

ASP EXPERTS BACK FROM ANTWERP



ASP experts in the gym.

TAYSIDE POLICE'S resident experts on the ASP baton are back from an intensive training seminar in Antwerp where both re-certified as Instructor Trainers.

Sergeant Norrie Alexander and Sergeant Stewart Robertson attended the ASP 1998 European ATC for a number of reasons - Not only to re-certify themselves as trainers but also to be part of the International Training Team responsible for developing other nominated instructors.

The International training team consisted of officers from Scotland, England, Wales, Finland and Australia. The

prospective ATC's were from Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Cyprus.

ASP Inc provide training programmes free of charge, no matter where in the world they are held. Dr Kevin Parsons is the company owner and designer of the Asp baton. His ASP baton training model is based on best police practise and is accepted by all agencies who have adopted the baton as part of their officer-safety programme. Unlike most officer-safety programmes developed and instructed by non-police personnel, the programme is

entirely police oriented and delivered only by serving police officers.

The structure of the ASP training hierarchy is that there are 53 Instructor Trainers in the ASP programme world-wide. These ATC's support over 12,700 instructors who in turn support an unknown number of basic operational users.

Those qualified to train instructors are the 53 ATC's themselves. Qualification to ATC can only be achieved at one of the 4 International Seminars held each year. To gain entry onto a seminar an

instructor must initially be highly recommended by the ATC who trained him/her and thereafter supported by 3 people who hold ACC rank or similar. ATC accreditation is only achieved after present stringent certification criteria is met in both teaching ability and personal skills. Once qualified the ATC is required to attend a seminar at least every two years and attain the same minimum qualification standard as before, otherwise he/she will be automatically decertified unless there are extenuating circumstances.

From the 53 ATC's a Training Board consisting of 8 elected ATC's is maintained. Membership of the Board, should a vacancy occur, is by invitation of Dr Parsons and the present Board members. The Training Board is responsible for all issues concerning training and deselection of ATC's and ATC's.

"At the conclusion of the week's seminar I was invited onto this Training Board and will hopefully be able to accept this honour on behalf of Tayside Police," said Norrie.

"The main commitment to this will be to regularly communicate with the other Board members - In addition I have been informed that I would be welcomed at all the annual seminars and it is hoped I can attend one of the European Seminars on a yearly basis.

"As I also gained International Rigidcuff instructor status (I in 4 officers in the U.K) in 1995, this ensures that Tayside Police remains at the forefront of officer-safety issues and training."