

MDP Chief constable's Operational report 2005-2006

Executive summary

This report looks at our policing activity only and describes the way in which the MoD Police deploys its policing resources for both the Ministry of Defence and the wider Defence community.

Overview

Trafalgar 200

The year was eventful. In July, a major special operation was mounted in partnership with other police agencies and Royal Navy in support of the celebrations at HMNB Portsmouth to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

G8 summit

Almost immediately following, MDP specialist resources were heavily involved in the large-scale operations for policing the G8 inter-governmental summit at Gleneagles - the largest single police operation ever mounted in Scotland. MDP, in partnership with Strathclyde Police, devoted considerable time and effort to ensuring that major protest demonstrations at HMNB Clyde were conducted in a peaceful manner and that RNAS Prestwick which provided the accommodation and security for the US Presidential support aircraft throughout the period, was policed and secured.

Aftermath of London bombings

The Force deployed in numbers to the Whitehall area of London in support of the Metropolitan Police, in the aftermath of the London bombings. As the London bombings operation demonstrated, the capacity to surge to meet unforeseen events across a geographical spread must always be achieved without detriment to our core taskings at Defence sites all over the UK.

Surge capability – DSGs and OSUs

To provide the surge requirement capable of responding with speed to a major incident, the Force deploys Divisional Support Groups (DSGs) across the country. These Groups are multi-skilled, provide armed support if required and provide the Force as a whole with an invaluable and flexible policing capability, which demonstrated its worth very clearly after the London bombings. In addition, our Operational Support Units, based in the North at Dishforth and in the South at Wethersfield, allow specialist skills (including a CBRN capability, and a range of public order expertise) to be deployed in support of major incidents.

MDP assistance

There were 6564 incidents where MDP officers assisted other police agencies or otherwise used the new extended jurisdiction during the period FY 2005-2006.

Policing incidents with MoD connection

There were 3,244 reported incidents during the period FY05-06 that had a MoD connection.

Protest activity

Throughout the year, protestors and activists outside Defence sites, particularly the USAF bases, continued to command a good deal of our attention. It is the role of the MDP to work with partners such as county police forces and the MoD Guard Service to ensure that legitimate protest can take place. At the same time it is also our role to ensure that the MoD community can continue to go about its business with the minimum amount of disruption.

Criminal trespass

In 2006, the Serious Organised Crime & Police Act (SOCAP) introduced a new offence of criminal trespass which came into force on 1st April 2006. Under section 128 of the Act, Defence sites can be designated as criminal trespass sites, in the interests of national security. To date 13 such sites have been designated, and notice boards erected to inform the public.

Unit beat officers

There are many Defence sites which do not require an armed complement but instead have a need for the particular type of uniformed policing which MDP provides to the wider Defence community. Our Unit Beat Officers (UBOs) contribute a unique form of community policing to Service family accommodation on the Defence estate, linking up as they do with Service police, the local county police force and other local agencies.

National Intelligence Model

The deployment of MDP surge capability through Divisional Support Groups continues to be effectively managed through the National Intelligence Model (NIM), and the operation of the Divisional Tasking & Co-ordinating Groups which support it. Cooperation with the Service Police, Home Department Police Forces, and other law enforcement Agencies is a feature of this approach which has worked greatly to the advantage of the Defence community, while the NIM has also enabled the Force to manage and deploy MDP officers to meet the demands of simultaneous operational events.

Stop and search powers

Under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, police forces are empowered, as a counter terrorism measure, to carry out random stop and search operations in defined geographical locations on persons or vehicles. MDP activity has been in support of other Forces, notably the Metropolitan Police in the Whitehall area of London near the Ministry of Defence HQ.

Divisional reports

The Divisional Commanders' reports for each of our five Divisions provide the detail of our operational activity across the defence estate. They are evidence of our strength in depth and demonstrate our professionalism and commitment to the job of policing the Defence community.