

In mint condition

Ross E Swope, Deputy Director of the US Treasury Mint Police, paid a visit to Wethersfield. He told Doreen Porter his ideas about international co-operation

in this specialised field of policing



He's lethal with a pistol. But that's hardly surprising. Ross E Swope, Deputy Director of the US Treasury Mint Police spent 27 years with the Washington DC Metropolitan Police, retiring with the rank of Commander.

He took up his current post in February. The 450-strong, permanently armed force is responsible for the security inside and outside US Mint production facilities around the USA, including ones in Philadelphia, New York, San Francisco and Denver. It also looks after the famous gold bullion depository at Fort Knox.

Ross is based at force headquarters in Washington DC. "We could deal with anything from internal thefts to terrorist attacks," he said. He added that officers were generally assigned to one location throughout their careers.

In the UK on the Senior Command Course at Bramshill, Ross is using the opportunity to pursue his aim

of setting up an international organisation for forces with responsibility for guarding their countries' mints and bullion depositories.

This would, of course, include MDP in its role of policing the Royal Mint. "I see such an organisation promoting exchange visits as well as the sharing of best practise," he said. "I have already had positive responses from colleagues in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain and Canada — and, of course, the MDP."

He also took the chance to visit MDP HQ, where he was hosted by ACC(P&T) Barry Smith. Ross was shown round the Training Centre and Firearms Wing, where his prowess with the pistol was a talking point. "I am very impressed with the quality of MDP officers, their equipment and training," said Ross in turn.

While still getting to grips with the challenges of his new job, he admitted the excitement of the streets of DC. "I miss the juice."



LtoR: Chief Inspr David Watson, Royal Mint; Chief Inspr Andy Kirkwood, FTW; Supt Dave Allard, OCU PTC; Ross E Swope; ACC(P&T) Barry Smith; Chief Inspr Barry Smith