



# Fact Sheet



October 2004

## Foreword from Commissioner Mick Keelty

In October 2004, the Australian Federal Police celebrates an important milestone in our history—our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Despite being the nation's youngest policing agency, we have grown into a vast range of roles and responsibilities and made an indelible imprint on the law enforcement landscape.

With a unique charter for policing at the local, national and international levels, the AFP has continually embraced new technologies and policing techniques, to respond to changes in the criminal environment.

We retain a strong commitment to traditional responsibilities of investigating offences against the Commonwealth and protecting and safeguarding its interests; as well as policing the Australian Capital Territory and the external territories of Jervis Bay, Norfolk, Christmas and the Cocos Islands.

But the AFP today is a very different organisation to that which began in 1979. Terrorism—which was the catalyst for our creation in the aftermath of the Sydney Hilton Hotel bombing in 1978—has resurfaced as a priority business focus for the AFP.

We have also taken the fight against crime offshore, adopting a host of new responsibilities in relation to international peacekeeping, regional assistance and capacity building in the region.

We have also earned a strong reputation for innovation and excellence, traversing new terrain in countering crime growth areas, such as high-tech and transnational crime.

As the first western policing agency to open offices in places like Vietnam, China and Myanmar, today we have expanded to occupy 33 posts across 26 countries.

Our people are forging important alliances and setting new benchmarks in terms of international law enforcement cooperation. And our experience and expertise in areas such as forensics and investigations, are now in demand throughout the world.

The AFP's capacity to move with the times has only been made possible by the calibre of our people.

Often in difficult and trying circumstances, each new generation of AFP members has demonstrated a strong commitment to the organisation's crime-fighting objectives and an ability to adapt to changing needs.

As we reflect on 25 years as Australia's primary law enforcement agency, we can look to the future with a great sense of confidence and optimism. Sound foundations have been laid to ensure we are well placed to respond to challenges forming on the law enforcement horizon.