

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRI 29 JUN 07

Present:

Ann Kelly	Independent Member	Chair
Richard Hatfield	Personnel Director	
Robert Rooks	DGS&S	
Sir Keith Povey	Police Adviser (England & Wales)	
Andrew Brown	Police Adviser (Scotland)	
Sally Osment	Independent Member	
John Harris	Independent Member	
Karen Feather	Clerk to the Police Committee	Secretary

In attendance:

Steve Love	Chief Constable MDP
Daniel Applegate	Director Resources & Planning
ACC Rob Chidley	D/Personnel & Professional Development
Eamon Keating	Defence Police Federation
Supt Andy Kirkwood	Staff Officer/CCMDP

Apologies:

Sir Ian Andrews	2 nd PUS
DCC David Ray	COS, MDPGA HQ
Chief Supt Rob Hoblin	Head of Business Development

Chair's Opening Remarks

1. The meeting was chaired by Ann Kelly at the request of Sir Ian Andrews. She welcomed Police Advisers, Sir Keith Povey and Andrew Brown. Apologies were received from Sir Ian Andrews, DCC David Ray and Chief Supt Rob Hoblin. The Committee congratulated John Harris who had received a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

2. On 2 Jul the ownership of MDPGA would transfer from 2nd PUS to the Personnel Director. This would be widely communicated in MOD and the Agency. Richard Hatfield had chaired two successful Owner's Advisory Boards. The second was attended by TLB representatives and would give the customers greater exposure to the Agency's taskings and financial issues.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the last meeting

3. Sally Osment said that she had not seen any further papers on governance following the Committee's discussions at the meeting on 1 Mar 07. The Secretary said that these were circulated by e-mail but she would re-issue. **Action: Secretary**
The minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 2: Chief Constable's Operational Brief

4. Mr Love was contacted by ACPO(TAM) on 29 Jun 07 when the car bomb was discovered in London. MDP had performed perimeter checks around MOD Buildings. Mr Harris asked whether the CC was content the MDPGA was not a listed responder within the civil contingencies legislation although it played a role in national incident plans. The CC explained that the Civil Contingencies Act gave Ministers power to direct resources but not defence resources. This in effect means that he could decide whether it was in MOD's interest to offer MDP capability and resources.
5. The agreement for the temporary phase of OP VINTAGE had been signed by the Home Office, but the MOD was still awaiting confirmation of the extension to Mar 2010. The MDP operation was fully supported by the local Chief Constables.
6. The Chair asked for a congratulations letter to be sent from the Police Committee to the officers of the Devonport Marine Unit when Mr Love presents them with Chief Constable Commendations. The officers were involved in the USS MINEAPOLIS rescue in Dec 06. **Action: CC/Secretary**
7. An MDP officer has been posted to the Service Police Crime Bureau at Fort Southwick. Following deaths from an explosion on the submarine HMS TIRELESS in Mar 07 the MDP are conducting a joint investigation with the Royal Navy Police. A policing protocol is to be sent to ACPO which will enable MDP to disengage from crimes that are not considered significant to defence interests.
8. MDP's overseas deployments currently include Kosovo, Sudan and Sierra Leone. 2nd PUS has asked the Chief Constable to produce a paper containing radical options for MDP's support to overseas operations by 1 Sep 07.
9. The CC welcomed achievements of two officers from the Force; Sharon Taylor (recently awarded temporary promotion to ACC Devon and Cornwall) and Chris Bailes, on secondment to the Home Office and now in charge of the Immigration Enforcement Division with up to 3,400 staff.
10. The trial following the Menwith Hill arrests in Apr 06 will take place on 6-7 Sep 07. The outcome will have a significant bearing on other cases.
11. The Defence Irregularity Reporting Cell required a defence wide strategy to operate to its full potential. The CC wanted to work with DGS&S to improve its remit. **Action: CC/DGS&S**

Agenda Item 3: HMIC Baseline Assessment

12. The HMIC inspection of MDP had taken place in Mar 06 although the final report was received until Apr 07. The Committee noted that there had been progress already in the areas assessed as poor. This included the decision that MDP would adopt the MOD's DII Information System. Mr Brown welcomed the improvements made since the Force's last inspection. Mr Chidley gave an update on the race and diversity issues to illustrate the action taken which included setting up several support groups. Sally Osment asked for the report to be circulated to Committee members. **Action: Mr Chidley/Secretary**

Agenda Item 4: Key Targets

13. The Committee noted that KT1 (increased customer satisfaction) would come under severe pressure with the MDP non-nuclear overtime ban. John Harris suggested that survey should no longer be anonymous in order that management can take appropriate action. **Action: CC**

14. The MDP had scored 91% on KT3 (delivered agreed MDP taskings) against a target of 95% but improvement would not be possible while the CTG exercise was being undertaken. Divisional Officers were praised for their achievements given the current constraints.

15. Andrew Brown pointed out that while KT4 (support to international tasks) was continually achieved the provision of officers for FCO requests could impact on many other areas. The CC explained how this could be avoided.

16. The Committee noted that although the Agency had achieved the female recruitment targets it had failed to retain the officers and therefore not met KT5. Mr Love and Mr Hatfield explained that was comparable to HDPFs and the Armed Forces who experienced similar attrition rates.

17. The Committee acknowledged there were understandable confidence and morale issues in the force at present as a result of the Armed Guarding Review, CTG the Gap, Defence Training Review, the rationalisation of the Defence Estate and the affect of STP 07 which had led to an overtime reduction. Mr Keating registered concern on behalf of the DPF following the DMB's decision to stop overtime as a savings measure.

Agenda Item 5: DGS&S Update

18. Mr Rooks updated the Committee on the Department's timetable to advertise, recruit and induct new independent members of the Police Committee in time for the first meeting of the revised Committee on 22 Nov 07.

19. The DMB had endorsed the Armed Guarding Review on 14 May 07. The MDP participated in the Judgemental Training working group which developed scenarios and provided technical advice for a film that would assist the training of Service Personnel and the Military Provost Guarding Personnel. He assured the Committee that there would be no attempt to reduce the level of guarding until the work falling out of the review was complete. Sally Osment asked if Northern Ireland was included in the AGR. Robert Rooks said it was dealt with separately and undertook to provide more information to the independent members about this. **Action: DGS&S** [It will apply following the completion of OP BANNER due at the end of Jul 07]

20. Mr Rooks also updated the Committee on the Department's review of its access control system; options for restricting the entry to the UK of EU arrested foreign demonstrators following the involvement of foreign nationals in the MV Artic Sunrise incident at HMNB Clyde in Feb 07; the review of defence vetting to ensure that the MOD processes were tight and in line with changes the changes to national security vetting being made by the Cabinet Office; and the United States Visiting Forces Security Review which was an evolution of US and UK security force capabilities.

Item 6: Professional Standards Report

21. The Committee noted that the IPCC Agreement for MDP officers was currently with the Home Office and that the new Misconduct Policy and Standards of Professional Behaviour had been circulated for comment and received wide endorsement. Implementation is due in Spring 08. The MDPA 1987 will be revised to reflect the changes arising from the Criminal Justice Act.

22. The Chair praised PSD's achievement of its targets especially given the current shortage of manpower. Mr Chidley confirmed that one officer was currently suspended from duty. An appeal from an officer who had been dismissed from the Force had been heard the appeal had upheld the Chief Constable's decision.

Item 7: Any other business

23. As their appointments come to an end between Jul-Oct 07, Mr Hatfield thanked Ann Kelly, Sally Osment and John Harris on behalf of the MOD and, in particular Sir Ian Andrews and himself for their excellent and dedicated service to the Police Committee over the last few years. In reply Sally Osment thanked the Force and emphasised the high degree of professionalism and outstanding support she had experienced during her tenure. Ann Kelly endorsed her comments. In closing Richard Hatfield thanked Ann Kelly for chairing an excellent meeting.

Item 8: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 22 Nov 07.

KAREN FEATHER
Clerk to the MOD Police Committee