

[REDACTED]

Restricted—Staff

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE (MDP)

NEWS BRIEF

DATE: Friday 11 April 2014

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

MDP PRESS OFFICER: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BACKGROUND (not for release to the media)

On Thursday, 10 April, 2014, MOD Police CID officers executed a search warrant at premises in [REDACTED], South Wales and arrested the male occupant on suspicion of theft of MOD property. Items of military clothing, including body armour and helmets were discovered, to a total estimated value of £30,000. What were at first believed to be three Glock pistols and a mortar shell were also discovered, but upon examination by EOD, the weapons were confirmed to be legally owned BB guns. There was no explosive material inside the ‘mortar’, although two live smoke grenades were recovered from the property. The arrested man, [REDACTED] is a former member of the Territorial Army (approx 15 years ago). He came to notice when he tried to sell some of the military equipment on e-Bay.

Lines To Take (to be used only if asked)


- MOD Police can confirm that, following inquiries into the alleged theft of MOD clothing and equipment, a 54-year-old man was arrested by MOD Police CID officers at his home in the [REDACTED] area of South Wales on Thursday, 10 April, 2014.
- He was taken to a police station in [REDACTED] for questioning and subsequently released on police bail until 18 June, 2014, pending further inquiries.
- As the investigation is on-going we would not wish to comment further at this time.

Q&A

Q. Why is the MOD Police carrying out this investigation?

A. The MDP has a responsibility for the policing of the Defence Estate and this investigation falls within its remit.

Q. What is alleged to have been stolen, and where from?



A. The items alleged to have been stolen include body armour and other equipment, believed to have been taken from MOD property. For operational and investigative reasons we would not wish to comment further.

Q. Are any firearms or explosives involved?

A. There were a number of BB guns and live smoke grenades amongst the items found at the property. These were removed by members of the Explosive Ordnance Division.

Q. Does this mean security at MOD sites has been compromised?

A. Security at MOD sites is kept under constant review and all allegations of theft are dealt with robustly.

Q. When does the suspect next answer bail?

A. He is due to report back to police on Wednesday 18 June, 2014.

Q. Were South Wales Police involved in this operation?

A. We have been working closely with South Wales Police throughout this investigation and they have taken primacy in dealing with any local community issues arising from it, with MDP CID support.