RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2026

ROA News

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Message from Chair – Mel Goudie

A very warm hello to all from a particularly hot and sunny Scotland, it has taken some time for summer to arrive however, we are now basking in glorious sunshine. This has been ideal for a summer of wonderful sporting activities, it's not often we get Tennis, Golf and Football on the TV every evening or if you have been some of the lucky ones who got to experience any of these events live. Once again Scotland failed to get out of the group stages and England disappointingly at the semi-final stage. There's always another opportunity over the next 4 years.

During July I celebrated yet another birthday and can't quite believe that I'm now 7 years retired past in April. The time has flown by and with my little job at the golf club and grand parenting duties my days are filled. Since my last report I have had knee replacement surgery, which went extremely well and I was back driving and working within 6 weeks, which delighted Doreen as me being confined to the house was not her idea of fun. My recovery was made even better by the opportunity to spend a week at the Police Treatment Centre in Auchterarder, Scotland. The intense physiotherapy and daily training sessions including ice baths at 8am certainly helped the recovery process. The PTC is open to all retired officers at a cost of £4.90 per month however, you need to have paid in for a full year before you are eligible to attend. Serving officers pay £10 per month and have access to two weeks per year.

Recent months have been extremely quiet in general terms for the ROA. Glyn our much-valued treasurer has once again provided our auditors with a healthy end of year financial statement. In addition, he has made our banking so much easier using electronic banking.

The committee have been working hard on developing this year's AGM/Reunion, which will be held in the Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Grimsby. The hotel is set in beautiful grounds and meets our needs with separate dining and meeting facilities. I look forward to catching up with those who have booked for the event. The 2027 AGM/Reunion is currently being planned, and we have found a suitable venue. Suffice to say it's near a coast?

We continue to receive invitations to attend Graduation Ceremonies at Southwick Park, again due to travel distances and time. I have asked Chris McComb, Glyn & Judith to attend the last two events on behalf of the ROA. They report that they are very enjoyable occasions, giving them the opportunity speak with our newest recruits. Glyn has provided a brief on the adjoining pages.

I have been asked to attend the DPF Award ceremony in November this year and Doreen and I look forward to this immensely. The work and heroism of our officers should and is portrayed in the highest possible manner.

Mel Goudie, ROA Chair

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to give a warm welcome to the following new members: Mitch Batt, Robert Perkins, William Davidson, Ian & Elaine Collins, Sharon Taylor, Michael Parker.

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Message from Chief Constable – Kier Pritchard

Dear ROA Members,

It is a pleasure to once again provide an update to members of the Ministry of Defence Police Retired Officers Association. We continue to build on the foundations laid by those who served before us, and for that we remain enormously grateful.

As the threats facing Defence continue to evolve, our mission remains constant: protecting Defence, its people, capabilities and assets, whilst playing an increasingly important role in protecting the Homeland.

To support our mission:

- The Operating Policing Model programme has now been implemented across the Defence estate. This modernises policing by enabling officers to focus on intelligence-led and proactive policing, and specialist capabilities, while staying responsive to local needs. This new standard practice provides the foundation for the Force's future development.
- Our intelligence capabilities have been strengthened with digital investigative tools and the Intelligence, Crime and Operational Support (ICOS) team is increasingly recognised across Defence as a central pillar of our capability to prevent, investigate, and disrupt complex threats to Defence and national security.
- We have made significant investments in specialist capabilities. The MDP is now recognised as the Defence lead in counter-drone operations, following asset procurement and commencement of a operator training programme.
- Our operational infrastructure has advanced with new firearms training facilities and specialised training environments.

This year, the Government published its Police Reform White Paper outlining proposals for the most significant changes to policing in over half a century. The proposals do not set out changes to the role or structure of the MDP. The wider reform programme will continue to evolve, and we will remain actively engaged in national discussions to ensure the unique capabilities we provide to Defence, our national partners, and critical infrastructure are fully understood and protected.

Recent international tensions and periods of social unrest within the UK have reminded us that the security environment remains uncertain. Throughout these events, MDP officers and staff have continued to demonstrate professionalism, resilience and commitment, often whilst managing their own personal concerns and supporting their families. Their service reflects the core principles underpinning UK public service.

In May, the terrorism threat level for the UK was raised to "Severe." I urge all members of our policing family, both serving and retired, to stay vigilant regarding their personal safety and security. This is a collective responsibility and remaining informed and alert can greatly minimise risks to ourselves and those around us.

There have been some important leadership changes since my last correspondence. I am delighted to acknowledge the appointment of Simon Dobinson to Deputy Chief Constable and the temporary appointment of Sarah Johnson to Assistant Chief Constable. Both bring considerable operational experience and leadership qualities, and they continue to have a positive impact across the Force.

The MDP will soon embark on our third Police Unity Tour, to raise money for Care of Police Survivors (COPS). I will join colleagues cycling to the National Memorial Arboretum. This year we will ride in honour of PC Mark Chester from the Portsmouth Marine Unit who died in May whilst travelling home from work. He will be honoured with a plaque at the arboretum and his name will be included in the National Police Memorial honour call. We also lost another valued officer, PC Joseph Hadley from Barrow, who died in an accident whilst off duty. Losing colleagues is always difficult, but the death of these serving officers two days apart was particularly impactive. Their sudden loss deeply affected the entire MDP family, reminding us of the profound bonds that unite us in service.

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This year we have introduced an MDP Coin to recognise exceptional service and contribution to Defence policing. Gold coins are awarded with Chief Constable (CC) commendations. Silver coins are awarded with Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) commendations, Superintendent commendations and certain letters of thanks. CC and ACC commendation coins will be awarded at our annual Reward and Recognition ceremony later this year.

We continue to celebrate long service and I am incredibly proud of the contribution of these officers: PC McLellan, PS Milne, PC Talbot, PC Ford, Ch Insp Renton, Ch Insp Groves, PS Tindal, PC Rowan, PC Lyons, PC Turner, PC Rees have all dedicated 40 years service to policing. PS Parvin reached an incredible milestone of 50 years police service.

Recruitment remains one of my highest priorities as we prepare for future growth and increasing demand across Defence. We are experiencing positive improvements in recruitment and retention and, since January, 43 new recruits have joined the Force, with 33 already successfully completing their 12 week recruits training programme. We have also welcomed 58 new entrants from other forces. I wish success to all those joining us.

I would like to thank retired officers who continue to reflect positively on Defence policing, whether that be through social media or Association events. This inspires prospective recruits and helps us attract the next generation of MDP officers, which is crucial for meeting future operational needs.

Kier Pritchard, Chief Constable

Civil Service Pension

As reported in our last newsletter Capita is now responsible for the administration of the civil service pension scheme yet six months on they have not fully restored the scheme to the service levels that were promised. Despite extensive government intervention over recent months - including a 140-strong surge support team, virtual surgeries for MPs and caseworkers, and intensive operational oversight Capita has failed to meet its commitment to clear outstanding work in key service areas by the end of June.

Pension Taskforce Updates by Richard Vianello, Director of Civil Service Pensions can be found on the Civil Service pension website – www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk

There is also a new Civil Service pension portal where members can easily access information relating to personal details, allowing updating of address, contact information, notification of preferences, view, download and print payslips & P60s.

If not already done so, please register directly via the CSP website with personal email address and National Insurance number.

Legal Services – Free Will

BBH Legal Services is a wholly owned subsidiary of Thomsons Solicitors and currently provide an extensive range of legal services to members of the Retired Officers Association.

BBH has introduced a new benefit in that members are now entitled to one free simple Will for themselves and a spouse or partner. This can be accessed via the BBH website www.bbhlegal.co.uk or by scanning this QR code:

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Annual Subscription - A Reminder From The Treasurer

The annual subscription of £5 per household for ROA membership falls on 1st July each year, regardless of the date you may have joined the Association. Most members now pay this by Standing Order (SO) on or about this date, for which the committee are very grateful, if you currently pay on a different date, it would be very useful if you could change your payment date to July 1st by SO. The subscription can also be paid annually by Bacs (BACS) or Faster Payment (FPS/FPI), directly through your bank, or by cheque if preferred. However, cheques now effectively cost us £3.60 each to process and we would be grateful if this method could be avoided, or that members consider adding this premium to their subscription if a cheque is necessary. If any member wishes to alter their method of payment, or requires details of our banks sort code and account number, or any other details regarding their subscription, please contact the treasurer, Glyn Wilson via his email address, treasurer.mdp@icloud.com or general mail to:- Wespe Haus, 6, Canhams Road, Rosebank Estate, Great Cornard, CO10 0EP. This address should also be used for sending cheques to the ROA and AGM Bookings etc. Please note that cheques should be made out to MDPROA, cheques otherwise annotated may be rejected by the banking system.

Pass Out Parade and Graduation Ceremony

Treasurer Glyn Wilson was pleased to represent the association at the recent Pass Out Parade and reports:

On this occasion the timing of the Passout parade was held earlier than usual due to the extreme hot weather on Friday 26th June 26. The Chief Constable Kier Pritchard was in attendance, and a representative of the Portsmouth Hospitals Charities Trust, to receive a cheque towards their charity for over a thousand pounds, raised by the students during their course. There were demonstrations from the firearms department, dogs, and from the students themselves involving PST scenarios. There was a speech from the Head of training T/Supt Chris Lofthouse, giving a historic overview of the site for the visitors, and details of the course the students had undergone. On a personal basis it was great to catch up with Chris Lofthouse, who I had worked with at PTC/ATC Wethersfield previously. There was also an end of course and career speech from the CC in the establishment church before recruits re-took their oath of office and received their warrant cards. A buffet lunch was available afterwards during which I spoke to a few of the recruits, mainly about my time in IPSO, the recruits seemingly having been primed about overseas deployments by PC Paul Allen, who it was also good to catch up with, he having been one of my IPSO deployers more than once.

It was amazing to visit the site and the D-Day map room, I found the whole establishment very impressive, and Judith and I enjoyed the whole day very much, being very well looked after.

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News from Force HQ

Regional & National Police Dog Trials 2026: PC Baxter and GPD FAE Fly the Flag for MDP

We are proud to celebrate a remarkable achievement by PC Jacqui Baxter and General Police Dog FAE, who represented the Force at two of the most prestigious police dog competitions in the country this year.

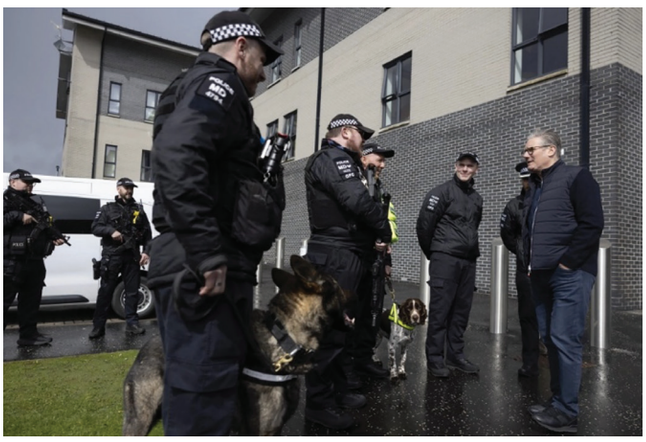
In April, Jacqui and FAE travelled to Scotland to compete at the 57th Scottish Regional Police Dog Trials, scoring an impressive 767 points. That score earnt their place among the very best teams in the country and secured an invitation to the 64th National Police Dog Trials in May, where only the top 21 teams from across the UK compete.

Reflecting on the experience, Jacqui described competing as a huge privilege. Having raised and trained FAE from just eight weeks old, she spoke warmly of the pride in watching her develop into a highly driven and capable police dog, and of the strong working partnership they have built together.

Their achievement is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment required to reach the national stage, and is a source of real pride for colleagues across the force. It showcases the high standards and professionalism within the Dog Branch and serves as an inspiration to others.

MDP Clyde Group - Thank you and Well Done - Prime Minister Sir Kier Starmer

In April, MDP Clyde Group were visited by former Prime Minister Sir Kier Starmer, and former Defence Secretary, The Rt Hon John Healey and First Sea Lord General Sir Gwyn Jenkins, who expressed their gratitude on behalf of Defence and the UK for the vital work carried out by the MDP and our operations at HMNB Clyde.



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Obituary

Jack Aspinall QPM

We are sad to announce the passing of former Chief Constable and our Patron Jack Aspinall, aged 97, on Sunday 26th July 2026.

Jack had a long and distinguished career in the Royal Military Police before joining the Force in 1978 when he was appointed as Assistant Chief Constable Northern Area at Rosyth. At the time of his appointment, it was recognised that his military background and knowledge of the workings of the Ministry of Defence would be an asset to the MDP. He transferred to Force HQ in London as ACC Operations in June 1980 and in January 1981 was appointed Deputy Chief Constable.

In June 1985 he was appointed Chief Constable, awarded the Queens Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 1987 and retired in February 1990.

It was during his time as Chief Constable at the request of a few retired officers who felt that friendships born out of their police service should continue into retirement and be cemented into a more formal footing, that he agreed to set up the Retired Officers Association in 1987. In those early days retired officers were invited to attend Pass Out Parades at the Training School at Medmenham and from there the Association developed into the organisation it is today. In 1999 the MDPROA Committee decided that some form of recognition be given to Jack and he kindly accepted the position of Patron of the Association. He was a great supporter and very much enjoyed attending the annual general meetings until a few years ago when ill health prevented him from so doing.

Our thoughts are with all the family at this sad time.

Jack's funeral service will take place at **Chichester Crematorium, Westhampnett Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 7UH on Thursday 27th August 2026 at 12.30pm and afterwards at The Lamb Inn, 144 Pagham Road, Bognor Regis PO21 4NJ.**

IN MEMORIAM

We also remember the following members who have passed away since our last newsletter.

Derek Stubbs

4 June 2025

Rod Stone

3 April 2026

Peter John Stewart

28 May 2026

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