Ministry of Defence Police

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has its own dedicated civil police force of around 3,500 officers with full constabulary powers. The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) operate at MOD sites throughout the UK, wherever police services are required.

The MDP is organised into five divisional commands, whose headquarters are located at York, Aldershot, Aldermaston, Foxhill and Clyde Naval Base. All officers are weapons trained and at any time 70% of officers on duty carry firearms, either pistols or rifles. MDP is deployed at around 120 MOD sites requiring police officers and an armed security capability. This includes the guarding of Britain's nuclear deterrent.

Ministry of Defence Police - Role

The role is to apply constabulary powers and civil police training to combat the principal risks of crime and disorder faced by the Ministry of Defence.

Operations are concentrated in four key areas of operation:

**Armed security**

The capability to deter and respond to an armed attack on defence personnel and property.

**Uniformed policing**

The effective use of police powers to deter, detect and respond to crime and disorder.

**Crime investigation**

The investigation of crime that impacts significantly against defence capability.

**Defence policing policy**

MDP contribute to defence policing policy.

In addition, there is a fifth key area of operation:
International policing

The contribution of specialist policing expertise in support of wider defence and foreign policy objectives. In this role The MDP acts in support of the defence issues – being a force for good in the world and strengthening international peace and security.

Public Access Areas / Enforcement of Byelaws

A great number of MOD sites have public access many of which are subject to byelaws restricting access and certain practices in the interest of public safety. It is important that all visitors to the MOD estate comply fully with these byelaws as failure to do so could lead to harm or injury and may lead to criminal proceedings being taken against offenders.

Whilst it is not the MDP’s intention to deter lawful activities or prevent visitors, please respect the MOD estate and abide by the byelaws; they are there for the public’s protection.

The safety of persons using the MOD estate is paramount and MDP officers will use all available means to protect legitimate users and to safeguard the interests of the MOD.

Apart from prosecutions for substantive offences (Criminal Damage, Theft, Public Order etc.), MDP officers will make full use of available byelaws to assist in the protection of the MOD estate and legitimate users, dealing robustly with persons contravening the byelaws.

For the period 1st April 2005 to 1st May 2006, MDP dealt with some 119 byelaw offences across the United Kingdom. Of these 35 were Officially Warned Off MOD Land, 16 received Official Police Cautions and 41 were charged or reported for Court Process.

Byelaw Offences

Further information about the role of the Ministry of Defence Police can be found on the MOD Website [www.mdp.mod.uk](http://www.mdp.mod.uk)