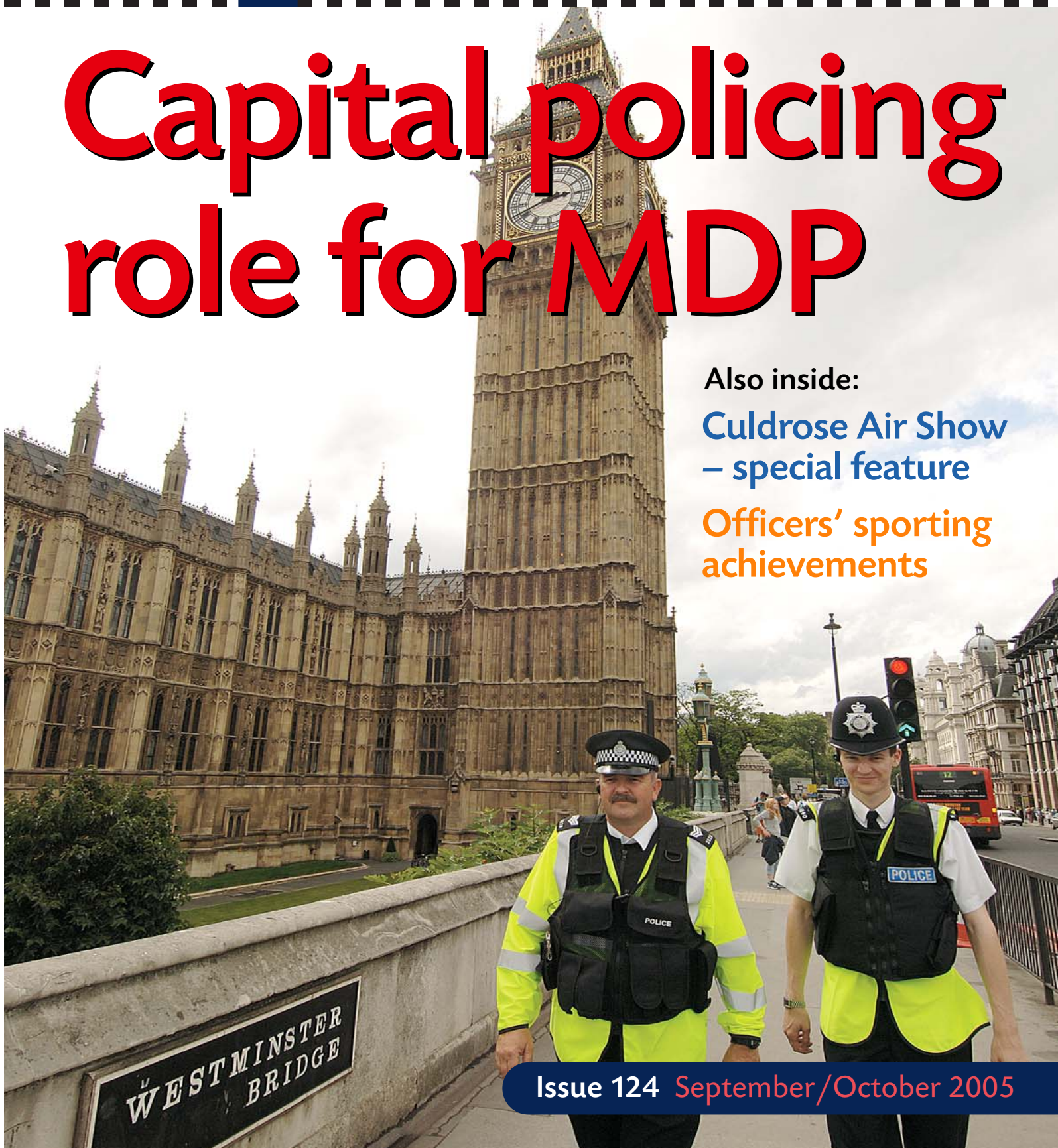


Capital policing role for MDP

Also inside:

Culdrose Air Show
– special feature

Officers' sporting
achievements



Issue 124 September/October 2005

Contents

Issue 124 September/October 2005

A busy summer for the Chief	1
Rising to the challenge	4
Policing Culdrose Air Day	8
Royal Military Tattoo	18
Officer graduation	20
Brompton Safety Day	23
Divisional Command and Control Rooms	24
Fraud investigations	26
Letters to the Chief Constable	27
MDP Officers' sporting achievements	33



Page 4



Page 8



Page 18



Page 24

FRONT COVER:
MDP officers patrol
Westminster Bridge.
Photograph by Paul Kemp/Audio Visual

A busy summer for the Chief

■ Since *TalkThrough* last caught up with Agency Chief Executive and CCMDP Steve Love, he has had a busy summer.

"I have spent the summer touring the Agency; have visited stations in a number of Divisions; have been to Kosovo and have met a lot of our customers," he said.

At each venue Mr Love has held focus groups, at which a number of recurring questions have been raised.

"Given that, however hard I've tried, I've probably seen only about five per cent of the Agency face-to-face, I thought it might be appropriate to use *TalkThrough* to answer the questions I have been asked most often and provide answers to a wider audience," said Mr Love.

The first question people ask me is: 'Now that you have had time to look around the Agency, is it what you expected?'

It has taken me all summer to scratch the surface of the Agency. I have been to a lot of places, spoken to a lot of people but acknowledge that I have much more still to learn about our huge and complex business. To be honest, I came into the job not with low expectations, but with average expectations and time and time again in my travels around the Force I have been absolutely delighted to find these expectations exceeded, sometimes by a vast distance.

With all the debate going on about national policing now, we are already there – the nearest thing I think to a national police service that



CCMDP Steve Love, left, with CSO4 Gerry Palmer of MGS, PC Kath O'Byrne of Recruiting and Sadie Buckland of Agency Consultancy Services

we have. I believe our structure is sound and operationally we are the only largely armed police in the country. We are only about two per cent of UK police numbers, but have 15 per cent of the CBRN capability. We are the business when it comes to marine capability. On the crime side, we have some of the best fraud and corruption investigators in the country and we are the backbone of the UK's international policing effort. There is, of course, much to do but my first impressions are very positive indeed. I'm glad I took the job.

You have been quoted as saying that we were a well-kept secret. How are you going to raise our profile?

There are actually three sets of people among whom we need to raise our profile – other police forces, our customers and colleagues in the Armed Services and defence industries, and within our own organisation.

Raising our profile isn't an overnight thing, but here are some of the things I am doing outside of the Agency:

- I am engaging with ACPO and using Terrorism Committee meetings to spell out our extraordinary capability to Chief Constable colleagues at every opportunity
- With the able support of the Corporate Communications Department, I am looking for every opportunity to get our name, stories and pictures into national police and defence publications
- We are having our brochures and recruiting packs sharpened up, to spell out what we do and how good we are
- I am personally going around senior people in the defence world to tell them what we do and how well we do it.

CONTINUED . . .

TalkThrough

Editor:
Norman Hicks
Corporate Communications
Room 2/1070
MDP Wethersfield
Braintree, Essex CM7 4AZ
tel: 01371 854206
fax: 01371 854010
e-mail: corpcommsmdp@milnet.uk.net

Assistant Editor
Judith Slater. tel: 01371 854751
Website: www.mdp.mod.uk

Display and Classified Advertising:

David Lancaster
TG Scott & Son Ltd
Brettenham House
10 Savoy Street
London WC2E 7HR
tel: 020 7240 2032
fax: 020 7379 7118/7155

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

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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





have to cast people off at 60 and I value the knowledge and experience that our older officers can bring.

Indeed, there are plenty of people over 60 these days with the sort of family commitments that mean they need a job and I am glad to provide it. Clearly, though, there are all sorts of questions around the ageing process – carrying firearms, officer safety training and so on. So, the Agency Management Board has asked the Personnel Department to identify what are the risks and what controls it would be sensible to put in place.

But, basically, I support people's ability to work on beyond 60 and want to find ways of making sure that they can.

Will you be keeping up the Agency's commitment to international policing?

Yes. I have just come back from Kosovo. It was staggering. Of the 70 officers who make up the British contingent of the International Police Force there, 50 are from the MOD Police.

Five of the top eight posts in the International Police Force are held by



A visit to Trenchard Lines at Upavon formed part of a busy summer schedule for CCMDP Steve Love

MOD Police officers, including Constables and Sergeants who have been appointed to those posts by the Commissioner because he has decided they are the right people for the job. Our international role is not very visible at home, but incredibly important.

Have you any final thoughts you would like to add?

Can I just, through TalkThrough, say thank you to all the people throughout the Agency who have hosted or organised my visits? It has been a steep learning curve but a memorable summer.

A busy summer for the Chief

That's for starters, but I can't do it all on my own. I am not sure that everybody in our own Agency actually knows how good we are and what our real selling points are. There are eight thousand people in our Agency and I am looking for ways of making every one of them our spokespersons and ambassadors.

How do you see the Agency's future?

Partly, our future is in your hands. Three quarters of our funding and therefore three quarters of who we are and what we do is paid for by customers. That is why the best way to protect our own future is to make sure our customers are treated like and feel like customers; to make sure that we really are match fit, all day every day; and to make sure that our guards and police officers work so closely together, with each other and with the customer, that the customer can see that there are no gaps.

The geographical shape of the defence estate is changing and we will have to change with it.

The nature of the threat to defence capability will change and we will change with it.

The international demand will change and we will change with it.

I think our future is good – otherwise I wouldn't have joined – provided we meet customer needs, at a fair cost and are deadly serious about being match fit.

How will you get new business?

You will not be surprised to know that I am always on the lookout for new business and part of what I am doing is getting to know who is who and what is what across the Ministry of Defence and Armed Services to spot new opportunities. But I do know that for our Agency, as in any other line of business, our best route to new custom is from satisfying our existing customers.

What do you think of the Force's present structure – in particular, are Divisional Support Groups here to stay?

I have got no plans for major change to the Force structure. We have been through enormous upheaval in recent years, but my sense is that the last thing we and our customers want is yet more churn.

Certainly, this summer, the Agency in general and the DSGs and OSUs in particular have risen marvellously to the challenge of the London bombs and the AWE reinforcement, which was a real test of the new structure in real time. I am not saying we won't ever change anything – we will change what we need to, if and when we have to, for good reasons, but basically I think the Force structure is sound and is a credit to everyone who has put it into place.

What is your position on police officers working over 60?

Anyone who follows the news generally will know that retirement ages are rising across the board – and we are no exception. I don't want to





MDP answers the call to provide extra security in central London after the July bomb attacks

Rising to the challenge

Report: Steve Partridge
Photos: Paul Kemp and Neil Parry/Audio Visual



■ Scores of MOD Police officers from across the country answered the call to provide additional security for London in the weeks since the July 7 bomb attacks.

They were drafted in to assist with the MDP's policing responsibilities in Whitehall and to provide support to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the British Transport Police (BTP). In helping to safeguard the capital they gained an insight into and invaluable experience of providing armed policing in a diverse and complex urban environment.

Aid was supplied every day for more than two months and all five Divisions have played their part along with colleagues from the Special Escort Group, Divisional Support Groups, the Operational Support Units, and specialist dog units.

The Operation, codenamed Toga, saw specialists in CBRN, firearms, traffic duties, explosives searches with dogs, and unarmed patrolling deployed on the streets. Additional Silver Commanders were also drafted in to provide round-the-clock tactical



support. On average, an extra 40 officers a day were supplied. MGS, too, played a key role, and their immediate and ongoing response was first class.

Chief Superintendent George Branagh, of MDP Wethersfield, who supervised the logistics of the operation said: "It was fantastic team work and there was a great attitude displayed by everyone involved. We

had officers ringing up to volunteer and Chief Inspectors out on patrol. I have never seen such a response.

"But at the same time we were still able to meet all the standard requirements made on us by the MOD. It's also worth pointing out that these deployments came on the back of our commitments to supporting the policing of Trafalgar 200, at Portsmouth, and G8, in Scotland.



Answering London's call



(GPC) to Commanders on the ground had been a big boon for the Operation.

“During Toga the temperatures in London soared but Commanders were able to use GPCs to go and buy water in the shops and distribute it to officers immediately. That’s a good example of how a relatively simple innovation can increase the Force’s responsiveness.”

The speed and flexibility of the MDP was also emphasised on Thursday July 28 when almost 70 officers were called in to London on just 12 hours notice.

More than 6,000 policemen and women were on duty in London on that day as the city went on high alert following incidents on two previous Thursdays in July.

As well as patrols around MOD Main Building in Whitehall they were also required to cover other Government buildings, streets and nearby Underground stations.



Chief Superintendent Branagh said: “Some of them were on the road at 3am to make sure they were available for duty at 6am and they then continued operating until 7.30pm.

“When you see that type of dedication from officers it gives you great confidence in the ability of the

Force to deal with anything that might be thrown at it.

“I think the MOD as a whole can take comfort from the success of this operation and the flexibility of the surge capacity of the MDP.

“This certainly proved that we can put together a crack team of

officers to respond to any situation within the defence environment at short notice.”

MDP Chief Constable Steve Love said members of the MOD Guard Service had also played an important supporting role in providing extra officers and ensuring the day-to-day protection of the MOD’s London establishments.

“Our ability to respond to such requests highlights the willingness of our people to contribute to this policing effort, as well as the MOD Police and Guarding Agency’s capability to respond quickly and effectively in a critical situation,” he said.

“I am more than pleased at the way in which the Agency has responded to the London bombings, whether as guards, police officers or civilian staff, it has been a real team effort over the last few months.

“No matter how long the terrorist threat remains, the Agency will continue to provide a steadfast response in maintaining the safety and reassurance of the MOD and, where appropriate, the broader UK community.”

“It’s been a very busy year for us, probably the busiest since the Ops Support department was established, but although we have been stretched we have answered every call on us.

“To be able to put together so many specialist officers, so quickly, was a superb effort and we have received messages of thanks from the Metropolitan and the British Transport Police forces.”

MDP assistance allowed the MPS and BTP to concentrate their

resources on the investigations into the bombings and hunt for suspects in the July 21 incidents.

The support also provided cover to allow frontline MPS and BTP officers to get some well earned rest after devoting so much time and effort in their response to the terrorist atrocities.

Six MDP officers assisted BTP to bag and tag 17,000 CCTV videos in the wake of July 7 and then take on a similar task after July 21. Another

two officers were also seconded into the BTP intelligence cell and further armed officers were provided to the Diplomatic Protection Group at Downing Street.

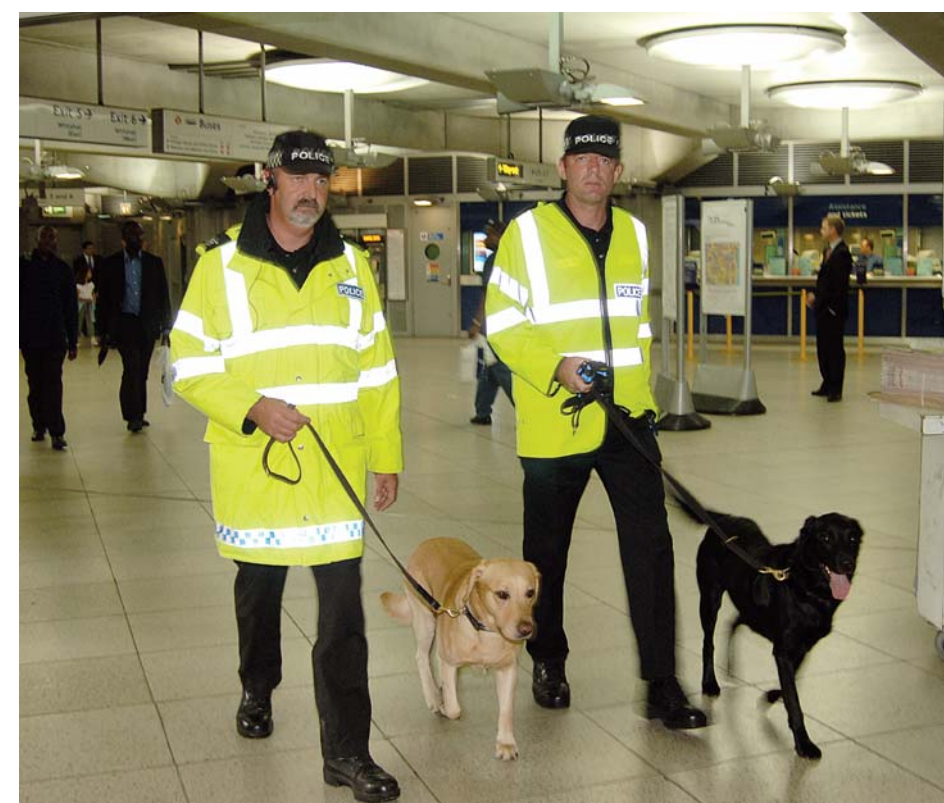
Chief Superintendent Branagh added: “It wasn’t only police officers involved, either. We had civilian staff beating a path to our door wanting to know how they could help.

“A wealth of training and equipment provision was also involved to make sure that all officers involved were match fit.

“The experience we gained from a number of planned exercises that this department has been involved in recently, gave us the confidence to tackle the demands of Op Toga. By and large it worked seamlessly and there was a clear understanding at all levels as to what was required to be done.

“We are still learning, and there were a number of things that fell out of debriefs on Toga, that mean we need to continually reorganise and hone our skills.”

He said the decision to provide Government Procurement Cards



Policing Culdrose Air Day

By Judith Slater/Corp Comms
Photography by Paul Kemp/Audio Visual

Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose hosted its yearly Air Day, one of only five annual air displays organised by the Services in the UK, to an audience of some 20,000 visitors, only days after the serious terrorist attacks in London



■ It was in this climate of tension and heightened alertness that MDP officers had to face their responsibilities at a major public event.

Commented ACC Gerry McAuley, Director of Divisional Operations:-

“In the immediate aftermath of the London bombings, the MDP, in common with many other police forces, increased its operational tempo significantly. We have to protect against further attacks and our role in central London, Op Toga, was a good example of that.

“It was equally important, however, to ensure that it was business as usual as far as our large Public Military Events (PMEs) were concerned. It is to everyone’s credit that events such as Culdrose Air Show were able to take place safely and securely and that the fear of terrorist attack did not prevent the busy summer season of PMEs taking place.

“The planning and execution of this Operation was yet another excellent example of our ability to support the MOD; from anti-terrorist policing and armed guarding to policing the public with the ‘lighter touch’ required at PMEs.”

The Thrills of Air Day

Culdrose Air Day is the largest, one day, annual event in Cornwall with, this year, participants included the Royal Jordanian Falcons aerobatic team and aircraft from the armed services of Belgium, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Lithuania and United States. They joined teams from the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, with the RN’s Sea Harrier making probably its last appearance at Culdrose.

This event is one of the few occasions where members of the public were able to see the Royal Air Force demonstrating their new swing-wing aircraft, the Typhoon, originally

named the Eurofighter, which came into service this year, together with its aerobatic team, the Red Arrows.

Other exciting aerobatic displays included RNAS Culdrose’s own Black Seahawks, Sea Harriers, RAF Tornados, Hercules C130, Royal Navy Merlin and Sea King helicopters and the Lynx helicopters of the Royal Navy Helicopter Display, the Black Cats, plus many more.

As this year is the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the bravery of all veterans was remembered with displays by a Seahawk and Sea Fury from the Royal Navy Historic Flight .

In the static park was a RAF C17 Globemaster, Nimrod and Hercules, as well as a wide range of Royal Navy and RAF fixed and rotary wing exhibits.

What is RNAS Culdrose?

This is one of the Royal Navy’s most extensive shore establishments, and one of Europe’s largest military helicopter operating bases, situated on the Lizard Peninsula, just a mile from the town of Helston on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall.

With around 40,000 aircraft movements per year, it is one of the busiest airfields in the United Kingdom. There are ten squadrons based at the air station, seven rotary wing, two fixed wing and one which operates unmanned air vehicles. RNAS Culdrose is one of the few military airfields to operate the mix of rotary wing and fixed wing jet and turbo-prop aircraft. About 85 aircraft are based there. The role of the air station is several-fold. To deliver operationally capable squadrons and flights to meet the requirements of the Fleet, to train aircrew and other



The Ace of Clubs Sea King from 771 Squadron through the wire

aviation specialists for the Royal Navy and to provide 24-hour, 365 days a year, military and civilian search and rescue over the south west region.

The Fleet Air Arm has the capability to provide ship-borne airpower and so extending the distance over which a task force commander can detect and take action against enemy ships, aircraft or missiles.

Each squadron has its own team of engineers responsible for first line maintenance and component replacement. Larger tasks are carried out by the Air Engineering Departments (AED) which is one of the largest departments at RNAS Culdrose. It is a vital component in maintaining essential support to the squadrons and personnel based at the air station and in Royal Navy ships at sea. The Merlin Depth Maintenance Facility (MDMF) provides deep specialist engineering support to all Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Merlin Helicopters. The facility uses the ‘pulse’ concept whereby Mk 1

and Mk 3 Merlins are processed through rigorous maintenance schedules and the Mechanical Avionic workshops employ a wide range of highly skilled technicians, both service and civilian, working in a number of diverse areas ranging from state-of-the-art avionics to carpentry.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Unit provides engineering, flight deck and logistics support and the School of Flight Deck Operations trains aircraft handlers, firefighters and provides driver training.

The Search and Rescue element, provided by 771 Squadron, with their familiar red and grey Sea King helicopters, carried out around 180 rescue missions last year, often operating up to 200 nautical miles distance from Culdrose. This squadron also carries out flying training for Royal Navy Sea King helicopter pilots and observers as well as training Royal Navy and Royal Marines aircrew in winching, vessel transfers, load-lifting and confined area operations.

CONTINUED . . .

What were MDP doing on the Eve of Air Day?

Chief Inspector Dave Vaughan, Silver Command, commented at the time:

"In preparation for tomorrow's huge event, we carry out thorough searches, including a sweep of the static display area and hangars. Everyone should be identifiable. If they can't prove their right to be there then we ask that person to come and stay with us until such time as we can find someone of responsibility who can vouchsafe who they are. We are fortunate in being able to use the services of the AES dog to help with the sweep.

"There are a lot of traders putting up their stands today so it requires us to be extremely thorough and vigilant. We have pulled in our resources from other Stations in Western Division to provide the levels of policing required for such a high profile and important event. We are here to ensure safety of the Royal Navy and their families but also of visitors and the security of the premises and hardware on display, not only that of the Royal Navy but also visiting countries."

A Culdrose MDP Officer with DSG officers carrying out a sweep of the static helicopter display



Role of the Divisional Support Group (DSG)

Sergeant Micallef was stopped in his tracks by **TalkThrough** to find out what life in a DSG was like.

He said: "We have just come back from the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford carrying out our duties with MP5 weapons. This week, we are here at RNAS Culdrose and, next Monday, our officers are going to London for Operation Toga, post-terrorist bombings in the city. After that we will be at Dartmouth's Open Day and fireworks display.

"Then, we move on to Operation Dissuade which is basically an anti-social behavioural type operation. That's on the request of the Senior Police Officer at Lymestone, liaising in partnership with the Devon and Cornwall Police."

In answer to the question "How effective can you be?", he replied: "Yes, very. With high visibility patrols,

the individuals tend to know that if they get arrested they are going to be in serious trouble. We do it routinely with just a couple of months gap in between. That is one reason why I so enjoy the post I hold in the DSG; variety and challenges all the time."

Air Day arrives – forecast: Sunshine



Chief Inspector Dave Vaughan with First Lieutenant of RNAS Lieutenant Commander Andrew Stillwell-Cox

Chief Inspector Vaughan told **TalkThrough**: "It will be Silver Command who decide when to open the gates today. Our first meeting is

at 7.30 a.m. but my actual police briefing will not start until 8 a.m. and I will be back at Silver by 8.30 a.m. By then, we should have started a sweep of the area before the public are allowed in. This will be with the support of the AES dog going through all the hangars and round each and every bin. Only when we are satisfied that it's safe for the public to come in do we turn round and say: "Open the gates." I can guarantee, particularly if it's a sunny day, that by then the traffic will be queuing several miles back up the road to Helston.

"The threat level here is currently Moderate and we have only one VIP today. I shall be running through the Operational Orders with our MDP officers at the 8 a.m. briefing, reminding them of the radio channel for the day. I also tell them of the arrangements for lost children; I have come to realise that often it is the parents who are lost, the children know exactly where they are!

"Inspector Gordon Peters is Bronze and he will run through a few issues, including what to do in the event of an air incident, how to report it on the radio and how to deal



MDP Officers receive their briefing

with the public so that panic doesn't sweep through the crowds."

Sergeant Bob Lee, Senior Police Officer based at Culdrose, added: "Today, MDP will be working closely with RNAS Culdrose staff, starting with a Multi Agency Silver HQ at the Golf Club here on Station. From there, all incidents will be controlled by the respective Silver Commanders; these will include RN Silver, MDP Silver, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Silver, West Country Ambulance Silver, Cornwall Fire Service Silver, Cornwall County Council Emergency Planning, Kerrier District Emergency Planning and so on.

"MDP will be at the right hand of Navy Silver; one of my officers will be the Loggist in Silver HQ working for all agencies, maintaining a running log of all incidents.



Silver Command Meeting

"Our officers will be patrolling externally to ensure all our emergency exits are kept clear and, inside, MDP will be responsible for all policing and security issues. There will be officers patrolling within the exhibition hangars and all over the public display areas. We will be close by military assets. We do not provide Static Armed Guarding at Culdrose, this task being performed by MPGS (Army). I will be driving mainly inside the site, round Whisky, 'B' site and along the back perimeter fence."

What can happen on an Air Day here at Culdrose, Bob?

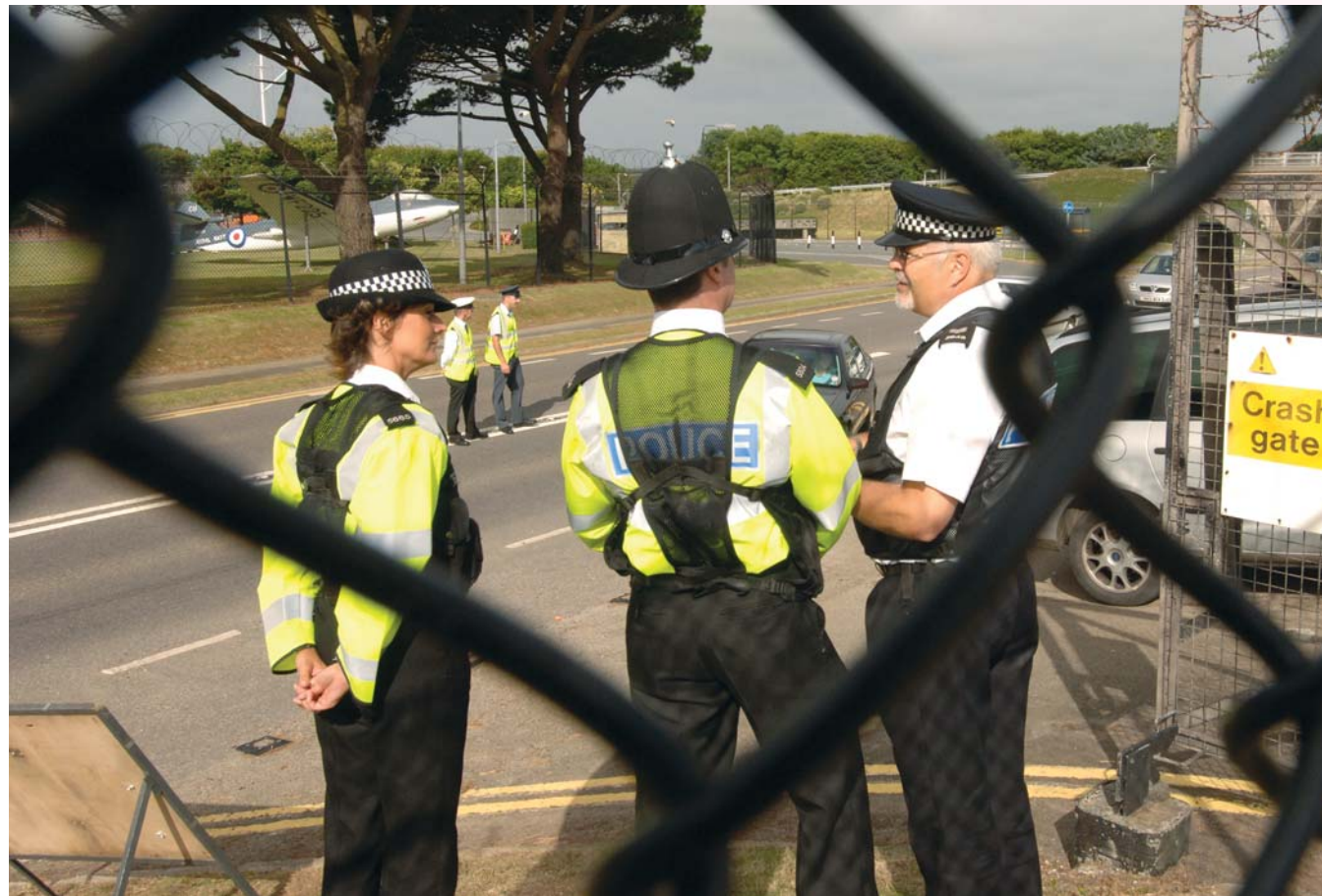
"As one of the Bronze Commanders, I will be a roving mobile patrol of all areas inside and on the exterior of Culdrose, in company with my driver Constable Dave Scrivens.

"Traffic around here can be a nightmare. We have so much traffic on minor roads so even the smallest incident, like a bump, can cause tailbacks for miles. Moving traffic elsewhere is down to Devon and Cornwall Police. Silly incidents can happen, such as people claiming their cars have been stolen when it turns out they just can't remember which car park they left it in!

CONTINUED . . .

Culdrose Air Day





Sergeant Bob Lee (right) checking the traffic situation with Devon and Cornwall Police

The Culdrose Team

"This event is Royal Navy led until there is an incident, when we would take the lead. Myself and PC Dave Scrivens, who is also from Culdrose, would go straight to any incident as we know the local routines and what the establishment reaction would be to certain events. However, if there is a major incident, such as a crash involving loss of life, then Devon and Cornwall would take primacy, says Sergt Lee.

"Another of my staff, PC Jan Eustice is in charge of the mobile communications unit. He is responsible, together with PC Edwards, for ensuring all information is passed through the communications channels to relevant Bronze Commanders and keeping Silver Commander up-to-date with reported incidents. He is also there to pass on his detailed local knowledge of Culdrose together with the Local Orders in place at the station.

"PC Janet Jackson will be based in the Silver HQ at the Golf Club and will be maintaining a log of all incidents and recording actions taken, together with noting all minutes of the Silver Meetings.

"Constables Ron Wakefield and Kirstie Metcalf will be on foot patrols of the Static Display Area, Display Hangars, and Crowd Line while Constables Martin Pascoe and Rob James will be carrying out foot patrols with their Police dogs to ensure the safety and security of the far side of the airfield, to discourage any persons trying to get access into the closed areas of the station.

"Constable Wood will be teamed with one of the DSG officers Constable Steve Cairns and they will ensure that all the crash gates on the exterior of the camp are kept clear of vehicles and persons to allow access and egress of emergency vehicles. They will also be keeping the current road closure enforced at the public

viewing area. PC Richard Young will be at the MOD Police office to monitor all calls and enquires from members of the public.

"I have been here since 1997 and have been involved in eight air shows so far. Last year was the most disappointing, and that was simply down to bad weather and no air displays taking place."



Sergeant Bob Lee and PC Dave Scrivens check all is well at one of the gates

Let the Show commence

The searches carried out exactly to plan, the gates were opened on time and the public arrived in their droves, driving in through a number of gates, parking their vehicles in the relevant car park according to their destination on departure. The stallholders did a roaring trade and the ice cream vans had a constant stream of eager punters.



Search and rescue

Families enjoyed the chance to board military aircraft, see all types of aircraft and helicopters on the stands and to marvel at the flying displays which were ushered in on the dot at 11.50 a.m. with the Red Devils team. A running commentary was provided from the Control Tower and a constant stream of air displays continued until late afternoon, with Hawks, Red Arrows, Jetstreams, Hercules, Sea Harriers, Seahawks, Typhoons,

Merlins, Lynx, a Memorial Flight featuring the Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane and even an Utterly Butterly display with wing walkers.

The final display of the day was a search and rescue demonstration by 771 Squadron simulating an air sea rescue and ending the display with the helicopter lifting up off the ground, going backwards, dipping forwards and then making a turn as Rescue 1 then departed.



Capturing the moment of take-off



Sergeant Murray Simmonds and his dog catch the culprit

MDP's Dog Demonstration Team

PC Martin Pascoe starts with a brief introduction before the action starts: "What you are seeing is for your entertainment. It is not classically correct in all aspects. We have police dogs, drugs dogs, AES dogs and our Divisional Support Group from Devonport carrying the new weapons system, the Heckler and Koch MP7s. The force used by all officers must be appropriate, justified and absolutely necessary in everything we do. Today, this isn't going to happen because it is for your display.

Martin warms up the audience with: "So, ladies and gentlemen,

today we have had a rumour that we have a car . . . Oh! He's in the arena now. The driver doesn't look very nice; he looks like a criminal type person. He is a nasty man. I think someone ought to call for the police . . ." This was the cue for police car and van with sirens wailing to enter the arena.

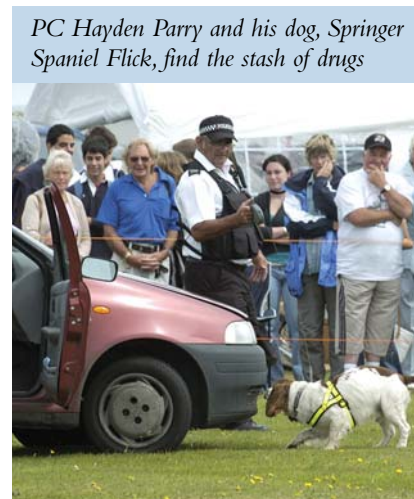
Sgt Murray Simmonds gets out of the van and sends his dog forward to the criminal's car. The dog leaps onto the bonnet, much to the delight of the children in the audience, and barks at the 'criminal'. An armed officer tells the 'baddie' to hold his hands up and walk forward away from the car. What follows is both a very entertaining yet informative

demo on how MOD police handle such a situation.

For about half an hour the crowds are captivated by the various scenarios unfolding before their eyes, from PC Dinger Bell and his AES Springer Spaniel, Forest, finding explosives in the 'criminal's' car to PC Hayden Parry and his spaniel, Flick, discovering drugs in the engine compartment to Burglar Bill entering the pretend house and this time a German Shepherd dog is sent through the window and ends up with the criminal on the ground. "Burglar Bill, you've had it," booms the commentator. "You are not going to rob anyone else today." The audience loved every minute.



PC Dinger Bell with AES Springer Spaniel Forest find explosives in the car



PC Hayden Parry and his dog, Springer Spaniel Flick, find the stash of drugs



Burglar Bill gets his come-uppance

Hangars full of displays

Enter C1 Hangar and the sound of HMS Seahawk volunteer band sounds a stirring note. Arts and craft displays abound. Enter C2, and a Merlin helicopter takes centre stage on the Merlin and Royal Navy Stand.

'Merlin is the most advanced multi-mission maritime patrol helicopter in the world. Its suite of sophisticated sensors search above and below the surface to identify and classify a vast array of contacts. The information gives it unparalleled capability and provides commanders with the flexibility and edge they need to control the battle space . . .'

To the left and right are stands for Aero Systems to the Royal Navy,



PCs Mark Rosser and Gurcharan Dhaliwal of HMNB Devonport encourage interest

Avionics Workshops, Aramark, Mechanical Workshop, Royal Navy Fire and Rescue and pumping adrenalin are physical training staff of RNAS Culdrose, demonstrating fitness with a game of netball.

Within another hangar, PCs Mark Rosser and Gurcharan Dhaliwal of

Devonport are manning the MDP stand for Western Division. Explained Mark: "Our main role here today is to inform people what we do."

"The sort of questions people ask are: 'How do I go about joining the MOD police?'

We explain that we are a civilian police force with the same law procedures and same exams as Home Office police. If they are really interested we ask them to complete a form which we send to our Headquarters Recruiting Team who will in turn send out a recruiting pack. We are aware that our Recruiting Team have a Key Target to aim for, which is to recruit officers from ethnic minority backgrounds and female officers."

Getting in Close

A profile on PC Adrian Denyer, Community Safety Officer at Culdrose

TalkThrough were taken to the top of the Control Tower and out onto the viewing platform for elevated views of the Air Show. It was whilst watching the Red Devils, from PC Denyer's old Regiment, the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment, that Adrian started telling us about his job.

He told **TalkThrough** that he first joined MDP in 1992 and was posted to Burghfield for a few years. On moving to Bicester, a whole new world opened up. He explains: "It was what I had been trained for. I was a trained police officer. There was crime to deal with, people to meet and there were married quarters estates where I visited schools as well.

"Each station had something special to offer. Following a year at Didcott, I went to Bicester and then Haslar Hospital in Gosport. At that point I thought, 'I've made it! This is my ultimate!' I became a Dry Weapons Trainer, Community



Safety Officer and First Aid Instructor Trainer.

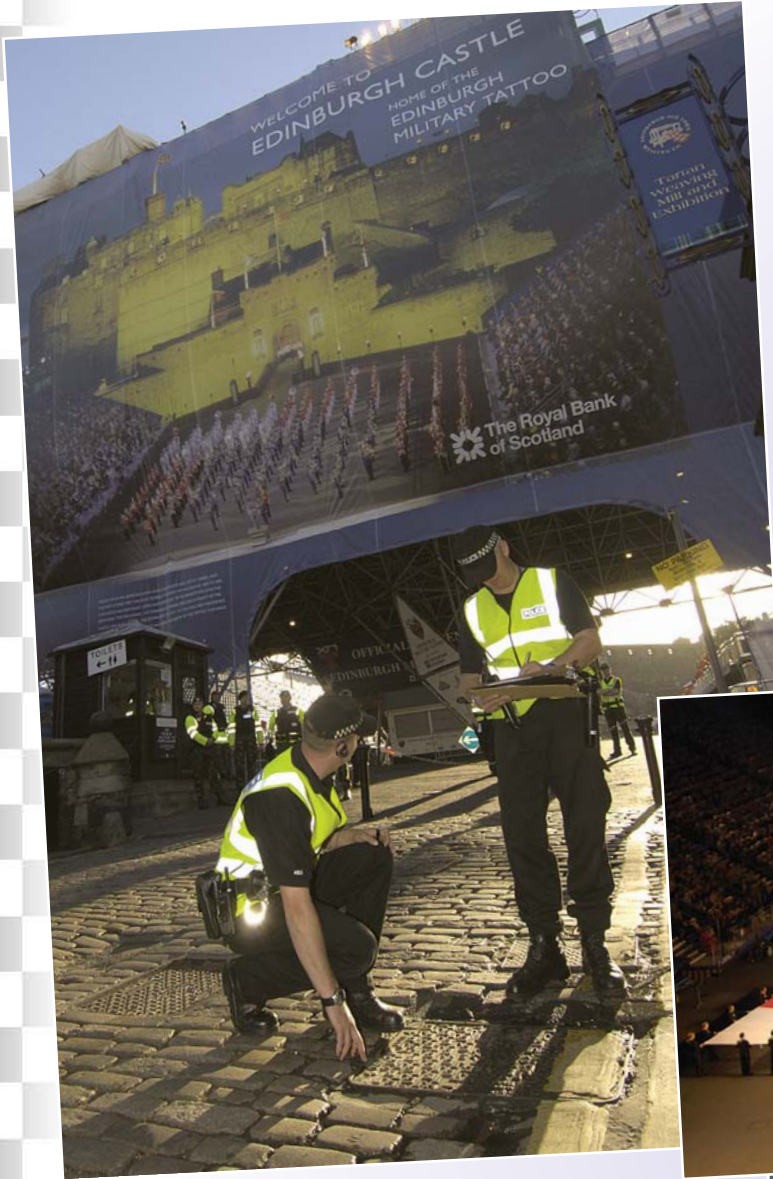
"If you want to be a police officer, and nothing else, the choice is yours. If you want to advance yourself, and here I'm not talking about promotion as such, because I'm happy being a Constable, then you can if you make it work for you. I love teaching and I'm told that my First Aid Courses bring the subject alive; possibly because I can bring into the frame my personal accounts and a touch of humour helps. I've

never had a student fail yet.

"Today, at Culdrose, I am a First Aid Instructor, Dry Weapons Trainer and Community Safety Officer with some recruiting duties also. Oh, and I also produce a newsletter called 'The Bowstreet Runner' every two months.

"Part of my job is to go around community centres and to all the Squadrons and Family Days. I give out advice on crime prevention. On Family Days I hand out small gifts to children, such as colouring books and pencils. We also have Squadron Liaison Officers who go out and visit Service families and then come back to tell me what they've done. My patch is the whole of Culdrose, approximately 4 to 5,000 people, including families. PC Martin Pascoe goes with me to the local schools which MOD children attend and he does the cycle training for the kids – this was too good an opportunity to miss as a way of getting to meet all the youngsters."

Out and about at the Royal Military Tattoo



Officers from Scotland Divisional Support Group spent three weeks in August at this major event in Edinburgh, in support of the Lothian and Borders Police operation



Attestations highlight of officer graduation

Probationer Training Programme 02/2005

■ The ceremony to mark the graduation of 44 student Constables from the Police Training Centre at Wethersfield on September 16 was the first to combine graduation with the officers' formal attestation before a magistrate, at which they swear their oath of office.

Previously, officers have attended their local magistrates' courts individually for this occasion.

Deputy Chief Constable David Ray, who presided at the graduation ceremony, told the assembled families, friends and guests: "This is a very important moment for the officers, as they will then receive their warrant card, which gives them the authority and responsibility of a Constable."

The ceremony also served to demonstrate that the MDP is a civilian Force of Constables. Mr Ray added: "We do have the important task of protecting those in the defence community, just as our Home Office colleagues protect their local communities".

During the attestation – conducted by local JP Sheena Collins, assisted by court Clerk David Whitehead, the newly qualified officers swore allegiance to the Queen and promised to uphold the law without fear or favour.

Mr Ray, accompanied by T/Chief Insp Tony Sheridan, Head of PTC and Course Manager Mrs Fliss Spink, then presented the students with their warrant cards.

It was the second graduation ceremony of the summer. In July a further 50 officers graduated at a ceremony again presided over by Mr Ray.

BLUE CLASS



Back Row: PCs Joseph Graham, Steven Screen, Donald McNaughton, Bradley Muskett.

Middle Row: PCs Anthony Wilson, Andrew Treadaway, Mark Walker, Richard Cotterell, Michael Aldred.

Front Row: PCs Victoria John, Karen Lander, Sergt Christine Wolstenholme, Staff Jane Underwood, PCs Anna Holland, Ronan Tyrer.

WHITE CLASS



Back Row: PCs Andrew Turiw, David Cousins, Matthew Kirk, Matthew Hill.

Middle Row: PCs Barry Stephens, David Boyce, John Iles, Stephen Walton, Philip Houghton, Richard Nuttall, Vincent Geaves.

Front Row: PCs Emily Bugg, Kerrie McGlinchey, Staff Peter Biggin, PCs Kathleen Thomson, Nicola Devlin.

YELLOW CLASS



Back Row: PCs Robert Matthews, Calum Laing, Anthony McGovern, Michael Patterson, Jonathan Jefferies, Mathew Hodgkiss.

Middle Row: PCs James Brereton, Martin McMahon, Benjamin Bethell, Lorne Savage, Mark Foster.

Front Row: PCs Andrea Graham, Charlotte Bulley, Sergt Robert Lowe, PCs Tanya Torczyk, Andrew Miller.

Probationer Training Programme 01/2005

GOLD CLASS



Back Row: PC Gary Whiting, PC Philip Turner, PC Patrick Walsh, PC Ian Withey, PC Newton Mills.

Middle Row: PC Jonathan Stevens, PC Stuart Marsden, PC Jasvinder Tatter, PC Clive Wooding, PC Dean Wilson, PC Intikhab Younis.

Front Row: PC James Woodward, PC Jeannette Brownsea, Staff Jim Root, Staff Jane Underwood, PC Catherine McDay, PC Stephanie Williams, PC William Uttley.

GREEN CLASS



Back Row: PC Ian Proud, PC Jon Shoobridge, PC Michael Phillips, PC Christopher Payne, PC Glenn Minhinett.

Middle Row: PC Luke Sanger, PC Derek Salisbury, PC Mathew Sims, PC Adam Noy, PC David Price, PC James Mills.

Front Row: PC Jonathan Sherwin, PC Benjamin Pumphrey, PC Claire Foulkes, Sergt Rob Lowe, Sergt Steve Dickson, PC Jarrod Speed, PC Catherine Kirkham, PC Emma Miles.

RED CLASS



Back Row: PC Phillip Bieda, PC Nicholas Fielding Smith, PC James Lawrenson, PC Jonathon Gauder, PC Paul Douglas.

Middle Row: PC Karl Hunter, PC Martin Brimble, PC Alastair Hincliff, PC Adam Duffin, PC Lee Graham, PC Thomas Brandon.

Front Row: PC Alan Bates, PC Laura Fenn, PC Clare Baleri, Sergt Pete Doherty, Staff Peter Biggin, PC Catherine Lloyd, PC Kieran Hornsby, PC Lee Davies-Gonzalez.

Devonport Marine Unit families' day visit



Guest of honour at the Devonport Marine Unit families' day was Director of Operational Support, ACC John Bligh.

Mr Bligh is pictured above, being welcomed by Insp John Pritchard, head of the Unit. Pictured (left to right) are: Mr Brian Rhodes, Sergt Garry Smith, Sergt Paul Cawse, Insp Pritchard, ACC Bligh, Sergt David Draper, Const John Rees, Const Richard Vanstone and Const Paul Wilkinson.

Mr Bligh is also pictured left, on board the Police Launch 'Excalibur' meeting Sergt Michelle Mahony, Sergt Garry Smith and visiting families.

Brompton Safety Day

■ **Constable Helen Binning, Unit Beat Officer at Chatham, organised Brompton Safety Day as a way of marking the end of the Year 6 pupils' time at Brompton Westbrook School and to reinforce personal safety, before they began their secondary education.**

Brompton Westbrook School is a local authority primary school with nearly half of the pupils being Army dependents. It is unusually situated in that, although run by

the local authority, its only access is over MOD land.

This means that Helen has strong links to the school and its pupils of whom 40 from Year 6 took part in the Safety Day.

This was held on the sports pitches at Brompton Garrison and was supported by a number of organisations, including Kent Fire and Rescue Service, local authority road safety personnel, the Army, NAAFI, MDP DSG and Kent Police.

During the day the children were presented with different personal safety scenarios, such as they might meet in their daily lives, to see how they would deal with them.

The pupils were split into teams representing their classes. They then had to complete a series of tasks and were scored on how well they completed each one.

Areas of personal safety covered included such issues as drug awareness, Internet chat rooms, mobile phone safety, road safety, fire safety, rail safety, suspect packages and stranger danger.

Although this was a learning day, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves, due mainly to the enthusiasm of the adults presenting the scenarios.

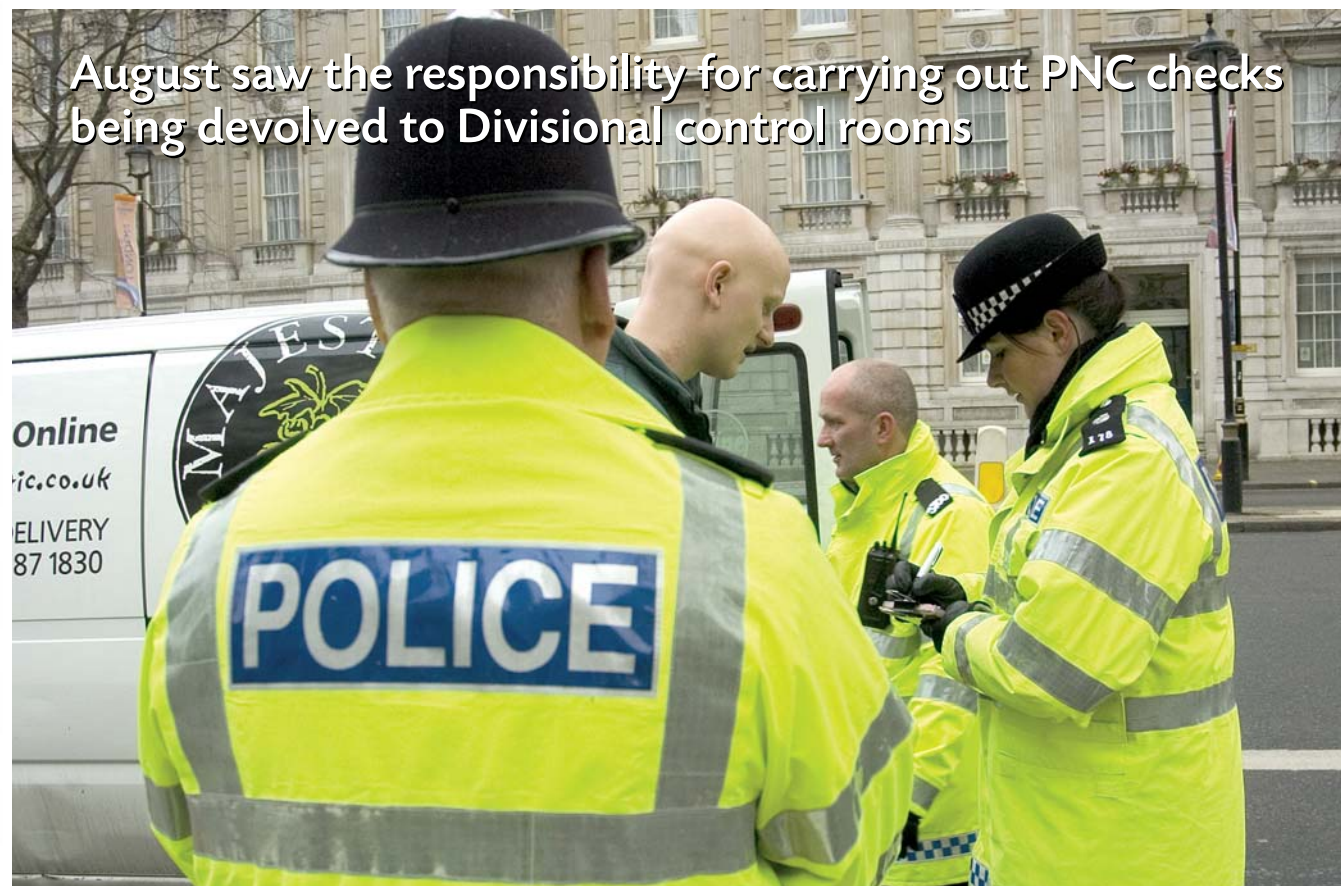
At the end of the day each pupil received a bag containing gifts and information to reinforce what they had learned.

The competition between classes was very close, with two scoring 105 and the winners gaining only one point more. They were presented with a cup at the leavers' assembly.



Pupils from Brompton Westbrook School, pictured during the Safety Day organised by Chatham UBO PC Helen Binning

Divisional Command and Control Rooms – the next stage



August saw the responsibility for carrying out PNC checks being devolved to Divisional control rooms

■ **The first of the Agency's eleven Divisional Command and Control Rooms (DCCRs) went live in June 2004 at RAF Fylingdales. Since then a further six have come on stream at the Central Control Room (CCR) at Wethersfield, Portsmouth, Whitehall, Devonport, Couplport and Clyde.**

Control rooms at Aldermaston, Burghfield and Menwith Hill will be live before the end of this year and at Fairford a new control room is being built to accommodate the second Western Division control room.

The network of these control rooms was designed to offer full coverage to all

officers and to provide resilience; all Divisions have two control rooms which will act as 'back-up' for each other in the event of technical difficulties or where a sudden surge in work, caused by unplanned major incidents and events, mean that one control room finds it difficult to carry out all tasks effectively. In addition, CCR are responsible for maintaining an overview of the entire Agency and offering advice and support where required.

DCCRs are logging and monitoring incidents and resource activity within their sphere of responsibility and with the imminent join up of the national Airwave infrastructure all members of the Agency, wherever they are situated, will for the first time have the capability to communicate nationwide with other Airwave users.

It has always been the intention to phase further Command and Control (C and C) functions in gradually and the next

of these is enabling DCCRs to carry out PNC (Police National Computer) checks on behalf of officers reporting to them.

PNC - Background

The PNC came into being in 1974, initially solely as a database of stolen vehicles. It has been steadily developed with new databases and capabilities being added, the most significant to come involving the Schengen Information System. This will allow law enforcement agencies throughout the European Union, plus those from Norway and Iceland, to share and use certain information.

Most members of the Agency will know that the PNC contains details of wanted persons and stolen vehicles. What some people may not be aware of is the enormous amount of other information available, such as details of stolen property (engines, items of plant, etc), trailers, firearms, marine craft and animals. Recent additions allow for

searches of vehicles by description only, rather than registration mark or vehicle identification number, and searches for persons by description only rather than by name.

What will be available through DCCRs?

To begin with, DCCRs will be able to carry out names queries and vehicles enquiries only. This means that certain PNC functions, such as inputting and updating PNC records, will continue to be done by CCR, although officers will still contact their relevant DCCR in the first instance.

It is anticipated that these checks on names and vehicles will allow DCCRs to process the vast majority of PNC requests and the benefits of introducing this process are a reduced workload on CCR while actually increasing usage of PNC.

At some point in the future it is possible that DCCRs will be given fuller PNC access, depending on operational requirements and taking into account training implications. It is difficult to gauge exact PNC usage at DCCRs as there is obviously no historical data to examine and evaluate.

PNC Reason Codes

When an officer contacts their relevant DCCR for a PNC check, they will be asked, amongst other things, why they want the PNC check. This is not a case of the DCCR

operator being awkward or overly inquisitive; before the system will allow a PNC check to be done, a valid PNC Reason Code must be entered by the operator. The request must, therefore, fall into one of the following categories:

- Reason Code 0: Transaction log and audit checks
- Reason Code 1: Vehicle or person stop check
- Reason Code 2: Moving vehicle
- Reason Code 3: Unattended vehicle
- Reason Code 4: Vehicle involved in RTC
- Reason Code 5: Process or investigation
- Reason Code 6: Administration
- Reason Code 7: Family protection
- Reason Code 8: On behalf of another agency
- Reason Code 9: Update or broadcast

Training

Before DCCR operators and supervisors are able to carry out PNC checks, they will attend the Operational Communications Training Centre at Wethersfield for a three day training course.

Command and Control trainers have developed this course from scratch, as no other police forces use Command and Control terminals to access PNC. The pilot course for this training was held from 23 to 25 August inclusive, with two representatives each from Devonport and Portsmouth, and was assessed by a representative from Centrex, the organisation responsible for overseeing all PNC training to ensure students are taught to the required standard.

As students complete their course, their profiles on the C and C system will be updated immediately to allow them to begin carrying out PNC checks. With over 200 operators and supervisors to train, there will be a gradual roll-out to DCCRs of trained staff. Current forecasts show that by the end of 2005 over 160 officers will have been trained.



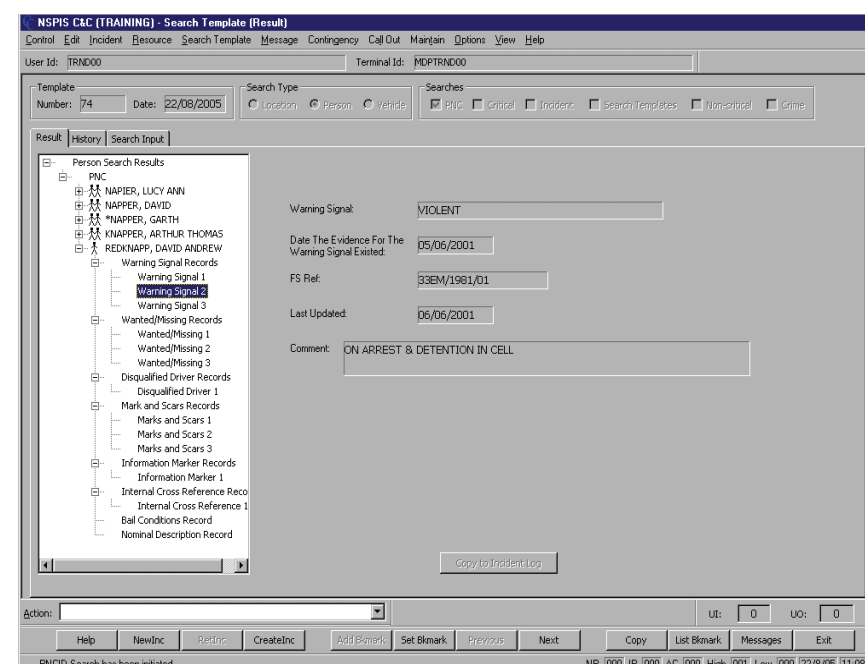
PNC pilot course receiving expert instruction from PS Jim Dailly

Although DCCR operators and supervisors are limited to the checks they can perform at the moment, they are still bound by the rules and regulations governing the use of the PNC, including the Computer Misuse Act and the Data Protection Act. Use of the PNC by MDPGA is laid down in the MDP PNC Procedures and Guidelines, available on the 'G' drive of the Agency computer network.

Further Information

Anyone seeking further information on PNC checks via Command and Control or any other Command and Control/Airwave related subject should check on the **Project Contact Intranet page**.

For those who have difficulty accessing the Intranet, the Command and Control training team can be contacted on **Wethersfield extensions 4928/4929/4932 and 4936**.





Three jailed after MDP detectives investigate

All the recovered military property gathered together in a hangar

■ **Two successful investigations by the MDP CID and Fraud Squad officers in recent months have underlined the futility of trying to swindle the MOD, no matter how big or how small the amounts of cash and property involved.**

During the summer, two men were sent to prison for up to two years, having been found guilty of conspiracy to steal from the MOD and corruption. The value of the goods involved in this case amounted to £500,000.

And, earlier this year, a soldier based at Tidworth Barracks, Wiltshire was jailed for 12 months, having pleaded guilty to money laundering, involving stolen cheques worth £31,000.

Both cases were the result of diligent inquiries by MDP detectives and serve to illustrate why they are held in such high regard throughout the defence community.

In July this year a major four-year investigation into the theft of military vehicle parts worth £500,000 ended with jail sentences of two years and 18 months respectively for 57-year-old Harold Thomas Lee, of Fleetwood, Lancashire – the former Logistics Manager at ABRO Donnington – and Graham Leslie Pengelly, 44, a defence contractor, of Poole, Dorset. Both had been found guilty of conspiracy to steal and corruption and were sentenced at Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court.

Detectives based at RAF Stafford had begun an investigation in October 2001 into the suspected theft of vehicle parts

from the Army Base Repair Organisation (ABRO) at Donnington, Shropshire.

In May 2002 three people were arrested in connection with the investigation, including Lee and Pengelly.

Nearly 100 MDP officers, along with colleagues from HM Customs, were involved in searches of their private and business premises and almost £500,000 worth of suspected stolen equipment was seized. This included tank tracks for Warriors and other combat vehicles, engines and gear boxes.

All three men were charged in October 2002 with conspiracy to steal and Lee and Pengelly also faced three counts of corruption. They went before Stafford Crown Court to answer the charges and the jury returned guilty verdicts against Lee and Pengelly, but acquitted the third man.

Det Insp Phil Anthony, of MDP CID, said: "This was a long and detailed inquiry, but we were determined that these men should be brought to justice. A large number of MOD Police officers were involved in this inquiry, but we are extremely pleased with the outcome and that we managed to recover so much military property.

"I hope that this success will send a clear message to anyone who is thinking of trying to defraud the MOD that it is just not worth it. The MDP are dedicated to protecting the MOD's assets against criminal activity and we will pull out all the stops to bring offenders to justice."

In the other, no less important, case a soldier, who had been employed as a clerk with 6 Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Tidworth, came to police attention following complaints by a fellow soldier concerning the alleged misuse of a bank card.

DC Andy Millar, of the Fraud Squad's Financial Investigation Unit takes up the story:

"During the investigation the accused produced his own bank statement to police and it was seen that over £31,000 had been placed into his account.

"An investigation into those credits determined that all three cheques were stolen. Apart from the cheques being paid into the accused's account, his own paying-in book had also been used.

"Systems installed in the bank identified these cheques as being out of character with his general banking and it was then identified that the particulars on the cheques were false," said DC Millar.

"Throughout the investigation evidence was obtained from witnesses that showed he was aware of what was taking place. He was questioned about the cheques by his own bank manager and also his supervisor within the Army and gave conflicting stories as to why the cheques were in his account.

"Other witnesses showed that he had lied about himself and his circumstances and also that he obtained a loan for £1500 only a few weeks before the offences took place."

The accused man – who cannot be named for legal reasons – had allowed his bank account to be used for the purposes of money laundering stolen cheques, in the belief that he would be paid for providing the service, said DC Millar.

Having pleaded guilty to the offence of money laundering – contrary to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 – the accused was told by His Honour Judge Turner, at Chelmsford Crown Court: "If people such as you did not exist to assist criminals to launder the proceeds of their crimes, crime in this country would be substantially lower."

Letters to the Chief Constable.

From: Chief Inspector Fred Hall, Scottish Police College

In recent years a close liaison has developed between the MOD Police staff at the Scottish Division Headquarters at HMNB Clyde and the officers in the Scottish Police Service Accelerated Promotion Scheme. The aforesaid officers, like me, greatly admire the professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm of your staff at HMNB Clyde.

Thanks to the goodwill of Chief Superintendent Jim Chapman, the new recruits into the AP Scheme received a two-day training input from your staff at the Scottish Divisional Headquarters. Superintendent Kevin Craddock and Chief Inspector Dennis Jackson hosted the event, which Sergeant George Smart had organised.

Over a period of two days the new AP officers received a varied input on the role of the MOD Police and the specialist support they can bring to the Civil Police Forces, as well as inputs on how to police public demonstrations, a role in which the MOD Police expertise is unsurpassed.

Superintendent Craddock and his team even organised a social evening, in which the professional bridges between our two organisations were enhanced with social ones and new friendships were formed.

As a Strathclyde Policer Officer, I am well versed in the professional support the MOD Police gives to the Civil Police and have been involved in many joint operations with your staff. The new Sergeants in the AP Scheme from throughout Scotland had no such knowledge. They were therefore better equipped to meet the challenges of policing the events around G8 because of the specialist training input they received from the staff at HMNB Clyde, they also have the comfort blanket of knowing that a highly specialist and professional Police Force can come to their aid in certain circumstances.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to Superintendent Craddock, Chief Inspector Dennis Jackson and Sergeant George Smart for providing an excellent two days of training and to Chief Superintendent Jim Chapman for agreeing to host the event. I and the officers in the AP Scheme cannot praise highly enough the admiration we have for the professionalism but more importantly the dedication and enthusiasm of your staff.

From: Commodore Carolyn Stait, HM Naval Base, Clyde (to Chief Supt Jim Chapman, MDP Divisional Commander, Scotland)

It would be very easy to breathe a huge sigh of relief and pat ourselves on the back, saying "we got away with it". However, the reason that the G8 protest at the Base on July 4 produced so little in the way of direct threat, lay in the months of preparation and the huge pulling-together of all elements of the security operation across the Base.

It goes without saying that the MDP were fundamental and instrumental in everything that went into the corporate security effort. Your own lead from the front was critical, as was that of Kevin Craddock and Derek Holmes at Faslane and Coulport respectively, and of Glyn Rollings, whose CMU were fantastically well organised and prepared to counter the waterborne threat. Indeed, the fact that we did not have to counter a serious waterborne incursion attempt was due, I am sure, to the outstanding policing of the waterfront, such that would-be incursors saw no available weakness to exploit. I should also mention specifically Dennis Jackson, Bill Cameron and John Wylie, who between them contributed skill and immense experience in the run-up to the protest and the development of our defence plan, and in their management on the day itself.

It was a great team effort and we have learned much in the process that will stand us in great stead for the future. I intend that we shall continue to build on these lessons through more frequent security exercising and table-topping and I look forward to the contribution that you and your talented team will make to that, along with Strathpol and FPGRM. For the meantime, my sincere thanks to you all for a job conspicuously well done.



Director Divisional Operations ACC Gerry McAuley planning tactics with HMNB Clyde Commodore Carolyn Stait, during the G8 world leaders' summit

Letters to the Chief Constable.

From: Stuart Wilson, Scottish Police Information and Co-ordination Centre (S-PICC) Media Manager

I write to offer my sincerest thanks to you for the services offered by Steve Partridge from your Media Department during the policing of the G8 Summit and related events across Scotland.

Steve took on responsibility for doing a week of twelve and a half hour day shifts in the Media Cell of the Scottish Police Information and Co-ordination Centre, based at Fife Constabulary Headquarters. He also helped with the planning and establishment of the cell in the weeks leading up to G8 and his experience was extremely valuable.

In what was one of the most demanding and challenging weeks in the history of British policing, the task of co-ordinating the national media response was an onerous and highly critical one. The S-PICC Media Cell came under sustained pressure from journalists all around the world seeking instant answers to questions.

I cannot praise Steve's efforts highly enough. The job he did was tremendous and is a credit to him and to the Ministry of Defence Police. You should certainly be proud of what he achieved in his time here.

I would not hesitate to have him working with me in the future should similar circumstances arise. Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to Steve for a job well done.

From: Superintendent Simon King, Wiltshire Constabulary

I would like to raise your attention to the good work carried out by Police Constable 4999 Ivan Bentley of the Ministry of Defence Police, who was appointed as a Family Liaison Officer following the tragic death of Raymond Pike at Boscombe Down Airfield, who was struck by a fork lift truck while working on a taxiway.

Wiltshire Police took the lead in the investigation whilst PC Bentley carried out his role as FLO. PC Bentley's task was not an easy one and many issues were raised regarding welfare and finance which he willingly dealt with, leaving the Wiltshire officers to continue with their inquiries.

PC Bentley's involvement in this joint investigation was invaluable and very professional. He is a credit to the Ministry of Defence Police.

I would ask that you ensure that the officer's line managers are aware of the content of this letter and that my personal thanks and those of the officers who worked with him are passed on to PC Bentley.

From: Tim Prince, Chief Executive, The Royal Air Force Charitable Trust Enterprise

The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) is organised by the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust Enterprises, the trading company that supports the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust.

Once again, this year's RIAT was held at RAF Fairford. It was hugely successful, with over 160,000 people attending and enjoying glorious weather and an aviation spectacular provided by some 300+ aircraft. Of course, none of this would be possible without the tremendous assistance provided by our United States Air Force hosts, the 420th Air Base Group.

This year Chief Inspector David Pawley and his two project officers, Sergeants Pauline Wilkieson and Gavin Thomas of the Ministry of Defence Police, based with the 420th Air Base Group at RAF Fairford, played a central role in our security planning from start to finish and their significant contribution was instrumental in ensuring the success of the police and security operation. Co-operation between our organisations and local police and military security agencies reached the highest level ever and much of this was due to the pragmatic and flexible approach adopted by David and his team. In particular, as the shocking events in London on July 7 05 became known, David was not found wanting, providing timely advice and tremendous support as the potential repercussions became apparent.

In sum, we consider ourselves highly fortunate to have benefited from working with David who is such an able, dedicated and highly professional individual and an excellent ambassador for your service. We are naturally saddened to see him leave Fairford, but he does so with our best wishes for the future and in particular his year at Staff College.

Finally, as we turn our thoughts towards RIAT 2006 we look forward to maintaining the excellent working relationship that we have developed with the MOD Police and in due course, to meeting the new Senior Police Officer at RAF Fairford. Many thanks for the support of your Force.

From: Commodore Carolyn Stait, HM Naval Base, Clyde (to John Egan, Regional Manager MGS)

The task of the MGS is not necessarily the sexiest of the roles associated with protecting the Base from those who would seek to do us harm, but I am consistently impressed by the professional way in which your officers go about their duties in all weathers and with great humour and courtesy. As such, your contribution to the combined security response to the threat posed by the recent G8 protest was as pivotal as any.

We have learned much over the recent weeks of how important it is for all elements of the security operation to work together if we are to protect the people, buildings and Base-ported vessels of the very complex organisation that is the Clyde Naval Base. I intend that we will continue to build upon this with more exercises and training to ensure we keep pace with whatever threat we can reasonably expect to have to counter. It is very reassuring to me to know that I can count thoroughly on the MGS to play their part in this and on your leadership.

In the meantime, I should be grateful if you would pass on my sincere appreciation to all your officers who were so conscientious in the run-up to G8 and on the day itself. It was a great team effort.

From: Councillor Colin Young, Convener, Tayside Joint Police Board

During the week of the G8 Summit at the Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder, Perthshire there were a number of your police officers on duty in the area and, on behalf of the residents and businesses in Southern Perthshire, I would like to express their gratitude for the presence of these officers.

You will, undoubtedly, have read some of the reports in the press regarding the friendly and considerate manner in which all police officers carried out their duties during this very challenging time.

As one of the local Councillors for Auchterarder, I made a point of speaking to officers from as many Police Forces as possible and can confirm that, without exception, they all engaged with the local population while carrying out their duties in a highly professional but authoritative manner.

It cannot be easy for any Chief Constable to select officers for deployment into another Force, even for a relatively short period, but I know that the people of this area of Scotland have been hugely impressed by those that you selected to assist in the policing of this event. They are a credit to the United Kingdom Police Service and deserve the highest praise for their efforts while serving under the command of another Chief Constable.

Many police officers from England and Wales had not previously visited Perthshire but expressed the hope that they will be able to return at some time in the near future to further explore this part of Scotland. I hope that this simple message from a grateful population will be passed on to all of them: Thank you for carrying out your duties in such a positive and friendly manner, and you will always be welcome in Auchterarder. Haste ye back!

As reported fully in the previous issue of *TalkThrough* (No 123, July/August 2005), a similar letter of thanks for MDP's efforts during the G8 Summit has been received from the Chief Constable of Tayside Police, John Vine.

From: PS T W Williamson, British Transport Police, Doncaster

The Railsafe 2005 Police Dog Trial took place at Canon Popham School, Edenthorpe, Doncaster – and for the ninth year in a row I had the honour of coordinating the event.

I would like to place on record my thanks to PC John Yeomans, from the MDP Dog Section, RAF Menwith Hill, who helped make the day the great success it was.

John Yeomans has been a great supporter of this event since its inception where he was the first ever champion. Unable to compete this year due to an injury to his dog, John played the part of a criminal in the crime section. Once again his manner and unique sense of humour made him very popular with all the competitors and spectators.

John is well respected amongst his peers in the local Home Office Forces who attend this annual event and as usual was a great ambassador for your Force.

From: CMSgt Enrique R. Shaw, 38th Combat Support Wing (USAFE)

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the outstanding bomb and drug police search dog support Sergeant Paul Tobias and Constable Bob Shaw (Bob the Dog) have provided to Detachment 5, Aerial Mail Terminal, RAF Alconbury. Their professionalism, dedication and selfless service have ensured the safety and security of over forty-seven thousand United States postal patrons at six main operating bases and seven geographically separated sites in the United Kingdom. Their outstanding efforts directly contributed to Detachment 5 earning the coveted United States Air Forces in Europe Aerial Mail Terminal of the Year Award for 2004.

Paul and Bob's performance has been nothing less than exceptional and they have displayed the highest sense of duty, integrity and commitment. Their positive attitudes and infectious camaraderie have strengthened the partnership of United Kingdom and United States Armed Forces relationships. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with these two professionals of such high caliber. They make an unbeatable team!

In particular, I would like to thank Bob for his outstanding support and AMT mission contributions. He leads by example and has been a positive mentor to our young Airmen. Many of his "words of wisdom" and giving the Airmen the "cold hard facts" in an appealing way have had a motivating and favorable effect on the troops. He is a true role model! In addition, he was the catalyst in the apprehension of an Airman for stealing mail from the AMT. Without Bob's keen sense of awareness and finding stolen boots in the bushes, we would have never suspected one of our own was stealing from under our noses. Again, please pass on my sincere appreciation for his selfless dedication, unwavering professionalism and world-class support.

From: Chief Supt Rob Needle, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

As the Commander for the Southern Division within Cambridgeshire Constabulary, I was responsible for organising and overseeing a recent visit to Cambridge City of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The royal party visited a number of different university departments spread across the city, which caused a logistical issue with regards to staffing. Due to the complexity and number of sites on the itinerary, mutual aid was requested to assist in the searching and securing of all venues, as well as other specialist tasks. As a result of the request your Force was able to supply officers for the roles of searching sites as well as a specialist heights access team.

HM The Queen has passed on her thanks to Cambridgeshire Constabulary for all the work involved in policing the visit. This thanks is to all of the officers involved on the operation and must include those officers who assisted on your behalf.

I wish to add my thanks to your constabulary for the use of those officers during that period, which enabled these functions to be completed. I have heard nothing but praise for the professionalism showed by those officers who were in unfamiliar locations. They are a credit to themselves and your constabulary.

I ask that my thanks and that of HM The Queen be passed to those officers who assisted Cambridgeshire police during this operation.

An appeal on behalf of the 'Lonely Children of Kosovo'

By Inspr Paul Rogers, MDP RAF Menwith Hill

“I was one of the original 56 MDP officers on the first overseas missions to Kosovo and I returned to serve a second term.

Like many of those officers I can remember the TV footage of ethnic cleansing, of a whole people leaving their homes and belongings and heading for the mountains of Albania and the former Yugoslav province of Macedonia.

My own mother being under German occupation during the Second World War and having visited Auschwitz, the subject matter was one close to my heart and I found it a privilege to be given the opportunity of going and helping a people in need.

Like all my colleagues, I saw much misery – shootings, bombings, children of ten in the sex industry, two-year-olds being smuggled out for sale.

I saw a Mafia becoming stronger and richer and I also saw a population in terrible need.

One evening in June 2004, whilst on duty at Gjakova Police Station in the Peja region I was approached by two Kosovo Police Service (KPS) officers. One was a Sergeant with four years' experience and hardened to life's misfortunes. He had a tear in his eye.

Between the two tall officers stood a little boy, aged about five. He looked very anaemic – but had a big smile on his face. The Sergeant was the boy's uncle. He said that they had taken the boy to hospitals in Kosovo, Croatia and Serbia. He had just returned from a hospital in Belgrade, where the doctor stated that the boy was extremely ill and that he needed treatment available only in Switzerland and England. He was told that unless his nephew began the treatment within two weeks he would die.

“Can you help?” he asked me. “You are our last hope. We have tried aid organisations and do not know where to turn next.”

Fortunately, I knew some people who would be willing to help. Two organisations, 'Kosovo Therret' and 'Lonely Children of Kosovo' who work in partnership with each other, immediately sprang into action.

Calls were made to Holland and England for financial and medical support. Contact was made with King's College Hospital, London. Somehow or other, eight thousand Euros (£5,000) was found for the initial treatment, because the Kosovan Government could not support the funding at that time. I was indebted to PC Malcolm Ashby for the support he gave and also to the Immigration Office, who made an outstanding contribution.

The British Embassy in Tirane was extremely helpful in arranging emergency visas.

The boy – Roni Kaqi – was admitted to King's College Hospital on August 24, 2004, where he underwent tests and received emergency treatment.

The consultants confirmed that Roni suffers from Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis II, which has affected his liver. Only one in 300,000 children suffer from this normally non-fatal disease. The tests at King's revealed that Roni needs a liver transplant. In April this year, again with Malcolm Ashby's support and that of the Immigration Service and the Embassy in Tirane, Roni and his mother were flown to London for further tests to begin the assessment prior to a non-cadaveral transplant (living related transplant, possibly from his mother).

The doctors have waived their professional fees to date and the hospital has been more than helpful.

Everyone has been trying to help. I express my gratitude to my police colleagues from Turkey, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Ukraine, who played a cricket match in Prizren in aid of Roni and the many officers from other nations who gave generously. The match was organised by my colleague and friend Sunil Kumar Singh – a fine cricketer I might add.

Also, I express my thanks to the Prizren football club, who helped with the venue and the people of Prizren, who gave their support and also donated generously.

Above all, a lady called Sara Hackett, a music teacher in the Gjakova area (including Babaj Bokes, Krushe e Vogel, Shishmon, Berjahe and Molliq), administrator of 'Kosovo Therret' and

head of 'Lonely Children of Kosovo', who has been extremely active in organising hospitals and funding.

I have shared her grief seeing similar children die for lack of support. In the Gjakova area alone, there are nine children in similar circumstances, aged from one to eight years.

Treatment, or even medication is too expensive for families to provide. The Kosovan Government has very limited resources, both in terms of facilities and funding.

However, it has just donated 10,000 Euros (£6,000) to the hospital for Roni's treatment in London. A further 100,000 Euros (£80,000) is still needed, but with that money a young life will be saved and a family restored.

Roni's parents Arben and Zana Kaqi are honest, poor and very hard working people. They have two other healthy children, Ylli and Hana, aged nine and five. They have sold their house and moved into extremely poor accommodation in order to pay for treatment for their son. I often feel embarrassed at their expressions of gratitude. They are often in tears with the thought of losing Roni.

Mr Terry Middleton, elected to be Mayor of Halstead, Essex, has asked that the proceeds of his mayoral banquet go to support 'Lonely Children of Kosovo' and 'Kosovo Therret' in their fundraising for Roni. The banquet is to be held on October 29 and the director of 'Kosova Therret' has rearranged his wedding to attend. Everyone is trying to help.

I hope that this article will bring extra funding from **TalkThrough** readers. Any contribution would be helping to save a young, innocent life. Roni is now seven, but his days are numbered without this life-saving operation. ”

Any donations can be sent direct to King's College Hospital, where a special account has been arranged for Roni.

Cheques should be made payable to: Kings Health Care Trust No.1 Account. Account number 07755503.

Sort code 50-10-29. On the back of the cheque should be written: Private Patients Account 0351516 Roni Kaqi.

The MOD's Third Party Accident Scheme (ToPaS)

In operation since November 2000, ToPaS is the MOD's Third Party Accident Scheme. TalkThrough asked Carl Crawley, the scheme's Development Director to explain how it works.

WHAT IS TOPAS? ToPaS is a free MOD personal injury service open to all MOD personnel, including civil servants, MOD employees and some contractors. The scheme is used to claim compensation against a negligent third party if injured in the course of their duty.

GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHEN I CAN USE THE SCHEME. A MOD employee (civil servant or a member of the armed forces) is on duty in a hire car and is involved in a road accident caused by the negligence of a third party. The hire car is written off and the MOD employee suffers catastrophic injuries resulting in brain damage and the amputation of their dominant arm.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? The accident is reported to MOD Claims officials. The MOD would make arrangements under the terms of the contract to reimburse the hire car company for the value of the vehicle. They would advise the injured employee (or their dependants in the case of a death) that because the MOD has no legal standing in the matter that the injured party must make a claim against the third party with no assistance from MOD. The only exception to this was that Civil Servants injured in road traffic accidents could have their legal costs underwritten by their TLB (Civilian Travel Manual Annex 2 to B.6.5). This arrangement did not, however, apply to Service personnel or to Civil Servants injured in other circumstances.

WHY WON'T THE MOD SUPPORT THE CLAIM IF YOU'RE ON DUTY? The reason why MOD could not support staff in such circumstances was that MOD, and indeed all other government departments, only pays compensation, or becomes involved in pursuing claims where it has a legal liability to do so. Any other policy would involve the misuse of public funds and the making of subjective judgments, which could give rise to inequitable treatment of claimants. Under common law MOD has no standing or vicarious liability in these cases. Vicarious liability only applies to those actions/omissions carried out on the employer's behalf by its employees. It does not apply to actions done by others to employees while on duty. Moreover, MOD's financial authority only extends to the payment of compensation where it has a legal liability to do so. It does not have the authority to pay compensation to such claimants nor to fund the cost of legal action on their behalf.

WHAT IS THE MOD DOING ABOUT IT? In order to relieve these concerns, a scheme has been devised which will provide legal assistance to staff in the UK on a conditional basis (so-called no win, no fee) at no cost to MOD. Through its brokers Willis, the MOD has arranged with Betesh Fox & Company, a firm of solicitors with over 30 years' experience, specialising in personal injury claims, to take on claims by MOD Civil Servants and Service personnel at no cost to the individual. All legal costs will be reclaimed separately from the compensation awarded by the insurance company or in the event that the matter proceeds to trial, by the courts. If the action is unsuccessful there will be no charge to the MOD or the individual concerned.

WHAT OTHER TYPES OF ACCIDENT ARE COVERED? In the event of injury caused by a third party while on duty, be it a road traffic accident, slip, trip, fall or assault, MOD Civil Servants and Service Personnel will be able to contact the solicitors direct and obtain immediate advice and assistance free of charge. The scheme was subject to formal consultation with industrial and non-industrial trade unions and approved by the most senior staff in the Department.

Some have said that the ToPaS advertisement might actually encourage personal injury claims against the MOD. This is not true, as you cannot use the scheme to claim against the MOD. It is of course a fundamental common law right of every MOD employee to be able to bring a claim for compensation against MOD if they have suffered loss or injury as a result of the Department's negligence.

CLIENTS ON LINE. Some complex cases can take anything up to 18 months to completion. During this time the claimant could have been posted, discharged from the MOD or been sent away on an operational tour of duty. If the claimant requires information about their case, they would normally have to phone their solicitor. Betesh Fox & Co have a unique feature called Clients on Line. The client can log onto the ToPaS website via the Internet and click on the Clients on Line box, key in their own personal password and access their own case file. The case file will contain all letters, telephone notes, review dates and an estimated date of completion. This feature is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, saving valuable time and money.

HOW DO YOU USE THE SCHEME? Remember, you can only use the scheme to claim compensation for personal injury if involved in an accident that was not your fault or the fault of the MOD. There is no joining fee to pay – simply contact Betesh Fox & Co and ask to speak with a ToPaS solicitor. You will be asked a number of simple questions to confirm that you are entitled to use the scheme. You will be asked to sign a conditional fee agreement (CFA). This is a legal requirement, that ensures that the service will be at no expense to the individual or the MOD. Then, leave the rest to the experts.

Each year hundreds of MOD personnel who know about the ToPaS scheme claim compensation for their injuries. Most comment on how easy it was to make a claim and how efficient and friendly the staff were at Betesh Fox & Co.

For further information about the ToPaS scheme, including unit briefings, presentations, displays and information packs, contact Carl Crawley, ToPaS Development Director, on:
Office: 0870 998 9999 Mobile: 07960 258664
Email: carol.crawley@topas.org.uk

Or, for free personal advice, you can contact a Betesh Fox solicitor direct on:
Tel: 0870 998 9000 Email: Topas@beteshfox.co.uk
Website: www.topas.org.uk

Long Service and Good Conduct medals



Long Service and Good Conduct medals have been presented to two MDP officers, to mark their loyal and dedicated service to the defence community.

In the picture above, PC Tim Perkins, based at DSDC North Donnington is seen (left) receiving his medal from Sergeant Andy Mawman, SPO Donnington.

On the right, PC Mark Waite, based at the Bicester Garrison Defence Storage and Distribution Centre (DSDC), was presented with his medal by the Garrison Commander, Col Paul Baker, during a ceremony to mark the official opening of the new garrison community centre.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Running for Ritchie

■ *One Sunday in May 2005, One Section Coulpport held a memorial run in honour of Ritchie Wonnacott, an MOD Police officer, who tragically passed away last year after a sudden illness.*

Ritchie was 40 years old and he had served at RNAD Coulpport for 18 years. Throughout his life Ritchie was a keen runner who took part in numerous marathons, half marathons and 10k races. Running was a big part of his life and it was felt by the section and Ritchie's family that this memorial would be the most fitting way to celebrate his life.

The inaugural Ritchie Wonnacott All Terrain Challenge saw the competitors run through the most gruelling, toughest, hilliest sections of the Garelochhead Army training area.

To give everyone the opportunity to participate, the event incorporated a five-mile and an eight-mile run.

The runs started at the head of Glen Fruin area near HMNB Clyde, finishing within the NATO Armaments Depot in Glen Douglas. Around 120 runners took part from across the Defence Community, including MDPGA staff, Royal Navy personnel and MOD employees at both Coulpport and Clyde.

In addition, members of all the local athletics clubs attended, including Helensburgh, Ritchie's own running club. The event engendered a real community spirit not only among the MOD personnel who were present but also amongst the wider community.

The race was started by Cathy, Ritchie's wife, and their two boys Christopher and Stuart. Each of the boys was given an air horn and with an enthusiastic blast the runners were off to tackle the hardest run they will ever face. With marshals in place and water stations



manned the runners negotiated the course with all the exhausted competitors finishing their respective races.

The eight-mile men's race was won by Alistair Morrison of Dumbarton Athletics Club in a time of 46 min:32 sec and the ladies' winner was Julia Henderson of Helensburgh Athletics Club in a time of 58 min:20 sec.

The five-mile men's race was won by our very own Stuart Wilson MDP Two Section in a time of 35 min:04 sec and the ladies' winner was Elaine Somerville of Miburn Harriers in 40min:53sec.

Cathy presented the winners with their trophies while the boys presented the finishers with their medals as they crossed the line. All the runners and helpers also received a generous goody bag and commemorative tee-shirt to mark the occasion. The Coulpport SPO Supt Derek Holmes and the Scottish Divisional Commander Chief Supt Jim Chapman also made presentations to Ritchie's boys on the conclusion of the event.



Cathy with the boys

The course was considered to be demanding but enjoyable by all who took part and has certainly offered a unique and challenging event for the Scottish Athletics calendar.

The race was such a success that consideration is being given to making this challenge an annual event and widening the participation to all MOD personnel nationwide. Friends of Ritchie who couldn't run on the day, paid tribute in their own way. CSO 5 Alison Simpson (Coulpport) cycled 100 miles over a mountainous course and Alison's partner Karl Holditch completed eight miles on a rowing machine whilst out on submarine patrol.

The organising committee would like to thank everyone who helped in whatever capacity but pay particular thanks to those who manned water stations, acted as marshals, time keepers and drivers throughout the day.

Chief Inspector Paterson (Coulpport) and Chief Inspector Wyllie (Clyde), the Divisional Logistics team and the entire staff of NATO Glen Douglas came to the rescue when we needed them the most.

Financial support and sponsorship was generously supplied by the All Terrain Clothing Company at the prestigious Loch Lomond Shores complex and the Chief Constable's Fund. Without the level of sponsorship, the event would not have been possible.

The day was a big success with the organisation of the event being co-ordinated by Sergeant John Simpson (Coulpport). John's input is worthy of a special mention. He did a magnificent job in managing and organising all aspects of the race.

The event was particularly poignant and was a touching tribute to Ritchie. After all, the ethos of the event is about remembering our colleagues and supporting families and friends.

If you feel up for the 2006 challenge then contact Sergeant John Simpson One Section Coulpport on ext 6425.

Tony grabs MOD Sports Day spoils

On Friday, July 8 Constable Tony Bradshaw, from HMNB Portsmouth, attended Bath University to represent the MDP at the annual MOD Sports Day.

Tony said: "When I arrived at the stadium, the weather conditions were ideal and I felt ready to compete in both track and field events."

He entered the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m sprint events, as well as the long jump, high jump and triple jump competitions.

Tony scored the following spectacular successes:

- 1st in the high jump
- 1st in the 100m
- 1st in the 200m
- 2nd in the 400m
- 3rd in the long jump
- 4th in the triple jump



He was also awarded:

- The 100m McAnally Challenger Cup
- The Simpson Cup – awarded to the Victor Ludorum of the Games
- Athletics Victor Ludorum

Because of the tremendous heat in the stadium Tony withdrew from the 800m to concentrate on the field events.

Chief Inspr (Ops) Ron Durkin, of HMNB Portsmouth MDP, commented: "Tony feels that the long jump is his best discipline, but owing to delays in other events he was in, he arrived late for the long jump and was only allowed one jump. Still, third is not a bad result for only one jump!"

"Tony did so well in all the events that he was awarded the Victor Ludorum Trophy for the competitor scoring the most points overall in the Games – which came as a complete surprise to him."

During the day 2,200 athletes took part in a host of events and the Games were declared "the best ever" by organisers at the close.

Well done to all who took part in testing conditions, but a special 'Well Done' to Tony Bradshaw!



Photographs by Commander Brian Pancott

The Iron Road

On Sunday 24 July, Acting Sergt Ian Taylor of Western Division HQ (Firearms Training) took part in an Ironman distance triathlon, The Longest Day. He sent TalkThrough the following report:

“The Ironman event – created over 25 years ago by US Navy officer John Collins, as the ultimate endurance test for athletes – consists of a 3.8km open water swim, a 180.2km cycle, and a 42.2km marathon.



I started competing in 1990, racing at a variety of distances over the next few years up to Olympic distance (one mile swim, 25 mile cycle, 6.2 mile run). In 2000, I raced four times and moved up to racing Half Ironman (1.9km swim, 90km cycle, 21km run).

In 2002, I had a cancer scare, but following investigation, luckily, everything was OK. The decision to finally go down the Iron Road was born in October 2004, on the shores of the Hauraki Gulf whilst on holiday in New Zealand. The decision to make the journey for Cancer Research was easy, as it has pushed its unwanted way into my life and that of my family on too many occasions.

The 30 weeks of training became a journey of discovery, with weekends during the last few weeks consisting of a cycle ride of 5.5 hours on a Saturday covering up to 96 miles, and then a three-hour run of about 20 miles on Sunday morning. This was on top of swimming for four to five hours, running for a further three hours and cycling a further two to three hours; as well as two sessions of yoga each week.

My training included some wonderful locations, including Lake Taupo, Rotorua, Auckland, Coromandel Peninsula, 90 mile Beach, Singapore, the hills and beaches of Cornwall, and most of the roads in Herefordshire.

The day before the race, I travelled up to the event at Wombourne, near Wolverhampton, accompanied by my wife Kath, who came along to photograph as much as possible, determined to record the event for me.

I was up at 03:30 on Sunday morning, packed the car and headed off to the swim start at Chasewater Water Park near Cannock, to rack the bike and get ready for the off. The race started at 06:00:10. The swim although the usual washing machine affair of windmilling arms, thrashing legs, people swimming over you, you swimming over others, kicking and getting kicked, went wonderfully. To my surprise I was out in just over the hour; well over ten minutes faster than expected.

The bike started well. I was keeping my heart rate below 130 bpm; then at 47 minutes the new heart rate monitor packed up. I settled into a rhythm and kept on pedalling. It was important to keep eating and drinking, to avoid dehydration and to replace some of the additional 800 calories an hour I was burning. At about 08:30 the first rain began to fall and kept falling until after 17:15. Exactly six hours after I started the bike section I rolled into T2, the transition between Bike and Run.



The run was on a disused railway track – shaded and soft, after more than five hours of constant downpour. After 21 kms the distance started to hurt but was helped by a steady supply of Jaffa Cakes and flat Coke, and shouted on by the few hardy spectators, I gained the strength to dig in for the last 10kms. As I came into the finishing funnel, some hopeful soul in waterproofs and under an umbrella called out: "Sprint!"

At 17:55:49, I passed under the arch and became an Ironman. I had done it. After nearly 16 years I had completed the distance in 11:55:39. A double celebration as with crossing the line I worked out we had raised about £1,000 for Cancer Research.

During this journey I was motivated by Lance Armstrong and Jane Tomlinson – both of whom have fought cancer and continued to give something back.

I would also like to thank those who have driven me to succeed. My grandad and others; and those who have supported me, coached me in my swimming and running, for every bit of advice gained from specialists along the way, to my colleagues for putting up with triathlon talk for eight months and those special few who had faith in me when mine became weak. You know who you are, and especially my wife and son.

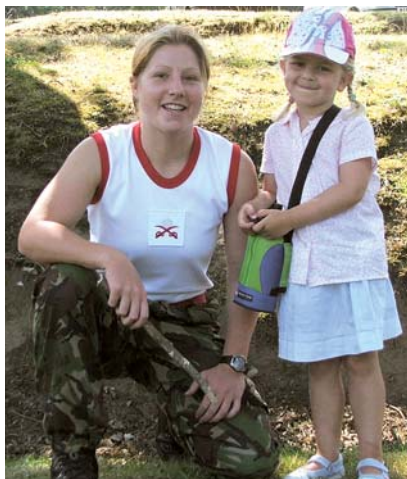
As I finish writing this I've found out that cancer has just pushed its way in again to my family, so next year I'll set out and journey the road again. Anyone want to come along? ”



In August South East Division Headquarters held a 3 km Fun Run/Walk followed by a BBQ, the proceeds of which are being donated to The British Ectodermal Dysplasia Support Group.

The event was well attended with 65 participants including family, friends and a dog or two. Technical supervision was provided by Army PTI, Corporal Chanel Mason from the Army Physical Training Corps based in Aldershot.

The race was started by Isobel Semon-Ward (aged 5).



Corporal Chanel Mason with Isobel Semon-Ward

Back at base Sergt Jon Berg and PC Bill Sabor were cooking up a pretty impressive BBQ which was very much appreciated by all.

After the BBQ, Awards were made to:

FASTEST MALE
Louis Mason (aged 14)
19mins 19secs (son of DI Frank Mason).

FASTEST FEMALE
A/Ch Inspector Lesley Hickman
24mins 56 secs.

Wendy Husband raised £130 from the raffle and everyone was given a one-off opportunity 'get their own back' with the choice to soak either the Div Cmdr or Business Manager – at 50p a go. The Business Manager appeared to raise quite a bit of the £38 especially with A/Insp'r Andy Acock donating £10 if he could use a whole bucket. However, this was topped when T/Supt Dave Hewitt and T/Insp'r Jamie Andrews tipped the contents of the bin holding the iced water for drinks over the Div Cmdr!

This was a big team effort and the day would not have been a success without our Marshals –



Andy Kellman, T/Supt Kevin Vickers and Debbie Foster.

The final total £305 was presented to Peter Semon-Ward who will pass this to the Society.

Everyone who attended agreed it was a good day and one young man was heard to say 'it was great, can we do it again next week'.



Are you a winner?

See who won the MDP Central Sports and Welfare Association's Lottery draws in June, July and August 2005.

JUNE 2005

1st £3,000
PS C J Wyatt, Fylingdales
2nd £2,000
PS D L Hamilton, Scotland Div HQ
3rd £1,000
PC J McGee, Faslane CMU
4th £850
PS L F Bates, Operations
5th £700
PC S Bell, Aldermaston
6th £650
Mrs (EO)V Coe, PP&IR MDPGA HQ
7th £600
PC R I Cox, Glen Douglas
8th £550
PC S P McKenna, Faslane CMU
9th £500
Mr A T Aitchison, RO
10th £450
PC N P Hibberd, Boscombe Down
11th £350
Mr W F Varney, RO

JULY 2005

1st £3,000
PS D Harding, Menwith Hill
2nd £2,000
PC G W Cox, HMNB Clyde
3rd £1,000
PC G Weir, Edinburgh UBO
4th £850
PC K J Hare, Portsmouth
5th £700
PC C Mills, Hereford
6th £650
PC P L May, Fort Halstead
7th £600
Mr S H Dutton, MDPHQ
8th £550
PC G M Cox, Fort Blockhouse
9th £500
PS G Buckner, Gosport
10th £450
PC G Stirton, Portsmouth
11th £350
PC I Murdoch, Sandhurst UBO

AUGUST 2005

1st £3,000
PC T J Finnie, Caledonia
2nd £2,000
PC R Eaton, West Drayton
3rd £1,000
PC A A Biegala, Menwith Hill
4th £850
PC L A O'Brian, Aldermaston
5th £700
PC G Harvey, Fylingdales
6th £650
PC M C Lawrie, Glen Douglas
7th £600
Mr A Anderson, Coulpport
8th £550
PC D Harvey, USN London
9th £500
PS A Dougall, Coulpport
10th £450
PC H C Newman, Whitehall
11th £350
Insp J Coffield, MDPGA HQ COS

Where eagles dare

When a large eagle became entangled in the perimeter fencing at Devonport Naval Base, it was officers from MDP who swooped to the rescue.

The rare Steppe Eagle is the size of a terrier dog, has a six-foot wingspan, ferocious talons and beak and weighs between eight and ten pounds.

So, when a specimen believed to have escaped from a local private collection caught itself in the wire fencing at the Bull Point end of the Naval Base – near to the disaster relief training area – on the morning of Monday, August 22, it was never going to be an easy task to set it free.

It had been spotted circling the Naval Base the previous day by regular MDP security patrols and, after it became caught it was Sergt Matt Robertson and PC Jed Pascoe who were first on the scene.

They brought in expert help in the shape of bird-of-prey specialists George Hedges and Arathon Conway, from Hedges Hawks, who eventually managed to coax it into hopping through a gap in the fencing. However, as soon as the bird had freed itself, it made its escape towards the river.

The team gave chase across bumpy and rocky terrain and the two-year-old male eagle was finally caught when he swooped onto a beach and was held down by George, who suffered severe gashes on his arms in the process (see picture above).



The bird was unharmed, despite its ordeal. In the wild, they feed off deer and are quite capable of catching cats and dogs for food.

Checked over by RSPCA Inspector Trevor Caldwell the bird was declared to be in good condition and was taken to a specialist carer to recover.

Sergt Robertson, of the MDP Dog Section at HMNB Devonport said: "The MOD has a comprehensive policy on supporting wildlife and minimising the impact of military bases on the environment. It was nice to know that by helping in this rescue we were achieving those aims. The bird was the biggest one I've ever seen close up and it was certainly a bit of a handful."

On the crest of an Airwave

The final pieces of the Airwave National Radio network jigsaw have been put in place and all MDP officers are now able to use the new system. Our pictures show the Central Control Room, at Wethersfield and PC Samantha Gee, who is trying out the new multi-purpose handset beside HMS Illustrious at Portsmouth Naval Base.

Photos: Paul Kemp, Audio Visual

