

of personnel and information. Lieutenant Moore's visit should be viewed as an example that U.S. and Royal military police can follow to gain a better understanding of and achieve cohesive operations in the uncertain future ahead. A similar arrangement might be beneficial in Germany—where the cost associated with the exchange of personnel between U.S. Army Europe and 1st Regiment, Royal Military Police, units would be minimal.

I look forward to further developments in the close U.S.-British cooperation and hope that military police

battalion and company commanders give critical thought to the PDW concept as we continue to build our military police capability.

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American Journey

By Lieutenant Aaron Moore

Someone once said that "to travel" is "to expand one's horizon." I would fully agree with that notion and add that those words have never been more relevant than they are to me now. In the summer after the Military Police Officer's Course, I happened to meet the [3d Regiment, Royal Military Police operations officer/U.S. Army Military Police exchange officer, Major Mark Davis]. After several discussions, the subject of the forthcoming [3d Regiment] PDW came up. This was the [commanding officer's] idea that every soldier in the regiment would be able to take a week of leave in order to achieve something that was beneficial to the individual and could therefore be utilized by the collective. Thus, it was at this point that we first talked about the opportunity to visit a U.S. Army [military police] unit in Washington, D.C. Eventually, the journey was organized with the much-appreciated help from Major Davis, who was instrumental in setting up the visit. To that end, in early February 2011, I set off to join the 289th Military Police Company in Fort Myer, Virginia.

During my time with the 289th Military Police Company, I was able to be part of a plethora of experiences that gave me a good insight into how our American ally conducts itself in the world of military policing. The first thing that I was able to witness was a national wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, where the leader of Lithuania was present. This was a good opportunity for me to see the U.S. Army conduct a ceremonial duty, as well as the force protection measures that needed to be put in place by the military police personnel. I was also able to pay my respects to British Major General Orde Charles Wingate, who is buried there.

During the week, I was also able to partake in some police work by conducting patrols of the Washington, D.C., area. This was especially interesting, as I was able to witness an arrest that was conducted by the [Federal Bureau of Investigation]. This opportunity gave me a good insight into how the U.S. Army carries out police work at a tactical level and to witness the cross-organizational cooperation that can and will occur in a complex and diverse location such as Washington, D.C. Following that, I went on a visit to the Pentagon, where I was briefed on U.S. Army military police operations in Afghanistan. It was excellent to see that they very much operate along the same lines as the British [Royal Military Police] for the majority of issues. Notwithstanding our embedding of close-support [Royal Military Police] within battle groups to achieve maximal success whilst on operations, the U.S. military police very much organize and train their CID and Protective Services along the same lines as we do. In turn, our cooperation while on deployments is quite successful because we are usually working on the same issues and challenges in parallel.

There was also a day of range work that took place in Virginia. This was particularly useful (and fun), as I got hands-on practical exposure to the M4 and put rounds downrange with impunity. There were also plenty of opportunities to get to know the guys that were in the company, with all of their insightful observations on how the British Army works!

Another thing that I was able to do whilst in Washington, D.C., was visit Capitol Hill—the seat of the U.S. government. This visit was conducted by Major Josh Campbell (U.S. military police), who is the military attaché to Senate majority leader, Senator Reid. It was incredibly interesting to see how the various interest groups of American politics interact and how very much the military is part of that, with its own interests that need to be brought forward in the political arena.

During my time in Washington, D.C., there was also plenty of time to conduct personal sightseeing around what is a very impressive and beautiful city. The U.S. Army—and especially the military police unit that supported me—proved to be very hospitable, to the point that it was quite humbling. They did not hesitate to do whatever they could to facilitate my travel and learning and were not shy in showing me a good time during my weekend there. Overall, it was truly insightful to observe and interact with our U.S. counterparts and, on a higher level, to learn how their democratic system interacts with the military domestically. To that end, I have to thank everyone who made this trip possible.

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