

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF THE
ROYAL AIR FORCE POLICE

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THE RAF POLICE IN 2007

With the recent establishment of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) on RAF stations to undertake armed guarding and security tasks and the introduction of the RAF Force Protection Organisation in 2003, the RAF Police have been subjected to large-scale reductions in personnel and a major realignment in the way the branch supports global RAF tactical operations and joint military manoeuvres. In April 2005 as part of *Project Darwin*, the former RAF Provost & Security Services (P&SS), located at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire, was renamed as the Headquarters Provost Marshal (RAF) (HQPM(RAF)). The Air Commodore relinquished his office as Provost Marshal (PM(RAF)) to a provost Group Captain before taking up his new appointment as Assistant Chief of Staff Force Protection; Commandant General RAF Regiment & Air Officer RAF Police. The change at the top was brought about to allow the Air Commodore to concentrate on directing the wider aspects of Force Protection, whilst allowing the Group Captain to independently manage all police investigatory functions. While the Air Commodore remains the figurehead of the branch in his capacity as Air Officer RAF Police, he has no remit to investigate or influence criminal or security matters. Although the new PM(RAF) is tasked to report through the Air Commodore to the Air-Officer-Commanding No2 Group (HQ Air Command) in respect of normal police and security matters, he retains direct access to the Chief of Air Staff (CAS) in respect of investigative affairs. As part of the restructuring, the Specialist Police Wing (SPW), under the command of a wing commander was formed, to take over the functions previously carried by P&SS, and comprises three single-capability squadrons; RAF Special Investigation Branch (SIB), Counter-Intelligence Squadron (CIS) and Security Services Squadron (SSS). The SSS in its entirety is based at RAF Henlow with HQPM (RAF), along with the nucleus and command structure of the SIB and CIS, while elements of expertise from the SIB and CIS are established at three dispersed units; HMS Caledonia (Scotland), RAF Cranwell (Lincoln) and RAF Halton (Buckinghamshire) to provide prompt professional specialist support to RAF unit commanders. Plans are currently in hand to divide RAF Police resources within the UK into three wings; General Police Wing (GPW)(5 squadrons), Specialist Police Wing (SPW) (3 squadrons) and Tactical Police Wing (TPW) (3 squadrons; 2 regular and 1 RAuxAF).

At the beginning of 2007 the establishment of the RAF Police stood at 188 commissioned officers, 44 warrant officers and 1,438 NCOs. In April 2007, following on from *Project DARWIN 2*; the second phase of restructuring the RAF Police, the stage is set for the PM(RAF) to exercise command over all RAF Police personnel serving within HQ Air Command, which amounts to about sixty-five percent of the RAF Police establishment. Those not subject to his direct control will include personnel serving with TPW who, for the time being, will remain under the command of the Force Protection Organisation and personnel employed with joint units overseas such as Gibraltar, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands. With MPGS established on RAF stations to undertake guarding and routine security commitments, there is no longer a requirement to staff individual RAF stations with police flights in the traditional way. As such, five numbered RAF Police squadrons are being formed around the country, as part of General Police Wing, to undertake general police duties, higher level security tasks and Air Transport Security operations on and off RAF stations within their respective area of responsibility. The units chosen to base the district headquarters of each squadron are; RAF Brize Norton, RAF Coningsby, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Marham and RAF Waddington. While each squadron commander and his small management team will operate from the district HQ, the majority of RAF Police personnel assigned to each squadron will be attached to RAF stations within their respective district. The elements of expertise from SPW, comprising SIB and CIS, established at HMS Caledonia, RAF Cranwell and RAF Halton will continue to operate as before.

Since November 2005, all RAF Police training has been carried out at the Defence Police College at Southwick Park in Hampshire, an establishment shared with the Royal Naval Provost Branch and the Army's Royal Military Police. In addition to initial police training for new recruits and provost officers, specialist post graduate courses are offered in respect of Air Transport Security training, Special Investigation training, Crime Scene Forensic training, Counter-Intelligence training and Computer Security training. Other specialist police and security training courses, such as the Home Office Detective training course, continue to be conducted at other service or civil police establishments around the UK, while basic and specialist training courses for dog handlers are conducted at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.

HISTORY

The appointment of Provost Marshal within the UK dates back to the 13th century when they were appointed by the King to keep order in the rabble armies raised by his barons.

In 1629 King Charles I, issued his 'Articles of War' which described the role of his Provost Marshal in the following terms:

"The provost must have a horse allowed him and some soldiers to attend him and all the rest commanded to obey him and assist him, or else the service will suffer. For he is one man and must correct many and therefore he cannot be beloved. And he must be riding from one garrison to another, to see that the soldiers do not outrage nor scathe about the country."

During the Peninsular Wars, the Provost Marshal and his staff, serving under the Duke of Wellington, were granted extensive and harsh powers of punishing soldiers discovered committing acts of indiscipline.

In 1855, the official Corps of Military Mounted Police was formed at Aldershot Garrison and the Corps of Military Foot Police were later formed to enforce military orders and regulations.

The RAF was formed on 1 April 1918, by combining the Royal Flying Corps and the RN Air Service.

On the same day, RFC personnel at Halton and Blandford Camps, employed on Camp Police duties became the first members of the RAF Police. Initially, the Army Provost Marshal was responsible for external policing, training and police policy matters. Wg Cdr Brierley, an Admin Officer was detailed to act as the first part-time RAF Provost Marshal. (*A list of RAF Provost Marshals is attached at the end of this document*).

In 1919, the RAF Police School was set up at Halton under the command of Flt Lt Bishop with Charles Guy and William Kerby as instructors.

Apr 1920 - The WRAF was disbanded along with the WRAF Patrol element. During the year surplus airmen were being drafted onto Service Police Duties at RAF Stations at home & abroad.

In 1928, the first Mounted RAF Service Police Section formed at Hinaidi in Iraq.

In 1931, King George V approved the appointment of Sqn Ldr Stammers as the first dedicated RAF Provost Marshal & Chief of Air Force Police. Sqn Ldr Richdale, a former Det Insp with Kent Police, took command of the Police School and began establishing the nucleus of the RAF SIB.

In 1936, during the build-up to WW II, a Nazi spy, Dr Gortz, was arrested at Harwich by the SB and later convicted of espionage on the evidence

supplied by the RAF Service Police who had been monitoring his activities on RAF Stations in East Anglia and the Home Counties.

During 1937, the Police School left Halton and set up in its new home at Uxbridge with the newly established RAF Police HQ. In Iraq, RAF Hinaidi closed and the Mounted RAF Service Police rode for 2 days across the desert to reach a new unit at RAF Habbaniya, over 80 miles away.

In 1939, with the threat of war approaching, the establishment of the RAF Service Police increased and the RAF Police trade was officially approved.

On the outbreak of war, a specially equipped RAF Police Service Unit, commanded by Sqn Ldr Richdale, joined the BEF and deployed into France. RAF Dep Asst Provost Marshals (DAPM) established at all Group and Command HQ. 13 RAF Police Districts formed in the UK; District RAF POLICE responsible to PROVOST MARSHAL - Stn RAF POLICE responsible to Stn Cdr.

May 1940 - The BEF including RAF POLICE, evacuated from Dunkirk as the Germans swiftly invaded Belgium and France. RAF POLICE in London busy dealing with an assortment of offences committed by RAF personnel; thefts, assaults, drunkenness, false impersonation, disciplinary offences and desertion.

Mid 1940 - RAF Security School established at Halton. RAF POLICE trained in security duties. WRAF Police recruited (George & Moll).

1941 - RAF POLICE HQ moves from Uxbridge to Hitchen House in Burnham nr Maidenhead. Sgt George commissioned as first WRAF DAPM. RAF POLICE established to provide security during the secret trials on UKs first jet; Gloster Whittle E28/39.

May 1941 - RAF POLICE at RAF Turnhouse guard Rudolf Hess for the night following his unexpected arrival by parachute into Scotland.

Feb 1942 - RAF POLICE in London assist Met Police to identify RAF Cadet Gordon Cummins, who murdered 4 women and attempted to murder 2 more. Descriptions, bank notes from a pay parade and a lighter belonging to a victim sealed his fate and he was convicted and later hanged for murder.

Mid 1942 - RAF POLICE Sgt attached to the RAF Records Office Gloucester to assist with police enquiries regarding RAF personnel. PROVOST MARSHAL's Office at the Air Ministry increased to 7

departments commanded by a Wg Cdr: PM1 - General Security Matters. PM2 - RAFP org, discip and personnel. PM3 - Special Enquiries. PM4 - WRAF matters. PM5- Passes, permits and vetting enquiries. PM6 - Special Security Operations. PM7 - Flying Indiscipline Enquiries.

Dec 1942 - Gp Capt Stammers retires as PROVOST MARSHAL - Replaced by Air Cdre de Putron. Gp Capt Kerby appointed as first DPM to assist Air Cdre de Putron.

Ministry of Aircraft Production Guard Dog Training School (MAPGDTS) formed at Woodfold nr Gloucester (Lt Col Baldwin & Flt Lt Bathurst-Brown). RAF POLICE provides security during secret trials to develop the Barnes Wallace 'Bouncing Bombs' with 617 Sqn, The Dam Busters.

Mid 1943 - Gp Capt Brown & Sqn Ldr Instone attached to HQ 2TAF Bracknell to form RAF POLICE unit to support the planned invasion of France.

Late 1943 - RAF POLICE unit established to support the British N African Air Force.

RAF POLICE Districts with the UK are reduced from 13 to 8. RAF POLICE School moves from Uxbridge to Weeton nr Blackpool.

1944 - RAF POLICE tasked with producing new RAF ID cards. RAF POLICE take over the MAPGDS and rename it as RAF Police Dog Training School - First RAF POLICE trainee dog handlers arrive at Woodfold in March. Cpl King forms the RAF POLICE Dance Orchestra at the RAF POLICE HQ.

Mar 1944 - The Great Escape of 79 RAF POW takes place at Stalag Luft III. 50 out of the 76 recaptured RAF POW are executed by the Gestapo on the orders of Adolf Hitler.

Jun 1944 - D-Day invasion of France; RAF POLICE accompany troops ashore on Juno Beach.

Jul 1944 - RAF POLICE dog handlers successfully assist ARP in London to search for victims buried after German V2 rocket attacks.

Aug 1944 - RAF POLICE in Brussels formed the Belgian Auxiliary Air Police Service to assist with guarding and security tasks.

Sep 1944 - WAAF POLICE established in the Middle East (Egypt, Palestine, Iraq). One member of WAAF Police joined the Mounted Section

at RAF Habbanyia Iraq. Provost Marshal seeks to recruit additional RAF Provost Officers. Air Ministry Order released which instructed RAFSP on units to remove the 'S' from their brassards. All RAF POLICE wear the same style brassards with 'RAFP'.

Dec 1944 – RAF POLICE stationed in Athens Greece caught up in the civil war.

Jan 1945 - Establishment of RAF POLICE is 500 officers (55 WAAF) & 20,000 Ors (267 WAAF).

8 May 1945 - Germany defeated with Victory in Europe.

Aug 1945 - After 2 atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, the war in the Far East came to an end.

RAF POLICE become involved in the investigation of RAF mutinies in Iceland, the Far East and the Middle East.

Nov 1945 - RAF POLICE tasked by War Crimes Judge Advocate to investigate the murder, by the Gestapo, of the 50 recaptured RAF officers at Stalag Luft III. Wg Cdr Wilfred Bowes and Sqn Ldr Francis McKenna appointed to investigate the Stalag Luft Murders.

During same period, RAF POLICE NCOs are authorised to wear the newly approved white webbing equipment and hat covers.

RAF POLICE command worldwide re-structured into Wing Headquarters as follows:

No 1 Wing - Situated in the UK - under command of Gp Capt Newbury.

No 2 Wing - BAFO in Germany - under the command of Gp Capt Brown.

No 3 Wing - In the Middle East - under the command of Gp Capt Grove.

No 4 Wing - In the Far East - under the command of Gp Capt Champion.

The 6 UK RAF POLICE District HQs, commanded by a Wg Cdr APM are:

No 1 District - Edinburgh. No 2 District - Newcastle.

No 3 District - Nottingham. No 4 District - Duxford.

No 5 District - London. No 6 District - Bristol.

Jan 1946 - RAF POLICE School moves from RAF Weeton to RAF Great Sampford near Braintree in Essex.

Feb 1946 - RAF POLICE Dog School moves from RAF Woodfold to RAF Staverton outside Gloucester. Col Jimmy Baldwin remains as Chief Instructor (Dogs) and Flt Lt R D Cooper is appointed as OC RAF POLICE

Dog Training School. Second RAF POLICE School formed at Buckeburg in Germany to cope with BAFO matters.

RAF Police worldwide are established in the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, & the Far East. Nationalist unrest begins to stir in Egypt, India, Burma and Palestine. RAF Police join Allied Occupation Force in Japan.

Jun 1946 - 30 RAF POLICE Auxiliaries recruited & trained in Singapore. Dakota aircraft with 20 RAF POLICE NCOs on board crashes in Malaya in a storm with no survivors.

Jul 1946 - RAF POLICE vehicles in Egypt fitted with 2 way radios for efficiency - These helped during the successful search to locate the body of an airman, murdered and buried in the dessert by a Sudanese robber.

Oct 1946 - RAF POLICE School moves from Great Sampford and joins the RAF POLICE Dog School at RAF Staverton. RAF POLICE serving in Calcutta India assist civil authorities during serious sectarian violence.

Jan 1947 - RAF Provost Branch formally recognised as a specialist branch in RAF.

May 1947 - The first edition of '*Provost Parade*' is published - sold for a shilling. The magazine would quickly become the RAF POLICE journal.

Jul 1947 - First 18 defendants implicated in the Stalag Luft III murder investigation go on trial at Hamburg. Case continues.

Aug 1947 - Independence for India - RAF POLICE leave the mainland. Assistance to Pakistan in forming & training their PAF Police. RAF Police dogs used for the first time to help search for victims of coalmine disaster in Whitehaven, Cumberland.

Jun 1948 - As the RAF withdrew from Palestine, 40 RAF POLICE Dog Teams appeared on parade in public at the 3 Counties Agricultural Show at Staverton. FS McNeil RAFP was murdered on duty by 3 Arabs on a journey between Ismailia and Fayid in Egypt.

In Berlin & Germany, the Berlin Airlift was well under way with RAF POLICE fully committed to support the operation. RAF POLICE School moves to RAF Pershore.

Oct 1948 - The remaining defendants in the Stalag Luft III, murder investigation go on trial at Hamburg.

Nov 1948 - To promote overall efficiency professionalism amongst RAF POLICE Flights, the PROVOST MARSHAL introduced an annual competition and trophy known as the 'De Putron Trophy'.

Jan 1949 - RAF POLICE supervise the loading aboard USS Atenas in Liverpool Docks, the last 300 coffins of US Servicemen killed in WW2, being returned to the USA. Wg Cdr Bowes and Sqn Ldr McKenna awarded the OBE for their work in bringing the Stalag Luft murderers to justice at Hamburg.

Apr 1949 - NATO formed and 4 days later the Soviets lifted the blockade of Berlin. Experimental dog breeding program at the Dog School was terminated as being non-cost effective and unreliable.

Jun 1949 - RAF POLICE Dog Demo Team appear for the first time at Royal Tournament Olympia and were an instant PR success.

Sep 1949 - RAF POLICE at RAF Filton control crowds & huge media interest during maiden flight of huge Brabazon passenger aircraft.

Oct 1949 - 18 RAF POLICE NCOs from RAF Buckeburg Germany formed into Special VIP Escort Unit for British High Commissioner; General Sir Brian Robertson.

Nov 1949 - RAF POLICE Auxiliaries formed on Cyprus and RAF POLICE NCOs in Rhodesia tasked with training Rhodesian Military Police NCOs.

Jan 1950 - RAF POLICE Dog handlers sent to Malaya to assist Commissioner of Police in tracking terrorists & establishing a Police Dog Unit.

Jul 1950 - Large RAF POLICE presence at RAF Farnborough for the first post war public RAF Flying / Static Display attended by the Royal Family.

Sep 1950 - RAF POLICE established at the newly formed Inter-services Identification Bureau in Hong Kong. Vetting Agency for Royal Naval Dockyard & Armed Forces in HK.

Dec 1950 - RAF POLICE & RMP assist in controlling serious riots in Singapore following sectarian problems. King George VI, graciously approves the Griffin badge & motto 'Fiat Justitia', designed by Wg Cdr Henniker-Heaton and Flt Lt McMahan. The Provost Branch is joined by many former colonial Police Officers.

At the end of 1950, the Stalag Luft III, murder investigation is brought to an end following the last Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. Results: 21 defendants were sentenced to death. 17 defendants received various prison terms. 11 defendants committed suicide in custody. 8 defendants were acquitted. 6 were still believed to be at large and their whereabouts were unknown. 10 were believed to have been killed before the war ended.

Feb 1951 - RAF POLICE Dog School leave RAF Staverton and join the RAF POLICE School at RAF Pershore. Start of the 'Cold War'. RAF POLICE under the control of the PROVOST MARSHAL re-titled as Provost & Security Service (known thereafter as P&SS).

Mar 1951 - 6 RAF POLICE Reserve Flights formed in UK at Cambridge, Liverpool, Derby, Stanmore Park, Glasgow and Bristol.

Apr 1951 - The RAF POLICE badge is formally handed over to the PROVOST MARSHAL, during a parade at RAF Pershore, by AVM Sanderson. RAF POLICE are established at the NATO HQ at Fontainebleau in France.

May 1951 - Air Cdre de Putron retires from the RAF after a successful appointment which saw the establishment of the RAF POLICE grow from 1,000 to a peak of 20,500. He was succeeded by Air Cdre Yarde.

Jun 1951 - RAF POLICE Dog Teams presented to HRH Queen Mary at Royal Tournament.

Sep 1951 - Large RAF POLICE presence at the 4th Singapore Air Day at Kallang Airport, which was attended by 30,000 members of the public. In addition the local RAF POLICE Dog Demo Team entertained the crowds.

Jan 1952 - Cpl Andrew Kirk RAFP killed and Cpl Clarke RAFP wounded by Egyptian terrorists as they responded to assist a British Army unit being attacked in the Suez Canal Zone.

Feb 1952 - RAF POLICE School completed move from RAF Pershore to RAF Netheravon in Wiltshire and was re-titled as the Royal Air Force Police Depot. In addition, an RAF POLICE tie (dark blue with silver griffins) was authorised to be worn with civilian dress.

Oct 1952 - UK tests her first Atomic Bomb on Monte Bello Islands W of Australia.

Nov 1952 - 15 RAF POLICE dogs transported by air for the first time

between RAF Abingdon and RAF Gutesloh in Germany.

Oct 1952 - Mau Mau State of emergency declared in Kenya - RAF POLICE at RAF Eastleigh increase internal security measures. The Yfai Tribe in the Sultanate of Mukalla (Aden) appointed as RAF POLICE Auxiliaries to protect the air staging post at Riyan on the hostile S Arabian coastline.

Jan 1953 - UK P&SS Districts increased from 6 to 7, with the formation of HQ at Castle Bromwich. RAF POLICE on East coast deploy to assist Civil authorities during severe flooding.

Feb 1953 - At request of Earl Mountbatten, RAF POLICE established to provide security at HQ Allied Forces (Med) at Floriana, Malta.

Apr 1953 - Air Cdre Yarde promoted and hands over as PROVOST MARSHAL to Air Cdre Carter. RAF POLICE Dog Handlers in Hong Kong appear on public parade for the first time.

May 1953 - 40 members of the RAF POLICE on parade in London to mark the Coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II. RAF POLICE presence on discipline patrol in London over the week.

Jun 1953 - Large RAF POLICE presence at RAF Odiham for the Royal Review of the RAF. Venue hosts the largest every assembly of RAF aircraft and equipment.

Aug 1953 - RAF Provost Officers attend the Home Office Detective Training Course at HQ Lancashire Constabulary.

Oct 1953 - Lt Col Jimmy Baldwin retires as RAF Chief Training Officer (Dogs) and hands over to Mr Charles Fricker.

By late 1953 - The first kiloton range 'Blue Danube' atomic weapon was delivered to the RAF to be matched with the 'V Force', Britain's nuclear deterrent strike force. No 543 Bomber Sqn formed at RAF Gaydon with Valiant bombers became the first nuclear armed part of the V Force. The RAF Police commence nuclear security duties, a task which will last for just over 40 years.

Mar 1954 - P&SS organisation at home and abroad re-organised. Wing HQs abandoned and newly established District HQs re-numbered as follows:

No 1 Dist - Bishopbriggs - Scotland. No 2 Dist - Weeton - Lancs.

No 3 Dist - Hucknall - Notts. No 5 Dist - Ruislip - Middlesex.

No 6 Dist - Filton - Bristol. No 7 Dist - Castle Bromwich - W Mids.
No 8 Dist - Gibraltar. No 9 Dist - Malta. No10 Dist - N Ireland.
No21 Dist - Ismailia - Egypt. No22 Dist - Steamer Point - Aden.
No23 Dist - Habbanyia - Iraq. No24 Dist - Nicosia - Cyprus.
No31 Dist - Changi - Singapore. No32 Dist - Kuala Lumpur - Malaya.
No33 Dist - Colombo - Ceylon. No34 Dist - Kai Tak - Hong Kong.
No41 Dist - Buckeburg - Germany. No42 Dist - Wahn - Germany.

Apr 1954 - RAF POLICE in Singapore assist Civil police dealing with the crash of large Constellation passenger aircraft at Kallang, killing all on board. During same month, RAF POLICE Auxiliaries in Ceylon sworn in as Special Constables to assist during visit by Queen Elizabeth II.

May 1954 - Cpl Elvin RAFP and his dog, assist British Army patrols in Malaya to track down terrorists in the jungle.

Jun 1954 - The first 4 members of the USAF Air Police arrive at the RAF POLICE School to be trained as dog handlers.

Jul 1954 - RAF POLICE at RAF Eastleigh, Kenya, ambush Mau Mau terrorists and make 22 arrests and recover weapons/other evidence.

Aug 1954 - The EOKA terrorists in Cyprus begin to stir up trouble on the island.

Oct 1954 - Air Cdre Carter retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and is replaced by Air Cdre Proud.

May 1955 - The Warsaw Pact is signed by the Soviet Union and 7 of her allies - The Cold War threat increases as the Soviets continue to stockpile military hardware and research development of nuclear weapons.

Jun 1955 - P&SS Traffic Sections formed in W Germany to deal with the increasing number of fatal/serious accidents involving personnel under RAF law.

Aug 1955 - Armed American Serviceman; Napoleon Greene, went berserk at RAF Manston, and killed 3 people and seriously injured 7 others before committing suicide. During the incident, RAF Police Cpl R P Grayer was shot dead by Greene as he tried to rescue a young girl from the mayhem. Later Sgt J Sutcliffe the SNCO IC RAF POLICE collapsed and died of a heart attack.

Sep 1955 - The EOKA violence in Cyprus increases and RAF POLICE & RMP placed on full alert - RAF POLICE carry out TCS checks at Larnaca

& Nicosia Airports.

Feb 1956 - Avro York passenger aircraft taking off from RAF Valetta in Malta crashes killing all 50 personnel on board including 14 RAF POLICE NCOs on route to the UK.

June 1956 - The last British troops leave Egypt. In the years leading up to the withdrawal there had been widespread hostility towards the British and many service personnel had been killed and injured in clashes with the Egyptian security forces and hostile Egyptian civilians.

Jul 1956 - Following Egyptian take-over of Suez Canal RAF POLICE join British Task Force assembled to liberate the waterway.

Sep 1956 - Air Cdre Proud retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Kerby, the first man to hold all ranks within the RAF POLICE from AC up to Air Cdre

Oct 1956 - *Op Musketeer* - The liberation of the Suez Canal launched - RAF POLICE join the invasion force in Cyprus & Egypt.

1957 - RAF POLICE Stationed on Christmas Island to provide Police & Security support during the testing of Britain's first Hydrogen nuclear weapons.

Mar 1957 - 8 RAF POLICE dog handlers and 11 police dogs were amongst those killed when a Blackburn Beverley transport aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from RAF Abingdon.

First Annual RAF POLICE Working Dog Trials held at RAF POLICE Depot Netheravon & the trade of Kennel-Maid was officially authorised within the RAF POLICE Trade Group. RAF took delivery of the newly designed 'Yellow Sun' thermonuclear megaton bomb. The V Force increases along with RAF POLICE nuclear security commitments.

1958 - Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) formed. A stand-off launched megaton nuclear weapon 'Blue Steel', with a range of 100 miles enters service with the RAF V Force.

May 1958 - State of emergency declared in Aden in response to Egyptian backed anti-British terrorist activity.

Jul 1958 - RAF POLICE assist with security at Cardiff Commonwealth Games accommodation site at RAF St Athan.

Sep 1958 - RAF POLICE established to provide security at the first site used to deploy the RAF's first 'Thor' ballistic missiles.

Dec 1958 - UK P&SS Districts reduced from 7 to 5:

No 1 - RAF Turnhouse - Scotland. No 2 - RAF Church Fenton - Northern.

No 3 - RAF Spitalgate - Central. No 4 - RAF Innsworth - Western.

No 5 - RAF Northolt - Southern.

Jun 1959 - RAF withdraws from Iraq - The horses from the RAF POLICE Mounted Section are transferred to Cyprus.

Tension in many of Britain's overseas territories becomes unsettled and in a number of areas, hostile anti-British demonstrations and violent terrorist activity are becoming common-place. The British Government are forced to take action.

Feb 1960 - Air Cdre Kerby retires as the PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Gardner. As travel by air replaces troopship movements, the RAF POLICE become fully involved with Travel Control Security (TCS) measures.

The enquiry report by Lord Radcliffe into National Security is published and RAF Security measures are reviewed. The first 7 RAF POLICE Auxiliaries are trained as dog handlers in Cyprus.

Mar 1960 - CND protests at RAF units within the UK require deployment of additional RAF POLICE to maintain security.

Apr 1960 - RAF POLICE Dog Demo Team are extremely popular and an instant success to the 250,000 people who attended the 30 performances of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

Aug 1960 - The RAF POLICE Depot moves from RAF Netheravon to RAF Debden near Saffron Waldon.

Sep 1960 - Cyprus is granted independence & the Sovereign Base Area (SBA) Police is formed - However, because of manning shortfalls, 35 RAF POLICE NCOs are sworn in as constables and attached to establish and run the force for the first 6 months of its life.

Dec 1960 - National Service conscription into the British Forces ends - Cpl John Stewart from Greenock in Scotland became the last national serviceman to join the ranks of the RAF POLICE. Counter Intelligence courses developed at the RAF POLICE School.

Mar 1961 - Corporal T Maddox and Corporal A Whiteley from No 5 RAF Police District granted a private audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, at Golestan Palace in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Aug 1961 - The Berlin Wall is erected by the E German Authorities, together with the 'Iron Curtain' between the East & West. P&SS stationed in Berlin functioned as the only RAF POLICE unit behind the 'Iron Curtain'.

1962 - Tension increases between East & West over the Cuban Missile crisis. The possibility of nuclear war became a reality as the crisis peaked.

Jul 1962 - Air Cdre Gardner retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Millar.

Jul - Aug - RAF Police dog teams deployed to the Tower of London to enhance security.

Mar 1963 - RAF POLICE are attached to the Joint Service Police Unit in Borneo to assist the Sultan in maintaining law and order following a violent rebel uprising.

Jun 1963 - RAF POLICE from Waddington, Scampton, Conningsby, Hemswell and Finningly assembled at RAF Waddington to provide security & anti-CND cover during a visit by US President, J F Kennedy. Dog School leaves Netheravon and joins the RAF POLICE Depot at RAF Debden. 'Village Constable' policing smaller non-operational RAF units is introduced.

Dec 1963 - RAF POLICE Mounted Section formed at RAF El Adem in Libya.

Jan 1964 - P&SS Berlin involved in the security operation during the exchange of alleged agents; Greville Wynne (MI5) and Gordon Lonsdale (KGB) which took place on Berlin Wall.

Feb 1964 - Following Radcliffe review of RAF Security, Air Cdre Pike appointed as new Director of Security RAF, while PROVOST MARSHAL retains responsibility for police matters.

Mar 1964 - RAF POLICE NCOs join UN Peace-keeping force in Cyprus to keep Turkish (in North) & Greek (in South) Cypriots apart.

Egyptian sponsored violent terrorist activity within Aden increases

dramatically and British Forces are placed on full alert.

Nov 1965 - Air Cdre Millar retires as PROVOST MARSHAL & is succeeded by Air Cdre Inness.

Dec 1965 - No10 RAF POLICE Dist at RAF Sydenham in N Ireland is disbanded and becomes a detachment of No1 RAF POLICE Dist.

Jul 1966 - RAF POLICE NCOs established at the NATO HQ in Brussels, following the transfer from Fontainebleau in France. RAF POLICE employed on TCS duties at RAF Changi also act as Customs & Immigration Officers for Singapore Government.

Dec 1966 - P&SS Det at RAF Eastleigh in Kenya disbanded but RAF POLICE NCOs remain to train new Kenyan Air Force Police. 2 RAF POLICE NCOs on TCS duty in Aden are seriously injured when a terrorist bomb explodes in freight shed at RAF Khormaksar.

Feb 1967 - The terrorist problem in Aden becomes so serious and violent that wives are issued with machine guns for self defence.

Jul 1967 - Service families and non essential personnel are evacuated from Aden as situation becomes chaotic.

Nov 1967 - All British personnel & Forces are withdrawn from Aden which is abandoned and left to its own fate by HM Government.

Dec 1967 - P&SS called in to assist Civil Police investigation following the discovery of murdered airwoman in woods near to RAF Halton.

Apr 1968 - 50th Anniversary of the RAF and the RAF Police - RAF POLICE deployed at various high profile celebrations at home and abroad providing Police & Sy support.

May 1968 - RAF POLICE NCOs volunteer as film extras during the making of the film; Battle of Britain at RAF Debden & RAF Duxford.

Mid 1968 - Ch Tech Britten jailed for 19 yrs for spying for the Russians. He had been under P&SS and Special Branch observation for some time before his arrest.

Oct 1968 - The 5 UK RAF POLICE Districts are abolished and replaced by 3 P&SS Regional HQs; - P&SS (Northern Region) based at RAF Linton-on-Ouse with detachments in N Ireland and Scotland. P&SS (Central Region) based at RAF Spitalgate. P&SS (Southern Region) based at RAF

Northolt. P&SS Support Sqn formed at Debden under the command of Sqn Ldr Thompson. Air Cdre Inness retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Panton.

Apr 1969 - The 2 appointments of Director of Security and PROVOST MARSHAL combined to form a single appointment re-titled; Director of Security & Provost Marshal (RAF) - (DSy&PM(RAF)).

May 1969 - Support Sqn motorcyclists provide escort for RAF pilots through London to take part in the Daily Mail Transatlantic Air Race.

Mid 1969 - State of emergency declared in N Ireland as situation deteriorates.

Sep 1969 - Instant success as the RAF POLICE Dog Demo Team go on tour of Canada & USA with the Parachute Regt.

Dec 1969 - RAF POLICE in Cyprus assist local authorities to clear up after severe weather conditions cause chaos in Limassol.

Jan 1970 - RAF POLICE Dogs trained for the first time to detect the drug Cannabis.

Feb 1970 - Security Officers courses commenced at the RAF POLICE School to train non-police security officers the basics.

Mar 1970 - The RAF withdrew from RAF El Adem their last unit in Libya.

May 1970 - The RAF withdrew from RAF Seletar in Singapore.

Late 1970 - With the introduction into service of the Harrier jump jet, RAF POLICE deploy into field conditions during combat exercises to support operations.

Feb 1971 - RAF POLICE Auxiliaries in FEAF celebrate their Silver Anniversary at RAF Changi (Establishment up to 400 men).

Mar 1971 - Operation Golden Eagle - NCOs from Support Sqn arrive at RAF Cranwell to provide enhanced security while HRH The Prince of Wales undergoes his officer and flying training to become a pilot.

Jun 1971 - 2 solid silver mace heads were donated by the RAF POLICE to St Clement Danes church in London to replace 2 which were stolen during the previous year.

Sep 1971 - HQ P&SS(FEAF) disbanded and RAF Tengah in Singapore closed.

Oct 1971 - Air Cdre Panton retires as the PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Shephard.

Dec 1971 - RAF Changi in Singapore and RAF Muharraq in Bahrain close down.

Apr 1972 - RAF make final withdrawal from Singapore and last RAF POLICE Mounted Section at Akrotiri in Cyprus is disbanded.

Jun 1972 - Provost Branch celebrate their Silver Anniversary at the RAF POLICE Depot.

Oct 1972 - RAF POLICE are detached to No1 Regt RMP in N Ireland to assist with patrolling the 'streets'. RAF Provost Officer; Squadron Leader J Roberts is nominated as first OC RAF POLICE Det & 2IC No 1 Regt RMP. Succeeded in 1973 by Squadron Leader C Burghope.

Jun 1973 - First Royal Review of the RAF POLICE & Provost Branch carried out by HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, at the RAF POLICE Depot Debden.

Jul 1973 - RAF POLICE & RMP NCO on joint patrol in Londonderry shot & wounded.

Late 1973 - RAF POLICE FX Dog handler narrowly escapes death but his dog is killed when a booby trap bomb explodes in a house being searched in N Ireland.

Jan 1974 - Air Cdre Shephard retires as the PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Player.

Apr 1974 - Sgt Window, a former RAF POLICE NCO, becomes the first RAF POLICE SNCO to be appointed to the Queens Body Guard of the Yeoman.

Jun 1974 - Turkey, fearing a Greek take-over in Cyprus launched an invasion onto the island - panic followed and all British & UN Forces placed on full alert. RAF POLICE fully committed to protecting service families living outside Sovereign Base Areas. RAF Nicosia in Cyprus evacuated under fire. Gallantry awards for RAF POLICE.

Sep 1974 - The political situation in Cyprus calms down but the island is

divided with the Turks in the North and the Greeks in the South. The SBAs remain intact and RAF Police in Nicosia join UN Force.

Oct 1974 - RAF POLICE Depot is disbanded and re-titled RAF Police School and moves from Debden to RAF Newton, Nottingham. RAF POLICE detachments to RMP Units in N Ireland end.

Feb 1976 - Air Cdre Player retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Innes.

Mar 1976 - RAF Gan in the Indian Ocean and RAF Masirah in Oman close.

Apr 1976 - RAF POLICE, RAF Regt & RAF Fire Service combine to form Trade Group 8. AVM Griffiths is appointed Director General RAF Security and the PROVOST MARSHAL becomes Deputy Director of RAF Sy & PM(RAF).

Apr 1976 - Fighter, Bomber & Coastal Commands disbanded to form HQ Strike Command, while Training, Transport & Maintenance Commands disbanded to form HQ Support Command. RAF POLICE Provost staff established at each of the 2 new HQs.

Sep 1976 - Mr Charles Fricker retires and is succeeded as Chief Training Officer (Dogs) by Mr Terry McHaffie.

Jun 1977 - HQ P&SS(UK) move out from Bromyard Ave in Acton to RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire - PROVOST MARSHAL and staff remain at MOD Whitehall - Support Sqn & RAF P&SS(SR) move from Northolt to join HQ P&SS(UK) at Rudloe Manor. RAFP brassard replaced for normal use by newly designed epaulettes.

Jul 1977 - RAF POLICE are out in force to support the largest ever Royal Review of the RAF at RAF Finningley, which also marked the Silver Jubilee celebrations of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Apr 1978 - The RAF POLICE Dog School is selected by HM Customs & Excise to provide trained drug detection dogs and to train their Drug Detection Teams.

May 1978 - Air Cdre Innes retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Young.

Aug 1978 - RAF POLICE Flt is established in British Honduras (Belize) to support Harrier jet & Puma helicopter operations against increased

threat from Guatemala to invade the colony.

Dec 1978 - As UK Fire Brigades go out on strike, RAF POLICE along with other military personnel take up fire fighting duties around the country.

Mar 1979 - RAF withdraw from the island of Malta.

Apr 1979 - OC HQ P&SS(UK) receives the new HQ P&SS(UK) Unit badge approved by HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Oct 1979 - RAF POLICE involved in humanitarian Red Cross famine relief in Kampuchea.

Jan 1980 - RAF POLICE NCOs from Support Sqn join Commonwealth Force in Rhodesia to monitor pre-election cease-fire & surrender of weapons from differing political factions.

May 1980 - Operation Golden Eagle II - Support Sqn deploy to RAF Leeming to enhance security while HRH The Prince Andrew trains to become a RN pilot.

Oct 1980 - RAF POLICE deployed to enhance security at Rolleston & Frankland Prison during National Prison Officers strike.

As French Foreign Legion & Royal Marines deploy to Vanuatu to restore law & order RAF POLICE deployed to provide ATSy on Fiji and Vanuatu in S Pacific.

Jan 1981 - IRA bomb explodes at RAF Uxbridge London causing serious damage. Casualties avoided by prompt action of Stn personnel. P&SS Investigators assist NSY Anti-Terrorist Squad with enquiries. Security at all RAF Stns within the UK reviewed and Gate Controls introduced.

Dec 1981 - Air Cdre Young retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre David.

Apr 1982 - Argentinean Forces invade and occupy the Falkland Islands. British Task Force & Support Sqn prepare to deploy.

May 1982 - His Holiness Pope John Paul II visits the UK and RAF POLICE provide enhanced security measures at RAF Leeming and RAF Turnhouse to facilitate his reception.

Jun 1982 - RAF POLICE from Cyprus assist authorities with the sea evacuation of foreign nationals from war torn Lebanon. Argentinean

Forces on the Falkland Islands surrender to British Forces. Support Sqn/RMP/RNRB establish post conflict provost operations on islands. RAF POLICE NCOs established on Ascension Island to setup Airhead between Falklands, Ascension & UK.

Sep 1982 - CND establish a Peace Camp at RAF Greenham Common Newbury to protest about deployment of USAF Cruise Tomahawk missiles, capable of carrying nuclear warheads. RAF POLICE deployed to base.

Sep 1982 - 9 RAF POLICE motorcyclists posted onto the strength of USAF 501st Tactical Missile Wing Greenham Common to carry out convoy escort duties during the deployment of the Cruise missiles.

Oct 1982 - RAF POLICE Dogs have always been donated to the RAF POLICE by the public - During Oct, the 10,000th dog entered service to become a trained RAF POLICE dog.

1983 - HQ P&SS(Germany) were honoured when HM Queen Elizabeth II graciously approved a unit badge for the headquarters.

Feb 1984 - RAF POLICE from Cyprus assist with a second sea evacuation of refugees from war torn Lebanon.

Apr 1984 - Drug Abuse Prevention Officers established on each of the P&SS Regions in an effort to educate RAF personnel about the dangers of drug & solvent abuse.

Jun 1984 - Air Cdre David retires as the PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Hales.

Aug 1984 - Sgt Flinn Support Sqn takes part in Exercise Airwave - a 4 month exchange program with the RAAF Police - Sgt Dusting RAAF Police joins Support Sqn. WO Figgins & Sgt Rowe go to Thailand to train Thai Police FX Dog Detection Teams.

Oct 1984 - HQ P&SS(Germany) presented with the Wilkinson Sword of Peace (for their outstanding contribution to the 'local community').

Nov 1984 - WO Broddle RAFP retired from the service having completed 500 Royal Flights with The Queens Flight. Before he left the service he became only the third member of the RAF POLICE to be granted a private audience with HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Jan 1985 - The RAF POLICE once again become engaged in

Humanitarian Famine Relief operations in Ethiopia, where security of the Relief flight line & operations area is carried out at Addis Ababa International Airport.

Feb 1985 - A coach carrying the RAF Germany Band on tour crashes on the Autobahn killing and injuring many of those on board. Cpl George Crawford RAFF, their security NCO was amongst those tragically killed.

Mar 1985 - Mikhail Gorbachev becomes the new radical Leader of the Soviet Union and almost immediately talks to the West about bringing an end to the Cold War and his plans to introduce internal political change. The Western world watches with interest as events unfold.

Apr 1985 - Support Sqn send re-force teams to Cyprus & Gibraltar to enhance security on RAF bases after USA is permitted to use UK bases to launch air raids against Libya, following evidence suggesting links with international terrorism. Following a complicated P&SS & Special Branch investigation in Cyprus, the Cyprus spy trial of 6 RAF & 2 soldiers, charged with passing secrets to a hostile Intelligence Service, commenced at the Old Bailey in London.

May 1985 - As RAF Mount Pleasant on the Falkland Islands is opened, the first RNRB/RMP/RAFF Joint Service Police Unit, known as the Falkland Islands Joint Service Police Unit (FIGPU) is formed.

Oct 1985 - Air Cdre Hales retires as the PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Winch. P&SS(NR) respond along with civilian emergency services to a large fire at RAF Brampton which completely destroys the premises housing HQ Support Command.

Oct 1985 - The Cyprus spy trial at the Old Bailey collapses and all the defendants are acquitted. Allegations of ill-treatment in RAF POLICE custody were made by defendants which results in the Government ordering a formal inquiry into the matter. Mr George Carman QC is appointed to head the inquiry team. The new Service Police Codes of Practice as part of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 are introduced into service replacing the Judges Rules.

Mar 1986 - Following a full examination of the evidence submitted to the 'Cyprus Spy Trial Inquiry Team', Mr George Carman QC, cleared the RAF POLICE of all the allegations concerning the ill-treatment of all the defendants whilst in RAF custody.

Aug 1986 - A pro-Libyan terrorist group attacks RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus using mortars & machine guns. Although no-one is killed 2 RAF wives

are injured. All police forces on the island go onto full alert.

Mar 1987 - Following the disaster when the Channel ferry; *Herald of Free Enterprise*, capsized outside Zeebrugge Harbour with a large loss of life, RAF POLICE from the UK and Germany called in to assist with the identification of the service victims.

Apr 1987 - The first RAF POLICE covert Drug Intelligence Teams are established on UK P&SS Regions in an effort to identify drug & solvent abusers within the RAF.

Apr 1987 - FIGPU on the Falkland Islands is re-titled as the Joint Service Police Unit (JSPU) under the command of an RAF Provost Sqn Ldr. All personnel sworn in as Falkland Islands Special Constables.

Jul 1987 - After an absence of 17 yrs, the first 3 females successfully complete their training to become RAF Provost Officers. Thomas Kruger defects from E Germany & lands his light aircraft at RAF Gatow in Berlin. P&SS called to assist with the request for political asylum before handing him over to the West Germans.

Sep 1987 - After 6 yrs of policing the CND Peace camps, the US remove the Cruise missiles from Greenham Common and the RAF POLICE detachments are stopped.

Dec 1987 - After completing a 4 month exchange program in New Zealand, Sgt S R Davies P&SS(SR) returns to the UK. Cpl Bruce RAFP and his Drug detection dog assist the Customs authorities in Gibraltar in searching a Moroccan passenger and finding 6.5 kilos of Cannabis resin (valued at £18,000) hidden in a pair of deer antlers he was trying to import. The longest RAF POLICE VIP close protection operation, which had been mounted in Jun 1985, to protect HRH Prince Hussein of Jordan, during his RAF flying training at RAF Cranwell, Valley & Chivenor, ended successfully.

Dec 1987 - Mikhail Gorbachev meets Margaret Thatcher at RAF Brize Norton on route to Washington. P&SS & KGB on duty together to provide security during the brief but successful visit.

Mar 1988 - 3 IRA suspects are shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar. P&SS Gibraltar presented with their new Unit Badge, approved by HM Queen Elizabeth II.

The IRA mounted a new terror campaign on the European mainland by targeting and killing mainly off duty service personnel and their families

in Germany, Holland and Belgium. Such was the horror of the latest sickening and cowardly attacks that all Civil and British Service Police forces within the countries affected went on full alert to track down the killers. RAF POLICE reinforcements were drafted into Germany to assist P&SS and armed patrols were mounted outside RAF Units.

Sep 1988 - As the 'Cold War' continues to thaw, Vitaliy Konstantonovich Boyarov, Dep Chief of Soviet Customs & Excise, visits the RAF POLICE School to see how the RAF POLICE train their drug detection dog teams.

Feb 1989 - The IRA placed and detonated a bomb in an accommodation block at Clive Barracks Shropshire. Although no-one was killed in the attack, there after, all armed service personnel including the RAF POLICE in the UK carried weapons with ammunition magazines fitted and ready for instant use.

The peace accord agreed and signed by Ronald Reagan & Mikhail Gorbachev, brought an end to the 'Cold War' between the East and West and promised a massive reduction in both nuclear and conventional forces. Gorbachev also announced radical changes within the Soviet Union and a new openness known as 'perestroika'.

Mar 1989 - Air Cdre Winch retires as the PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Seymour.

Oct 1989 - The world is sickened when the IRA shoot and kill an off duty RAF Cpl and his 6 month old daughter in Germany. RAF POLICE reinforcements conduct counter-terrorist patrols off base areas.

Nov 1989 - As the 'Cold War' continues to thaw, the border between East and West Germany is opened without warning and thousands cross into W Germany from the East. As events unfold revolution against communism erupts in many Eastern Bloc countries.

Dec 1989 - HM Queen Elizabeth II, graciously approved 2 more Unit badges; the first to P&SS (Scotland) and the second to P&SS (Cyprus),

Mar 1990 - RAF POLICE take part in a month long detachment to the Far East to protect 6 Tornado aircraft from 5 & 27 Sqn.

Jul 1990 - The UK Government announced their 'Options for Change' plans to reduce the establishment of the UK Armed Forces in line with the reduced threat from the Eastern Bloc. RAF establishment is planned to drop from 89,000 to 75,000 in 2 yrs.

Aug 1990 - Iraq invades & occupies Kuwait triggering of a crisis within the Gulf region. RAF POLICE selected to support the UK air force being assembled to force Iraq out of Kuwait and to provide the close protection of Senior British Officers.

Dec 1990 - RAF POLICE accompany a detachment of 2 Harrier jump jets & a Puma helicopter from Belize to the Aurora Air Base for the Guatemalan National Air Force Day.

Jan 1991 - Coalition Forces begin military action to repel occupying Iraqi forces from Kuwait. 4 month security operation by RAF POLICE at Cape Canaveral ends with the successful launch of a NATO satellite into orbit.

Apr 1991 - RAF POLICE dog training element merged with the Army's Dog training unit to form the Defence Animal Centre (DAC), under the control of the Royal Veterinary Corps at Melton Mowbray - Army Wing at Melton trains horses & FX dogs while RAF Wing at Newton trains specialist drug detection and general patrol dogs.

May 1991 - Trials begin at RAF Cranwell, Shawbury and Uxbridge with the lesser trained and dual handled High Profile Counter-Terrorist Patrol Dogs (HPCT).

Mar 1992 - Civil war erupts within the former Yugoslavia and RAF POLICE are deployed to protect RAF transport aircraft assisting the UN with their humanitarian relief efforts. Various studies and audits take place to look at practical ways to reduce the establishment of the RAF and develop value for money through greater efficiency.

Jan 1993 - RAF POLICE from the UK & Germany on 4 month detachments to fill unestablished posts to support UN operations in S Arabia, Turkey, Bahrain, Italy and Bosnia.

Apr 1993 - The RAF & RAF POLICE celebrates its 75th Anniversary whilst being pressurised to reduce the defence budget and establishment.

Jun 1993 - To cope with closures of RAF units, the UK P&SS regions are increased from 3 to 6 but with reduced manning; P&SS (Scotland) RAF Turnhouse, P&SS (NI) RAF Aldergrove, P&SS (NR) & P&SS (CR) RAF Newton, P&SS (WR) & P&SS (SR) RAF Rudloe Manor.

Sep 1993 - RAF Gutesloh in Germany closes and P&SS (Det N Germany) is disbanded and recovers to HQ P&SS (Germany).

Nov 1993 - Air Cdre Seymour retires as the PROVOST MARSHAL and is succeeded by Air Cdre Uprichard.

Dec 1993 - A second 4 month security operation, carried out by the RAF POLICE at Cape Canaveral in Florida, comes to an end as the NATO IVB military satellite is successfully launched into orbit.

Apr 1994 - HQ Support Command disbanded. 2 new commands; HQ Personnel & Training Command and HQ Logistics Command are formed. HQ RAF Germany demoted to a Group HQ with HQ Strike Command.

Jul 1994 - As part of their plan to further reduce the strength of the UK Armed Forces the Government announced their 'Front Line First' initiative - The RAF were to reduce their establishment by a further 7,500 to 67,500.

Jul 1994 - Plans are announced to disband the trade of Kennel-Assistant and The RAF POLICE Dog Demonstration Team. Efforts are made to find sponsorship to keep the team up and running.

Aug 1994 - Final RAF POLICE UK Dog Trials held at Newton before it closes and dog training moves to the DAC & the school to Halton.

Aug 1994 - After 25 yrs of terrorism and bloodshed in N Ireland, the PIRA agrees to a permanent cease-fire in the province.

Sep 1994 - Following the unification of W & E Germany; All American, French and British forces are withdrawn from Berlin and P&SS (Berlin Det) is disbanded. RAF Belize is closed and RAF POLICE return to the UK.

Sep 1994 - With the price of official sponsorship set at too high a price, the RAF Police Dog Demonstration Team is disbanded.

Oct 1994 - A/WO Summers RAFP returns from Zimbabwe after successfully training their Air Force & Military Police personnel.

Jan 1995 - A convicted drug dealer who fled from the UK was returned to justice in London after being arrested in Cyprus and kept for 3 months in RAF POLICE custody at RAF Akrotiri while the necessary arrangements were made for his extradition. The RAF POLICE custody NCOs were sworn in as SBA Police Special Constables.

Mar 1995 - As part of the continuing defence cuts, 150 RAF POLICE NCOs were offered and took their redundancy from the service.

Membership of the RAF Police Association increases as former members of the Branch throughout the country and overseas join up.

Apr 1995 - With the disbanding of the 3 separate service security directorates, a newly established single MOD Security Directorate emerged. The PROVOST MARSHAL, re-titled as the Air Officer Security & Provost Marshal (RAF) AOSy & PM(RAF), leaves MOD and sets up his office at HQ P&SS(UK) Rudloe Manor. RAF POLICE School & Dog Training School leave Newton; School goes to Halton and dog training to the DAC.

Apr 1996 - Trade Group 10 (RAF Admin) is disbanded and RAF POLICE take over the administration and running of RAF unit guardrooms once again.

Jun 1996 - RAF POLICE personnel return to the UK after taking part in a 2 month training exercise called; 'Purple Star 96', which took place in North Carolina & Virginia in the USA. RAF POLICE respond to assist with rescue efforts and security after terrorists in S Arabia detonated a huge vehicle bomb at the Dhahran Air Base which totally destroyed an accommodation block at the used by American military personnel, killing and injuring many.

P&SS (NR) move to RAF Linton-on-Ouse. P&SS (CR) move to RAF Cranwell. P&SS (SR) move to RAF Halton and P&SS (Scot) move to RAF Buchan. P&SS (WR) remains at RAF Rudloe Manor while P&SS (NI) remains at RAF Aldergrove.

Dec 1996 - RAF Sek Kong in Hong Kong closes in preparation for the handing over of the colony to the Chinese.

Apr 1997 - HQ P&SS (UK) Vetting Wing is disbanded and absorbed into the newly established single Defence Vetting Agency (DVA). P&SS (Cyprus) & P&SS (Gibraltar) merge with the RN & Army and are re-titled as Joint Service Police & Security Units (JSP&SU).

May 1997 - AOSy & PM(RAF) leaves Rudloe Manor to set up office at HQ Strike Command. The book entitled 'Fiat Justitia - A History of the Royal Air Force Police' by Stephen R Davies (a serving RAFF FS) is published (Copies on CD still available from the author steveguida@hotmail.com).

Jun 1997 - British troops withdraw from Hong Kong as it's handed back over to China. Serious RAF POLICE manning shortages throughout the RAF world, coupled with the 4 month detachments in support of UN peace-keeping missions, begin to cause a strain to the system.

Aug 1997 - As membership increases, the number of regional branches of the RAF Police Association is increased to 7; E Midlands; W Midlands; NW England; Hants & Dorset; S Wales; E Anglia & Essex and Scotland.

Sep 1997 - Morale amongst the rank of A/Cpl and Cpl is seriously deflated as their scales of pay are reduced after a recommendation by the Defence Job Evaluation Team.

Oct 1997 - MOD announced that full time reservists will be recruited into the RAF POLICE to overcome manning shortfalls.

Dec 1997 - AOSy&PM(RAF) announces the start of an internal study, to be conducted by HQ PTC Sy staff, into the future of the RAF Police; known as 'Provost 2000'.

Feb 1998 - British & American forces on full alert when Iraq fails to comply with UN directives. However, conflict in the Gulf is narrowly averted by the personal intervention of the UN Secretary General, who managed to advise Saddam Hussein, to co-operate with UN Weapons Inspection Teams.

Mar 1998 - Strength of the RAF reduced to 56,064 and the strength of the RAF POLICE stood at 162 Provost Officers & 2,200 other ranks.

Apr 1998 - As the RAF celebrates its 80th Anniversary, control of the P&SS organisation is transferred from HQ PTC to HQ STC under the direct control of AOSy&PM(RAF). HQ P&SS(UK) is re-titled as HQ P&SS. HQ P&SS Passes & Permits section is disbanded and transferred to the Defence Passes & Permits Agency at Worthy Down. Provost Marshals' Standards Unit (PMSU) moved from Rudloe Manor to HQ PTC.

Government announces that all nuclear weapons held by the RAF are to be de-commissioned during the year, leaving the UK nuclear deterrent in the hands of the RN. Agreement reached in N Ireland during the 'All Party Talks', to look towards peace within the province by democratic political means and not through violence.

Oct 1998 - HQ P&SS and RAF P&SS (WR) move from RAF Rudloe Manor. HQ P&SS to RAF Henlow and RAF P&SS (WR) to RAF Innsworth. An oil painting depicting the RAF Police at work is formally presented to OC P&STS at Halton. Air Commodore Uprichard retired and is succeeded as the 20th PROVOST MARSHAL by Air Commodore R McConnell.

Nov 1998 - The PROVOST MARSHAL investigates the feasibility of

forming a tri-service police training school at one of four locations; RAF Halton, the RMP Depot Chichester, Army Worthy Down or HMS Whale Island.

Dec 1998 – Provost & Security 2000 ‘study paper’ presented to the Air Force Board.

Sep 2000 – Air Cdre McConnell hands over as AOSy&PM to Air Cdre C Morgan.

Aug 2001 – RAF begins final stage to withdraw from Germany by closing RAF Bruggen the last RAF operational unit within the group.

Sep 2001 – Islamic terrorists hijack 4 civil aircraft in USA. 2 are crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, one into the Pentagon Washington DC and one in Pennsylvania. Soon after, US & UK start to plan attack on Osama Bin Laden’s HQ in Afghanistan.

Oct 2001 – US & British troops begin ‘Op Enduring Freedom’ by launching air strikes against Al Qaeda & Taliban targets in Afghanistan.

Dec 2001 – The first RAF POLICE from HQ P&SS TPW enter Afghanistan.

Jan 2002 – On the orders of the PROVOST MARSHAL, RAF Provost Officers replace their APM shoulder insignia with RAFP versions to bring an end to the confusion of what APM stands for with other forces. PROVOST MARSHAL announces radical changes to the way RAF POLICE are employed. In future they will concentrate on core police skills and abandon ‘misemployment’ on guard duties & other minor security tasks.

Jun 2002 – RAF POLICE deployed at various locations in connection with the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. PROVOST MARSHAL releases details of units earmarked for Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) to replace misemployed RAF Police.

Jul 2002 – RAF POLICE return from Afghanistan after 2 months of instructing new Afghan Police recruits in Kabul.

Aug 2002 – Serious demonstrations take place at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus against the proposed building of a radio mast at Salt Lake site. RAF POLICE injured during troubles.

Sep 2002 – In response to Saddam Hussein’s refusal to co-operate with UN, US & British forces start planning for military action against Iraq.

Nov 2002 – RAF POLICE take part in ‘Op Fresco’ to provide fire service cover during a national strike by civil fire-fighters. PROVOST MARSHAL authorises trials in Cyprus of white beret for RAF POLICE.

Mar 2003 - American and British forces launch a number of air strikes on targets around Baghdad and in the south of the country to prepare for a full stage military invasion of Iraq.

May 2003 - coalition forces in control in Iraq and began the process of trying to restore order and government.

Jul 2003 - First platoon of MPGS soldiers take over responsibility for the physical security of RAF Linton-on-Ouse from RAF POLICE.

Oct 2003 - Directive from Provost Marshal stating that all ranks of the RAF POLICE will wear newly issued 'MP' badges on their ‘Soldier 95’ disruptive pattern combat clothing to distinguish them as military police personnel to civilians and multi-national military personnel.

Dec 2003 - Commemorations around the world marked the first century of flight by fixed wing aircraft.

RAF POLICE Association area branches within the United Kingdom stood at fifteen, comprising; Western Branch, Hants and Dorset Branch, South Wales Branch, East Midlands Branch, Scottish & N Ireland Branch, Norfolk Branch, South West Area Branch, London & SE Area Branch, North West Area Branch, North Yorkshire Branch, Midlands Branch, South Yorkshire Branch, Essex and Suffolk Branch, Durham Tyne & Wear branch and finally the Mid-Anglia Branch.

Feb 2004 - Air Commodore C Morgan retires as PROVOST MARSHAL and Air Commodore P J Drissell becomes only the 2nd RAF Regiment Officer to fill the top RAF POLICE appointment.

Mar 2004 – 60th Anniversary of the RAF Police working with police dogs.

Apr 2004 – P&STS at RAF Halton re-titled again to RAF Police School. Operational control of the Tactical Police Wing (TPW) transferred from HQ P&SS to the HQ 2 Group, as an independent unit and part of other RAF elements belonging to the Force Protection Centre at RAF Honington.

May 2004 - The application for the introduction of the white ‘RAF POLICE beret’ is rejected by the RAF Dress Policy Committee. The white beret, with the association cap badge, continued to be adopted by the RAF POLICE Association as a form of headdress to be worn during

official occasions and parades.

Jun 2004 - The first 'all female' Volunteer RAF Police Dog Demonstration Team performed a display for the public at HMS Collingwood.

Sep 2004 - The Provost & Security Command Staffs from HQ PTC & HQ STC combine at HQ STC High Wycombe as a single organisation within the Provost Marshal's Department to provide improved and co-ordinated staff function.

Oct 2004 - The new RAF Police Association Standard was dedicated at St George's Church, RAF Halton.

Jan 2005 - RAF Police personnel deployed to Banda Aceh Airport, Indonesia to provide ATSy for RAF aircraft operating in support of the huge disaster caused by the earthquake and the tsunami in Asia.

Mar 2005 - Ceremony took place in the War Memorial Chapel Edinburgh Castle to dedicate the new Standard of the RAF Police Association's Scotland & Northern Ireland Branch.

Apr 2005 - Air Cdre Drissell becomes the Asst Chief of Staff Force Protection & Air Officer RAF Police, while Gp Capt E Scaplehorn becomes the new Provost Marshal (RAF). Under *Project Darwin* the term P&SS is dropped in re-organisation and the new regional policing element is re-titled as No 1 Specialist Police Wing. The former P&SS units are disbanded in favour of 3 new single-capability squadrons; RAF Special Investigation Branch (SIB), Counter-Intelligence Squadron (CIS) and Security Services Squadron (SSS). SSS in its entirety based at RAF Henlow with HQ PM (RAF), along with the nucleus and command structure of the SIB and CIS, while elements of expertise from the SIB and CIS are established at HMS Caledonia (Scotland), RAF Cranwell (Lincoln) and RAF Halton (Berkshire). RAF POLICE become integrated in the RAF Force Protection Wings.

Aug 2005 - RAF Police ATSy NCOs on board RAF C-17 Globemaster fly to Petropavlovsk in East Russia to deliver British equipment to help rescue Russian Navy mini-submarine *AS-28 Priz* with a crew of seven, trapped on the ocean floor off Russia's isolated Kamchatka Peninsula.

Sep 2005 - Ceremony at RAF Henlow to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the start of the investigation into the murder of 50 RAF officers who were recaptured after the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III in Mar 1944. Service took place in St Georges Church Halton to dedicate a window, commissioned jointly by the RAF POLICE and RAF POLICE

Association, which displayed the two crests in stained glass.

Oct 2005 - After being at RAF Halton for ten years the RAF Police School moved to what was formerly HMS Dryad, renamed as Southwick Park, Fareham, Hampshire, where it merged with the training schools of the Royal Naval Regulating Branch and RMP to become the Defence Police College.

Nov 2005 – The book '*RAF Police Dogs on Patrol*' by Stephen R Davies is published by www.woodfieldpublishing.com

Apr 2006 – A watercolour painting depicting the world-wide role undertaken by the RAF POLICE between 1918 and 2005, was handed over to the Provost Marshal by the artist, Michael Ewins, at RAF Brize Norton. Members of the East Midlands branch of the RAF POLICE Association & serving members of the RAF POLICE, gathered at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire, to plant four thousand snowdrop bulbs on the bank behind the plot of land on which the RAF Police Memorial stone is to be sited in 2007.

May 2006 - Group Captain Scaplehorn retired from the RAF and was succeeded as Provost Marshal by Group Captain G D Horscroft.

Aug 2006 - The Gibraltar Provost & Security Unit (GPSU) was renamed as the Joint Provost & Security Unit (JPSU).

Oct 2006 - The new RAF HQ at RAF High Wycombe, combining HQSTC & HQPTC, was officially opened.

Nov 2006 – The new *Armed Forces Act 2006* received Royal Assent and the book '*RAF Police Operations in Europe*' by Stephen R Davies, is published by www.woodfieldpublishing.com.

24 Dec 2006 - An attempt by four members of the first RAF team, including Corporal I Kirk RAF POLICE, to walk unassisted to the geographical South Pole and back was abandoned after cold weather injuries sustained by two of the team became too serious for them to carry on. The team participating in the RAF *Southern Reach Expedition* were just one hundred nautical miles away from the South Pole when disaster struck.

Feb 2007 – **The PDSA Dickin Medal; the Animals' Victoria Cross**, was awarded posthumously to 'Lucky' on behalf of 4 RAF Police tracker dogs that had worked tirelessly in the Malayan jungle between 1949 - 1952. Lucky's award was accepted by former Warrant Officer B A Stapleton,

who retired from the RAF in Nov 1981. As a corporal he had been the loyal German Shepherd's handler during the Malayan Campaign when Lucky, Bobbie, Jasper & Lassie had been instrumental in the capture of hundreds of communist terrorists

1st Apr 2007 - With the amalgamation of HQ STC & HQ PTC completed, the new organisation, located at RAF High Wycombe, was renamed as Headquarters Air Command (HQAC) under the command of Air Chief Marshal Sir Clive Loader.

23 Jun 2007 – The RAF POLICE Memorial situated within the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire dedicated during a formal ceremony at the site.

Autumn 2007 - The book *'RAF Police Operations CapeTown to Kabul'* by Stephen R Davies, will be published by www.woodfieldpublishing.com.

THE STORY CONTINUES

Countries where The RAF Police have been stationed since 1918
(This excludes countries visited for short detachments or exercises)

United Kingdom (All parts)	Portugal (Azores - Terceira)
Gibraltar	Sardinia
Malta	Italy
France	Norway
Belgium	Denmark
Holland	Iceland
Germany	Bosnia
Austria	Croatia
Greece	Kosovo
Crete	Egypt
Cyprus	Palestine
Morocco	Jordan
Algeria	Iraq
Tunisia	Kuwait
Persia	Qatar
Japan	Bahreïn
Hong Kong	Saudi Arabia
Afghanistan	Oman
India	Aden
Ceylon	Turkey

Gan	Sudan
Malaya	Burma
Sumatra	Singapore
Australia	Brunei
Christmas Islands	Siam
Cocos Islands	Canada
Belize	Kenya
Spanish Sahara	Gold Coast (Ghana)
Southern Rhodesia	Sierra Leone
South Africa	Gambia
Ascension Island	Bahamas
Falkland Islands	Somaliland
Libya	Macedonia

ROYAL AIR FORCE PROVOST MARSHALS

01	Major J A Pryor	1918 - 1919
02	Wing Commander G T Brierley	1919 - 1922
03	Wing Commander S Grant-Dalton	1922 - 1923
04	Wing Commander L L MacLean	1923 - 1925
05	Wing Commander A H Jackson	1925 - 1927
06	Wing Commander W J Ryan	1927 - 1931
07	Group Captain F G Stammers	1931 - 1942
08	Air Commodore O W de Putron	1942 - 1951
09	Air Commodore B C Yarde	1951 - 1953
10	Air Commodore N Carter	1953 - 1954
11	Air Commodore H J G E Proud	1954 - 1956
12	Air Commodore W I G Kerby	1956 - 1960
13	Air Commodore W S Gardner	1960 - 1961
14	Air Commodore J C Millar	1961 - 1965
15	Air Commodore W I C Inness	1965 - 1968
16	Air Commodore A D Panton	1968 - 1971
17	Air Commodore H M Shephard	1971 - 1974
18	Air Commodore B C Player	1974 - 1976
19	Air Commodore G Innes	1976 - 1978

20	Air Commodore I Young	1978 - 1981
21	Air Commodore M J David	1981 - 1984
22	Air Commodore A E G Hales	1984 - 1986
23	Air Commodore G E Winch	1986 - 1989
24	Air Commodore A C P Seymour	1989 - 1993
25	Air Commodore J L Uprichard	1993 - 1998
26	Air Commodore R McConnell	1998 - 2000
27	Air Commodore C R Morgan	2000 - 2004
28	Air Commodore P J Drissell *	2004 - 2005
29	Group Captain E J Scaplehorn	2005 - 2006
30	Group Captain G D Horscroft	2006

- In 2005 Air Commodore P J Drissell became the Air Officer RAF Police and Assistant Chief of Staff Force Protection.
- In 2007 Air Commodore S Abbott became the Air Officer RAF Police and Assistant Chief of Staff Force Protection.