

Media Release



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Prime Minister opens new AFP International Training Complex

A new \$2.8 million training complex, officially opened today by the Prime Minister, The Hon. John Howard MP, provides a first class venue to ensure Australian and international personnel are equipped with the skills they need to assist in achieving stability in the region.

The Prime Minister visited the Complex at Majura to unveil a commemorative plaque, accompanied by Minister for Justice and Customs Chris Ellison and AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty.

The AFP International Training Complex recreates the environment that police experience when deployed on overseas missions. Designed to reflect the streetscape of a small overseas township, it enables true-to-life scenario training which helps to prepare police for the unknown and sometimes dangerous challenges they will face.

The complex has been purpose-built by the AFP's International Deployment Group (IDG) which was created in February last year following an Australian Government funding injection of \$1 billion over five years. However, training provided at the facility will extend beyond the needs of the IDG, to cover counter terrorism, search and rescue, protection and forensics. The venue will also be utilised by other emergency service organisations and law enforcement agencies.

Since the Complex was completed in March this year, 124 personnel have undergone mission specific training including a number of police from neighbouring countries.

AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty said "The international focus of the training facility and the presence of so many representatives from overseas police agencies at today's official ceremony, signifies the spirit of collaboration which exists amongst international law enforcement.

"These partnerships are vital to the success of combating transnational crime threats such as terrorism, child sex tourism and drug trafficking," he said

"The AFP has been participating in peacekeeping and regional support missions for more than 40 years. In recent years we have seen the benefits of a collaborative approach in helping to restore law and order in the Royal Solomon Islands and working with the Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP) to enhance capacity and achieve long-term law enforcement objectives.

"The success of missions like RAMSI relies on the delivery of first class pre-deployment training which has led to the development of this new facility." Commissioner Keelty said.

Located on a 198 hectare site, the facility incorporates 18 different buildings and structures including a corner store, town hall, police station, local school and marketplace. Recycled building materials have been used in the structures, the maintenance of which will be shared by students from the Canberra Institute of Technology in partnership with the AFP – providing an opportunity for yet another group to benefit from hands-on training at the facility.

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