

JUDITH GILLESPIE
ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE
POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND



In 2003 Judith Gillespie became the first female officer from the former Royal Ulster Constabulary, now PSNI, to attend the Strategic Command Course at Bramshill. On successful completion of this course Mrs Gillespie returned to be appointed as Acting Assistant Chief Constable, heading up the newly established Criminal Justice Department.

On 18th May 2004 Mrs Gillespie was appointed to the substantive rank of Assistant Chief Constable and became the first female officer from the former RUC to hold this rank. She has remained as Head of the Criminal Justice Department until February 2006. In this post she was responsible for implementation of the Criminal Justice Review, Human Rights, Restorative Justice, Justice Liaison and Disclosure, Justice Support, Public Prosecution Project, Vulnerable Witness and Public Protection, Community Safety, and Criminal Justice Secretariat. She also took a keen interest in Victim Support, Mentoring, Staff Development and Equality issues, an interest which continues in her current post as Assistant Chief Constable Rural Region.

As ACC Rural, in addition to her territorial responsibilities, she has been responsible for managing the withdrawal of Military resources and the normalisation process in Rural Region.

Her police career got off to a good start when, in 1982, she passed out from initial training at Enniskillen with the Baton of Honour. She started her service in the Greater Belfast area, and progressed steadily through the ranks of sergeant and inspector, gaining experience in both ranks through service in Traffic Branch, as Staff Officer to chief officers, and as section Inspector in Newtonards.

In 1997 Judith was promoted Chief Inspector and appointed Co-ordinator of Child Abuse and Rape Enquiry, a post which she occupied until promotion to Superintendent, Head of Drugs Squad in 1999. In 2002 Judith was promoted to Chief Superintendent and appointed commander of Ards District Command Unit.

Judith has combined a successful police career with an equally successful academic one. In 1987 Judith won the Sctvec Prize, an award for the top student on the HNC in Police Studies course; in 1992 she completed a BA Honours degree and recently completed a Masters in Applied Criminology at Cambridge University.

Judith is married, with two daughters.