

**Operation Alliance: 2002 Bali Bombings
Episode 1: The Lights Went Out (Transcript)**

Voiceover: This podcast contains content that some listeners may find distressing. It contains depictions of real-life traumatic events, including commentary around significant injuries and death. It is not suitable for children and listener discretion is advised.

Ray Martin: Countering terrorism has been at the very core of the Australian Federal Police since the organisation was first established in 1979. But in 2002, an act of terrorism in Bali, right on Australia's doorstep, would prove to be a major turning point.

For the first time, Australians understood just how close and real the prospect of a terrorist attack was. For the AFP, they evolved overnight, forming critical alliances with police jurisdictions around the country and perhaps, most importantly, with the Indonesian National Police. In doing so, they began one of the most significant operations in AFP history.

I'm Ray Martin, and coming up you'll hear first-hand accounts and untold stories from some courageous men and women within the AFP. Men and women involved in this history-defining operation, whether they were assisting the injured, leading the search for answers, or helping the families of the victims.

Some of what you're about to hear may be confronting, but these are important stories that do need to be told. They're stories of extraordinary teamwork. These... are the stories of 'Operation Alliance'.

It's Saturday night in Bali, October 12, 2002. And like every other Saturday night, the main strip of Jalan Legian in the tourist district of Kuta is heaving.

The streets and bars are filled with people. Many of them Australians. Backpackers, holidaymakers, blokes on end-of-year footy trips. All of them simply out for a good time.

But around 11pm local time, everything changed...

Sarah Benson: And I remember the phone, phone ringing in the lab, which was unusual for a Sunday. And then the phone calls just kept going.

Anne Lyons: I was at home and I got a call from the Deputy Commissioner. He called me and said, "Anne, we need you in here. Now." He didn't tell me the what or the why. So I got in my car and drove in and I can still remember that drive. Thinking, "I wonder what it could be that they want me in here this early?"

Mark Laing: I got up on the Sunday morning to multitude of text messages and voice messages, all concerning some of our colleagues that were actually in the Sari club and had been, um, victims of the bombing.



Shane Hamming: Called into the boss's office and basically got told "Go home, pack your bag. You're going to Bali". And that was the first I knew of it. So it was quite frantic. I was like, "What? What are you talking about?"

Ray Martin: In 2002, the Sari Club in Kuta was one of Bali's best known hot-spots, and a popular hang-out for tourists. Immediately across the road was another popular spot - Paddy's Irish Bar.

On the night of October 12, just after 11pm, a suicide bomber entered a crowded Paddy's Bar and detonated explosives.

As people panicked and fled outside, a Mitsubishi van packed with more explosives was detonated right outside the Sari Club.

Shortly after, a third but smaller blast was reported, this one in an open roadside area outside the US consulate in the Denpasar suburb of Renon.

At the time, Frank Morgan was an AFP officer attached to the UN peacekeeping force in East Timor. Frank had been enjoying some time off in Bali with several other AFP colleagues, among them, Nicolle Haigh. On October 12, they'd all been out to dinner, and while the others wanted to kick on at the Sari Club, Frank thought that he'd call it a night...

Frank Morgan: It had been a long few days, playing golf, swimming, doing what you do on days off, and had just decided I was going to go home early. Said goodnight to everyone and walked away, walked up the road.

I think the hotel was around about maybe 400 metres away from the Sari Club, and it was just as I got back to the hotel when you heard the, the explosions. The, the noise of the bombs going off. Not knowing that they were, at the time, they were bombs and what was happening. Actually my first impression was I thought a plane had crashed somewhere, because it was just this rumbling and noise that was shaking the building and breaking glass in the, in the hotel.

Glen McEwen: All of a sudden the lights went out. There was a, a loud boom and the lights went out. We could see fire. We thought it was our hotel that we were staying at initially.

Ray Martin: That's Glen McEwen, who in 2002 was an AFP Senior Liaison Officer working with the Indonesian National Police to investigate people smuggling operations. Glen was also in Bali on the night of October 12, and one of the first to arrive at the bomb sites...

Glen McEwen: So we were running along Kuta Beach on the roadway there. We made a left turn up Poppies Lane Two, which leads from Kuta Beach to Jalan Legian. And as we were running towards what was now, or is, ground zero, I could see from a distance that there was slight structural damage to shops. It started with broken windows. The damage was far greater as you moved towards Jalan Legian.



We arrived at Jalan Legian, right in the middle of it. It was ground zero. It came out right at Paddy's Bar. And you can imagine the.. it was just mayhem. There were bodies, there were people, there was fire, there was chaos. You could see a row of taxis and cars because Jalan Legian is one way. At that particular juncture, it's one way. And they didn't escape the blast.

You could see skeletal remains of people in the cars. You could see death and destruction all around you. People who were injured, there were motorbikes there and us and others were helping them onto the motorbikes.

Ray Martin: That natural instinct to help kicked in with Frank Morgan as well, despite the horrific scenes and chaos starting to unfold...

Frank Morgan: You could see the flames, the glow of flames, and some minor explosions still going off. I remember there was glass everywhere on the ground, and I went back inside to put a pair of shoes on because I was only wearing thongs at the time. I thought, well I'll go down and have, and have a look and see if I can help. I actually didn't get out of the hotel area, because in the time that had passed there were people coming back to the hotel that were all injured. Had been cut, bruised, burnt, a lot of burns. I stopped in the forecourt of the hotel and there was a young lady, don't know her name, don't know where she was from, but she was very badly burnt all down her front, her dress had been burnt onto her, and I remember putting her, getting her on the ground and getting people to get blankets and just making them wet, just to try and protect her in some way from the burns, or do what you can for burns, knowing that this was just the beginning. There was so many people that were walking around injured. Unfortunately that young lady died, she, she basically died on me, there's nothing you could do, and someone came and covered her up.

Ray Martin: At this time, calls had already started coming in to the AFP watch office in Canberra about an incident in Bali. Andrew Colvin was just 11 days into his role as the AFP's National Coordinator of Counter Terrorism...

Andrew Colvin: I took a call on the Sunday morning, which would've been just after the attack. And it was the watch office in Canberra calling in to say, and they literally said, "Hey Andrew, we don't know what's just happened in Bali, but we know there's been an explosion and we didn't know who to ring so we thought you'd be a good person." And I've learnt so much about how first pieces of information are so rarely accurate. And I said, "So what did you think, what do you think happened?" They go, "Well, we're not really sure, but the first reports from the scene is that a gas cylinder has exploded, possibly a hawkers van on the street. Something's gone wrong." And I said, "Well, so is the damage large? What do we think? What do we know?" They said, "Well, we don't know too much at the moment, but we'll give you a call back when we know a bit more."

So this is about 1am in the morning. Stupidly, I went back to sleep... and I was the first person outside of Indonesia who got the call in Australia. My next phone call was about 4:30 in that morning from an extremely animated. I'll say, Ben McDevitt, letting me know that he'd heard that this attack had happened and that it was a terrorist attack and there were multiple casualties and that I'd received the phone call and I hadn't told him about it.

Ray Martin: Ben McDevitt was General Manager of National Operations for the AFP...

Ben McDevitt: I got a phone call to advise me that there had been an explosion in Bali and I was told that it was believed that it was some gas cylinders in a kitchen. That was what I was first told. Obviously, about an hour or so later, started getting more phone calls and pretty quickly it was obviously this was not about gas cylinders in a kitchen in Bali. I think the first explosion had been shortly after 11pm and the AFP was lucky and unlucky in a way that we had people on the ground. We were unlucky in that we had three officers actually injured in the blast, including one Nicolle Haigh who was on leave, I think, from East Timor at the time. And she was in the Sari Club and actually suffered quite significant injuries. That was obviously very unfortunate. But, we were lucky that we did have officers on the ground. Some had been there on leave from East Timor who'd been serving with the UN Peacekeeping force there and others had been deployed to Indonesia and actually involved in debriefing some people smugglers. So, we were lucky in that we had people on the ground who could start to get information back and that was the biggest issue for us in those early hours was actually trying to get information about exactly what had happened, who had perpetrated this, where had they gone, was this, you know, the end of it, were there going to be more attacks in the immediate future, what was the casualty count, and so on. So just questions, endless sort of questions, and the AFP, I think, was probably better placed than any agency, certainly any Australian agency to be able to start to get a sense of what had happened and when and where and the enormity of the situation which we were faced with.

Ray Martin: Within a matter of hours, then Prime Minister John Howard was told of the bombing. It's a phone call he'll never forget...

John Howard: I got a phone call from one of my senior staff who said briefly there'd been this attack, that almost certainly there are a lot of casualties and it naturally shocked me. The rest of the day was totally consumed with assimilating the information. I talked to, immediately, to the Federal Police Commissioner because I thought he was somebody who'd be absolutely material. From the very beginning, I had an idea that this event was going to involve a lot of deaths and a lot of injuries. It was very plain that the fact that a bomb had flattened a nightclub, that people would have been killed, and I knew that there would be a lot of Australians involved.

Ray Martin: As the AFP urgently began to assemble specialist forensic and investigative teams in Australia, back in Bali - amid all the chaos of what was happening on the ground - Frank Morgan had managed to stumble upon one of his missing AFP colleagues, who'd suffered terrible burns and shrapnel wounds...

Frank Morgan: There was a guy driving past down the laneway in front of the hotel in a ute, so I basically commandeered his ute, put Tim in it, and as many injured people as I could and just said, "Get me to a hospital, get me somewhere, a medical centre." We pulled up at an international hospital. I spoke to the doctor, and he wouldn't let me in because they were just overrun, there was just too many people. I did a deal with him. I said, "If you can take my mate in, and these people, give me your medical kit." They had a big first-aid industrial-sized medical kit. I said, "Give that to me and I'll go out the front and do what I can out the front, but shut the door behind me so we don't

get too many people in." He agreed to that, basically pushed me out the door, medical kit, opened it up and then started dealing with people injured that were coming towards me.

A lot of it, you could patch them up, but the more serious ones, you had to make sure that they went to the right place at the right time. There was a lot of burns, a lot of eye injuries, there was a lot of minor cuts, bruises, concussions, and just working with people the best you could to get them the medical attention they needed. The problem is the medical centre that I was at was overrun. They were running out bodies, they were running out of staff, they were running out of material. It was. It was desperate times for them.

Ray Martin: Frank courageously tried to help as many victims as possible, but he was also driven by one deeply personal mission: one of his colleagues, Nicolle Haigh, was still missing...

Frank Morgan: Really in the back of my mind, my priority were Tim, who was inside, and not knowing where the others were, 'cause I hadn't had a chance to say to Tim, "Where's Nicky?" When I was able, I was able to get back inside the medical centre and catch up with Tim, and he said to me, "I don't know where Nicky is. She was there, but the bomb went off and it, it all went haywire". I ended up going to a whole lot of medical centres and hospitals and these strange little places and morgues where they were putting bodies, basically going through to try and find Nic Haigh. That just seemed to take forever. But I remember I've walked through a hospital or a ward full of people, I was walking along and I knew, I just knew someone was looking at me. Someone somewhere was looking. And I stopped and turned around, and I saw Nicky, but she didn't... she's a lovely blonde-haired girl, she looked nothing like it. Nothing like it, but as soon as I saw her, I knew it was her, and went over, over to her, so this was probably maybe 24 hours later, that we... and I thought, "Thank God, I found her, there's a win, there's a win."

Ray Martin: Nicolle had suffered serious injuries that required urgent medical attention. But the hospital was overrun. There was no anaesthetic...no pain relief. Just a fellow AFP agent by her side... and a doctor with a razor blade.

Frank Morgan: And he said, "I'm going to have to perform a procedure." He told me what it was, I didn't understand. He said, "But I have no anaesthetic, you're going to have to hold onto her." "Yeah, sure, not a problem. Let's go." He took a razor blade and cut her from her, the point of her shoulder to her elbow, and it was like opening up a sausage on a barbecue. He then went from her elbow to her wrist and then across her hand and along her fingers, from memory, just to relieve the fluid pressure off her where the burns had, had kicked in. I've never seen anything braver than that, than Nicky Haigh having that done to her. And all I could do was just look at her in the eye and just say, "Just hang in there, we'll get there, you'll get there, you'll get there, you'll get there."

Ray Martin: As dawn broke on the morning of Sunday October 13, the extent of the destruction became clear. It remains a sobering image for Glen McEwen.

Glen McEwen: The enormity of it was there to see. You could see that concrete had been stripped off buildings, the crater, the actual... the damage, it was not gas bottles which I was hoping it would be. It was far greater than that. You know, there was limbs hanging off buildings. There's cars over there on buildings. It was big. And even if it was a blast, it still needed to be cordoned off to actually dispel any other possibilities. So it was very clear to me that we had to secure those areas, particularly those two sites. And this is before I knew that Iqbal the bomber went into Paddy's and detonated and drew everybody out and then the van went up. You know, this is before that. This is still unknown territory, but we've got to do what we've got to do.

Ray Martin: In Australia, AFP and Australian Government officials knew that they needed to formulate a swift response. A response which included evacuating the injured from Bali. It would become Australia's largest medical evacuation since the Vietnam War.

Ian Kemish was working for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Head of Australian Consular Operations. Within hours of the bombings, he was coordinating Australia's diplomatic response.

Ian Kemish: Mounting a significant aeromedical evacuation was priority number one. And a lot of coordination, a lot of calls to defence. You know, they were under their own command and were responding to that too. But one of the interesting things about these situations is that the ADF needs a, at some point, needs a formal request from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to press the button and go. The Prime Minister has a role in it too, obviously, but there is this protocol requirement, because in the end, the ADF, when it's deployed for civilian purposes, needs to be answering the civil side of government. You know, look they were getting ready. People were being scrambled from all over the place to put these aeromedical teams together. I needed to get people to Bali fast. Defence agreed to put a few of my people on the plane. And we made arrangements for people to be flown in from the embassy in Jakarta as well.

Ray Martin: For Andrew Colvin, the AFP's newly appointed National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism, it was a case of all hands on deck...

Andrew Colvin: We didn't know what we were going to need to do. We just knew that we needed to assemble as many people as quickly as we could. And the pressure on the senior executive was enormous, so, you know, my job I think was to try and bring the threads together and make some sense of what was chaos, make sure that Mick Keelty and Shane Castles and Ben McDevitt had the information they needed because government was obviously concerned as you would expect and the early reports were so wildly inaccurate.

Ray Martin: A formal invitation from Indonesian Police Chief, General Dai' Bachtiar, was the green-light for the AFP to send an initial assessment team to Bali on the Sunday evening. This team would comprise seven investigators and two Disaster Victim Identification, or DVI officers.

Andrew Colvin: If we're honest with ourselves, I don't think we knew what we needed. You know, I think Mick Keelty... well, not think, I know Mick Keelty as Commissioner



made a really bold call right up front to get an Assistant Commissioner up from Melbourne and say, "I want you on the ground in Bali." And I'm not sure what was briefed to Graham, but it wouldn't have been a great deal, because not a lot was known. We didn't know a lot about DVI. Australian policing didn't know a lot about DVI. DVI wasn't something that we had practiced a great deal. The most recent experience had come out of Queensland and people will remember the horrific Childers backpacker fire, which was about 18 months, my memory is it was about 18 months, maybe 12 months before Bali.

Ray Martin: "Graham" was Graham Ashton, at the time, the AFP's Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Southern Region. He'd received a call in the early hours of Sunday morning and told he was being deployed to Bali later that day.

Selected for his previous experience working in the region and knowledge of the local language, Graham was instilled as the AFP's Forward Commander in Bali. He arrived 24 hours after 'the lights went out'.

Graham Ashton: The first thing I saw was at the airport, before the crime scene, and that was all these white tents set up, and stretchers, and beds. People being triaged to try to get them on a Hercules to Darwin and Perth. I was at the airport, struck by the fact there was no one there. So that was eerie to me, a bit, a bit striking to me. And when we went into Kuta itself, everything was shuttered down. So again, that was a jarring thing from the usual hustle and bustle that you'd normally see in Bali. But then arriving at the scene, remembering this is nearly 24 hours later, yeah it was still very chaotic at the scene itself.

There was not really a lot of crime scene activity going on, if any much at all. It was still very much about trying to make sure that all the fires that were extinguished at the crime scene were put out, and that from a safety point of view, which is important in those sort of crime scenes, to try and make sure the place is safe enough from a structural point of view for people to go in. What was also unusual was the amount of people that were free to wander through the crime scene. Like there really wasn't a perimeter set up as such, and people that were around, not that there were a lot, but at that time people you could just walk through.

And from a crime scene point of view, we needed to try and seek some organisation around that, which the Indonesians did pretty quickly after that, and set up a very strict perimeter around the scene. But yeah, I guess I was struck by, A, how eerily quiet everything was, and B, how big and messy the crime scene was, and certainly indicated to me, we've got a lot of work to do here to process this scene with the Indonesian Police, if they'd be good enough to allow us to do that.

Ray Martin: While Graham and his team assisted their Indonesian counterparts on the ground, AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty was working on establishing a joint investigation agreement between the two countries...

Graham Ashton: The documents of cooperation really weren't signed until the next Thursday. And remembering this had occurred on a Saturday night. So, you know, there was about a four, five-day period where we didn't have anything signed. And that



was troubling for us because we knew the Indonesians, until something formal was signed, that real cooperation couldn't really escalate.

So what I was doing was trying to provide support in an understated way, and without the agreements being signed, and to try and do that whilst the AFP Commissioner, Mick Keelty, was busy trying to negotiate the signing of that document with Da'i Bachtiar, who was the Indonesian Police chief at that time. So he was busy trying to broker that deal while I was trying to get things started on the ground, even though we didn't have an agreement yet.

Ray Martin: What happened in Kuta on the night of October 12, 2002, was history-defining for so many Australians. The days that followed were also history-defining for the AFP, as it was for many of its officers who received the call-up as part of the initial deployment to Bali...

Mark Laing: I got up on the Sunday morning to multitude of text messages and voice messages, all concerning some of our colleagues that were actually in the Sari club and had been victims of the bombing. So there was a lot of emotion from the very first day 'cause of that aspect of it.

Ray Martin: Mark Laing was working in Protective Security Intelligence at the AFP in Canberra when he found out that he was being deployed to Bali.

Mark Laing: The calls and the messages were basically to get in contact with my supervisors because I'd been nominated by my commander to deploy in a first response capability. I think the only caveat I had, the AFP was very, very junior in its counterterrorism capability at that time. There was two people that I knew: a recently promoted Superintendent by the name of Andrew Colvin, who went on to become our Commissioner, and, I believe he was a Sergeant at the time, Andy Thorp. And I think that was my first question to my boss was, is Andy Thorp going, deploying, because I'd worked with Andy in detectives and that back in ACT Police, so I thought, well, there's, there's at least someone that I know is a good hand that, you know, I'd be working side by side with.

Andy Thorp: Mark Laing was identified to go and he basically said to the bosses that if we are going offshore, we need to take me, which I found a bit odd, but he did. He said, "Why don't you ask Thorpy, you know, we need to get him aboard." And of course, you're going to go. Particularly working in that area, you know, people say, "Oh didn't you think it was dangerous or whatever?" The reality is, the bombs have gone off and you've got to do what you can to help those that are there and find out who's responsible because it was atrocious, really, what happened.

Mark Laing: We had no real remit what we were to do. It was just get up there and get to work. And I think it was all just get boots on the ground. And, yeah, so that sort of developed that day, and we were pretty well on a military aircraft pretty quick, a small, small deployment of us. Pretty certain Graham Ashton was on that plane, who was to be the Commander up on the ground in Bali. Obviously, Andy Thorp, myself, and Mick Travers, and a couple other colleagues.



Ray Martin: In Kuta, survivors moved from hospital to hospital, clinic to clinic, looking for their loved ones and adding names to the growing list of the missing. During the early days of their investigation, Mark Laing and Andy Thorp encountered a football coach from Perth at one of the mortuaries. He was trying to locate some of the missing from his club. The club was the Kingsley Cats... and the coach was Simon Quayle.

Andy Thorp: We ran into Simon and some of the others at the mortuary that had boards up with missing people on it. You know, ring so and so. And it was obvious, they were Australian and that they were injured. So I said, "You know, we're from the Federal Police. Who are you? Were you in the, in the Sari Club or Paddy's when the bombs went off?" And they said, "Yeah, we were in the Sari Club." And I said, "Look, we need to talk to people that were there to start documenting what it is they saw and what happened" because that's the start to any criminal investigation. You document the witnesses that were on the scene.

I spoke to Simon probably about four hours in his room, dripping on my field book thinking, "this is difficult but you've got to persevere." And I told the crew, hang around because when we finish, because everybody had left by the Monday night pretty much, they were feeling a bit vulnerable and left behind. Their position had been, we're not going home without our mates, that was their thought process behind that. I said, we're going to have to sit down and actually spend some time with them. Just no statements, just to have a drink with them. So we did, from about midnight until four o'clock in the morning. And they sat around this table, and 10 of the 11 that were there had been in the Sari Club.

Ray Martin: Andy was joined by Mark Laing at the Bounty Hotel where they spent hours with the surviving members of the Kingsley Cats, most bearing visible scars from the events of Saturday night.

Mark Laing: The majority of them were sitting in the pool, all with some form of injuries. Shrapnel fragments, in... burns, you know, all injuries from a bomb blast. But the way that they were dealing with that was to use the comfort of the pool, the cooler water, and maybe a couple of drinks to help with some of the pain. So we spent the night taking statements from this group of young men, this football club. And yeah, I always, I've remembered all through it. It was like, "Have a beer with us, have a beer with us." And "No, no, no, we're working, we're working." And when we finished, we said, "Oh, we'll have a beer now." My most powerful memory of that night is this young man. I took his statement. He's 18 years old. This was the first time he'd ever left Perth, as I recall. Ever left, he still lived with his parents. He's 18. He played footy with his club, was a handy footballer, I'm led to believe. We got through the statement. He was emotional, totally understandable. If you can just picture - 18-year-old young man, first time ever left home to go on holiday. First day. And he's out at the Sari Club. Time of his life. He was seated in the club, him and one of his teammates, and they were talking to two girls, backpackers from another country. The bomb exploded, and by the time that he was able to regain his feet, collect his wits and look around in what I can only imagine would be incomprehensible, you know, to him, his teammate and both the girls are on the ground dead.

We got to the statement stage, and I remember towards the end of it, he said, "They're going to come back and get me, aren't they?" And I said, "Who's going to come back



and get you?" And he said, "Oh, the terrorists." And I said, "No, mate, they're not going to come back and get you." He was scared. The conversation went on, I said, "I'm staying in a hotel down the road, and it's full of police, and there's plenty of rooms and there's multiple beds in every room." I said, "You can come down and stay with us if that makes you feel safe." And I remember he had a think about it. The wash up was he says, "No, I'm staying with my mates."

Ray Martin: It was a deeply moving experience for Mark and Andy to hear such traumatic stories from these young men. The Kingsley Cats Football Club lost seven members in the Sari Club bombing.

Other sports clubs lost members and loved ones in the tragedy as well, including six young men from Sydney rugby league club, the Coogee Dolphins.

Providing accurate information to families of loved ones who'd been caught up in the bombings became a major priority for the AFP. It would very quickly lead to an AFP-first: the establishment of Family Liaison Officers. We'll examine their role in a later episode of this podcast.

In the early days of the Bali bombings investigation, Australian families and Australian media were desperate for information. Brett Swan was working on the Gold Coast as part of the AFP's Crime Operations Investigation Team when he got the call to deploy to Bali. Initially part of the investigation team, Brett was soon given a very different role.

Brett Swan: I was asked to accompany the Commissioner and Graham Ashton to a high-level meeting based in Indonesia. I remember Graham and the Commissioner coming out and we got into the car. I was sitting at the front and Graham and the Commissioner in the backseat. The Commissioner was quite adamant that the AFP needs to be on the front foot in terms of media. We had 88 Australian victims, so there was a lot of pressure on the Commissioner at the time that he had to really show that we were there and we were doing our best to try and come up with a, with a result in finding out who the perpetrators were of the bombing. So yes, I was in the car at the time where both Graham and the Commissioner were talking about media, and I heard my name being mentioned as being somebody that could be the media head or the spokesman for the, for Graham as the Chief Investigating Officer at media conferences on a daily basis. I must admit, I did turn around and look and said, "Are you kidding?" But that was my new role for, for the next two weeks. It was a short-term strategy in the sense of just getting out there, being with the INP in front of the media, or world media, there was a lot of media there, there was a lot of media.

Ray Martin: Brett Swan became the face of the daily media briefings from Bali, alongside his Indonesian counterpart. It was a challenging role, dealing with an increasingly frenzied media pack eager for a story.

Brett Swan: You did start identifying certain journalists who were just out there to get the big story. And then you had, you had your journalists who were very measured in the way they did ask their questions and I put it down to the fact that they were being respectful in what they were trying to find out, given, you know, that it was a large number of people who actually died. Some of the people, some of the journalists were asking really nasty questions and it was all about DVI results, and I do remember one



lady journalist coming up to me and say, how would I feel if it was my son or daughter, or father or mother, who were victims, and their families... and I couldn't go and recover the bodies and take them home. There was a resentment toward some of these journalists because they were way over the top, should never have been there. And every Australian police officer, DVI, anyone representing Australia over there trying to help out, were putting 200% in. And some of the things they were saying was, "Well, what's the AFP doing, you know? What are you guys doing?" Well, you know, these guys were 24/7, you know? The DVI guys and the forensic guys dealing with, you know, dead bodies on a daily basis. That's commitment, which I don't think a lot of people really understood at the time, just, just how extensive and emotional doing that job was.

Ray Martin: Keeping up with media demands for information was like feeding a ravenous beast. In Canberra, Anne Lyons was the AFP's Director of Marketing Communications.

Anne Lyons: There was a lot of misinformation happening, being spread by whoever for whatever reasons as to what, what had happened in Bali at the time, that trying to get the right information out was difficult. So I think they were aggressive, but it's understandable as to why they were. We had a whole new genre of reporters came out of, you know, September 11 and then the Bali bombing for Australia, with, you know, terrorist writers. We never really had those or terrorism.

When I talk about misinformation, they were hearing from people not necessarily involved in the investigation or from other countries and other sources as well. Like anything now, we see it a lot with social media now. A lot of misinformation that gets out there because of someone's agenda or, you know, mischief-making or whatever the reason is that they're putting out that information. We had to try and establish ourselves as a source of truth, particularly for the Australian media. And that's where we really moved our strategy to, was to make that happen. But in those very early days, it was just minute by minute, hour by hour. And the media would go to some of the scenes themselves, they'd get there before the police sometimes. And look, media 101, when there's a vacuum, when you can't get the information, someone will step in to give the information, whether it's right, wrong or indifferent. Or you'll extrapolate it yourself if there's no information, so getting someone there, getting timely things was important, so having a media spokesperson for us was important to get that, but also the difficulties of ensuring we weren't usurping or stepping too far over in relation to our counterparts within the INP. It was a really difficult thing. I think we did a really good job, but it was fraught.

Ray Martin: Former Prime Minister John Howard is quick to agree...

John Howard: I was immensely impressed with the way in which our security authorities cooperated. The investigation involved the effective embedding of Australian police and intelligence people inside the Indonesian operation. Obviously, it had to be overseen by the Indonesians because the outrage had occurred on Indonesian territory and we had to respect the Indonesians' prime role. But they were happy to have our people there. They were happy to have senior officers of the Australian Federal Police, like Graham Ashton and others who worked very, very hard. And within a fairly short period of time, it got results. I think that is an enormous tribute

to the willingness of the two police forces to work together. I can't speak too highly, because they immediately adapted to the circumstances, the AFP. They knew that they had to work in close professional harmony with the Indonesians. They knew that, and they knew that they had to allow the Indonesians to control the operation, but to be there with their expertise to help.

Ray Martin: The bombings in Kuta Beach on October 12, 2002, left 202 people dead, including 88 Australians. A further 209 people were injured.

In the weeks following the bombings, Operation Alliance - led by the AFP – saw more than 500 Australian personnel deployed to Bali and another 400 staff back in Australia supporting the operation to try and establish what had happened and to find those responsible.

Coming up in episode two, we hear from those who worked around the clock helping to identify the victims... those who helped the families... and also the forensic investigators, who'd be called upon to rely on their experience, their years of training, and their 'gut instinct' to find answers in the chaos that lay before them.

Sarah Benson: Attending the scenes for the first time was very confronting. Most of the victims had been removed from the scene, but not all things. And just the extent of the devastation was so significant just given the infrastructure over there. And it was just overwhelming. What do we do with this?

David Royds: And I could see red, white, and blue cotton fibres embedded in the molten insulation around the mono core wire. Now, following the theory that this could be part of the bomb, then that red, white, and blue cotton was a significant observation at that time.

Chris Lennard: I think that's an important part of forensic science is recognising these little pieces of the jigsaw puzzle and where they fit into the overall picture, but it really is attention to detail.

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