

# A Warm Welcome

**Hertfordshire branch selected two members from Section USA for an International Work Experience Programme. In recent years the branch has hosted officers from Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Ukraine and Russia.**

**T**om Sanchez, one of the two lucky Americans selected for the 2013 programme, recalls his experience in the article below.

When I was selected, I was surprised and proud to represent United States' policing.

The other American was police science instructor, John Flannery, from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

The visit was organised by Hertfordshire branch Chair, Mark Bullen. Mark is a great ambassador for European policing and British policing in particular. His ability to provide information on European culture was insightful for us as visitors.

The other hosts were Simon Hawkins, Dean Watson and Chris Cowell. Chris Cowell provided information from a patrol perspective and Dean Watson shared his knowledge of community policing and problem solving initiatives in communities. Each of these constables selflessly gave a week to provide an unmatched international policing experience.

Superintendent Hawkins provided insight and an opportunity to examine areas I was interested in from a counterpart commander perspective.

The programme started with a meeting at Hertford Castle with the Mayor of Hertford, Patricia Moore, the past Mayor, David Poole, and with the town Clerk, Nina Villa.

We were also given a tour of Hertfordshire

Constabulary headquarters and met with Deputy Chief Constable, Andy Adams - who gave a briefing on county wide deployment and operations.

We then drove to London and met with 9 Region member, Sav Kyriakou, who commands the Dignitary Protection Unit. He arranged a visit to 10 Downing Street.

Afterwards, Sav gave us a tour of New Scotland Yard crime directorate where he works. We also toured the exclusive Scotland Yard crime museum - and yes, we found out the identity of Jack the Ripper!

In the evening we witnessed the ceremony of 'The Keys' at the Tower of London.

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The next day, John and I met with Mick Neville who is in charge of the Metropolitan Police Central Forensic Image Team at Scotland Yard. Mick explained how they manage CCTV images to recover evidence,

make identifications of suspects and disseminate intelligence.

After spending the morning in Scotland Yard, we met with commanders at the Metropolitan police headquarters and museum. The police museum curator noticed my curiosity and brought out a walking stick belonging to Sir Robert Peel, to feed my historical appetite.

The programme then took us to the Air Support Unit. I was amazed by the technology on display - from a thousand feet up they could zoom in on an item in a person's hand. Vehicular license plate checks were also possible from this range. I was able to get some great pictures flying over London - in between holding on during G force turns!

In the evening, we also had the chance to ride with Automatic Number Plate Recognition Traffic Units (ANPR).



Outside 10 Downing Street



John Flannery and Tom Sanchez prepared for some realistic training



From left to right: Police Superintendent Simon Hawkins, John Flannery, Mayor Patricia Moore, Town Clerk Nina Villa, previous Mayor David Poole and Tom Sanchez



At Hertfordshire constabulary headquarters



Zoe Howard shares a smile with John Flannery

Towards the end of the week, we attended training at the Metropolitan Police Specialist Training Center in Gravesend, Kent - joining the Metropolitan Police Territorial Support Group in Public Order Training.

The training, which was held in a large mock inner city facility, was very realistic! I found their shields to be versatile and the tactics effective. At the end of the morning training we experienced being hit with petrol bombs. After being hit with two simultaneously, I was engulfed in flames. Thank goodness their equipment worked for this warm welcome!

Before the programme came to an end we visited the Imperial War Museum in Duxford. This museum has nearly 200 aircraft, military vehicles, artillery and naval vessels in seven exhibition buildings. In the afternoon, our British counterparts took us to visit Cambridge American cemetery and memorial - which is maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The remaining time was spent doing ride-alongs with patrol officers. Their community policing and problem oriented policing was exceptional. My American colleague, John Flannery, described his experience with the Metropolitan Police as "Community policing on steroids".

On our last night, Hertfordshire branch and Thames Valley branch members held a going away party for us at the Victoria pub. Over forty members attended along with four Special Agents from the US Air Force stationed in the UK. Several individuals were recognised for reaching 50 years as IPA members. It was a heartfelt event with many stories from the past. John and I received gifts and everyone made us feel so welcome. We established some great friendships. IPA founder Arthur Troop would have been very proud of the hospitality and service provided by IPA Englishmen. No wonder IPA's genesis is the UK. I am very grateful to the IPA for this unforgettable experience. This opportunity to learn and experience police work in the UK has expanded my knowledge and perspective of the capabilities of policing.

Servo Per Amikeco

**Tom Sanchez**, Section USA

## New for 2014 - ILDEP

*New*

Another new initiative being launched in 2014 is the introduction of a central co-ordinator, a new name, and improved service for IPA members seeking police placements, or professional exchanges, with overseas forces.

Iain Sirrell, of York Branch, is in discussion with Vice President Mick Luke about the International Learning and Development Exchange Programme (ILDEP), which will follow the example and success of numerous professional exchanges undertaken by IPA members in recent years (see page 23 for the latest exchange involving police officers from 5 Region and Germany).

Full details of the ILDEP will be posted on IPA Section UK's website early in the new year.