

September 2014

Deployment roundup



About the NATO Summit 2014

The NATO Summit 2014 was the largest gathering of international leaders ever to take place in Britain. Leaders and senior ministers from the 28 member countries attended along with leaders from more than 30 other countries.

More than 9,000 officers were deployed to the summit for two weeks for Operation Ismay. These officers came from all 43 forces in England and Wales, as well as Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Ministry of Defence Police, British Transport Police, Civil Nuclear Constabulary, Jersey and Guernsey.



Thank you from PFEW Chair Steve White

On behalf of the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the planning and policing of the NATO Summit 2014. The summit was one of the largest policing operations ever to take place on British soil and it was a great success.

We are grateful to every officer who was deployed and to all those who helped with the policing operation. Everyone involved did a fantastic job and together helped showcase the very best of British policing.

The event was a tremendous example of what can be achieved when policing bodies work in partnership with one another and with other agencies.

The Federation and the operational contingent worked really well and they did their best to address welfare issues and complaints as efficiently and effectively as possible.

I'm grateful to all Federation representatives on the ground at the event who did an excellent job of addressing officers' concerns.

I would especially like to thank Gwent Federation chair Jeff Mapps and South Wales Federation chair Steve Trigg who were involved in the planning of the event from the start and helped ensure the Federation and officer welfare remain a key part of the operation.

We hope to take what was learned during this experience with us into any and all future mutual aid deployments.

The success of this event could not have been possible without all those who remained in force continuing everyday service provision for the public and I would also like to thank them for their contribution.

Once again, thank you all for your service and for helping to make the NATO Summit 2014 a great triumph.

Well done all on a safe and successful deployment.

Yours sincerely

Steve White
Chair, Police Federation of England and Wales

Leading the charge

Silver Command for Operation Ismay was based at the tactical command centre, the operational hub of the deployment. During key points of the operation there were in excess of 300 people spread over the three floors of the command.

Silver Commander Alun 'Maxi' Thomas said a positive attitude helped the operation to run as expected.

"My expectation is that everybody comes in with a smile and a positive attitude," he said.

"Standing on the frontline for more than 12 hours at a time is not an easy task but from what I've seen most people have never failed to keep a good attitude and a smile.

"Partnership with the Federation has helped to keep things running smoothly. I'm under no misconception that we can keep all people happy at all times but we've tried to address issues as they are identified and put things right.

"We hope that by working with the Federation and the Mutual Aid Liaison Officers to smooth out issues as they come up, officers all leave having had a great experience."

A home away from home

There were approximately 60 accommodation sites for officers deployed to the NATO Summit including several university locations across Wales and South West England.

Each site had a 'hub base', with a site manager, welfare staff and PFEW local and national representatives assigned to them.

At Cardiff University's Talybont residence halls, one of the main hub locations, 'Welfare Angels' Emily Morris, Linda Wood and Lauren Howitt were onsite during the deployment assisting with officer welfare needs.

Linda, or Woody as she was better known, said the welfare staff were available 24 hours a day to assist officers.

"We've dealt with everything from pillows and shoelaces to helping an officer who had bad legs from standing in one position all shift," she said.

"At first the officers thought we were just uni staff but they know now we are the ones to come to if they have any problems.

"We've done long hours but we would all definitely do it again!"

On the final Friday of the deployment, the ladies at Talybont were presented with several gifts from officers thanking them for all their





help during the deployment.

In addition to the onsite welfare staff and Federation representatives based at each of the welfare cells, officers could contact the Federation directly during deployment through the telephone helpline or the mutual aid email address.

During the summit more than 200 enquiries were logged through these avenues.

If any officers need additional post-deployment welfare assistance they should seek advice or make contact with their welfare and occupational health departments or local branch board reps.

Feeding the troops

There were five tactical holding areas where the majority of food and drink were provided to officers throughout the deployment.

In Newport, the main location was Rodney Parade stadium where on average 2,000 officers were fed across each 24 hour period of the operation.

Inspector Martyn Smith from Gwent Police was the Ground Commander at Rodney Parade and, along with retired South Wales officer Tony Hinchey, helped to set up the site.

"We put the area together as a place for officers to be briefed, fed, pick up packed lunches for the day, park vehicles, have welfare issues addressed and whatever else is needed", said Martyn.

"We've had helicopters, horses, dogs, bikes, basically every type of police asset through the grounds. It's like a small town.

"The Rodney Parade staff have been exceptional and we have a great working relationship with the owners too.

"And the local community has been working with us hand in glove providing extra parking if needed and all sorts.

"Everybody has been brilliant."

Key numbers

- Two week deployment
- More than 9,000 officers deployed
- More than 77,000 duty days worked
- 67 world leaders transported on Welsh roads on first night of the summit
- No public complaints about officers

Photography - Anderson Photography

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