

The Times They Are a-Changin'

By Talk Through Editor, Norman Hicks

SINCE my teenage hero Bob Dylan wrote those words in the mid-1960s, the times have indeed been changing and nowhere more so in recent years than in the Ministry of Defence Police.

It was twenty years ago that I joined this organisation and took over as Editor of its showcase magazine **Talk Through**.

Territorial Divisions came and went, Area Policing Teams came and went, Unit Beat Officers came and went, Defence Community Police Officers came but haven't gone yet . . . I have served under four Chief Constables . . . the Force has gradually dwindled in size, from the 3700 of 2002, to today's figure of around 2900.

However, the significance of its contribution to UK Defence has grown exponentially, with its established guardianship of the nuclear deterrent and key Defence installations now augmented by protection of key national infrastructure sites and other potentially vulnerable Government locations.

The articles signposted in this last edition of Talk Through include reflections on the 50th anniversary celebrations and operational and organisational highlights and achievements from the past year.

At the time of writing, the latest significant milestone in the history of the MDP is taking place, with the uplifting of the Force Headquarters from Wethersfield – its home since 1995 – to RAF Wyton, near Cambridge, and the first pioneers starting to work from their new open plan offices, in Palmer Pavilion.

I will not be joining them, as I have finally reached that date in my 52-year career when retirement beckons.

More than half a century of working, first in local newspaper journalism in East Anglia, followed by seven years as a Press Officer with Essex Police and then as Publications and Media Manager for MDP.

I have been blessed with having some of the best colleagues I could have hoped for to work alongside me at every stage of my career and it is those whom I shall miss the most as I set off in search of fresh adventures.

Thank you to everyone I have worked with in this organisation, both past and present and good luck to all those keeping the good ship MDP afloat for hopefully another half a century.

Norman Hicks



Norman with his wife, Marilyn, receiving a commendation from Chief Constable Andy Adams for his services to the Force