

ISSUE 165

Talk THROUGH



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MAY 2018

Project Servator ONE YEAR ON...



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New CC's appointment confirmed

THE NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE of MDP has been confirmed as Andy Adams, who has been in the role, on a temporary basis, since the untimely death of former CC Alf Hitchcock last year.

Andy said: "I am absolutely thrilled to have been appointed as the Chief Constable of the MDP and look forward to leading the Force and continuing our important work, protecting our people at home and overseas.

"I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me whilst in the role of Temporary Chief Constable".

Project Servator

...rolls on

By Katy Lockyer

THE MDP LAUNCH of Project Servator took place at the beginning of 2017 at Portsmouth Naval Base and the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites and it continues to develop and expand within the Force as part of its Operational Policing Model.

Alongside the continuing deployments at Portsmouth and AWE, Project Servator deployments are now also being carried out in Whitehall by MDP officers stationed in MOD Head Office. The MDP recently took part in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) formal launch of Project Servator to mark the London-wide introduction of the policing initiative. In addition, the Force is currently preparing to launch Project Servator on the Clyde in conjunction with Police Scotland.

Unpredictable and highly visible, Project Servator is designed to deter, detect and disrupt criminal activity. Deployments can include armed officers, dogs, marine police units, vehicle checkpoints, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), CCTV, plain clothed officers, highly visible

uniformed officers and others specially trained to identify individuals who may have criminal intent. They can pop up anywhere, at any time.

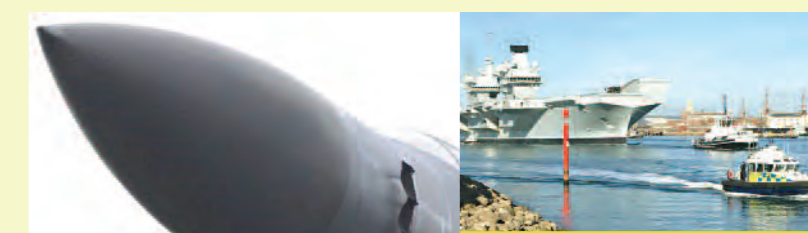


ONE YEAR ON...

Project Servator, which was introduced by City of London Police (CoLP) in 2014, was trialled by the MDP at Portsmouth Naval Base in 2016 and

officially launched in January 2017. The launch of Project Servator at the AWE sites followed in February 2017.

Deployments take place within the AWE sites and Portsmouth Naval Base, as well as pushing out into the wider communities – including local railway stations, ferry ports and shopping centres. Project Servator was also used to support other MDP operations: the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) 2017; the Royal Navy carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth's first entry to Portsmouth and subsequent commissioning ceremony, and deployments in the build-up to and during VVIP visits which have included the Prime Minister, Defence Secretary and HRH Princess Anne.



CONTINUED...

Talk THROUGH

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PROTECTING | REASSURING | ACHIEVING
Delivering Unique Specialist Policing . . . to protect the nation's defences and national infrastructure



Joint Project Servator deployments are now taking place with colleagues from the MPS, British Transport Police (BTP) and CoLP in the Whitehall area.

If you visit Horse Guards Parade and the area surrounding Whitehall, you will see MDP officers with MPS Westminster and MPS Taskforce teams dispersed across the area, spreading the word about Project Servator and looking out for suspicious behaviour.

the River Thames, while the terror threat across the country was severe.

Although Project Servator's primary function is to assist in the fight against terrorism, it has also proved to be an effective tool for detecting other criminal activity, including drug related offences and driving and vehicle offences.

Inspector Andy Ramsay, from AWE Aldermaston, comments:

"We are working closely with our colleagues in Thames Valley Police, sharing information and intelligence, and our site security stakeholders value the contribution that the MDP is making to ensure that AWE remains safe and secure."

Reflecting on the past year, Assistant Chief Constable Paul McLaughlin said:

The threat of terrorism in the UK is ever present and Project Servator provides a valuable tool to help deter, detect and disrupt potential attacks. We work closely with our security partners, including the Ministry of Defence Guard Service and Mitie Security at AWE, and the support of communities is key to the success of Project Servator.

"From the outset, we have actively engaged with people visiting and working in and around Portsmouth Naval Base and the AWE sites, encouraging them to report any suspicious behaviour. This helps to create a network of vigilance – with extra

eyes and ears – to assist us and make it more difficult for criminals to succeed.

"On behalf of the MDP Project Servator Team I would like to thank all of the staff, businesses and partners for their enthusiastic and proactive response – together we've got it covered."

Project Servator at the AWE sites

By PS Mark Yates and Insp Andy Ramsay

When the AWE sites were selected as the second batch of locations where the MDP would adopt Project Servator, we saw this as a great opportunity to join a new national policing initiative and enhance engagement with staff at AWE and members of the public in the surrounding area.

After considerable work to resource a dedicated team of officers, AWE went live with Project Servator in February 2017. As a team at AWE, we focused on community engagement initially. It was important to communicate effectively and spread the key messages of Project Servator, creating the foundations for reassurance and vigilance alike.

We briefed MDP staff, AWE employees and contractors, local businesses and the surrounding communities. We also engaged with local forces which led to us being invited to briefings with intelligence teams and local problem solving units, whereby we



share intelligence at a local level. As well as enhancing community engagement, this has raised awareness and provided reassurance, creating a safer environment. Local businesses have embraced our presence, and the unpredictable deployments are having a positive effect on our relationship with AWE and the community.

We carry out joint deployments with BTP, covering local train stations in our area – including Reading train station –

demonstrating the key Project Servator messaging of working together with partners to further strengthen security and vigilance.

We recently held our first 'Police Surgery' at the establishment, inviting both Hampshire Police and Thames Valley Police on site and providing our community with an opportunity to raise and discuss local issues. This was well attended and we are planning more 'Police Surgery' events for the future.

Pan-London launch of Project Servator

On Thursday 5 April 2018, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) hosted a formal launch event at the Tower of London to mark the London wide introduction of Project Servator. The MDP Project Servator team from Whitehall attended the launch alongside Deputy Chief Constable Peter Terry. The launch was followed by a joint Servator deployment with officers from the MPS, CoLP and British Transport Police (BTP) in and around Parliament Square. DCC Terry said:

The Ministry of Defence Police is delighted to be working together with our colleagues in the Metropolitan Police Service, British Transport Police and the City of London Police on the implementation of Project Servator in London. Our joint Project Servator deployments in and around Whitehall add an extra dimension to the existing security arrangements that are already in place and they provide a highly visible and reassuring police presence for the public.



During July 2017, and in the wake of the London Bridge attack on 3 June, the AWE Servator Team deployed with CoLP and carried out examinations of vehicles and passengers at a check point operation at Tower Bridge, where a suspected illegal immigrant was arrested. This operation focused on offering a hostile surveillance and security presence on the bridges over



Photograph by Paul Kemp

CONTINUED...



"The positive feedback we have received from our customers and the public testifies to the positive impact of Project Servator in providing reassurance and encouraging community engagement."

Speaking on the strong demonstration of what the police service is capable of delivering, Supt Nick Aldworth, Head of the MPS Project Servator team, said:

"I think from a policing perspective one of the most important things that I would highlight is that we have got four forces working together routinely in London... You've got British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence Police, The Met and the City of London Police working coherently and effectively as a single and very large team of officers with multiple tactics for a single purpose."

TRAINING

Project Servator officers are specially trained to identify individuals who may have criminal intent. This can range from someone pickpocketing to an individual who is planning a terrorist attack and is carrying out reconnaissance at an iconic site – the tell-tale signs that bring them to an officer's attention are the same.

During May to July 2017 PS Guy Hibbert, who successfully completed the Project Servator trainer programme in 2016, undertook the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) 'Train the Trainer' process in order to become established as an accredited Project Servator Trainer. This was achieved by attendance at a number of courses hosted by City of London Police, Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police Service.

Upon successful completion of the 'Train the Trainer' package, PS Hibbert completed an Award in Educational Training (AET) at Level 3 in order to accredit him to teach nationally.

PS Hibbert has more recently completed training to deliver a training



package, aimed at mobilising businesses and staff to combat the terror threat, and he is in the process of delivering this within the Force and to personnel at the sites policed by MDP.

Since the beginning of 2018 PS Hibbert has trained a substantial number of MDP officers to carry out Project Servator deployments, this includes Central Support Group members who can provide a surge capability where required.

Project Servator will continue to grow within the MDP, with the number of trained officers increasing, and plans set for roll-out across other sites.



PROJECT SERVATOR TWEETS

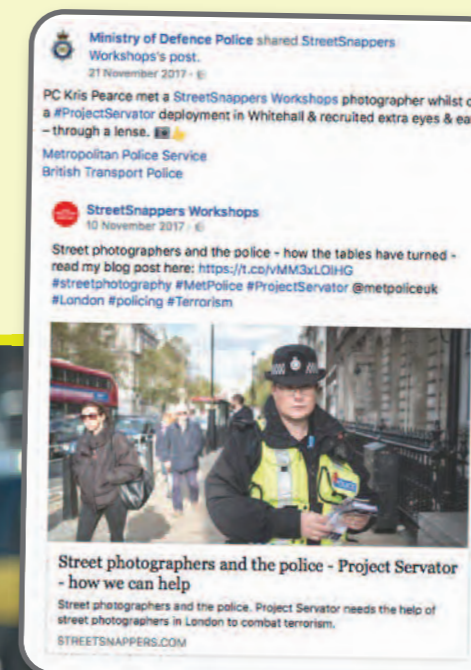
The Force Twitter account, launched at the beginning of July 2017, has played a key role in promoting the Project Servator message with regular tweets demonstrating the breadth of deployments that take place, the range of measures utilised and joined up working with other Forces.

Whilst on deployments, MDP officers have identified and taken good opportunities to further promote the Project Servator messaging on vigilance, encouraging members of the public to report anything suspicious.

For example, Constable Kris Pearce facilitated a Streetsnappers' blog on Project Servator within which MDP is mentioned. Officers from the Portsmouth Project Servator Team also met Sir Ben Ainslie and posed for a photo with him whilst on deployment, the image was tweeted on the MDP Twitter account and this was consequently re-tweeted by Sir Ben Ainslie who commented: 'Nice to bump into these two coppers doing a great job keeping Britain safe #ProjectServator'.

To find out more about Project Servator visit the Ministry of Defence Police: **Project Servator GOV.UK** page.

Keep up to date with our Servator deployments by following the MDP on Twitter: @MODPolice and Facebook: @MinistryofDefencePolice



Op Grian takes to the water...



OFFICERS from MDP joined forces with their Police Scotland colleagues and the maritime sector, to target criminality around the Scottish coastline on March 23rd, under Op Grian, as part of the UK-wide Project Kraken national day of action.

Through partnership working with staff from a wide variety of organisations including local harbours, ports, ferry terminals, marinas, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the MDP, the day of action aimed to deliver a positive impact on maritime safety in Scotland.

Police Scotland ACC Mark Williams said: "Today's activity will raise awareness on how to report suspect and suspicious behaviour within the maritime environment, and to deter those who may be tempted to assist or facilitate the illegal entry of migrants via our coastline. More than 100 officers in cars, on foot and in boats will be visiting jetties, marinas, ferry

terminals and other ports around the entire Scottish coastline throughout the day.

"We are doing this by carrying out high visibility patrols, proactively engaging with members of the public and local businesses, distributing leaflets and asking businesses in the area to display posters."

MDP Supt Findlay MacDonald said: "Officers from the Clyde Marine Unit and shore-based colleagues on board one of the Unit's Police launches will be working in partnership with Police Scotland to help promote the

initiative and raise public awareness about the need to remain vigilant to protect our borders and reduce maritime crime.

As a national Force, MDP is already involved in the roll-out of Project Servator, the UK-wide counter terrorism and crime detection, deterrence and disruption police initiative and is pleased to be working alongside Police Scotland and other agencies in this latest operation to keep our borders secure. 🐙



Female officers profiled

on MDP social media

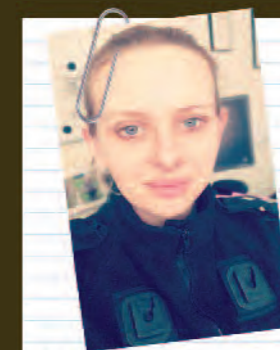
NAME: Hilary
RANK: Police Constable
JOINED: 2000
ROLE: Intelligence Officer
DEPT: Special Branch, Fixed Intelligence Management Unit (FIMU)
CAREER HISTORY:
2000 - Joined the MDP as a New Recruit - posted to HMNB Portsmouth
Assigned a post in the Firearms Team and trained as Police Search Team Officer
2003 - Qualified as a SOIT (Sexual Offences Interview Techniques) Officer
2004 - Deployed to Kenya
2006 - Posted to Crime Command (formerly CID) initially in the Force Surveillance Unit
2016 - Assigned role of Intelligence Officer in the FIMU

HILARY SAYS: "I joined the MDP after a friend suggested that it would be a good idea, as I was looking for a change of career - at the time I was a Health Care Assistant. My first posting was to HMNB Portsmouth, where I remained for five years. Here I had many opportunities to specialise and I completed training in enhanced firearms, Police Search and SOIT. As a result of being qualified in SOIT I was deployed to Kenya where I worked with the Royal Military Police. Since 2006 I have been part of Crime Command (formerly CID) carrying out a number of specialist roles including surveillance officer, communications data investigator and intelligence officer. Many of the roles required me to attend external training courses in order to achieve national standards. Consequently, I have been fortunate enough to work alongside Home Office Police Forces, the Royal Military Police and the Royal Airforce. Looking back on my MDP career I feel privileged to have had so many different opportunities and to have worked in a variety of specialist roles, both at station level and within Crime Command."



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD) which falls on 8 March each year, was marked throughout the month on social media by publication of profiles of some of our female officers, recognising and celebrating their achievements and contributions, in line with the IWD theme of Press For Progress.

Here is a selection of those we featured.



NAME: Nikki Ferry

RANK: Inspector

JOINED: 2005

ROLE: Senior Police Officer

STATION: Easington

CAREER HISTORY:

2005 - Joined the Force as a New Recruit - posted to AWE Burghfield
2008 - Trained as a National Firearms Instructor & joined training team at AWE station
2011 - Promoted to Sergeant within training team at AWE station
2016 - Assigned role of Deputy Chief Firearms Instructor for the Force
2016 - Promoted to Inspector - posted to Easington as Senior Police Officer

NIKKI SAYS: "I am a Mum of two and my partner is also a serving MDP officer. We've never been stationed near family so we've always had to balance family life, childcare and work by ourselves - it's a complete team effort! There are times when it has been really hard but, these times don't last long. Being a Mum (or Dad) and having a career in the MDP is certainly achievable and well worth it. The Force has policies in place to assist (flexible working etc.) and I personally have also been really lucky to have had the support of some fantastic line managers over the years."



NAME: Theresa

RANK: Police Constable

JOINED: 1989

ROLE: Drugs Firearms Detection Dog Handler

STATION: RNAD Coulport

CAREER HISTORY:

1989 - Joined the Force as a New Recruit - posted to RNAD Coulport
1991 - Trained as a Patrol Dog Handler - transferred to the police dog section at RNAD Coulport
2003 - Detached to Kosovo where worked in dog the section
2006 - Returned to the dog section at RNAD Coulport where trained as General Police Dog Handler
2017 - Trained as a Drugs Firearms Detection Dog Handler at RNAD Coulport

THERESA SAYS: "When I joined the MDP I had aspirations to become a Dog Handler and so, that has been the focus of my career. Whilst overseas in Kosovo for two years, I helped the newly formed Kosovo Dog Unit with the overall care and maintenance of the dog section. This was a fantastic opportunity and it was great to be able to make a difference. In my current role with 'Yogi' (he's the one without the hat in the picture!) we have so far assisted the RN Police on operations and, we have helped in the local community by putting on displays at secondary schools as part of drug awareness programmes alongside Police Scotland. I look forward to continuing my career with the MDP and future opportunities for Yogi and I."

...for 2018 International Women's Day



MDP joins Protester Removal Training Weekend

By PS Mark Collier (OSU)
and PC Kenneth Ross (CST)

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE (MPS) hosted a Protester Removal weekend at its purpose built Training Facility at Gravesend, Kent in January, with invitations extended to every Police Force in the British Isles.

This event concentrated on standardising training, procedures and best practice relating to police tactics for protester removal. Issues discussed included Health and Safety, operating procedures, scene management and current protester trends.

All training is guided by the College of Policing, with emphasis on the interoperability between all forces and this exercise developed these functions, with a view to potential future mutual aid deployments.

The event was attended by nearly 90 UK Police Protester Removal Trained officers, including those from British Transport Police (BTP), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Staffordshire, Thames Valley Police (TVP), Kent, Hampshire, South Wales and the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP).



The MDP provided officers from the OSU, Devonport, Clyde Support Team (CST) and Aldermaston. In addition, the practical exercises were monitored and commented upon by senior officers from some of the Forces in attendance, as well as representatives from the College of Policing and delegates from some Infrastructural Agencies, such as UK Airport Authorities and the Railways.

For PCs Andy McCartney and Kenny Ross of the Clyde Support Team (CST) it was an opportunity to re-establish links with many of the teams who had received their initial Level 3 PRT Course from the CST (previously DSG Scotland).

The location contained an excellent purpose-built, urban public order training facility, where all practical exercises were carried out, incorporating residential housing, streets, shops, railway and underground stations complete with trains.

TRIED AND TESTED METHODS

Day one was a pretty laid back affair, with presentations delivered by the National Police Counter Terrorist Intelligence Unit. The aim of this was to bring the PRTs right up to date with what was happening currently in different parts of the UK, in terms of protests and the ever evolving

methods that are being tried and tested, particularly in Lancashire around the Fracking sites.

The next presentation was one which was eagerly awaited by all; it was delivered by Frank Hewington, billed as the Global Lead for Greenpeace in protests and demonstrations.

His presentation was exceptional; he never pulled any punches and answered all questions candidly. He provided an overview of the protests that he had personal responsibility for organising. It was clear to see that his organisation were very professional in their approach to protest and the layers that are built into the planning phase of their protests, aimed solely at ensuring that no one gets injured, whether they be police, protester or members of the public. Their command structure is virtually identical to that used in the police world.

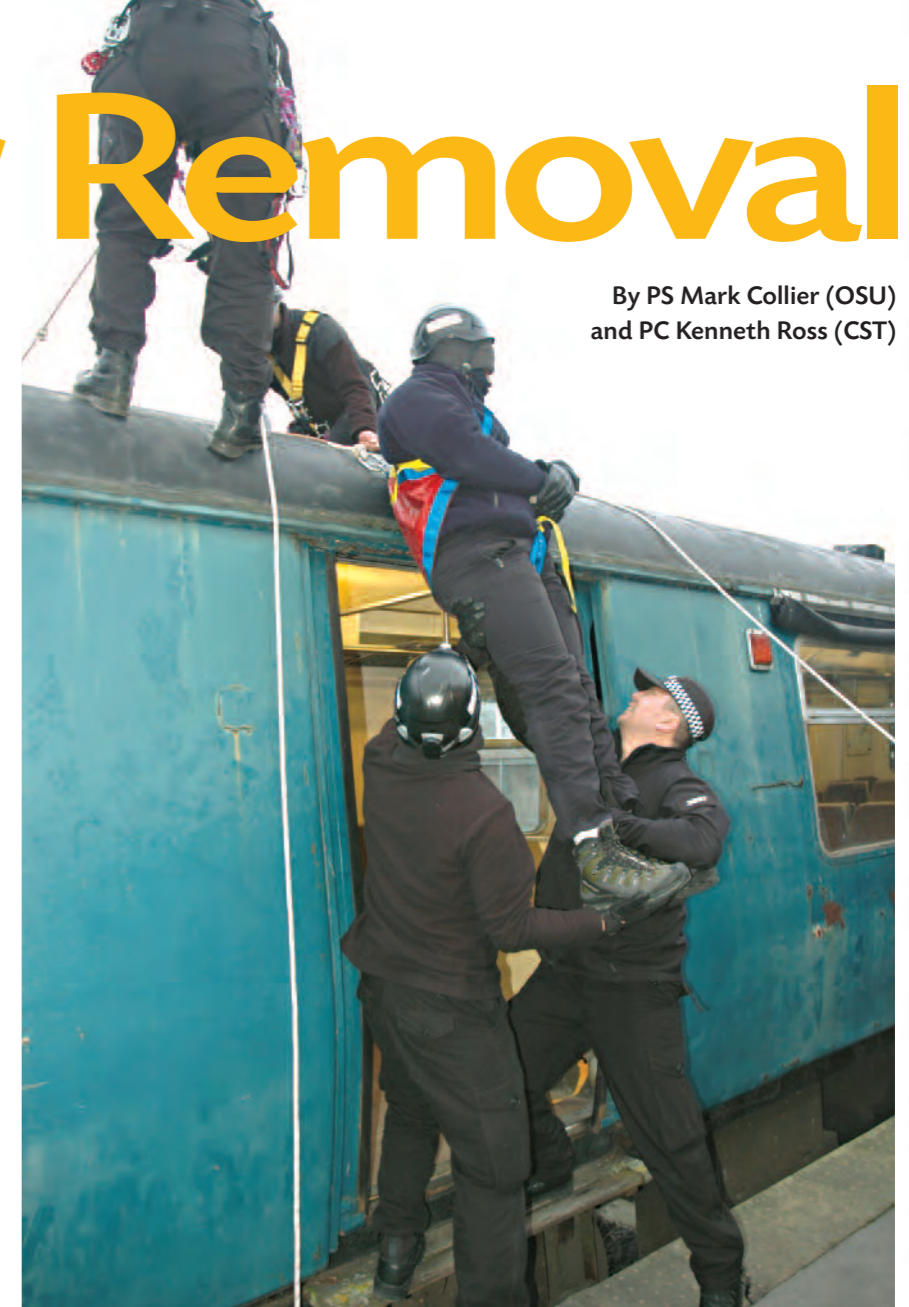
After a brief presentation on power tools by the Makita company, we then got to view some of the "lock-ons" that we would be working on the next day. It was at this time that it became apparent that police officers excel in the sinister and downright horrendous.

The day was rounded off with the chance to network, make new contacts and, of course, get reacquainted with past friends from a variety of Home Office forces whom MDP had the responsibility of training years back, when the Force was a pioneer in this discipline.

On the second day the MDP team was assigned to the railway station, where the OSU dealt with an operation at height and a double simple lock-on within a train carriage.

A combined team made up from CST Scotland and AWE officers were detailed a lock-on, clamped onto the track itself and under the carriage. It was a monstrosity of a contraption which over the course of the following two hours tested the team fully.

To their credit the officers involved went about their business professionally



and stoically. A big plus point was witnessing the omni competence, cohesion and harmony of both the CST and AWE officers who worked together solidly for two hours to overcome their lock-on, having never met or worked with one another before.

JOINT WORKING

In the second part of the day collaboration and joint working was tested to the full. The teams were led to another area of the training venue where they were presented with the nightmare scenario of multiple complex, horrendous lock-ons and height scenarios. The idea was that we were all one large team with different areas of responsibility.

As the various teams set about their individual tasks, operatives were left bewitched by the ingenuity and imagination that had gone in to the construction of these beasts.

After two hours and multiple cold cut saw blades and nine inch grinder blades,

the exercise was called to a halt. Although the MDP contingent completed their tasks within the time frame, not everyone did. You could see the dispirited look on the begrimed faces of the officers who were reluctant to give up, but this was purely a time issue rather than a capability factor.

Inspir Ian Laird from the Clyde group managed the event for the MDP, which proved to be a beneficial and successful two-day exercise. Although there were already good working relationships in place with some of the Forces present, new contacts and networks were established with other Forces and agencies, ensuring that MDP will continue to remain involved at the forefront in the ever-evolving protester removal world.

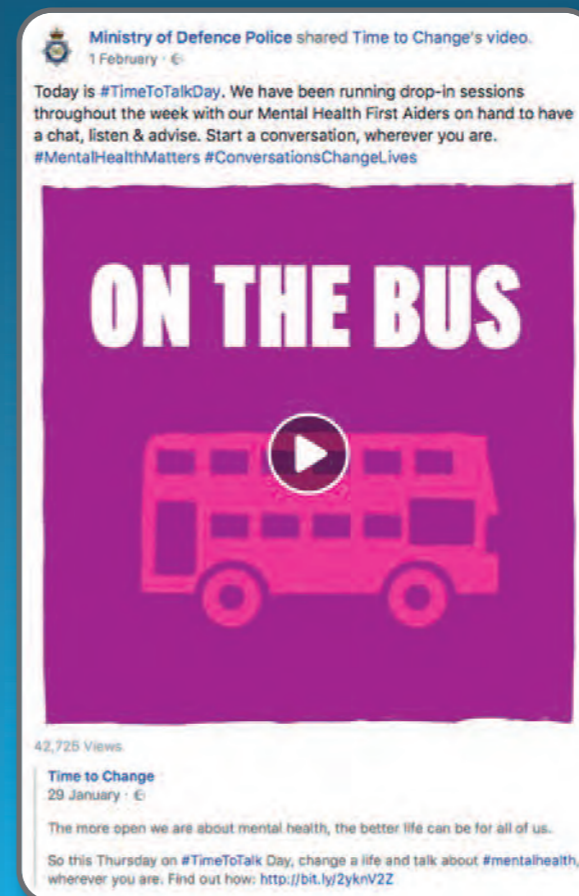
The commitment and enthusiasm of all involved was plain to see and all credit must go to the MPS for putting this exercise together – no small feat. Thanks must also go to the respective senior managers who supported the abstraction of officers from their stations to take part in the exercise.



MDP IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA...



A selection of recent MDP Facebook posts and Twitter tweets...



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Road Safety Campaigns



■ **MDP STATIONS around the UK have taken part in local and national road safety campaigns, pushing home messages around drink and drug driving, speeding, seatbelt wearing and use of mobile phones in vehicles.**

MDP Scotland, in partnership with Police Scotland, ABL (Aerospace, Babcock, Lockheed Martin), Incident and Injury Free (IIF), Royal Navy, and MOD and MOD Guard Service (MGS) took part in the 2017 National Road Safety Week, which had the theme: **Speed Down Saves Lives.**

The campaign aimed to address the on-going issue of speeding, which is still a major problem across the UK, causing needless accidents, untold suffering and stopping people from living safe and healthy lives.

A series of safety initiatives were launched, designed to remind staff of the importance of driving safely on

and off site, within speed limits; the importance of not drinking and driving; the need to wear seatbelts at all times and to ensure that vehicles are safe to drive, especially in winter.

A winter driving message gave hints and tips to drivers of all levels of experience and a poster campaign was launched, with assistance of IIF staff.

A Road Safety Quiz was organised, covering a number of safety topics for all staff to take part in, with prizes supplied by IIF.

MGS staff at both HMNB Clyde and RNAD Coulport agreed to wear high visibility tabards displaying the logo "Twenty is Plenty", provided on loan from Angela McCluskey (IIF).

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Event Programmes at both HMNB Clyde and RNAD Coulport had to be tailored to meet the current significant operational commitments in

support of the CASD. The adverse weather experienced at this time also had significant impact on proceedings.

The MGS staff at both HMNB Clyde and RNAD Coulport were responsible for the effective and consistent provision of information, detailing events to staff and visitors. This resulted in low numbers of staff being found to have been speeding or failing to wear a seatbelt. The MGS contribution had a direct and positive impact on the success of the road safety event.

The resident staff and visitors to both establishments should be commended for their "buy in" to the focus of the programme for reducing speed both on and off site and wearing seat belts. It has been suggested that such initiatives should be run on a more frequent basis throughout the calendar year. As advertised, these activities were run from an educational and non-consequential perspective. However, this may not always be the case.

The contribution of site safety practitioners at both establishments to identifying issues and assisting with administration of activities should be acknowledged.

The Road Traffic Initiative run in partnership between Police Scotland and MDP at HMNB Clyde South Approach Road on the evening of Sunday 29 November 2017 was the first of a series of events of this nature, and may contribute significantly to improving road safety and to preventing and deterring motorists from drink and drug driving if operated in a structured manner at different locations and times.

The contribution of PC Russell White HMNB Clyde in administering the plan and making amendments to meet operational requirements was exceptional.

At the end of the week, MDP and its project partners presented prizes to the Road Safety Quiz winners.

The prize for each winner was a complete 'winter safe driving kit',

including: High-Vis tabard, Warning Triangle, Jump Start Cables and various other road safety items.

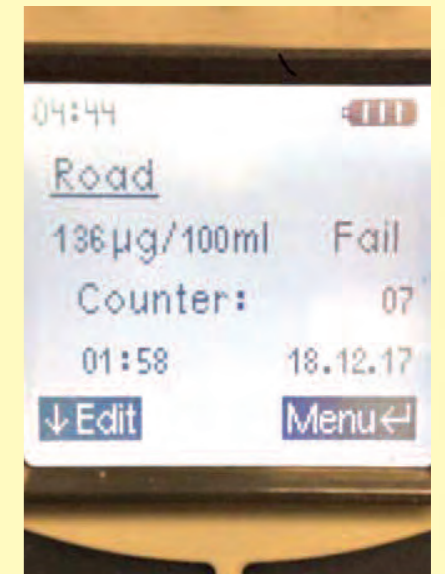
Prizes were presented by Craig Ritchie (Assistant Depot Supt RNAD Coulport) and Mr Stuart Aitkenhead (Safety and Compliance Director, Marine Naval Bases). Christmas selection packs were also presented by Chief Insp Paul Niven Deputy Senior Police Officer.

ON-GOING CAMPAIGN AT PORTON DOWN

An on-going road safety campaign, launched by SPO Chief Insp Robbie Robbins, continues to be conducted at DSTL Porton Down and has been hailed a big success.

As well as the focus on speeding, seatbelts and mobile phone use, the traffic initiatives – in partnership with site owners DSTL – have included new road signs, reducing the speed limit, electronic signage at the main gate, a crashed vehicle display, signs for Christmas and a traffic awareness stand throughout the year.

A drink driver caught by MDP officers in the run-up to last Christmas was later ordered to complete 80 hours' unpaid community service, pay an £85 surcharge to fund victim services, plus another £85 in costs.



The culprit was also banned from driving for 25 months, reduced to 190 days if the defendant satisfactorily completes an approved course by June 2019.



Pictured at the ROAD SAFETY QUIZ prize presentation (left to right): PC Russell White (MDP HMNB Clyde – Event Co-ordinator); Stuart Aitkenhead (Safety and Compliance Director, Marine Naval Bases); Alistair Evans (ABL Site Control Manager, RNAD Coulport); Catherine Williams (MGS Shift Supervisor); Angela McCluskey (Incident and Injury Free – Event co-ordinator); Patrick 'Mark' McGhee (IIF – Event co-ordinator); Rhona Paterson (ISS Support Staff – Event Winner, RNAD Coulport); Valerie McKerracher (ISS Support Staff – Event Winner, RNAD Coulport); James Barbour (Planner Babcock International – Event Winner, HMNB Clyde); Craig Ritchie (Asst Depot Supt, RNAD Coulport); Benjamin Hunter (Projects Engineer, Babcock International – Event Winner, HMNB Clyde); Chief Insp Paul Niven (DSPO, RNAD Coulport); Aaron Percival (IIF – Event co-ordinator). Unable to attend: Helen Burden (IIF – Event co-ordinator). Not pictured: PC Willie Lavery (MDP Lead Road Safety Week 2017).

Officers commended for roles in support of aircraft carrier arrival



INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS involved in the major policing operation in preparation and for the 'first entry' to HMNB Portsmouth, her home port, of the Royal Navy's flagship aircraft carrier **HMS Queen Elizabeth**, have received Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable Commendations.

And the efforts of the entire **MDP** complement at **HMNB Portsmouth** were also acknowledged by a Chief's Commendation: 'In recognition of the dedication to task and consummate professionalism displayed by the entire team of officers and staff of HMNB Portsmouth during the planning and execution of Operation Destiny, the arrival of the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier to its home port of Portsmouth.'

MDP Portsmouth Senior Police Officer, **Supt David Pawley**, was commended by the Chief for his 'outstanding leadership, vision, dedication and planning acumen' applied in preparation for the event.

His personal interaction with the Hampshire Constabulary, National Intelligence agencies, Royal Navy and other

stakeholders 'was critical in ensuring the effective delivery of a complex operation which was significantly challenged by constant changes to timelines and resource availability', reads the citation.

'Your subsequent contributions toward the enduring security operation afforded to the protection of vital Defence assets at HMNB Portsmouth have been pivotal in sustaining effective policing in support of MOD strategic objectives.'

Chief Insp Fiona Kerr's commendation acknowledged her 'outstanding leadership, vision, dedication and critical negotiating work' engaging with the Royal Navy and other HMNB Portsmouth stakeholders to enhance the station complement, secure additional craft and supporting infrastructure, in advance of the carrier's arrival.

In particular, Fiona was commended for developing a 'people strategy' at the Base 'to include the growth and capability enhancement of specialist marine police officers', which was instrumental in building the framework for an effective policing operation in support of MOD strategic objectives.



Insp Michael Carrigan is commended as follows: 'For professionalism, leadership and commitment demonstrated as the lead planner and Exercise Director for the multi-agency security exercise Operation Mayar, which allowed the Naval Base Commander to declare full operational capability and readiness in preparation to receive the new Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier into its new home port of HMNB Portsmouth'.

Sergt Graham Ballantyne is commended: 'For professionalism, leadership and resilience you demonstrated as part of the operational planning team during an exceptionally

busy and challenging period in support of Operation Destiny and Operation Clockface, the MDP deployment in support of the QEC in Scotland'.

Sergt Ian Massey is commended: 'For professionalism, leadership and resilience demonstrated as marine policing Operational Firearms Commander for Operation Destiny and Operation Tangka, the high profile and challenging visit of the American Navy's aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush, together with its crew of over 5,000 American service personnel'.

Insp Paul Alexander is commended: 'For outstanding professionalism, leadership and commitment, as

part of the Operational Planning Team and as a Tactical Firearms Commander in support of Operation Destiny and other high profile and challenging events, including Operation Tangka'.

Insp Luke Halls is commended: 'For outstanding professionalism, leadership and commitment, as part of the Operational Planning Team and as a Tactical Firearms Commander in support of Operation Destiny and other high profile and challenging events, including Operation Fortitude, the multi-agency policing operation for the Royal Commissioning ceremony'.

PC Kathryn Burgess is commended: 'For outstanding professionalism, commitment and dedication that you demonstrated as part of the operational planning team during an exceptionally busy period of operations to support the arrival of the strategic ally important Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier to its home port of Portsmouth, along with a number of other high profile and challenging events, including Operation Fortitude'.

Sergt Stuart Dunn is commended: 'For professionalism, leadership and resilience demonstrated as the lead planner and marine policing Operational Commander for Operation Tangka'.

Officers also recognised...

PC Karl Atkinson received a Chief Constable's Commendation 'for his studious work, commitment and personal endeavour' to review, create and deliver a bespoke MDP-D13 First Aid training programme, which enabled the Force to achieve Clinical Governance and meet College of Policing requirements.



Two Mildenhall officers, **PC Steven Barlow** and **PC Luke Pinner** were awarded Commendations by ACC Operations, Paul McLaughlin in recognition of their actions when involved in a firearms/preservation of life incident at the Base in September last year.

Queen welcomes Royal Navy's largest ever ship into the Fleet



Photographs by Paul Kemp

■ *The Commissioning of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH took place on Thursday 7th December 2017, on Princess Royal Jetty, HMNB Portsmouth, marking the formal acceptance of the vessel into the Royal Navy from the Tri-partnership building contractors.*

In her role as the ship's Lady Sponsor Her Majesty the Queen addressed guests before the Ship's Commanding Officer, Captain Jerry Kyd, read the commissioning warrant. The iconic White Ensign was then raised, symbolising the commissioning of the nation's future flagship into the Royal Navy's fleet.

The QE is the 'First of class' Aircraft Carrier, and at 65,000 tons is the largest ship ever constructed for the Royal Navy.

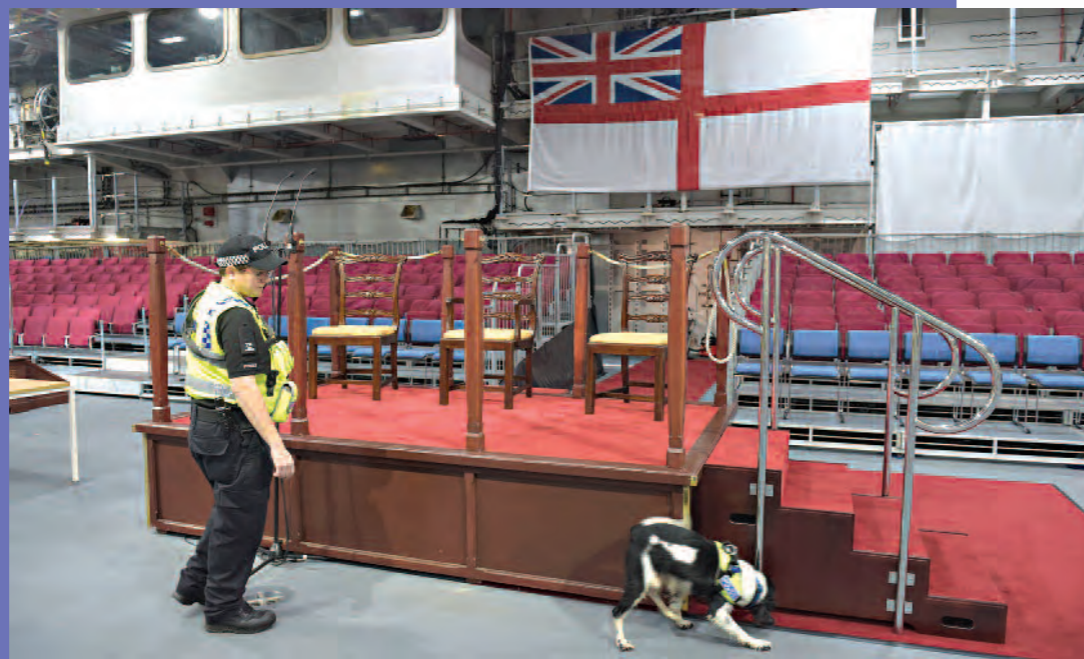
As well as HM the Queen, HRH The Princess Royal and other VIP dignitaries, were amongst the 2,000

invited guests who assembled in the ship's main internal hangar for the ceremony.

With VVIPs in attendance, the prestige, and anticipated world-wide media coverage, a joint MDP/Hants Constabulary operation was formalised under the name 'Fortitude' for the operational planning of the event.

MDP officers from the complement of HMNB Portsmouth were supplemented by officers from CSG Aldershot and others, with over seventy being deployed covering the ceremony day.

A significant firearms operation was put in place involving joint MDP and HantsPol armed officers.



A number of defensive searches of the restricted berth and *HMS Queen Elizabeth* were conducted along with a number of other potentially vulnerable locations. On the waterside a significant armed marine policing operation was put in place to protect against waterborne threats.

Project Servator officers were deployed at various locations along the VVIP routes into the Naval Base, whilst temporary armed policing patrols were undertaken at HMS Excellent, Whale Island which was used as the helicopter staging point for HRH The Princes Royal, and reception point for other dignitaries.

The multi-agency operation included working with other key stakeholders, including Hampshire Constabulary, British Transport Police, the Met Close Protection teams, and all other emergency services and security providers.

The planning for the operation commenced a few months prior to the event and was multi-faceted, due to the number of locations and routes impacted by the whole operation.



HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH COMMISSIONING

Photos courtesy of Royal Navy
– Crown Copyright



HMS Ocean leaves service with a royal farewell...

AFTER AN ILLUSTRIOUS 20-year career in the Royal Navy, HMS Ocean was finally decommissioned by HM The Queen in a military ceremony at the Devonport Naval Base in March.

The Queen, who launched the ship as the ship's sponsor, was guest of honour at the ceremony, along with head of the Navy, First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Philip Jones and more than 500 of the ship's company, their families and affiliates of the ship.

For the MDP complement at the Base, planning for the event involved a multi-agency approach, involving British Transport Police (BTP), Devon and Cornwall Police, the Metropolitan Police Service Royal Protection team and the Royal Navy.

PS Shaun Baskerville, MDP Devonport Operations Sergeant, worked closely with all parties involved in the operation and there was an early morning start for the search team officers of MDP Devonport, who were led by PS Ali Peachey of HMNB Portsmouth.

The search team consisted of PS Michael Bowden, PC's Luke Taylor, Richard Bond, Mark Kearley, Keith Bennetts, Russ Selwood and John Rees, supported by the ESDD teams PC's Karen Crossley, Hannah Kinchenton and Mark Wall. There was also an underwater search conducted by the Southern Diving Unit (SDU) from the Navy.

The Queen arrived at Plymouth train station and was then transported to Devonport Dockyard by car. As Her Majesty entered the Dockyard there was a 21 gun salute. From Drake Main Gate the convoy was led through the Naval Base by the MDP Armed Mobile Patrol (PC's Dave Hay and Mark Griffiths) to 16 Wharf, where the monarch was received by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon, David Fursdon.

Patrolling the Wharf were PC Mark Rosser and three student officers, PC's James Bebb, Tristan Whipps and Jack Speakman, for whom this was only their second day on station.

The Devonport Marine Unit provided a valuable waterborne deterrent to the operation which consisted of one Police Launch and one RHIB.

During the de-commissioning ceremony Her Majesty inspected a parade of the ship's company on the jetty and observed a flypast of military aircraft as she boarded the ship. The crowds were entertained by music from the Royal Marines Band. The ceremony ended with the Royal Navy White Ensign symbolically hauled down from flying the ship's main mast.



There was a moment of amusement when, just an hour before Her Majesty was due at the Dockyard, the MDP Ops team and SPO Ch Insp Mark Rowe conducted a final check of the route. Over the Devon and Cornwall Police radio talk group there was a message which indicated that the Royal party were on the move.

The MDP lead convoy vehicle was then tasked to make haste to the Main Gate to meet with the Royal party, but whilst on route it was established with Devon and Cornwall Police that they were only conducting a practice run! The MDP lead convoy vehicle was then stood down and there was a huge sigh of relief all round.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson was among the guests and said: "Today marks the start of a hugely significant chapter for the Royal Navy, and indeed the nation, as the future flagship is commissioned into Her Majesty's fleet.

"It is an honour to witness the crowning moment of an extraordinarily busy year for the Royal Navy that has seen us name the second carrier, *HMS Prince of Wales*, cut steel on the first Type 26 frigates and launch the National Shipbuilding Strategy.

Our new aircraft carrier is the epitome of British design and dexterity, at the core of our efforts to build an Armed Forces fit for the future. For the next half a century both carriers will advance our interests around the globe, providing the most visible symbol of our intent and commitment to protect the UK from intensifying threats, from wherever they may come.

Admiral Sir Philip Jones, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, said: "The Queen Elizabeth-class carriers

will sit at the heart of a modernised and emboldened Royal Navy, capable of projecting power and influence at sea, in the air, over the land and in cyberspace, and offering our nation military and political choice in an uncertain world."

Both new aircraft carriers will be able to perform a wide range of tasks, from humanitarian and disaster relief to fighting terrorism and high-end warfighting. In what has been termed, "the Year of the Royal Navy" the second carrier, *HMS Prince of Wales*, was named in Rosyth and is expected to join her sister ship at Portsmouth in due course.



Raising the rainbow flag



T/CC MDP Andy Adams, DCC Peter Terry, officers and staff are pictured raising the Force rainbow flag, which flew outside MDP HQ throughout February, in support of LGBT HISTORY MONTH.

The annual celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens and their contribution to society also acknowledges the often fraught history of the gay rights and associated civil rights movements.

New **NBPA** President visits MDP Headquarters

TOLA MUNRO, the new President of the National Black Police Association (NBPA) and the two previous Presidents of the NBPA, **Janet Hills** and **Franstine Jones** visited MDP HQ on Thursday 7th December.

During their visit they met with Temporary Chief Constable Andy Adams, Deputy Chief Constable Peter Terry, Justin Oliver, Head of Corporate Services and other senior MDP officers, Civil Servants and the Diversity and Inclusion Team.

Mr Adams welcomed Tola, Janet and Franstine to MDP HQ and gave them an overview of the history of the MDP, our unique policing role and the geographical challenges associated with providing a national policing service.

Tola in turn gave an overview of the NBPA, its history and what their aims and functions were, adding that he had no great prior knowledge of MDP before the visit.

He praised the Force's membership of the Police Positive Action Practitioners' Alliance (PAPA) and the work MDP is actively doing to support its work.

Tola said that he understood the recruitment challenges associated with being a National Force, but asked what the MDP was actively doing to recruit more BAME officers into the Force?

It was explained that the Force had developed a Positive Action Policy and was looking at using it on the recruitment, retention and development of BAME Staff, as well as mentoring and reverse mentoring.



The Force was also engaged with the Armed Forces in seeking areas of collaboration on BAME recruitment. Tola, Janet and Franstine praised these initiatives, but also said the Force should be looking to engage more with BAME communities, Universities and Colleges with a high level of BAME students close to our stations in Reading, London and Derby.

He suggested that the Force should also look at using Positive Action more proactively with BAME candidates prior to and during the selection process.

He understood that the Force no longer had a BAME Support Network, but thought it should look to see if there was any interest in starting a new one or exploring forming a tri-staff network with BTP and CNC for BAME officers and staff.

If this was not feasible then the Force should see if BAME officers

could get support from a local Black Police Association in their local Force area. It was agreed at the close of the meeting that the Force would work more closely with Tola and the NBPA on all BAME issues going forward.

A number of MDP officers have been approached to act as mentors to BAME officers as part of a national Home Office initiative to encourage greater BAME leadership numbers.

Initially, this was set at superintending rank but more recently has been widened to include staff involved in this particular field.

Chief Superintendent Mick O'Byrne, as Race Ambassador, will be submitting an update in the next edition sharing his experience with the programme and providing feedback on encouraging further progress.

Ready, Steady Bake!

A 'GREAT PURPLE BAKE OFF' took place at HQ in December, in recognition of International Day of Persons with Disabilities and to celebrate the economic and leadership contribution of disabled employees.

Well done to our **Star Baker Ash!** In addition to cakes being judged, they were also sold and consequently the event raised £80. At the time it was decided that the money raised would be donated to a local charity, but one hadn't been chosen.

After seeking nominations from everyone, Braintree District Mencap Society was picked as the deserving charity and the money was presented to them by Maxine Parsley and Ali Harfield on 28th January.

Members enjoyed meeting Maxine and Ali and having their photo taken.

Support such as this helps Braintree Mencap to continue providing services to people with learning disabilities from the age of five through to adulthood.

Braintree District Mencap Society is entirely dependent on voluntary donations, funds raised locally and grants; it does not receive any financial support from the Royal Mencap Society.



To find out more about the charity visit: <https://braintreemencap.org.uk>

■ As part of the National Disability Week, MDP, the Defence Police Federation (DPF) and the Police Mutual Assurance Society (PMAS) also hosted a BeFit4Life event at MOD Main Building, to promote better health and wellbeing and financial planning for the unexpected.

T/Chief Constable Andy Adams joined DPF General Secretary Mitch Batt and PMAS staff at the event.

MDP Race Ambassador at awards event

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MICK O'BYRNE, MDP Race Ambassador, attended the first ever 'Best Employers for Race 2017' and 'Winners of the Race Equality Awards 2017' event, which took place at host HSBC's offices in Canary Wharf, London.

Chief Supt O'Byrne later told *TalkThrough*: "I was lucky enough to be invited as the event was heavily over subscribed and the ceremony sent a strong positive message to employers as to the need to provide a more representative workforce and, in particular, to increase representation from the BAME community.

"Key messages from the guest speakers were that many organisations were making real progress and Sir John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, was proud to elaborate on changes to his own Parliamentary team

whilst admitting there was some way to go from all parties on increased front row BAME representation in Parliament.

"Sandra Kerr OBE reassuringly agreed that many people found it difficult to hold honest and open conversations with BAME colleagues for fear of causing upset, but she has produced a user friendly guide for organisations on how to overcome any language perceptions.

"The guest speakers made it a very positive experience and included:

■ **Rt Hon John Bercow, MP Speaker of the House of Commons**

■ **Pam Kaur, Group Head of Audit, Group Managing Director, HSBC**

■ **Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith, CBE**

■ **Rt Hon Margot James, MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility**

■ **Richard Iferenta, Partner, KPMG, Chair of Business in the Community Race Equality Board**

■ **Amanda Mackenzie, Chief Executive, Business in the Community**

■ **Sandra Kerr, OBE, Race Equality Director, Business in the Community**

"The event was a real eye opener for me, in as much as I have recently been appointed Ambassador for Race and I can already see the absolute need to improve our own BAME representation, albeit I am aware that my predecessors have been incredibly industrious and the challenge is not insignificant.

"More recently, MDP has been visited by the newly appointed chair of the National Black Police Officers' Association (NBPA), Tola Munro (see previous page), who has advised the Force on how we might improve our performance through increased links to NBPA and other proactive organisations to start to raise our BAME recruitment figures, which we have found difficult in the past.

"David Old, Head of Business Administration, and the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group are assisting me in seeking different solutions to these issues and I hope to report some more encouraging news as we reach out into the wider community for a more balanced and representative workforce."

Domestic violence work recognised...

IN NOVEMBER 2017 the MDP in Northern Ireland was again recognised for its work in relation to Domestic Violence, the fourth consecutive year MDP has been awarded the Gold Award 'Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence', a scheme monitored by ONUS NI.

ONUS NI believes that 'in order to create a society that has zero-tolerance towards domestic violence or abuse, prevention and early intervention work is crucial.'

Colette Stewart, Chief Executive, said that ONUS NI was delighted to continue its partnership working with MDP in respect of Domestic Violence and Abuse issues.

"It is to the credit of the MDP NI that they have been awarded the Gold Standard Workplace Charter Accreditation for the fourth year in a row. This is testament to the commitment and dedication that they have displayed across the board in proactively and robustly recognising and responding to domestic violence and abuse," she said.

"We look forward to building upon and developing our partnership work in the future."

In 2013 a joint protocol was signed which ensured that MDP's response to domestic abuse was consistent with that of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and recognised the need for a holistic approach to the issue.

It was signed by internal and external groups who provide support to

victims, including Army Welfare and Woman's Aid.

"It is the content of this protocol which guides the MDP response to such issues", said Insp Jimmy Carr, former DCPO Supervisor for NI, currently based at MDP HQ.

"This protocol, which supports JSP 913, recognises the vulnerability of victims of domestic violence and the requirement for positive intervention to protect those victims. This sees early involvement by MDP in such cases reported to us, but also seeks to support PSNI in cases that they deal with.

"A close working relationship exists with Army and Unit Welfare teams, Commanding Officers and external groups, such as Women's Aid, and this will continue to be the case to ensure that vulnerable victims of crime are protected."

The Gold Award was collected by Chief Supt Mick O'Byrne, on behalf of the Force.

'TIME TO TALK DAY' By Kathryn Foster

IT'S EASY TO THINK that there's no right place to talk about mental health but the more we talk about it the better life is for all of us.

Too many people with mental health problems are made to feel isolated, worthless and ashamed. 'Time to Talk Day' is a chance for all of us to be more open about mental health and to talk, to listen, to change lives.

There's no right or wrong way to get involved because every conversation about mental health helps to make it a normal subject for people to talk about. Too often, it's left to people with mental health problems to talk about mental health.

It's treated as a taboo subject or something to only be spoken about in quiet corners but mental health affects us all and everyone should feel able to talk about it. This is why, for 'Time to Talk Day 2018', we wanted to spread the word that wherever or whoever you are, any place can be the right space to talk about mental health.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is the help given to someone experiencing a mental health problem before professional help is obtained. The aims of MHFA are:

- **To preserve life where a person may be a danger to themselves or others**
- **To provide help to prevent the mental health problem developing into a more serious state, by providing support and signposting for the benefit of officers and Line Managers**
- **To promote the recovery of good mental health**
- **To provide comfort to a person experiencing a mental health problem**
- **To reduce stigma and discrimination**

Within MDP, we have 28 Mental Health First Aiders. MDP MH First Aiders are not counsellors but are trained to recognise the early signs of mental health issues and are able to help someone experiencing those problems in a first aid capacity, including signposting staff to the appropriate support/organisations.

For anyone who wanted to talk to a Mental Health First Aider in confidence,

first aiders were available across the Force to discuss any individual issues and to offer support and signposting where possible.

Venues included MDP HQ in the OCC meeting and quiet room on 'Time To Talk Day' itself, February 1st and at Aldermaston and Burghfield, and Clyde in the days leading up to it.

We are not counsellors and are also not here for the purpose of being intermediaries or to support through the grievance/bullying and harassment processes but we can advise members of staff on the various types of help available to them and point them in the right direction.

The full list of MDP Mental Health First Aiders, along with links to support and guidance, can be found on the Force Intranets:

MDP MOSS > Business Functions > Capability and Sickness Management > Links and also 02-Key Documents > Mental Health and Wellbeing
MDPNet R Drive > Corporate Services > Performance and Attendance Unit > Mental Health and Wellbeing

Scottish GPA re-launched

OFFICERS FROM MDP SCOTTISH STATIONS joined Police Scotland colleagues and civic dignitaries for the re-launch of the Scottish Gay Police Association (GPA) at Glasgow City Chambers on Friday 16th February.

The GPA has been in existence for more than 27 years and offers support, advice, community engagement and membership to LGBTI officers and support staff, and to their families and friends.

It is officially recognised by the Police Service of Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority and the Scottish Government as the Diversity Staff Association for gay, lesbian and bisexual police officers and staff in Scotland.

The association is part of the wider UK and European networks of GPAs. The governing body felt that a

re-launch would highlight and promote the association to a wider audience.

The MDP in Scotland took up its seat on the Exec Committee of the GPA in 2017, bringing the Force closer to meeting this aspect of its Diversity and Inclusion targets, and supporting inclusiveness and the development of policies, practices and systems that tackle homophobia/biphobia and promote and enable the recruitment, retention and progression of gay and bisexual men and women within the Force.

Among those attending the re-launch to represent the Force, were Clyde Group SPO Supt Findlay MacDonald, DSPO Chief Insp Paul Niven (Coulport), PS Debbie Carr of the Clyde Support Team and PS Dale Muir, from MDP Vulcan.



■ **MDP IS WELL KNOWN** for the specialist roles it offers, one of which is the **Dog Section**, providing dog support at a number of stations throughout the Force.

What may be less well known to some is the specialist search dog capability available to the Force as a whole from the HQ Operations Department.

The handlers from HQ Operations are a Force asset and are available to all stations, DCPOs and departments and provide specialist search support not only to large-scale pre-planned operations, but also smaller scale searches carried out as a random, high-impact visual deterrent in order to deter, for example, an IED attack or illicit drug use.

The unit will also support such operations as Project Servator.

Each of the four handlers within the department operates two search dogs, one being an explosive search dog and the other a drugs dog.

Three of the drugs dogs are 'passive' detection dogs and can be used to scan large numbers of passing people and will indicate the presence of illegal narcotics carried on a person. They will also proactively search buildings, areas and vehicles for the same substances.

The other drugs dog is slightly different, in that it will only search proactively. However, it will not only search for the same illegal drugs as the others, but will also detect the presence of firearms, ammunition and cash.

The four teams are spread throughout the country in the South East, South West, Midlands and in the North, so the

chances are there is one operating near most MDP Stations and the team will be available to support any policing operation.

Each of the teams consists of hugely experienced search dog handlers (two are dog instructors) having operated for many years at varied venues across the Defence estate and having also provided mutual aid at events such as the Olympics and G8 summit, as well as routinely supporting the OSU and SEG with searches carried out during convoy movements.

Any Station wishing to enlist the services of the unit should please contact: **Ops Planning** at HQ on **HQ tel ext 4051 or 4420** and they will be able to arrange availability of a team or can put you in contact with a handler for advice regarding the Station's specific needs.

NEW VEHICLES FOR DOG SECTION



T/Chief Constable Andy Adams formally hands over the keys to three new vehicles designed for use by the Force Dog Section at MDP HQ, Wethersfield.

Rowing success for SIMON...



■ **PS SIMON AMERY**, based at the Force Control and Information Room, at MDP Headquarters, has high hopes for 2018.

In the British Rowing Championships last year he finished in a respectable fifth place in his age group (40-49), but this year he turns 50 and is hopeful of an even better finish.

Simon told *TalkThrough*: "I have always been active in playing sport throughout my life and represented the British Police National Squash Team and the Civil Service national team up until I was about 40, when I was forced to give that game up in a competitive sense due to wear and tear on my joints and arthritis in my knees.

"I continued with general fitness and running, cycling etc and found that running as a means of training was proving painful on the joints also.

"I started using the Concept 2 rowing machine back in February 2017 in the Gym at Wethersfield, as I was in a different job in FCIR, being largely seated and more restrictive over time for training than my previous role on the OSU.

"The rowing machine also reduced pressure on my joints and improved my core strength and general posture. I found it was a discipline that I was good at and researched the Concept 2 website which allows you to record your progress with each row being uploaded onto the site.

"This was done by downloading a free app to my smart phone and connecting to the machine monitor each time I exercised. By doing this I was able to compare my times for different distances against other people of the same age and weight category in the world.

"I joined an online rowing team and found out about the National Rowing Competition, which is held over a distance of 2000 metres at the indoor cycling arena, Stratford Olympic Park, London.

"The profile of the 2017 event was raised further by the appearance of Sir Bradley Wiggins, who was making an attempt to get in the British rowing team at the next Olympics.

"He being somewhat younger, taller and heavier than me, was rowing in a different category. Approximately 2000 competitors attended the event which lasted all day.

"I rowed in the lightweight (under 75kg) 40 to 49 year old category. Unfortunately I am at the wrong end of the age range at 49 years competing against much younger men but I gave it my all and finished 5th in a time of 6mins 32secs for 2000 metres.



"It was the best time for me personally and points towards a very positive outcome at this year's event when I will be 50 and in a different age category.

"I would advocate rowing as an excellent way of keeping fit for all officers as it provides an all over workout in a short space of time that fits in well with people's busy lives and work schedules.

■ **It is excellent from a cardio vascular point of view and I am convinced it would assist those that don't like running in helping them achieve the ever increasing fitness standard required by the MDP.**



Photo courtesy of MartisMedia

MDP Officer awarded MBE in New Year Honours ...

CONGRATULATIONS go to Constable Claire Batt, who was appointed as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the New Year Honours.

Claire was awarded her MBE for services to Defence and Policing and in recognition of her work as the Defence Police Federation Welfare Officer.

She has been with MDP since 1992 and in 2009 became a member of the Defence Police Federation (DPF), acting as the Welfare Officer.

Her contribution to the MDP through her role as a Constable and her engagement as a Welfare Officer

has been of valuable assistance to the Force, as well as supporting colleagues at times of need following organisational change, bereavement or ill-health.

Claire has thrown herself wholeheartedly into this work, forging a role which is now recognised as a valuable element of the MDP structure. In doing so, she has balanced the organisational need with her DPF position, to ensure that both are appropriately represented.

T/Chief Constable Andy Adams commented: "I am sure that many people will want to congratulate Claire individually but, I offer her many congratulations on behalf of the Force."



Claire told *TalkThrough*:

I was extremely pleased to get this award in recognition not only of my own work, but that of my DPF, MOD and Police Firearms Officers' Association (PFOA) colleagues who engage in welfare activity on a daily basis. We are often a vital lifeline to those colleagues who fall upon difficult times in their personal and professional lives and it is very gratifying when our efforts to help them are recognised in this way.

Strategic Firearms Commander... a full house

On 16th March ANOTHER SIX SUPERINTENDING GRADES achieved Strategic Firearms Commander accreditation, taking MDP's overall SFC cadre to 10.



This ensures that MDP will have a significant cadre of nationally accredited officers to provide both spontaneous and pre-planned cover throughout the MDP foot print.

This is the first MDP only course and it was held at MDP Wethersfield in March, providing a 100 per cent pass rate. ACC Operations Paul McLaughlin commented: "The course was a huge success and contributed to our overall command resilience."

As with existing qualified SFCs there is an on-going requirement for staff to maintain their Continuous Professional Development which will be overseen by the Force Firearms Officer, Supt Trevor Clark.

This will include a period of development with Home Office forces and provision of an experienced MDP SFC mentor, to provide comprehensive operational understanding of the role.

Sad loss of ROA Chair Dave Rogers MBE

THE FORCE is sad to announce the sudden death of Retired Officers' Association (ROA) Chairman Dave Rogers MBE.

Dave was admitted to Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 1st March, suffering from severe breathing difficulties, but sadly did not recover and passed away peacefully on 8th March, aged 70 years.

Dave joined the Force in 1973 and was posted to Marchwood near Southampton where he served as Constable until 1987 during which time he was seconded as a CID Aide.

In 1987 he was due to take up post as a full time CID Officer at CID London and was already in the process of moving to his current address in Gravesend when he was struck down by a very severe heart attack, from which he only just recovered.

His move to Gravesend took place in October 1987 and, following his return to health, he took up post as a uniformed officer at Woolwich Arsenal/Woolwich Garrison, where he remained until his retirement in December 2007, a career spanning 34 years.

During his long career he was very much an active member of the Defence Police Federation, serving in numerous roles representing Southern Region, first at branch level then as a member of the regional committee, conference delegate then Regional Chairman.

Dave also acted as a 'Friend', always willing to assist colleagues in time of need. On his retirement from the Force he was awarded an MBE.

Dave joined ROA in 2008 and within a short time was elected on to the Committee, becoming



Vice-Chairman in 2011. He went on to become Chairman in 2013, remaining active up to his untimely death. Well known for his gentle charm and wit Dave will be sorely missed.

Dave is survived by his wife Mary and two sons Mathew and Mark.

A funeral service took place at Shorne, Kent on Friday 6th April, with donations in Dave's memory going to the British Heart Foundation.

Worthy winners amongst new recruits

Report by Editor
Norman Hicks
Photographs by
Paul Kemp

TWO MORE INTAKES of new recruits have joined the Force's ranks in recent months.

Of particular note amongst the latest graduates were the three worthy award winners from course 04/17.

The Endeavour Cup was awarded to **PC Judit Veszeli** (Regents Park Barracks). It can only be awarded to a nominee who has displayed outstanding Endeavour throughout their time at OCC and it cannot be awarded to any student who has won any other award.

It is never awarded for a single act and is only awarded to an individual who in the judgment of the Course Trainers, Course Manager, Head of Training and Head of OCC, has displayed outstanding personal commitment, professional standards, team work and integrity at every stage of the training. They must have demonstrated through personal contributions their endeavour to succeed and also to assist their colleagues.

On this occasion there were two nominees and, although it was a difficult decision for the panel, Judit was a very worthy winner.

In the academic awards results were very close with only 1.3% difference in marks between the top two students:

PC Kathryn Austin-Bailey (Hereford) was placed 1st Academic student and **PC Cem Ziya** (HMNB Portsmouth) was placed 2nd.

Kathryn also received a Head of the Operational Capability Centre Commendation. This is the first occasion that this has been awarded. Kathryn displayed outstanding personal commitment, professional standards, team work and integrity throughout the course.





Love Teddy-lee ... tragic loss inspires a year of fundraising

■ **MDP EASINGTON OFFICERS** have rallied around colleague **PC Lucy Masters** to help her raise funds for a special baby monitor, following the tragic loss of her son **Teddy-lee**.

SPO Inspr Nikki Ferry said: "Lucy is an amazing person and officer, and in memory of Teddy-lee she has planned a series of fundraising events throughout 2018 to raise money for a very special cause.

"The charity **Abbie's Fund** is funding a bereavement midwife for the local area and Lucy is raising money for a piece of equipment which will mean that parents who have experienced bereavement of this kind will, on further pregnancies, be seen somewhere different by someone different, thereby removing the stress and trauma of being seen in the same room by the same midwife (which is what happened to Lucy during her most recent pregnancy).

"Several of Lucy's friends, family and colleagues from Easington will be taking part in the events also."

Lucy bravely told her story to **TalkThrough** and has asked that those who are touched by her experience should donate to the cause if they can afford to.

She said: "I was 36 weeks pregnant and exactly one week away from my induction date, when I was told they couldn't find Teddy's heartbeat. The hospital couldn't give us an explanation as to why he died. On 15 June 2016 Teddy Masters was born naturally, perfect and weighing 6lb10oz. The fear of forgetting anything about him was overwhelming but whilst in hospital Abbie's Fund provided us with a memory box that we were able to fill with real tangible memories, meaning ours will never fade and we won't forget.

"Life can be cruel, but it is also pretty amazing. It can be hard to keep going at times, but we choose to remember Teddy in nothing but a positive way, smile through our tears and be grateful every day that we had the chance to meet him. He is the brightest star in our sky and with something so beautiful in our lives it's hard not to smile.

"When pregnant with Stanley, no amount of reduction in his movements would have made me overcome the fear of returning to the Antenatal Day Unit, I simply couldn't face that room again – which is crazy when you think I'd already lost one son, but grief and stress can really mess with your decision making!

"Thankfully, I was supported by the Bereavement Midwife, who facilitated me being monitored on a different ward. This meant a different machine, different midwife and a neutral room, all equating to a different experience.

"This helped reduce stress but, crucially, it removed a barrier for me visiting the hospital if I felt a change in Stanley's movements. It was at this point I made a promise to Teddy, that I would raise money to buy one of these monitoring machines.

"After consulting with local Hull charity Abbie's Fund and the Bereavement Midwife, we are starting to move forward with our plans to purchase a Cardiotocography (CTG) monitor with the money we raise for Abbie's Fund in Teddy-lee's name.

"This will mean that parents going through a pregnancy after a loss of a baby, have the option of CTG monitoring in a location that is far away from the room that they received their previous devastating news. I'm sure you can see that this equipment will be invaluable to those that use it."

Abbie's Fund is involved in the recruitment and interview process for the Bereavement Midwife and partly funds her salary. She came into post in February 2017 – previous to this there wasn't one.

It also funded the full refurbishment of two parents' rooms on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Hull W&C's Hospital. They are used for parents to spend time with their babies prior to discharge and also used for end of life care – a safe place for parents and families to spend their last hours/days/minutes with their baby prior to their death or following death.

The Fund works with the Bereavement Midwife to organise 'Gift of Remembrance' study days for local midwifery staff, providing training, information and support regarding memory making and, in particular, bereavement photography with an emphasis on empowering parents and supporting them to be part of this process.

It also provides sibling memory boxes alongside Abbie's Memory boxes.

The bad weather in March led to the postponement of Lucy's first fund raising event, the Lincoln 10K race, but didn't stop her team competing in the Manchester Marathon on 8th April.

Other events planned at the time of writing include:

- **24th-28th May – cycling from Hull to Keswick (163 miles)**
- **29th May – kids walking up Catbells (ages 5 and 7 years)**
- **10th June Hull 10k**
- **15th June Teddy's Picnic in the Park**
- **10th September cycle from Morecambe to Bridlington (151 miles)**
- **23rd September Sheffield 10k**

More details about Abbie's Fund can be found at:
<http://www.abbiesfund.co.uk/>

Lucy has asked that those who are touched by her experience donate to the cause, if they would like to. All support is greatly appreciated.

Lucy's donation page is at:
<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/lucy-maymasters1>

And her Facebook page, which is being used to keep everyone up to date with progress, can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/teddylee.masters>



John's kind words spark transatlantic standing ovation

■ **The TALKTHROUGH MAIL BOX** receives many interesting contributions, but amongst the most unusual in recent months has been an email from American police officer **Reginald (Reggie) E. Sharpe, of North Charleston Police Department, South Carolina, also known as 'The Warrant Man'.**

Reggie, who has completed more than 25 years' service, spent most of his career hunting fugitives and serving warrants. He was recognised in 2011 as having served more warrants than any policeman in American history, with the last 'official' count being 16,464 in 2012.

When he is not chasing criminals, Reggie devotes his spare time to running a hot sauce making business, under the trade name of Warrant Man Pepper Co.

Hot sauce lovers, also known as 'Chiliheads', take part in an online forum where aficionados from around the world share almost every aspect of pepper cultivation, wrote Reggie. This includes recipes, business "and just about anything related to the capsicum bearing species. It is also a 'social' site where members can post things not directly related to peppers.

"My company logo and username on the website make it obvious to all that I am a cop. Much of my contributions are from this perspective. On one occasion I happened to mention that we had lost several officers lately and particularly we lost one officer from my agency, the North Charleston Police Dept, had another severely injured in a vehicle collision from a drunk driver and lost our first ever K-9 ('Mojo') in a line-of-duty death, all in the same evening! It was a horrible week and I had lamented as much.

"Unbeknown to me, one of the 'Chiliheads' who read my posting, was (MDP) Constable 4937 John Braund, who

revealed that he had been a Police K-9 handler for many years. He expressed condolences for my comrades and was particularly concerned over the officer that was injured so badly and lost his dog.

"He offered that the dogs are like 'one of the family' for the officers and knew what pain the officer would feel about his dog's death.

"Well, this really struck a nerve for me – a policeman from another country taking the time to offer such warm words, without us ever having met in the proper sense – very 'cool' indeed.

"So, I contacted him, thanked him for his kindness and packed up a small box with my hot sauces, some other local spices, a company t-shirt, several police uniform patches from local agencies, as well as a K-9 patch I had to pull some strings to get.

"So off it goes to stretch the 'Thin Blue Line' from Charleston, South Carolina to England. I awaited response. I'd never mailed a parcel as far. The day came and Constable Braund received the package and seemed genuinely excited as well as appreciative.

"I hadn't done it for reciprocation, but John sent in return six pristine, in first-class condition silk escape and evasion maps, given to British pilots during World War II, which he said were to be sold and the proceeds given to assist the families of our fallen officer and the injured one.

He explained that he had acquired them as a parting gift in his service of the Royal Engineers – British Army.

"I was floored! As a writer and historian, I was well aware at the significance of such relics. I was damn near moved to tears over such a selfless act of kindness.

"On March 12th 2018, in honor of the police folks of the Crown, I donned a suit



and wore a tie given to me many years ago by the QPU (Queensland Police Union) the only UK item I possess, and took the podium at a local Fraternal Order of Police meeting to share this story.

"There, before a body of some fifty or so peers (from local, state and federal police agencies) Constable Braund received a standing ovation! I was as proud to be a cop at that moment as perhaps at any time in my career.

"Research is underway that we may get maximum benefit from the sales. It is indeed my honor to recognise Constable Braund. He is a credit to the profession and a fine example of English police professionals!"

John, currently the Drug Detection Dog Handler at AWE Burghfield, joined AWE Aldermaston in February 1991, having served in the Royal Engineers since 1976.

He joined the Special Escort Group in 1994, leaving in 2007 for AWE Burghfield where he became a Drug Detection Dog handler in 2011. On 24th May he and his dog 'Summer' will both be retiring, after nearly 43 years in the MOD.

He told **TalkThrough**: "I read an article where Reggie had recently lost two colleagues and a further officer had been critically injured which resulted in the death of his dog 'Mojo'.

"I sent my condolences as a dog handler and then sent the maps, which I was very pleased to do."

Well done, and thank you

FROM: **Holly Lynch MP**
TO: **Supt Dave Pawley, SPO Portsmouth**

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to show Stephen (Morgan) and myself around HMNB Portsmouth, as part of the Police Parliamentary Scheme.

As part of the scheme I have spent time with both West Yorkshire Police and the Metropolitan Police and whilst it has been incredibly useful in giving me an insight into the challenges faced by our police forces, as we discussed, it was fascinating to develop a much better understanding of the responsibilities and requirements of the Ministry of Defence Police.

To learn first-hand more about your marine policing unit, Project Servator, Operation Destiny and the on-going challenges that will accompany our new Aircraft Carriers was really useful and helped me to



fill in a 'blind spot' where MDP had been in my knowledge of policing. The visit gave me a great opportunity to get a much better understanding of the realities of your particular type of policing.

FROM: **Stephen Morgan MP**

I wanted to write to thank you for spending the day showing Holly Lynch and I the excellent work you and your team do. It was extremely useful to see this first-hand.

HUMBERSIDE DUO'S MARATHON EFFORT

Cystic Fibrosis Trust



On 24 June PCs PETER GRIFFIN and ADAM BRADLEY will be taking part in the Humber Half Marathon, attempting to complete the course in full firearms kit, including ballistic helmets and enhanced body armour.

The firearms will be replaced with solid replicas along with the ammunition to get to the closest weight as carrying the live firearms. PC Bradley is an armed officer on the East coast and PC Griffin is a Firearms Instructor also at the same location. The equipment weighs 15kg.

"We decided to complete this arduous event in order to raise as much money as possible for the charity Cystic Fibrosis," said PC Griffin.

St Fergus school visit raises the Force profile

■ **A FAMILY CONNECTION**
to a school close to MDP
St Fergus helped to raise the profile of the Force locally and to engage with its young pupils, some of whom could be recruits of the future.

PC Lewis Carle heard from his brother, Acting Head Teacher at New Machar Primary School, that World of Work Week would be commencing on 19th March, giving local companies/organisations the opportunity to go into the school and educate the pupils about their occupations.

This links with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), a seven-year programme (2014-2021) that aims to better prepare children and young people aged 3-18 for the world of work. The programme builds on the foundations already in place through Curriculum for Excellence. The headline aim of Developing the Young Workforce is to reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent by 2021.

Lewis told *TalkThrough*: "After hearing all this I suggested to my brother that this might be something that the MDP would be interested in being part of. I saw this as a great opportunity for the Force to represent the police community and to interact with the local community, establish a working relationship and break down any barriers between the police and the young people of today.

"I spoke to my line manager Sergt McBride and he gave his full support in us attending the school and also volunteered his services for the day of the visit. I spread the word via email to all the troops and pulled together a group of officers who were willing to give up their own time and help with the visit.

"The officers who visited the school with me on Wednesday 21st March were Sergt McBride and PCs Stuart Price, Andrew Brown and Koren Brown. We were met by Deputy Head Teacher Miss Kathryn McPherson, who directed us to the room in which we would be working and the area where we could set up the marked up police vehicle.

"We split up into two groups, the Police vehicle group which was made up of PC Andrew Brown and PC Koren Brown



and the classroom demonstrations, carried out by myself, PC Stuart Price and Sergt McBride."

The first group explained the purpose of the vehicle, demonstrated the various lights and the differences between them, sounded the siren, allowed the children to sit in the vehicle, showed the kit carried on board and answered questions from the children and their teachers.



"In the classroom group we spoke about the job and the differences between us and Police Scotland; depending on the age group we played a short video, which showed what the MDP were about and the numerous areas that we specialise in," said Lewis.

"We displayed all the Personal Protection Equipment that we wear on a daily basis and the more specific PPE that we may have to wear. We invited all the children to try on everything from hats through to TAC vests. Myself and PC Price, with Sergt McBride in attendance, carried

out demos of PST, applying handcuffs, we demonstrated the situations where we may have to use Pava (on the day we had training Pava and safety glasses). We also demonstrated, using training batons and foam shields, situations where we may use baton strikes and finally we answered questions.

"On the day we saw 16 classes which consisted of 430 plus pupils. The feedback that we received from all pupils and teachers on the day was excellent. During the week there had been numerous local businesses and national companies go into the school and talk to the children, but it was our day at the school that was the highlight, they said.

"It really was worthwhile attending the school and everybody who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, but the main thing was that the children had a great day and we definitely changed their opinions towards the police."

PS Paul McNamara, former SPO at St Fergus, said: "This was an excellent opportunity identified by PC Carle, who is still in his first year of probationary training. It allowed the MDP to introduce themselves, not just as a Force in the area, but also as a potential future employer. Not only did the children get a positive image of the MDP, but also the teachers and the children's parents. This then spreads through the community via word of mouth and social media, thus allowing us to interact in future events. Well done to all involved who gave up their free time to participate."

Photograph: Neil Parry



Snow Patrol

Whilst the country shivered in freezing temperatures as 'The Beast From The East' wreaked havoc across the UK, MDP officers, such as these from Wethersfield OSU, continued to maintain their around-the-clock patrols, keeping Defence assets and its people safe.