



“TALK THROUGH”

EXCLUSIVE

Interview with ACC Dave Long:

“The safety of our people remains a priority in all that we do”

Also inside:

- | Project Servator Team Award
- | Spotlight on Barrow
- | Carrier escort success

And...

Officers climbing mountains, sailing around the world, saving lives and much more!

Plus
Meet MDP's very own sports
STARS

PROUD TO SERVE

Delivering for Defence and protecting the communities we serve throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

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Challenging times ahead

Our day-to-day business changed dramatically in the lead up to preparing this most recent edition of *Talk Through*, with MDP officers and staff being called upon to provide our response to Covid-19.

Times like this demonstrate how important it is for the Force to be ready for any eventuality and shows how varied a policing function can be.

The MDP provides an essential service which has to be maintained regardless of what is happening around us. That sometimes places members of our workforce in harm's way - but that is the essence of public service and the oath our officers swore when they joined.

One of the many pleasures I have as Chief Constable is briefing Ministers and other key stakeholders on the excellent work being done by the Ministry of Defence Police, day in and day out.

As we start a new decade and move ahead towards next year's Golden Anniversary of the foundation of the Force, there is much to report that reflects well, including many of the events recorded in this latest edition of our showcase magazine, *Talk Through*.

The 'Highly Commended' Team Award, received at the Government Security Conference Awards, is a prime example of well-deserved success and I congratulate all involved for this notable achievement.

Recently, I was able to report to the Baroness Goldie DL, Minister of State in the House of Lords, on our successful recruitment campaign, which last year saw over 400 new recruits join MDP. This was largely thanks to carefully targeted advertising on social media and the hard work of the recruitment team to ensure swift progression of candidates throughout the process. The achievement drew high praise from the Minister for all responsible for the campaign's success.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Long reflects on the MDP's response to COVID-19 and has been talking to the Editor of *Talk Through* about our recent operational successes,



including the critical part we played in keeping the wheels of the Department turning, in Whitehall, during the Extinction Rebellion protests last year.

The transfer of the newest member of the British Fleet - HMS Prince of Wales - from Scotland to First Entry at Portsmouth - as well as its recent courtesy visit to Merseyside, escorted throughout by the MDP Marine Unit, also feature, as does a recent success from our ever-vigilant Crime Command.

The Chief Officer Group remains committed to the introduction across the Force of fitness standards, in line with those of the College of Policing, so it is good to see several reports within the following pages of outstanding individual sporting achievements by some of our officers.

Furthermore, it is so positive to read reflections from members of our LGBT+ Network, shared online earlier this year for LGBT+ History Month. As a Force we remain committed to ensuring our workforce reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of *Talk Through*, published online only on this occasion, and if you have any feedback or ideas for future features, please contact the Corporate Communications team.

Andy Adams

MDP Project Servator 'highly commended' at awards

Three years on since first adopting Project Servator at HM Naval Base Portsmouth, the MDP has received a 'Highly Commended' Team Award at the 2020 Government Security Conference Awards.

Among more than 180 nominees at the annual awards event, this was a significant achievement.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Long commented:

"This is a fantastic outcome for the MDP Project Servator team, recognising the collective efforts of all involved - operationally and in support roles - to ensure the high standard and effectiveness of our deployments."

The MDP's highly visible Project Servator deployments, with supporting assets (such as police dogs and armed officers) and a focus on community engagement and collaboration with local forces, have seen an increase in arrests for theft, possession of offensive weapons and drugs and traffic and immigration offences, along with an increase in intelligence gathering.

Effective engagement with members of the communities that the MDP Project Servator team serve, in and outside the wire, has also strengthened the counter-terrorism focus on being vigilant and reporting anything that does not seem right.

Project Servator, first developed and introduced by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) and the City of London Police in 2014, is a national policing tactic, devised to disrupt a range of criminal activity, including terrorism, whilst providing a reassuring presence for the public.

To find out more, visit our Project Servator page on GOV.UK and follow the MDP and #Project Servator on social media.



Crown Copyright: Cabinet Office

Careers for the Curious



Police Sergeant Guy Hibbert, MDP Project Servator Lead Trainer and National Project Servator Trainer collects the award from Dominic Fortescue, Government Chief Security Officer

In challenging times...

Proud to Serve

As we all continue to confront the Coronavirus pandemic - the biggest challenge the UK (and indeed the world) has faced in decades - the MDP response remains strong, delivering for Defence and the communities we serve and playing our part in implementing new policing powers, in a rapidly changing landscape.

Initial response to a national emergency

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe during the early part of the year, with a national lockdown that commenced on 23 March, the MDP Gold Cell and Strategic Command Group, led by ACC Dave Long and ACC Andrea Bishop, pushed forward at pace with putting into practice robust business continuity plans.

The priority was, and still is, to protect all MDP personnel and their families, whilst ensuring that the MDP continues to operate effectively and efficiently throughout the crisis.

Whether in the workplace, deployed operationally or working from home, the dedication and resilience of all departments and team members across the Force has ensured the ongoing delivery of essential MDP outputs.

This was recognised by CC Andy Adams, on 26 March, just three days into the national lockdown, when he said:

"As we all adapt to a new way of life and new ways of working, I want to say a huge thank you to all MDP colleagues who continue to Deliver for Defence and remain focused on the safety of the communities that we serve."

An unprecedented role for policing

In frontline roles, MDP officers are playing their part, alongside colleagues in other forces, to ensure the safety of the public by using a four-phased approach to engage, explain, encourage and, only as a last resort, enforce policing powers under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

The MDP has been pleased to see most people acting responsibly and doing the right thing, by following government guidance on social distancing. However, there have been some

challenges, particularly during unseasonably good weather and the recent Bank Holiday weekends, where extra patrols and reinforced messaging have been required.



The next phase

As we now move into the next phase of controlling coronavirus, the MDP will continue to police by consent, using common sense and discretion to determine what is reasonable, and only enforce as a last resort.

In this together

Despite the challenges that we all face, a constant throughout the crisis has been the mantra that we're 'in this together', in a national effort to fight the virus, and that has been clear to see by the MDP workforce, both in and outside the wire.

In joined up working with policing and security partners and in engagement with stakeholders, Defence personnel, and members of the public, a collective sense of positive support, empathy and compassion has outweighed negativity. That sentiment has, of course, also been expressed tangibly in all the wonderful rainbow pictures and window messages MDP officers have seen and, during the weekly Clap for Our Carers, when the Force has joined the nation to clap and sound its sirens to say thank you to the NHS, carers and all keyworkers for everything they have done and everything they continue to do.

For more information:

gov.uk/coronavirus

COVID-19 Hub - college.police.uk

NEXT: INTERVIEW WITH ACC LONG>>

Interview with ACC Dave Long

Pandemic response eclipses challenging year

When *Talk Through* caught up with ACC Dave Long earlier this year, for a look back over what had been a challenging previous 12 months, the COVID-19 global pandemic was only in its infancy.

Within days of our interview, the world had been turned upside down and, as Gold Commander, ACC Long was leading the Force response to the COVID-19 national emergency, with the operation being focused on ensuring the safety and security of MDP officers and staff, and the protection of MOD sites, assets and people, including those in the surrounding communities.

During a Force dial-in, two weeks into the national lockdown, ACC Long explained the operation's strategic intent.

He said: "Simplistically, it's about implementing Business Continuity Plans, keeping our people safe, managing the impact, generating surge resources and seeking to deliver as much of our operational outputs as possible – whilst still maintaining an ability to keep other business critical

functions operating across the Force".

ACC Long thanked those who had 'helped to stand up and operate the command structure successfully', including the Gold Support Team, led up Chief Insp Jimmy Carr, Silver Commander, Chief Supt Dennis Jackson, and SMEs from SHEP, Welfare, HR, Corporate Communications, Firearms, OCC, Head of Establishment, Finance, CIS, the DPF, Trade Unions and all teams who play an important role in MDP business outputs.

ACC Long continued: "The response has been, not surprisingly, what MDP always does which is to rise to the challenge and 'crack on with things'. That's quite a commendable organisational trait to have when everyone will have their own personal/family concerns about what COVID-19 means to them.

"Everyone seems to be 'getting on with it' and adapting to a crisis that is both unprecedented and at the same time absolutely-tragic for those directly affected, through the loss of loved ones, and those impacted by the worry and anxiety that a pandemic brings.

"Colleagues are adapting to working differently by necessity, which challenges the mindset of always doing things a certain way. The operational delivery is holding up and we are keeping it under constant review.

"Everything we are doing is aligned to maintaining a twin-track approach, to support what the MOD are doing and to monitor what's happening from a National Police Chiefs' Council perspective.

"My commitment is to ensure that the safety of our people remains a priority in all that we do and that we deliver our policing services to the best of our ability; be that for Defence and other customers, or the greater good of the national policing effort."

As the Operation has progressed steps have been taken to develop the resilience in key command roles, with ACC Andrea Bishop and Ch Supt Dave Pawley now providing regular support and coverage. There will be more on the Force response to COVID-19 in the next edition of *Talk Through*.

A CHALLENGING 12 MONTHS

In his retrospective interview earlier this year, ACC Long began by saying:

"I am never surprised how MDP rises to a challenge and the challenge I am talking about, as I reflect over the last 12 months, is maintaining operational delivery whilst dealing with an under-bearing across the Force that at

“The response has been, not surprisingly, what MDP always does which is to rise to the challenge and ‘crack on with things’”

one stage was probably close to 300 and, as a consequence of that, we had to rely heavily on staff working overtime to be able to sustain outputs.

"For me, there have been some significant achievements, because in amongst the difficulties, is the maintenance of business as usual, by which I mean everything to do with delivering the protection of the strategic nuclear deterrent and all the component parts that feed into that enterprise.

"It's across US Visiting Forces, it's across the CNI and DM sites, it also includes other places that have a relative importance to others, i.e. MOD Main Building in Whitehall, because of the location of where it is, GCHQ and the Dockyards.

"They are all really important and we continue to deliver across all of those areas."

A target to recruit 400 officers, to restore complemented numbers, has been a real stretch, said ACC Long, but before the arrival of the pandemic the recruitment campaign had been on track and did actually reach that number.

There have been challenges around the Force response to customer demands and meeting those expectations.

He said: “We work productively with our customers to try to get a better understanding and inform the debate as to whether there is a different way to do something – can we be more efficient, and more creative around how we deliver the tasking, how we deliver the policing or security effect on behalf of Defence, and how we provide reassurance on security risk?”

Other particular challenges in the previous year involved major events, such as the D-Day 75 commemorations at Portsmouth.

“This was a very significant event for MDP, working in partnership with Hampshire Police and other stakeholders, as well as all the MOD representation that was there. The support that we provided to Hants Police was really well received, and that is all credit to the MDP operation which was overseen by Ch Supt Dave Pawley and delivered by MDP Portsmouth and other specialist teams.

“The operation showed two real strengths of MDP; the ability to link in with what Defence needs - that core defence interest - and the ability to interoperate effectively with the local partner Force, making sure we ended up with a seamless operation which delivered the armed as well as unarmed policing effects, like Project Servator, outside the wire.”

Other things that the MDP have been involved with include the second carrier - **HMS Prince of Wales** - which was commissioned in December, with the Force playing a key role in the overall policing operation to get it from where it was

built in Caledonia, out to sea and around to Portsmouth for its first port of entry.

ACC Long said: “There were some resourcing challenges and logistical challenges but our experience from doing the same for **HMS Queen Elizabeth** was put to good effect and we were able to review, learn and improve, to be able to complete a successful operation for the second time.

“Linked in with that, was **HMS Queen Elizabeth** going in for maintenance on the east coast of Scotland - again a proven operation, including both marine policing and armed policing to provide security when the carrier was in berth there.”

Moving on to another challenging operational demand, this time concerning protest, ACC Long said: “We have seen a growing threat from Extinction Rebellion protests across the UK. Last year, when protests took place in London, our effective joint working capabilities were once again demonstrated by our ability to protect Defence interests around MOD buildings, whilst seamlessly operating directly with Met Police, BTP, City of London Police and other policing partners in that area.”

ACC Long concluded his reflections by saying: “Finally, I would like to signpost the outstanding work achieved by colleagues delivering and supporting Project Servator deployments. The Government Security Conference ‘Highly Commended’ Team Award is a fantastic achievement and this has also been endorsed with high praise by the National Project Servator Team for the MDP’s exemplary standard of operational delivery. Well done to everybody who has played their part in this achievement.”

Meeting upon reaching initial operational capability at Barrow-In-Furness in November 2019: ACC Dave Long (right), pictured with (L-R) SPO Insp Ewan Muir, Chief Supt Ops Dennis Jackson and PS Mike Finlinson.



NEW TASKS

“During the past year we have worked closely with various customers to set up new tasks, such as the new complement that is in the process of being established at Barrow-in-Furness, as part of the Defence Nuclear Enterprise.

“We have also established some small, but unique, community policing complements at Salisbury and Longmoor (Aldershot), to support the Defence Infrastructure Organisation training estate.

MEETING TRAINING DEMANDS

“Sustaining core and mandatory training needs, whilst the supply of National Firearms Instructors is still being developed, remains a logistical challenge and, alongside this, resourcing operations and delivering training requirements for the 400 new entrants joining us - from other forces and as new recruits - places significant burden on available resources.

“That is where a really close working relationship between the Operational Capability Centre and HQ Ops, as the intelligent customer, is essential, to ensure flexibility on training dates and resources. Where we have available capability from officers based at stations with a secondary training qualification, we can also release those individuals to assist with the overall delivery plan.

PROCUREMENT

“We have procured some key pieces of equipment this year. From my perspective, I want to make sure our officers have got the right kit, the right equipment, and the right training to be able to be deployed. If there are any health and safety obligations on me (on behalf of the Chief)

to provide such equipment, then I am clear we must do what is needed as quickly as possible and make the necessary financial decisions around those priorities.

HEADQUARTERS

“In the last year we carried out a review of the HQ Ops structure. This was to ensure the Force is delivering its operational requirements and we’ve done what needs to be done to maintain customer satisfaction, as well as demonstrate that we can deliver good and effective services. We have also done some fine tuning to make sure the structure is adequately serving frontline operations and is not adding a layer of bureaucracy to the demands already placed on senior police officers out on the ground. We haven’t always got that right in the past, but I am committed to making improvements.

“I like to spend a couple of hours with newly-promoted Sergeants and Inspectors during their leadership courses, to chat through with them what it means to be a leader within the MDP, and reinforce what the expectations are from the Chief Officer Group, particularly around empowerment, leading people, problem solving and creating solutions that bring about change.

“Our people do some really excellent work, day in and day out and I don’t need to single out particular people or stations, because it’s common across the Force. Thanks to everyone, both frontline and back-office, that enable the Force to deliver its outputs - I am really grateful for all your hard work and support which makes me very #ProudToBeMDP.”



Written by:
Ewan Muir

New role for MDP at Barrow-in-Furness

With the task of setting up a new MDP station and complement at the BAES facility at Barrow-in-Furness on track for completion next year, Insp Ewan Muir, Senior Police Officer, explains how the Force set about the implementation challenge that began in June last year.

In June 2019, both myself and Sergeant Michael Finlinson arrived at BAES Barrow-in-Furness, in Cumbria, as the Complement Implementation Team and we immediately began work to establish a new MDP station and complement there.

For those who are unfamiliar with the geography of Barrow, it is located on the tip of a peninsula in the Irish Sea and is a short distance from the picturesque Lake District.

Barrow itself is the second largest town in Cumbria after Carlisle and has a population of around 67,000. BAES is currently in the process of building the Astute class submarines there and will build the Trident class successor, Dreadnought.

With the MDP now deployed at BAES Barrow, this has ensured that every site within the United Kingdom has armed protection of the Continuous at Sea Deterrent (CASD). The commercial site of BAES employs 8-10,000 people and the site itself is effectively built around the town centre of Barrow, with residential housing and local amenities, including supermarkets, retail outlets and restaurants, located nearby.

POLICING NEEDS ANALYSIS

Prior to our arrival on site, a Policing Needs Analysis was written by Ch Insp Phil Lucy, which provided us with key milestones, from a resourcing perspective, on what had to be achieved over a two-year period for us to deliver Full Operational Capability (FOC) by March 2021.

A stepped complement increase will now continue to take place until FOC is delivered.

Our immediate milestone was to achieve Initial Operational Capability (IOC) which was achieved in November 2019. Regular engagement with our customer, the Submarine Delivery Agency (SDA) and other key stakeholders, ensured BAES were able to integrate MDP into their infrastructure.

SDA and BAES identified an area for permanent MDP accommodation, and we contacted relatively new stations with a similar size complement, including NRTE Vulcan and Rolls Royce Raynesway, to assist us with replicating similar facilities at Barrow.

Inspectors Vinnie Reid and Tony Parton held focus groups amongst the officers at these stations, regarding existing accommodation, which provided us with as much learning from experience as possible.

A visit to Rolls Royce Raynesway further assisted in developing best practice, and we collaborated with the BAES planning department to maximise the floor space available. A gymnasium will be installed and the permanent accommodation work which is underway, is due to be handed over to us in late spring 2020.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We facilitated a stakeholder meeting at MDP HQ which was attended by various departments, including representatives from Firearms, Procurement, Finance, CIS, OCC, MDP Operations and the Roster Management Cell. The rationale for the meeting was to ensure these departments were fully aware of our role and function at Barrow and what we required from them to deliver operational capability.

Work on standard operating procedures, agreeing Memorandums of Understanding with Cumbria Constabulary, as well as regular consultation with BAE security and Securitas (the civilian security force on site) was completed, ensuring that the necessary preparation was in place for MDP to deliver operational capability.

Prior to the start of IOC we welcomed our first permanent officers to station, PS Frank Bowen on promotion from OCC and PC Natasha Marshall from MDP Whitehall. With the permanent officer levels at that point being unable to make us self-sufficient, officers were detached from Operational Support Unit (North), Rolls Royce Raynesway, Clyde Group and Donnington. Barrow comes under the Special Escort Group therefore additional support was provided by our line management team, Supt Chris Yates and Ch Insp Jeff Renton.

IOC DELIVERED

Since IOC was reached in November 2019, MDP officers have dealt with several immediate risk to life incidents in the local community,

in addition to carrying out their core role. The work they have carried out on site and within the local community has already enhanced our relationship with SDA, BAES and Cumbria Constabulary. Regular drug and explosive dog patrols have taken place at the BAES site in collaboration with Cumbria Constabulary and BAES security which has reassured the customer and stakeholder with positive feedback received. Partnership working with Cumbria Constabulary will continue as it is also intended that Project Servator deployments will be introduced, once the permanent complement size has increased.

Permanent resourcing of the station is ongoing, therefore regular engagement takes place with the recruitment and communication teams at HQ, to ensure vacancies are being advertised. A local recruitment event, held in the Barrow area at the beginning of the year, was advertised on social media and consequently attended by over 50 individuals. This resulted in a significant number of applications being received from external candidates for the vacancies at Barrow.



Any MDP officers interested in joining Barrow should contact the Complement Implementation Team: Insp Ewan Muir or Sgt Michael Finlinson.

LGBT+ History Month 2020

...to thine own self be true

In keeping with the ‘poetry, prose and plays’ theme for this year’s LGBT+ History Month, members of the MDP LGBT+ Network shared a literary quote that is meaningful to them, reflecting on their own thoughts and experiences with the MDP.

Callum, Tactical Firearms Unit (TFU), and Chair of the Force LGBT+ Network

“For me this poem is about risk and trust, which is something that I, like many others, can relate to in terms of my own experiences of coming out.

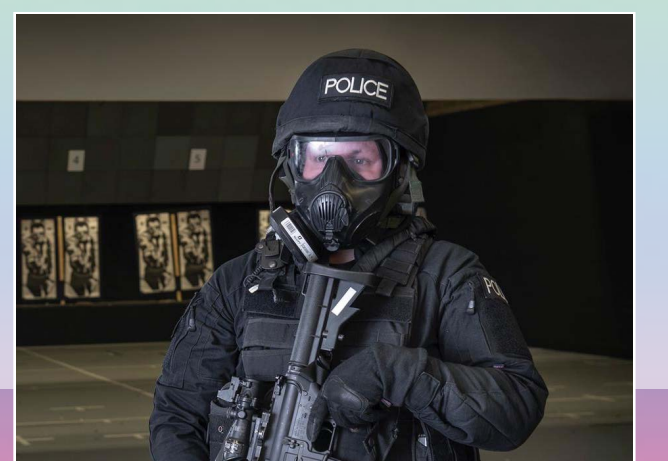
Come to the edge.
We might fall.
Come to the edge.
It’s too high!
COME TO THE EDGE!
And they came,
and he pushed,
And they flew.

Come to the Edge, Christopher Logue

“Just over a year after I joined the MDP and moved to Berkshire to work at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), I transferred to the TFU and began my Initial

Dynamic Search training. Having only recently come out to my family, I decided at that point to start afresh and my colleagues on the TFU course were the first in work to find out about my sexuality. I was a bit apprehensive but, I had absolutely nothing to worry about, the support I was given by the course directors and my colleagues was second to none and they have made it so easy for me to be my true self inside and outside work.

“My experiences of coming out in the workplace and at home have been so positive and, since taking up post as the MDP LGBT+ Network Chair last year, I’m now keen to use my own story to help support others.”



Liz, Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO) at AWE, who recently joined the MDP as a new entrant from another force



knew me and knew that I was gay. Joining a new organisation was therefore a little daunting for me at the time, but I have felt completely welcomed and am thoroughly enjoying my new role with the MDP. I’m now looking forward to helping further develop the work of the MDP LGBT+ Network, to continue to foster a supportive workplace where we can speak openly with one another.”

Two roads diverged
in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not
travel both
And be one traveller,
long I stood...

Two roads diverged
in a wood, and I –
I took the one less
travelled by.
And that has made
All the difference.

The Road Not Taken, Robert Frost

“I’ve always liked this poem which to me is about taking the right path for you, even if it might not be the easiest path to take at first. I think many people can relate to that – be it personally or professionally.

“When I joined the MDP I had been in my previous role in a Home Office Force for 12 years, where everyone

Alex, Constable at Menwith Hill

"When I started my training with the MDP in Essex and then moved to Yorkshire with my wife, I didn't know anybody but, within a short space of time my new colleagues have become my friends and at work I feel comfortable to be myself. This is so important to me, as for years I wore a mask, keeping my true self hidden, and I eventually reached a turning point in my life where I had to come out and be me."

"As a new member of the MDP LGBT+ Network, I'm now looking forward to making more new friends and using my own experiences to help support others."

There are no strangers here; only friends you haven't yet met.



Dale, Senior Police Officer at DM Crombie and MOD Caledonia and MDP representative on the Scottish LGBTI Police Association

Dale reflected on his role as an LGBT+ Ally in the MDP and focused on 'What have we learned?' which was the Scottish LGBT+ History Month theme for 2020.

"My son Mark came out when he was 18 years old and at home, at university and in the workplace, he has always felt supported and has experienced no issues or bias because of his sexuality."

"As an LGBT+ Ally in the MDP, I'm proud to be part of a support structure which aims to ensure that those who identify as LGBT+ in our workforce and the communities we serve, have the same inclusive experience as my son."

"Since joining the MDP 29 years ago, I've seen a dramatic and positive change in views and attitudes towards LGBT+ people and, across policing, it's now recognised that we should be representative of the communities we serve and that people perform better when they can be themselves."

"We've come along way but, there's still more to do..."



If you're a member of the MDP – uniformed or non-uniformed – and would like to join or learn more about the MDP LGBT+ Network, or speak to members in confidence, you can make contact via the network's group mailbox: MDP-LGBT-Network-Group@mod.gov.uk

Flying the flags for Diversity...



MDP and Naval Base personnel, at HMNB Clyde, marked Transgender Day of Remembrance back in November.

We flew our purple flag at MDP HQ for International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.

Supt Sandy Stewart, Senior Police Officer at HMNB Clyde, joined colleagues from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines in celebrating 20 years since the ban was lifted on lesbian, gay and bisexual people serving in the armed forces.

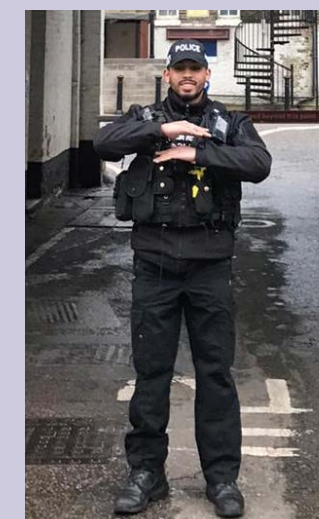


Finally, to mark LGBT+ History Month we raised our Rainbow Flag at MDP HQ, which stayed aloft despite the stormy weather throughout February!



...and other Diversity celebrations

In February, officers and staff wore something purple for #PurpleFriday, which is named after the purple stripe from the Rainbow Flag representing 'spirit', and we struck the #EachForEqual pose for International Women's Day on 8 March.





MDP SPORTS STARS

Copyright: GDFPR Powerlifting

CLARE POWERS HER WAY TO TOP

Coulport-based PC Claire Stott-Barrett has been powering her way to the top as one of the UK's best powerlifters. The self-funded athlete told **Talk Through**: "All the competitions I have entered are in the unequipped full power category, each involving three lifts – back squat, bench press and deadlift.

Claire's track record over the past 17 months in her chosen sport has been very impressive, winning her inaugural power lifting competition at the Police Service UK (PSUK) event in Glasgow in October 2018, before finishing second in the British Drug Free Powerlifting Association's (BDFPA) Scottish Open in Edinburgh two months later.

In April last year Claire took part in the World Drug Free Powerlifting Federation, (WDFPF) European Champs in Suffolk and won her category. She followed this in July by winning the BDFPA British Championships in Edinburgh, which meant that she qualified for the world

championships, for which she travelled to Halle, Germany in October.

Pausing only to retain her title at the PSUK championships in Glasgow that same month, Claire joined Team GBR at the World event, finishing second in the open, first in the Masters and helping the national team to finish second to hosts Germany in the team event.

Said Claire: "I'm a self-funded athlete, so I'm extremely grateful to have had the support of the Ministry Of Defence Police Sports Association, which has assisted with the entry costs of the competitions.

"I'm proud that when I compete, I'm not only representing myself, but I'm also representing my Station, my Force, the Helensburgh area where I live and work, 'The Journey', where I train and have the support of all the staff and clients, most recently at the World Championships, representing Scotland and the UK."

WORLD INDOOR ROWING CHAMPION

Congratulations to Operational Support Unit Sergeant, Simon Amery, who won silver at the Paris 2020 World Indoor Rowing Championships in February.

The international event was held at the Stade de la Pierre Coubertain in Paris and attended by athletes from 51 countries. Simon competed in the men's age 50-54 light weight (below 75kg) category and won his silver medal in the 2000 metre event.

2000 metres is the distance rowed by athletes on the water and is the main competition distance for indoor and outdoor events. The events are completed on the Concept 2 rowing machine which is standard gym kit all over the world. Simon said "It is an instrument of torture at times!"

Here is Simon (left) pictured at the medal ceremony with the victor, from Germany, and bronze medal winner.



FORCE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The Force Golf Championship celebrated its 30th anniversary in August last year at the Cadrona Golf Club, in Scotland, attracting a field of 36 officers.

To commemorate the special occasion a limited-edition ball marker was presented to all players and in true Masters Golf tradition, it was agreed to have the inaugural shot of the 30th championship played by Mr Wullie Beck.

Wullie Beck, a retired MOD civilian employee, has attended all the MDP championships over the past 30 years. His role has always been to introduce the players on to the first tee and collate all the scores.

After his introduction, Wullie hit the drive of the day, straight down the middle. "Not bad for a young octogenarian" said Chief Insp Stuart Wilson, Treasurer for the MDP Golf Society.

Stuart described the Cadrona course as a "great test of golf, the rough was unforgiving and over the two rounds collectively, 146 golf balls were given a new

home (lost)."

The winner of the 2019 championship was newcomer PC Mark Anderson from Glen Douglas, who was playing in the competition for the first time.

The handicap champion was PC John Colvan (RNAD Coulport), also a first-time player, whilst Bob Bossam, who recently retired from Donnington, won the Retired Officers' trophy and Sergeant Ross Watt, from Garlogie was presented the Alf Hitchcock Quaich.

Said Stuart: "It was a pleasure to welcome Chair of the MDP Sports Association, ACC Andrea Bishop, to the prizegiving presentation. It was a fitting end to what had been a memorable occasion.

"Thanks to those who attended and the continued support of all our members - we are looking forward to the next 30 years!"

Details of the next Force Golf Championship will be annouced in due course.

NEXT: MARATHON RUNNER>>

Running in Rwanda

PC James Lodge, from the Tactical Firearms Unit, is no stranger to extreme physical challenges after he participated in an Extreme Character Challenge (XCC) back in October 2017. This is a 72-hour endurance event, designed to push participants beyond their physical and mental comfort zones.

He was one of 100 men in the all-male challenge, who were dropped off at Heathrow airport with a back pack and bare essentials, and flown to Scotland, where they were put into teams. Each team then made their way to Lock Tay, in the central Highlands. No mobile phones were permitted for the duration of the challenge and the men were shut off from the outside world, living in small tents with rationed food supplies.

The organisers, 4Muk, were linked in with Compassion UK, a charity that stands up for children living in extreme poverty. James told **Talk Through**: "At the end of my XCC challenge I received a feedback form and one of the questions asked if I would participate in what's called a Muskathlon - a play on words, we are the 4th Musketeer taking on a marathon.

"The options were either a half or full Marathon, 120km bike ride or a 40 mile walk to be completed in 9 hrs. When submitting my feedback form I registered my interest and thought no more of it. A few months later I received an email asking if I would still like to participate abroad in a Muskathlon to which I replied yes.

"Compassion have missions in various parts of the world where they are changing the lives of thousands of children living in extreme conditions. Currently Compassion have raised over £441,000 and have 844 sponsors from challenges like this one in Rwanda.

"Compassion's main aim is to find people to sponsor a child which enables them to support the next family in desperate need. My wife Laura and I sponsor three children through Compassion. Erika aged 8 who lives in Tanzania, Steven Caleb aged 4 who lives in Honduras and Amina aged 8 who lives in Rwanda.

"For the past three years I have cycled for Children with Cancer UK and always look for further challenges where I can help make a difference. Knowing the impact that 4Muk and Compassion are having on children's lives, I just couldn't resist the challenge and signed up for the next available Muskathlon which happened to be Rwanda 2019. I could have opted for the cycle ride but chose to go out of my comfort zone and run my first marathon!

"Whilst I was trying my best to keep to a strict training plan, my wife worked tirelessly finding ways to raise money and find sponsors."

Together with 40 others, James flew to Rwanda's capital Kigali, spending a week visiting Compassion projects and meeting the children and their families.



Said James: "Whilst I knew about poverty, nothing could have prepared me for what I would see. It was extremely difficult having to witness children as young as three, dragging drums filled with water that would make you or I really ill, and living in mud huts the size of an average bathroom.

"However, it was also extremely comforting to see the huge impact Compassion was having on the lives of all the children enrolled on the project. I have never felt more welcome in a country that has had to go through such hell and to be told how grateful they are for people like myself to stand by their side, was amazing to hear.

"The marathon began at 0600 in Kabgayi, which is 6,000 ft above sea level. It was all off road and extremely hilly. Whilst really tough and very hot towards the end, I was actually the first to complete the Marathon which I did in 5 hours 20 minutes. The support from the

locals throughout the course was incredible, and having random children running alongside really helped remind me why I was doing it.

"During my visit to Rwanda I was able to meet eight-year-old Amina, one of the children my wife and I sponsor, along with her parents. They live just outside Kabgayi. On one of the days we spent there, we organised a sports day for the children which they absolutely loved. Amina who had never seen a Frisbee took no time to master the technique.

"Meeting Amina's parents in their family home was a moment I will forever treasure - to see the impact my sponsorship is having on Amina was just incredible".

Find out more: [compassionuk.org](https://www.compassionuk.org)

[@compassionuk](https://twitter.com/compassionuk)

[@compassionuk](https://www.facebook.com/compassionuk)

OPERATION CLOCKFACE II

An officer's tale

PC David Dufton is a marine officer with the Marine Unit at HMNB Clyde. David volunteered to be part of Operation Clockface and was involved from the very beginning, starting with the escort of HMS Queen Elizabeth from Rosyth to her new home in Portsmouth.

Here, David reflects on the maiden voyage of sister ship – *HMS Prince of Wales*...

"I volunteered for Operation Clockface right from the start as I wanted to be part of this historic event and be able to say I played my small part in the delivery of the nation's new aircraft carriers.

"MDP Marine Units provided Force Protection for three key milestones of *HMS Prince of Wales*' entry into service: the initial departure from the building yard in Rosyth; the subsequent period at anchor in the Firth of Forth; and the historic passage under the Forth bridges for the carrier's sea trials in the North Sea, which attracted significant public interest.

"The operation began with intense planning which required joined up working with Police Scotland, the Royal Navy, HM Coastguard local teams, the RNLI and civilian contractors.

"There is a lot of work that goes on 'behind the scenes' when planning an operation such as...

- Finding volunteers happy to be away from home for long periods and who were extremely flexible.
- Seeking berthing and vessel support from Port Edgar Marina (former HMS Lochinvar) - We were very grateful for everything they did for us along with the HM Coastguard at Port Edgar (use of facilities, fuel etc.).
- Arranging accommodation for all officers involved, as well as vehicles for those on detached duty.
- Transporting RHIBS by road between HMNB Clyde and Port Edgar and arranging for them to be launched onto the Forth.
- Acquiring assistance from civilian marinas up and down country.
- Staffing and up-keeping launches whilst in situ, often for long periods during the operation this included organising fuel, repairs and maintenance with contractors away from base station.

"On the big day when *HMS Prince of Wales* squeezed out of its dockyard for the first time – there was only one metre of clearance either side of the carrier as it passed through the opening at the basin – we had RHIBs and launches maintaining a clear passage, both for navigational safety and to deter any threat to the carrier. An MDP adviser was also positioned on the carrier's bridge, working alongside the ship's Force Protection Officer, they helped coordinate the layered protection as well as be on hand to advise the Commanding Officer and respond to any emergent threats.

"Once at sea, the *HMS Prince of Wales* first port-of-call was Cromarty Firth to restock fuel and supplies at Invergordon. Whenever the carrier was at anchor here or in the Moray Firth the MDP were required to provide security including 24/7 cordon whilst it was alongside the highland port.

“The Force Protection provided by the MDP is integral to the security of this strategic national asset. It is as fundamental inshore as the protective escort provided by warships offshore. I am indebted to the MDP Marine Units for the professionalism and flexibility they have shown throughout.”

Captain Darren Houston

Picture: Captain Darren Houston, Royal Navy, Commanding Officer of HMS Prince of Wales and Inspector Pat McNaught



“This Force has a long established and well-deserved reputation for rising to a challenge and the way it responded to this particular task was a fine example of that ‘can do’ attitude. I would like to place on record my grateful thanks and admiration for all those involved in executing this operation with such professionalism and expertise. Yet again you made everyone in the Force feel Proud To Be MDP.”

Chief Constable Andy Adams

OP CLOCKFACE CONT'D>>>

“The demands placed on the MDP to provide continuous waterborne Force Protection of an aircraft carrier are significant and were tested to the limit by regular late-notice changes to the ship’s programme, dictated by the progress of its sea trials and weather conditions.

“A particularly challenging phase of the operation were preparations for the carrier’s first entry to Portsmouth, which involved moving MDP launches from Inverness to the Naval Base via the North Sea. Unlike the escort of sister carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, we were unable to use the Caledonian Canal because it was shut for maintenance.

“Despite very rough and turbulent conditions, and the need to stop at many ports on the way down, including South Shields, Ramsgate, Lowestoft, Grimsby, and travelling through the Thames Estuary, and Dover Straits (the busiest shipping lanes in the world!) we successfully got the launches to HMNB Portsmouth...The only part of the UK coastline not visited during the whole operation was the north of Scotland, as vessels came back from Portsmouth through the Irish Sea!

“All those involved in the operation displayed

flexibility, good humour and dedication to getting the job done - representing the MDP well throughout. We worked in ever changing conditions, whether that was short notice programme changes or indeed the weather itself!

“We lived for weeks out of suitcases, travelling to different areas of the country to support the carriers. This included staying in hotels, onboard the Police launches, in Pods at HMS Caledonia, and student halls in Edinburgh, as well as spending days at sea in rough weather, all the time keeping our spirits high and determined to do a good job.

“I was proud to represent our Force and have the opportunity to work alongside our MOD colleagues and other marine partners, as well as engage with members of the public who we often encountered on our travels.

“All our marine units are rightly proud of the contribution we made, often above and beyond, in facilitating a smooth transition for *HMS Prince Wales* from building site to making her debut in Portsmouth and joining sister carrier Queen Elizabeth. We all look forward to supporting the carriers throughout their operational life.”

“Throughout all the phases of Operation Clockface involving the Queen Elizabeth and the Prince of Wales Carriers all officers from the three Marine Units, the OSU and other stations who responded often at short notice have displayed dedication, flexibility and the utmost professionalism throughout. I would also like to thank the Operational Support Departments, Duties Offices, Boats Support and CT SECCO officers who assisted throughout every phase of the operation. Our protection of the carriers has not gone unnoticed as can be seen from the comments from the commanding officer, which highlight how we in the MOD Police are held in such high regard. We have forged excellent relationships with personnel from the Carrier, Police Scotland and staff at Rosyth and Invergordon and we also thank them for the assistance they provided to the Force. I would also like to thank Chief Insp John Brizzolara (now retired) and Chief Insp John Coffield (seconded to the GDP in Gibraltar) who were involved with Op Clockface during their time with the CMU.”

Chief Inspector Garry Richardson

...and keeping HMS Prince of Wales safe on the Mersey



The Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales visited Liverpool in February to cement its close ties with the city where parts of the ship were built. This was a week-long visit giving the local community the opportunity to step on board – the first time one of the new carriers had officially been open to visitors.

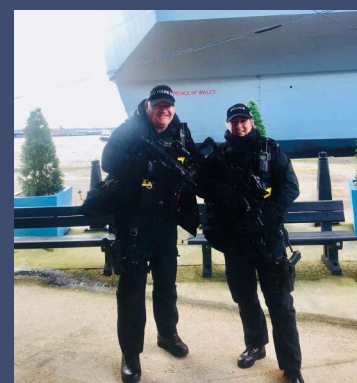
Following a request from the Royal Navy Maritime Operations Centre, Northwood, MDP were asked to provide Force Protection on behalf of the Carrier, in a joint operation with Merseyside Police, named Operation Heartland.

The MDP played a crucial role in this security challenge of considerable scale and complexity. As with previous operations involving the carriers, Operation Heartland required significant planning and logistical considerations.

Not only were MDP RHIBS and launches required to escort HMS Prince of Wales from the Irish Sea along the River Mersey and ensure she safely anchored at the Liverpool Cruise Terminal, but MDP also provided 24/7 security, both on land and water, for the duration of her stay.

This was a huge logistical operation involving officers from all three MDP Marine Units as well as officers from the Operational Support Unit and Central Support Group. With the Carrier being docked in a non-naval port and being open to the public, MDP supported Merseyside Police with implementing a robust security operation, protecting both the ship and its visitors.

Supt Sandy Stewart who was fortunate to be involved in the event said: “It has been an honour and privilege for MDP to be a part of this historical and memorable occasion. Another great opportunity to work with naval officers and the security team on board HMS Prince of Wales, as well as forge new relationships with policing colleagues from Merseyside, and engage with the Liverpool community, who turned out in their tens of thousands to see the Carrier.”



JAIL SENTENCE FOR THEFT OF MOD WEAPONS

On 26 November, Peter Laidler was sentenced to a total of 36 months in jail for various offences relating to the theft of weapons from the Infantry and Small Arms School Corps weapons collection in Warminster where he had been employed as a weapons technician until 2012.

This was the culmination of a detailed investigation by officers from the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) Crime Command. Laidler was a former Thames Valley Police officer where he had been a firearms licensing officer until his retirement in 1998. He was also a Reserve Army officer in the Combined Cadet Force at local schools.

Laidler's co-defendant was Roger Smith, a serving MDP officer up until the time of the trial. He had admitted receiving weapons from his friend Laidler for a number of years.

Smith was found guilty of handling a stolen SA80 Cadet rifle and was sentenced to a Community Order for 12 months, with a requirement to complete 200 hours of unpaid work. At a police misconduct hearing following his conviction he was dismissed as if he had still been a serving officer.



“...no matter who you are or what your role is, if you are involved in any related criminality against the Ministry of Defence you will be identified and we will persevere in ensuring that you are brought to justice...Supt Raffaele D’Orsi”

The case was discovered through the continual pro-active work of the MDP Crime Command to combat the risks posed by the theft of MOD owned firearms. When any suspected theft of firearms or ammunition is reported, Crime Command will prioritise pursuing the recovery of those items and the prosecution of those involved.

Deputy Head of MOD Police Crime Command, Detective Superintendent Raffaele D’Orsi commented: “The sentencing of Mr Laidler and previously of ex PC Smith is the culmination of a tenacious and painstaking investigation by officers from MDP Crime Command.

“The successful outcome to this case is testament to the investigating officers’ professionalism, and the commitment of the Crown Prosecution Service, sending out a clear message to firearms enabled criminals. This being that, no matter who you are or what your role is, if you are involved in any related criminality against the Ministry of Defence you will be identified and we will persevere in ensuring that you are brought to justice.

“In this case two former police officers, one serving at the time of offending, thought they knew better but still behaved criminally. This will not be tolerated by the MOD.”

Picture: ROA Committee 2019



Written by:
Geoff Heal

MDP RETIRED OFFICERS’

ASSOCIATION

It is with great pleasure that as the Chair of the MDP Retired Officers’ Association (ROA), I have been given the opportunity to write a small piece in this issue of *Talk Through*.

The ROA was formed in 1989, by the then Chief Constable, Jack Aspinall QPM FCMI, when an inaugural meeting was held at the MDP Training School at Medmenham. Initially 300 ex-officers joined and a committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Arthur Aitchison. Since then the ROA has grown in strength and with the full support of the MDP Chief Constable and Defence Police Federation (DPF) we continue to grow. Currently we have over 450 active members.

The committee meets every quarter and there is an Annual General Meeting (AGM)/Reunion normally the second weekend in October. Last year we met in Edinburgh. There is an average attendance of between 70 and 80 members but we would like to expand on this. The weekend starts on a Friday with an informal meet and greet and it concludes on the following

Monday - as well as the AGM it also includes a Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening. This year we are meeting in the lovely spa town of Harrogate, between 9 and 12 October. We are currently finalising the details to ensure that it will be another memorable weekend. We have also begun planning the AGM/Reunion for 2021.

Members of the association are entitled to specific benefits which we have negotiated, including discounts with holiday and insurance companies. However, the greatest benefit members can receive from being part of the ROA is the opportunity to keep up with current events in the Force and stay in touch with ex colleagues.

The ROA is for all ex-MDP officers - we always look forward to welcoming new members and meeting them at their first AGM/Reunion.

More information about the ROA including full membership details can be found on the DPF website: <http://www.dpf.org.uk/about-dpf/retired-officers-association>. Serving officers, approaching retirement, can also make enquiries via the MDP Liaison Officer, Superintendent Sandy Stewart (SPO Clyde Group) on 01436 674321 ext 4073, mobile 07970 741403, or email: Alexander.Stewart781@mod.gov.uk



In memory of Michael

The tragic death on duty, in July 1998, of MDP Constable Michael Brown was recalled at a ceremony to mark the restoration of a memorial cairn which stands in his memory in the Naval Base at Clyde.

Michael, a 34-year-old constable and father of two, was tragically killed on duty on 28 July 1998 whilst carrying out a maritime escort duty with the Clyde Marine Unit. The incident occurred off Toward Point on the River Clyde, where Michael fell overboard from an inflatable boat, whilst providing protective security for the movement of a submarine.

Two years after this tragic incident, a cairn was erected by Defence Estates with contributions from the Defence Police Federation, Michael's colleagues, friends and many others affected by his death. It was unveiled by Michael's wife,

Liesl and their two sons Matthew and Adam, as well as Liesl's parents Elsie and Jim Dickie.



Following its professional restoration last year, the cairn was re-dedicated at a memorial ceremony attended by Michael's family, personnel from the Base, ACC Andrea Bishop and other MDP Clyde colleagues, led by Senior Police Officer Superintendent Sandy Stewart.

Working with CNC

The Executive teams of the MDP and Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) continue to meet regularly to discuss working together closely on common issues and themes.

Currently the focus remains on recruitment and retention as both organisations are actively recruiting. MDP and CNC aim to complement each other in a cohesive joint effort to deliver operational effectiveness, and a Memorandum of Understanding is therefore being worked on, to set out shared goals and a working relationship across both organisations.

As part of this work information sharing and exchange mechanisms will be put in place to assist in maintaining progress against individual strategies and operational missions.

The focus will initially be on:

- Meeting the recruitment and retention challenges of both organisations
- Optimising the use of resources across the partnership to meet workforce challenges
- Making the transition of armed officers more flexible across our organisations
- Developing a joint workforce plan to aid decision making and understanding of joint resourcing requirements

Both forces are predominantly focused on firearms duties, with high fitness and training levels linked directly to the maintenance of firearms licences. Whilst there are a small number of roles that can be undertaken by individuals who are no longer able to carry weapons, these are limited in both forces. Work is therefore taking place to meet this challenge and look at options that can help benefit both organisations.

This is the first in a series of joint communications - the MDP and CNC are committed to keeping all staff informed on progress and the Executive teams look forward to sharing more information in due course.

New recruits join ranks

Since the last issue of *Talk Through*, two new intakes of probationer Constables have joined MDP, after graduating from the Operational Capability Centre at the end of their basic training.

In December the Band of the Scots Guards provided the musical support for the passing out of Course 03 of 2019 and there was also a demonstration by the MDP Dog Unit, featuring PD Thom and Student PDs Roscoe and Demmy with their handlers.

In February, guest of honour for the passing out of Course 04 of 2019 was Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Timothy Fraser CB, and among the officers graduating was PC Danny Brockett, watched by his proud father, Chief Insp Jonathan Brockett, MDP's Chief Firearms Instructor.



The charity Aquarius, which helps individuals and families overcome the harm caused by addiction to drugs, alcohol and gambling, received £1,000 from the students who graduated in December.

Whilst Macmillan Cancer, MND Scotland and the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust shared £1788.87, raised via various fund-raising activities by the students from February's graduation.

My Donation Story

PC Neil Hopkins is a dog handler at HMNB Clyde. Here he tells *Talk Through* about his experiences of being a donor for the Anthony Nolan Trust.



“Tuesday 18 December 2018 was the first time I donated stem cells to a cancer patient to help save their life. I had been on the Anthony Nolan donor register for approximately eighteen months prior to being notified that I had come up as a match for a patient fighting blood cancer.

“After much deliberation, I’ve decided to share my story and experiences of stem cell donation, both to promote the Anthony Nolan Trust and to persuade as many people as possible to sign up to their donor register and, hopefully, save more lives from blood cancer.

“When people hear about bone marrow donation, the first question they ask is “isn’t that painful?” the short answer being: “No, definitely not!” I’ve donated twice for the same recipient, once for bone marrow stem cells and the second time for lymphocytes, or more commonly known as white blood cells.

“My first donation experience consisted of one injection per day for four

consecutive days of a substance named G-CSF (Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor). These injections help build up a secondary immune system prior to donating. They were administered at home by a nurse. The day after the fourth injection I travelled to the specialist cancer hospital, The Christie, in Manchester.

“There are two ways used to extract bone marrow. The first is to be hooked up to the donation machine with one needle in each arm – one to withdraw the blood and cells, prior to it being passed through the machine, and the other to return your blood back to you after the machine has taken the cells.

“The other way is under general anaesthetic, with the bone marrow being taken directly from your pelvis, although I must add only ten per cent of donations are done this way. The other 90 per cent of donations are made as an out-patient, using the method as I describe. Each donation is different and dependent on the recipient’s needs.

After six hours hooked up to the machine, and endless amounts of tea and biscuits the donation was complete. The only side effect I experienced was tiredness.

“Spending time at the Christie Hospital, seeing the effects cancer has first hand, has changed my outlook on life completely. Being able to give a stranger a second chance at life is an unbelievable feeling, one I find hard to describe. However, it does fill me with a sense of pride.

“In November 2019 I was contacted again by the Anthony Nolan Trust, asking if I would be willing to donate for the same recipient. This time for Lymphocytes. Unlike the first time, there was no requirement for daily injections. Lymphocytes are naturally occurring cells in the blood and regenerate themselves over time. They boost the recipient’s immune system and help him/her to continue fighting the disease.

“Without hesitation I agreed, and arrangements were put in place to allow me to travel to the Christie Hospital again. Firstly, for a medical to check I was still

suitable and then for the donation 15 days later.

“After donation the Trust can help arrange communication anonymously between both donor and recipient. After two years, if both want to and the recipient’s medical team allows it, direct contact can be made, and we are allowed to meet provided contact, is initiated by the recipient.

“I’ve been supported by Anthony Nolan throughout both donations and keep regular contact with their aftercare team. I’d like to place on record my thanks for the amazing work they do, along with all the consultants and nurses at The Christie. Without this many more lives would be lost to cancer. They truly are an exceptional bunch of people.”

If you’ve been inspired by Neil’s story and want to find out more about the Anthony Nolan Trust visit: www.anthonynolan.org Join their donor register today and save lives like Neil.

...And Chris donates his stem cells

MDP St Fergus officer PC Chris Bain has been on the DKMS stem cell donation register for a number of years, but it was only last year that he got the call to say he was a match for a person suffering with blood cancer...As a result Chris recently donated his stem cells.

He told *Talk Through*: "Since going through the donation process, I have tried to encourage as many people as I can to join the stem cell register. A number of colleagues at my own station have signed up already, which means a great deal.

"The process itself is fairly easy. If you are aged between 17 and 55, you can register with DKMS who will then send out a mouth swab kit. Three swabs later and you pop the package back to DKMS and that is you on the register, for the possibility of being a match for someone anywhere in the world who is suffering from blood cancer.

"If found to be a match, further medical checks are carried out and if all is well

you can go ahead with the harvesting of your stem cells. Again, this is a fairly straightforward process.

"Five days prior to donation you are given medication to promote stem cell growth. On the day of donation, blood is taken from one arm, passed through a machine and then put back into the other arm – very similar to blood donation. On the very odd occasion bone marrow will be taken but this is not too common.

"Last year 228,038 people registered through DKMS and there were 276 donations. I am trying to promote the organisation as best I can and will soon be taking on the role as DKMS North Scotland hub representative.

Chris said that he is continuing his relationship with DKMS and will soon be the North Scotland hub representative, having arranged two donor drives in the north, one at the North East College, Fraserburgh and the second at Moray College, Elgin.

www.dkms.org.uk

DKMS stands for 'Deutsche Knochen Mark Spender datei' or 'German Bone Marrow Donor File' based in Tübingen, Germany. The international non-profit organisation is dedicated to fighting blood cancer and blood disorders. It was founded in 1991 by Dr Peter Harf, in honour of his wife, Mechtilde who sadly lost her battle with blood cancer following the family's unsuccessful search to find a lifesaving matching blood stem cell donor.

DKMS now have more than 8 million potential donors registered and have given more than 69,000 second chances of life to people diagnosed with blood cancer. But their worldwide search for new donors must continue as many people are still not able to find the matching donor they need.



D-Day75 support recognised

Recognition for the role played by MDP officers involved in policing Op Viscount – the multi-agency operation to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day in June last year – has come from the Chief Constable of Hampshire Police, Olivia Pinkney.

On behalf of the Force, Ch Supt Dave Pawley and Ch Insp Phil Lucy accepted a Certificate of Recognition from the Hampshire Chief, for the MDP support provided to Op Viscount.

A total of 61 awards were presented, many of them to partner agencies and law enforcement organisations, recognising the services delivered and the achievements made.

MDP involvement cut across the Public Military Event and the MDP customer base in the Portsmouth area, both on land and sea.

The citation read: 'Awarded to the Ministry of Defence Police, in recognition of their contribution to the planning and delivery of the largest policing operation in Hampshire Constabulary's history.

Their involvement helped to ensure a safe and secure event took place to honour our veterans and commemorate D-Day 75. This included a visit to Portsmouth from the Queen, the President of the United States of America and a host of other heads of state from around the world.'



Force given ONUS Platinum Award



PC Mel Burns collected the 2019 Safe Places Platinum ONUS Award at Belfast City Hall on 19 November 2019, presented by ONUS chair Jenny Patton, acknowledging the excellent contribution provided by MDP officers to victims of Domestic Abuse.

"The award has been given in recognition of continued enhanced service delivery through collaborative working, which is necessary to safeguard victims and provide the help and support to manage all potential risks and keep people safe."

Senior Police Officer, Sgt Dale Lucas



Scottish youth volunteers visit Whitehall

The Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) are groups of up to 24 young people from across Scotland who, supported by adult volunteers and led by a police constable, volunteer at community and national events all over Scotland.

The programme aims to strengthen the relationship between the police and young people, breaking down barriers and promoting positive role models. It is open to all young people aged from 13 to 18 years, allowing those people to get an insight into policing in Scotland and inspire individuals to participate positively within their communities.

Each PSYV group is coordinated by a police officer (PC Stephen Carr for Helensburgh) who either have full time PSYV duties, or complete their PSYV duties alongside other duties, such as a community constable or school-based officer.

The coordinator is supported by a team of Adult Volunteers (AVs), who come from all walks of life and bring their own skills and flare to each group. Helensburgh PSYV has eight AVs – Fiona Henry is the Deputy Group Volunteer (Civilian), PC Tracy Ross (MDP) is the Senior Adult Volunteer, and there are six other AVs who assist with youth training or attendance at events.

PSYV numbers have risen steadily and they have volunteered at numerous local events, as well as assisting Police Scotland at many high profile events, including The Wicker Man Festival, T In The Park, The Solheim Cup, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Scottish Air Show, and have twice provided a Guard of Honour for Princess Anne and assisted at local charity events, raising substantial amounts of money.

Since May 2019, Helensburgh PSYV have committed over 2,000 hours to the local community. In addition, each year when the clocks go back, PSYV deliver a national 'housebreaking' campaign, which informs residents about how to keep their property safe and secure during the darker nights. The PSYV groups commit hundreds of volunteers to the annual campaign, giving up thousands of hours of their own time.

In support of Police Scotland's priority to reduce crimes of violence, 75 Youth Volunteers have also been trained in "No Knives Better Lives" Peer Education products. They are very active, presenting the key messages to their peers throughout Scotland and there are plans for PSYV to develop their peer education skills further by offering inputs to community groups on two further subjects, including Cyber Crime and Internet Safety.

In August 2019, Helensburgh PSYV assisted at a Stand Up to Cancer event (SU2C) in Helensburgh. By chance, the local Member of Parliament, Brendan O'Hara, was also in attendance and visited the PSYV stall. He was so impressed with their work, he invited them to London to visit him at the Houses of Parliament.

In February the PSYV group travelled to London and met Brendan O'Hara, MP, at the Houses of Parliament where they received a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, as well as the Voting Lobby.

The PSYV's visit to London was hosted by the MDP team at Whitehall, who with the support of their Senior Police Officer, Chief Inspector Simon Munro, organised a full itinerary for the group during their stay. This included visiting: the London Ambulance Service Hazardous Area Response Team (LAS HART) West; the Henry VIII wine cellar, which is deep within the vaults of the Palace of Whitehall and not normally open to the general public; Downing Street; Horse Guards, to meet the staff behind the scenes, and the horses in their stables, as well as to visit the Duke of Wellington's room, where members of the royal family observe proceedings during Her Majesty's official - Trooping the Colour - birthday celebrations; and the Horse Guards Museum.

During their visit to London the PSYV group also had the opportunity to explore a number of other tourist hot spots as well as stumbling upon the 'One Show' being filmed at the BBC studios! Thanks to the MDP at Whitehall, this two-day trip was an incredible experience for the PSYV, giving them the chance to see things they may never get to see again.

JAMIE'S EVEREST CHALLENGE

About this time last year, Portsmouth Marine Unit's PC Jamie Ironmonger was setting off on what turned out to be an epic journey to conquer Mount Everest. His aim was to raise money for mental health charity Mind with its Blue Light Support line, whilst raising awareness of how stress, depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder can affect anyone, and particularly those working in the emergency services.

Little did he know then what lay ahead. A gruelling climb to the summit 8848m above sea level, which fell just short when his oxygen supplies ran too low to continue in safety. Extreme weather closing in with the summit in sight, leaving many climbers stranded as they queued for their turn at the top. Not all of them returned, including one of Jamie's team-mates.

All these dramas were recorded by Jamie on his Facebook page 'Mind Everest Expedition' and here is just a flavour of some of his posts:

"Hi everyone. I'm with the 360 Team recovering at the lower altitude of 4300m away from Base Camp. Living at extreme altitude for well over a month has really taken its toll on our bodies. We now have the chance to recuperate, make some more red

blood cells, shake off our coughs and colds, allow blisters and minor injuries to heal, and try to put on as much weight as we can to cope with the 35,000 calorie demand that summit night requires!

"It is now only a matter of days, before I'll be putting on my boots and backpack, and heading out of Base Camp for the last time. It's all becoming very serious now, and I will soon have my one and only chance to reach the summit of Mt. Everest."

Days later, with the tragic events at the summit behind him, Jamie posted:

"Very upsettingly and tragically, my Everest journey has come to an end. I have arrived today safe and sound at Base Camp and I'm thankful to be alive. I had several sketchy moments up there and it has made me realise a lot about what's truly important in life.



Picture: Jamie and his team



Picture: Play tents at Base Camp

"I feel my summit attempt was doomed from the start when a fault with my regulator on my tank let it vent a huge amount of oxygen in one go. By the time the summit was in sight hours later with huge queues, I didn't have enough to get up there and back down safely, and after a short discussion with my Sherpa, I wasn't prepared to take the risk. It was a horrendous decision to make, but we turned around.

"I turned around just in time to make it back to Camp 3, before the weather window closed in. The storm hit, with many climbers still up there, including three of my team. I went to sleep that night believing they were all dead or dying and there was nothing I could do. This was in fact the fate of many climbers that night.

"In the early hours, I was to learn that the three of them were ok and had managed to get down safely, although one was suffering with nasty frostbite. However, the next day I was informed that our friend and team mate Kevin had died on the mountain. He was a veteran mountaineer of many 8000m peaks and I looked up to him for guidance on this expedition.

"The summit no longer held any importance to me after that and, at that point, I was done with the mountain. So much death and risk taking... Was it worth it!? I'm still trying to come to terms with it all and realising how lucky I am to be back down safely.

"I'm now just looking forward to coming home to see my wife Natalie, my family and my little dog. I'm disappointed I didn't get to raise the Tri-Line flag on Everest, but I will continue my campaign to promote positive mental health

and support for our Emergency Services.

"For those who have taken their own lives, for those who have left their jobs, for those who are struggling on the frontline, and to anyone struggling with a mental health problem, I dedicate my climb to you."

Since then, Jamie has been planning further expeditions, in support of the same cause, including the Confidential Blue Light Info Line from Mind, providing mental health support for Team 999.

Sadly, an all emergency services trip to Everest Base Camp planned for May this year has had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Said Jamie: "I have decided to postpone our ADVENTURE 999 Everest Base Camp Expedition until October (7- 25). Also, I'm busy planning a National Event for 18 July called '999 in the Park' in attempt to get as many people out at the same time across the whole of the UK with several organised walks. For individuals who can't reach those locations, they can still join in by just getting outdoors and sharing their photos with everyone on our Adventure 999 Facebook group."

MIND Confidential Blue Light Info Line:
0300 303 5999



Picture: Queuing for the summit

In it for the long haul...

Congratulations to colleagues celebrating 20, 30 and 40 years' service

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals have been awarded to a number of officers, including:

PC William Linton
PC Christopher Mills
PC Anthony Charles Pocock

Coins commemorating 30 years' service have been given to, amongst others:

PC Michael Campbell
PC James Allan Clark
PC Willie Coalville
PC James Elsby
PC Eddie Grainger
PC David Hughes
PC Scott Jackman
PC Wilson John Kelso
PC Tracy Knopman
PC Keith Massingham
PC Brian McCallion
PC Paul McMillan
PC Neil Sinclair
Ex-PS Anthony Clayton (Rtd)
DS Peter Scrogie
PS Alan Swanwick
Insp Christopher Burt
Insp Stephen Fraser
Insp Stephen Hamilton
Insp James McKenna
Ch Insp Darrell Barber
Ch Insp Iain Stackhouse
Ch Insp Paul Sturgess

Certificate for 40 years' service:

Inspector ANDREW 'PAUL' CHALMERS, from HM Naval Base Clyde, received a certificate for 40 years' Meritorious Service with the MDP, from Chief Constable Andy Adams. Paul's career has seen him in a range of policing roles in the UK and overseas – including developing UK Protester Removal Team (PRT) policy, leading search teams, carrying out the role as Senior Police Officer at Vulcan and, more recently, working as Staff Officer to the Chief Constable. Congratulations Paul!



...and saying goodbye

On 28 February MDP CC Andy Adams and colleagues said farewell to Supt MARK FOULGER on his last day of service, after 38 years with the Force. Mark began his career at RAF Stafford and has carried out various roles, including Head of Professional Standards, during his career.



In February we also bade farewell to Inspector TIM REECE, based in our Ops team at HQ, when he retired after more than 36 years' service with the MDP. Here he is with ACC Operations Dave Long.



Well wishes were given to PC ALAN CUTTER who retired after 35 years with the MDP. Alan was stationed at MOD Caledonia, and is pictured here with the Senior Police Officer, PS Dale Muir, but he spent the majority of his MDP career as a marine officer at HM Naval Base Clyde.



We also said goodbye to PC BOB ADAMS, from MOD Caledonia, upon his retirement from the MDP after 29 years' service. Here is Bob with Inspector Paul Stringer.

OUR PEOPLE CONT'D>>

Top job...

Congratulations to officers from MDP FIREARMS BRANCH (below), the OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY CENTRE (OCC) and CRIME COMMAND upon receiving commendations from Chief Constable Andy Adams and ACC OD&C Andrea Bishop, for their outstanding performances.



Well done to LAUREN, new Kennel Assistant on the Dog Unit at RNAD Coulport, for completing her initial training – welcome!



Well done CORSHAM DOG SECTION for receiving a team commendation from ACC Ops Dave Long for demonstrating consistently high standards, recognised during inspections. PC VIC HILLIER, Kennel Manager, was also commended for his professionalism and dedication.



Congratulations to MDP Assistant Chief Constable ANDREA BISHOP whose permanent appointment as our ACC Organisational Development & Crime (OD&C), has been confirmed. Andrea joined the MDP on secondment from Kent Police.



Well done Police Dog Instructors, PCs JUDGE, WILLIAMS, MACPHERSON, TAYLOR and BELL, on passing their Narcotics Detection Course. Big thanks also to Police Scotland for delivering the training.

...and Royal recognition

QPM for DCC Gareth Wilson

Following the award in the New Year Honours, of a Queen's Police Medal (QPM) to Deputy Chief Constable Gareth Wilson, CCMDP Andy Adams commented: "This is a tremendous honour for Gareth and recognises his valuable contribution to policing spanning over 30 years." "Gareth joined Essex Police in 1989 and has worked across four Home Office Forces: Essex, Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk. His varied career has seen him leading several high-profile criminal investigations, working on wide scale collaboration projects, managing significant operations and delivering organisational change. He has conducted work on the national stage both within the crime portfolio and as the National Police

Chiefs' Council lead for Diversity and Inclusion.

"His legacy can be felt in every Force in which he has served, and no more so than in Suffolk Constabulary where he held the position of Chief Constable between 2016 and 2019 - serving the people of that county up until his retirement last year. Gareth's subsequent move to the MDP means that his policing knowledge and experience will now be maintained and passed on within the Defence Policing environment during the coming years.

"We send the congratulations of all his colleagues in the MDP as Gareth and his family, no doubt, celebrate this proud achievement."



Prince Phillip commends 'Coco'

MDP Porton Down PC Paul 'Coco' Cocoran has been awarded a Prince Phillip Commendation for his charity work for The Rifles Regimental Trust, 'Care for Casualties' charity. Prince Phillip is Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment and Coco received this award at a ceremony at the Guildhall in London, where he also met members of the Royal family.

Coco is behind the project called 'Not Just Another Brick In The Wall', a unique fundrasier which aims to raise awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It involves volunteer veterans carrying bricks in honour of lost comrades - each brick is dedicated to a veteran who has lost their lives on operations, or who have sadly taken their own life, as a result of mental health issues.

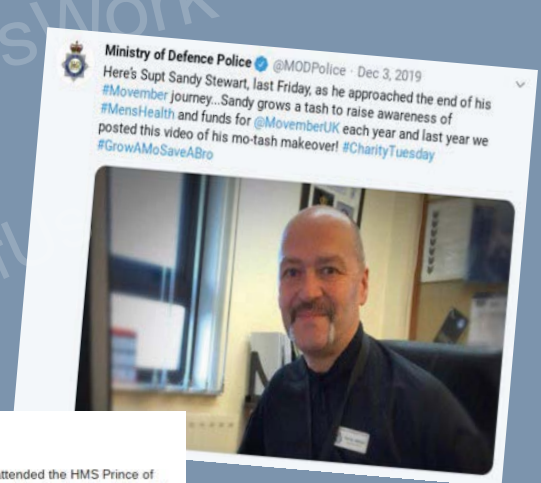
Last year more than 200 ex-army servicemen and women carried their bricks for 45 miles, over three days, along Hadrian's Wall. Coco, a veteran himself, originally set up the project to support veteran PTSD sufferers, representing the brick wall they face every day, but it quickly expanded to support all veterans suffering after returning from overseas. Since

its creation, Not Just Another Brick In The Wall has raised more than £80,000.

Coco is no stranger to taking on unusual challenges in the name of charity - last time he was at Hadrian's Wall, he raised £5,000 by carrying a kitchen sink over 84 miles and in June 2018, he marched fifty volunteers over fifty miles from Hereford to Shrewsbury on the 50th Anniversary of his Regiment, then raising £51,000.

The next Not Just Another Brick In The Wall charity walk is currently due to take place from 16 to 19 September 2021, along the Jurassic Coast. Follow Coco and his project on Facebook to find out more: <https://www.facebook.com/Not-just-Another-brick-in-the-wall-1816625288416082/>





KIRSTY'S AROUND THE WORLD eXXpedition

Two years, 30 voyages, 300 women...MDP officer, Kirsty Young, was one of ten women chosen from over 10,000 applicants to set sail on leg one of 'eXXpedition Round the World' from Sutton Harbour in Plymouth last October.

The venture is an all-female sailing voyage and research mission that will see 300 women circumnavigating the world, conducting cutting edge research into plastic pollution, whilst celebrating women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), exploration and sailing.

SV TravelEdge set sail from Sutton Harbour in Plymouth on 8 October 2019 and is due to sail 38,000 nautical miles, finishing back in London in 2021.



Copyright: eXXpedition

“It has made me realise the severity of the situation – a clean-up of the ocean isn’t a solution, it’s too far gone. We need to focus on ways to stop plastic getting into the ocean”

Kirsty’s leg was estimated to take nine days, sailing 1200 nautical miles from Plymouth across the Atlantic Ocean to Saó Miguel in the Azores. After battling through storms that caused damage to both the boat and sails, the voyage took nearly 13 days and covered a total 1617 nautical miles.



Kirsty who has been an MDP officer for three years and has no previous sailing experience, described the voyage as the most challenging thing she has experienced.

“It was the first time I have been on a boat so knew it was going to be a challenge,” she said. “However, I definitely underestimated the enormity of the task and just how vast and unforgiving the Atlantic Ocean can be.

“It was not just a physical challenge to sail the boat in the treacherous weather and storms we faced, but a huge mental one to stay optimistic and carry on whilst it felt like the world was against us. Being adaptable is a skill I’ve never fully appreciated until this voyage and it was certainly put to the test, as the ocean state changed so fast and often.

“We were expecting to find very little plastic as the choppy conditions would force the plastic too low for us to sample. However, we were all shocked when our first sample contained 88 pieces of micro-plastic.

“It has made me realise the severity of the situation – a clean-up of the ocean isn’t a solution, it’s too far gone. We need to focus on ways to stop plastic getting into the ocean at the source and start to refuse single use plastics completely, which is understandably easier said than done,” said Kirsty.

The world voyage and research is being funded by the crew of each leg and it was a challenge for Kirsty to fund...so she made contact with the MDP Sports Association (MDPSA). Kirsty said: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MDPSA for providing me financial assistance and in particular Willie Burns, who helped make it all possible.

“Their contribution towards my kit for the voyage was invaluable, given the conditions that I was faced with. I’d also like to say thank you to all my friends, family and colleagues who have supported me and put up with the relentless preparations in the lead up to the voyage.”

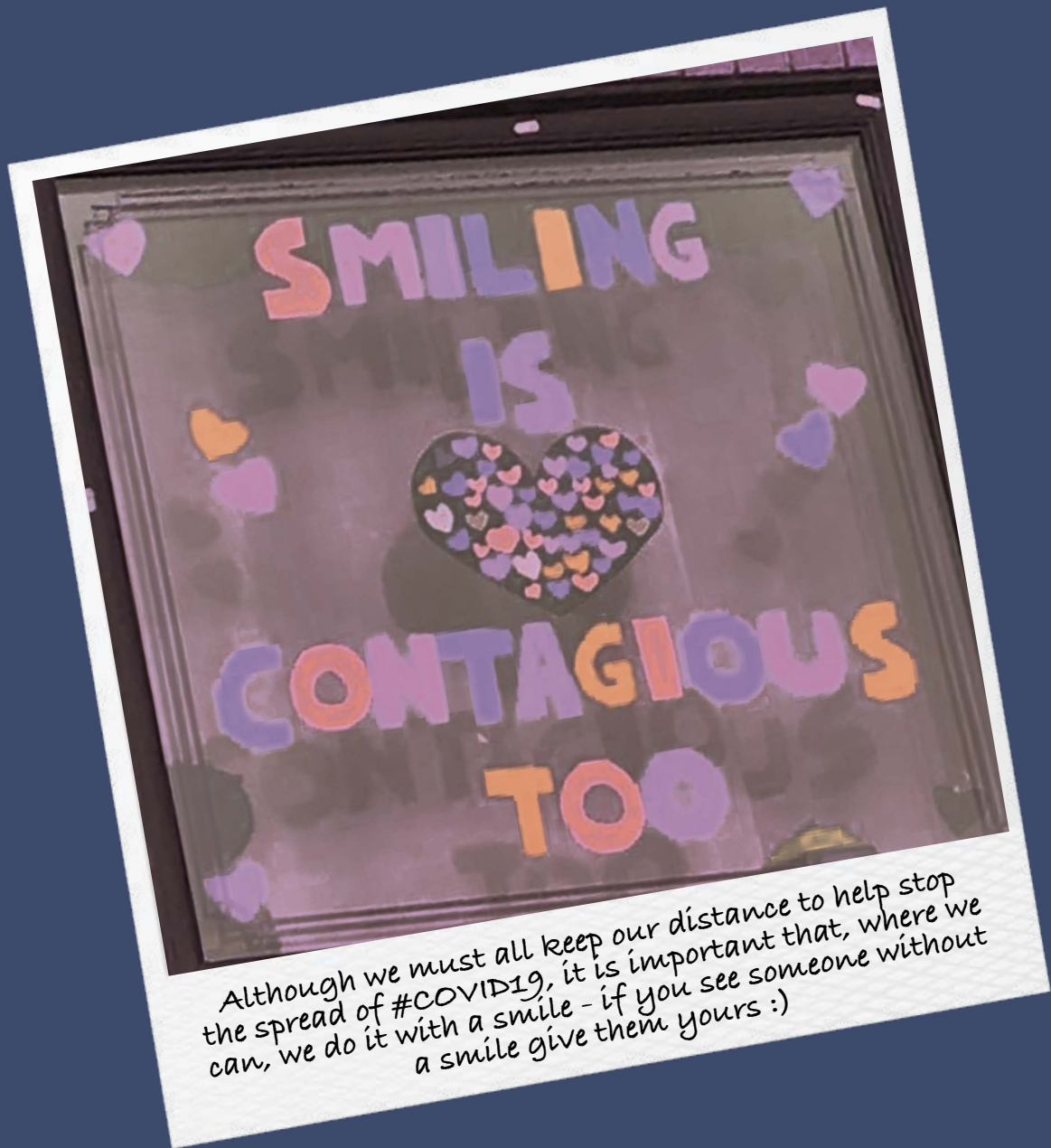
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#InThisTogther...



Although we must all keep our distance to help stop the spread of #COVID19, it is important that, where we can, we do it with a smile - if you see someone without a smile give them yours :)



Ministry
of Defence
Police

We want to hear your news, contact us at
mdp-corpcomms-group@mod.gov.uk