

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

PLATYPUS

MAGAZINE

Lessons learned from Bali

10 years after Bali, the AFP response to terrorism has evolved

Aviation model takes flight

SRG bursts into life in Canberra

Building capacity in Afghanistan

Biometrics, the face of new capability

OCTOBER 2012





The platypus has been adopted by the Australian Federal Police as a symbol representing the diverse requirements placed on members in the execution of their duties.

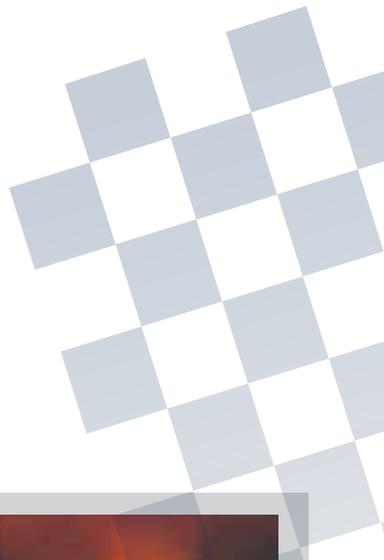
This unique and tenacious Australian animal is a survivor against increasing pressure from today's environment. It leaves no stone unturned in its daily pursuits and has equipped itself with a range of features to adapt to changes over many years.

It is capable of passing unnoticed if required, yet it demonstrates an unflinching dedication to explore all possibilities in an effort to maintain its special place in Australia's environment.

Although generally a peaceful animal, the platypus is able to defend itself, if necessary, with a venomous spur. This is done, at times, against larger and more powerful opponents—a quality admired and respected by members of the Australian Federal Police.



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE



AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
PLATYPUS
MAGAZINE

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AFP
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2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

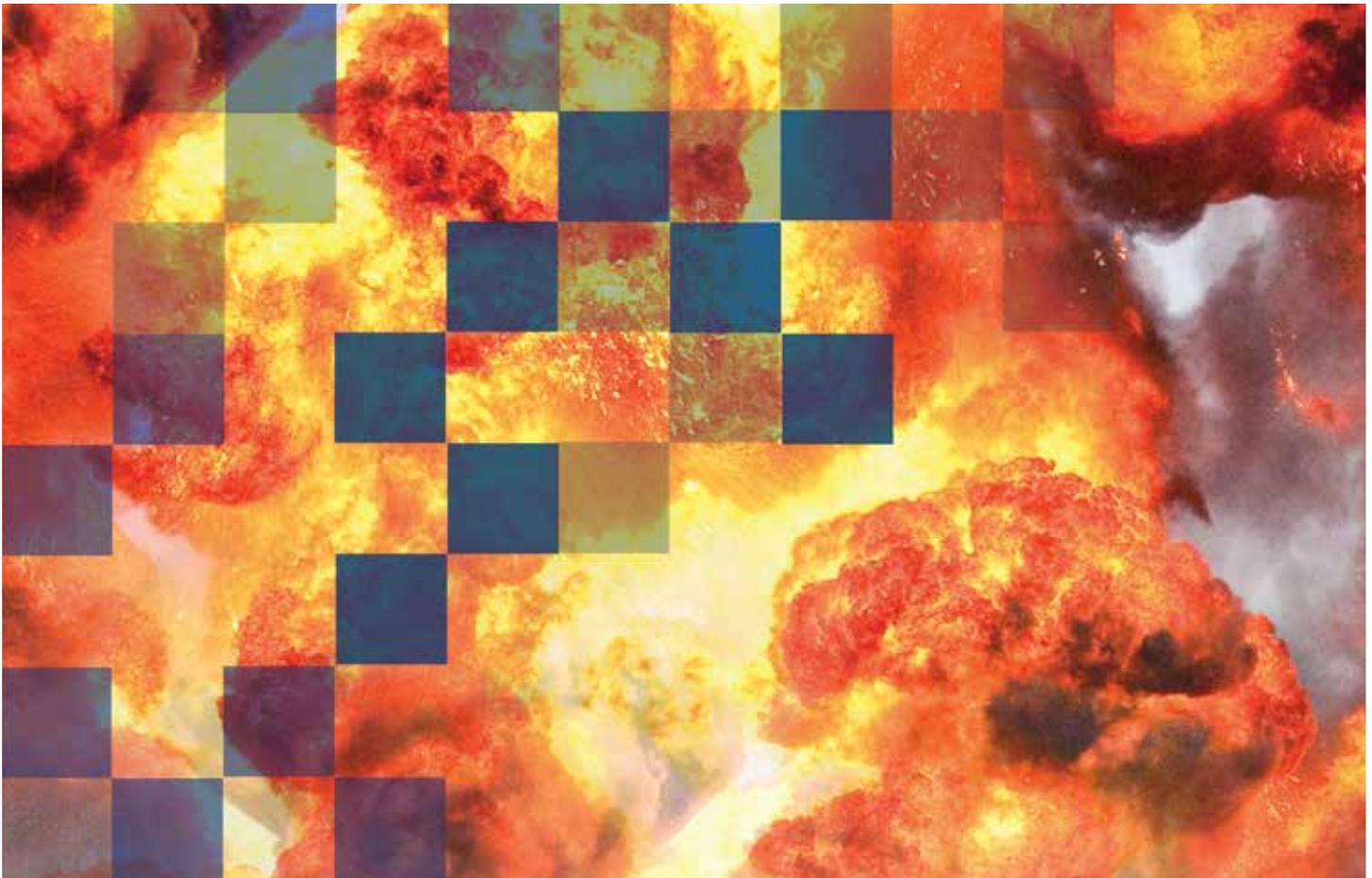
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Commissioner's Message

I am very pleased to advise that the successful operational performance with which the AFP began 2012 has continued since the last edition of *Platypus*.

The end of year statistics, which will soon be detailed in our 2011-12 annual report, show that the AFP has met or exceeded all 33 key performance indicators specified by the government in the Portfolio Budget Statement. This is the first time that this has occurred in the AFP's history and reflects both strong operational results and improvements in meeting and managing the expectations of external stakeholders. These results, however, are possible only through the determination and dedication of the AFP workforce.

Likewise, this year's external client survey shows that overall satisfaction with the AFP has risen from 85 per cent to a record high of 90 per cent. This survey is taken each year and reflects the views of over 850 stakeholders. The result is significant because these improvements have been seen across the entire AFP.

One good example of the AFP's recent operational results was the finalisation of the AFP and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service operation on 30 July that smashed an international drug syndicate.

The operation seized 558 kilograms of illicit drugs estimated to be worth up to half a billion dollars on Australian streets. The drugs, including 306 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 252 kilograms of heroin, were seized in Sydney, with seven people arrested.

It is the largest seizure of ice in Australian history and is Australia's third largest seizure of heroin.

This edition of *Platypus* reflects on the 10 years since the Bali bombings on 12 October, 2002.

The features illustrate how the AFP responded to the tragedy and then evolved proactively to confront the spectre of terrorism both in Australia and internationally.

This edition of *Platypus* also marks the commencement of two important new capabilities in the AFP with the launch of the Specialist Response Group (SRG) and the AFP Facial Recognition System.

The impressive formal opening of the SRG on 5 July is covered with amazing images from what was a rare opportunity to see specialist policing in action.

Meanwhile, the fantastic capability of the AFP Facial Recognition System is highlighted in this ever-developing high technology area of policing.

Finally, it gave me much pleasure to share the moment with former AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty at the official unveiling of his portrait at AFP College.

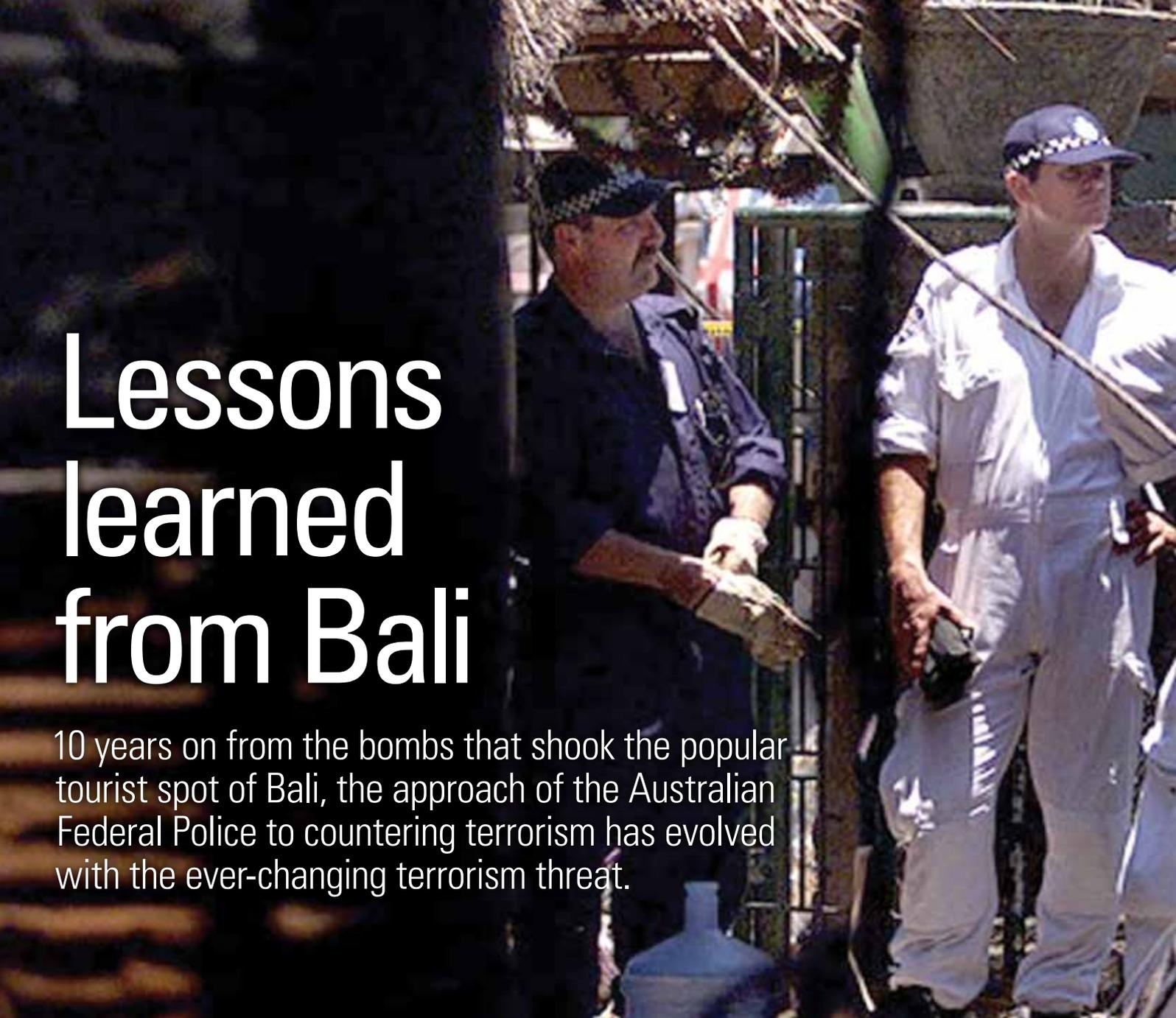
The AFP commissioned our own forensic artist, Ross Townsend, to paint the portrait to commemorate Mr Keelty's achievements as Commissioner.

The portrait now hangs with the official portraits of the AFP's four other former Commissioners.

I would like to personally thank each and every person in the AFP for their outstanding work in making the Australian community a safer place through the ongoing successes of our organisation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.W. Negus'.

Commissioner T.W. Negus

A photograph showing two police officers in uniform. The officer on the left is wearing a dark uniform and a cap, looking towards the right. The officer on the right is wearing a white uniform and a cap, looking towards the right. They are standing near a structure that appears to be part of a building or a vehicle, possibly a bus or a train. The background is slightly blurred, showing some outdoor setting.

Lessons learned from Bali

10 years on from the bombs that shook the popular tourist spot of Bali, the approach of the Australian Federal Police to countering terrorism has evolved with the ever-changing terrorism threat.

It is almost hard now to imagine a world before September 11. Such was the magnitude of the event, that the entire globe was focussed on those two giant buildings and the macabre replays of the aircraft that destroyed them. Maybe because it was so far away that the terrorist attacks seemed almost surreal.

But when the terrorist bombs exploded on the tourist resort island of Bali, the spectre of terror was different. Australians understood just how close and real the prospect of a terrorist attack was. The October 2002 Bali bombings would also prove to be a major turning point for the AFP.

National Manager Counter Terrorism Steve Lancaster says that major terrorism incidents including September 11 and the Bali bombings have changed the way governments around the world approach national security.

“No country in the world, no matter how well organised or well structured, could have easily managed an event like September 11. It was so far from left field that it was in the ‘what-if’ realm of possibility. You could probably make a movie out of it and people would still walk out of the theatre and say ‘that is unbelievable, it just couldn’t happen’ – but it did happen.”

The immediate response to September 11, at first, and then Bali, was like a culture shock. Assistant Commissioner Lancaster says there was simply no experience of terrorism on that scale. With the exception of the Northern Territory, there was no terrorism legislation or offences in Australia at that time. Similarly, there was no specialist investigation or intelligence capability for terrorism in the AFP or any other Australian agency.

But since September 11 and Bali the AFP, along with the rest of the world, has been on a path of learning,



“... people would still walk out and say ‘that is unbelievable, it just couldn’t happen’ – but it did happen.”

Assistant Commissioner
Steve Lancaster

AFP members work amid the wreckage in Bali

growth and constant evolution. Like the rest of the world, Assistant Commissioner Lancaster says “we felt vulnerable and taken aback by the intent and capability of the terrorists”.

The AFP responded along two distinct lines. The first priority was to deal with the incident. While specialist counter terrorist capabilities may not have been in place, a lot of the frameworks were.

An already strong relationship between the AFP and the Indonesian National Police facilitated a rapid response to the bombings. The lessons learned from Bali and subsequent experience at the international level built the foundations for future development. A dedicated focus on counter terrorism intelligence capability would eventually uncover home-grown terrorist plots in Australia.

The second response was to look forward. This included a two-fold aim to develop an expertise

to prevent attacks while building the response capability if there was an attack. There was also a rapid acceleration of activity in the legislation and policy areas.

New legislation made acts of terrorism a crime. But importantly, legislation was developed to enable law enforcement agencies to intervene early to prevent terrorist acts occurring. Now 10 years on, the AFP has been a key contributor in the evolution of whole-of-government counter-terrorism strategy.

Strategically, the AFP forms part of the inter-governmental framework responsible for the strategic level coordination of counter-terrorism policy and related security responses. This is achieved through the National Security Committee of Cabinet and the Secretaries Committee on National Security. The AFP also contributes to inter-jurisdictional coordination

Aerial photograph of Paddy's Bar shows the devastation of the Bali bombs.



Inset above: Fires blaze amid the wreckage of the Bali bombs.



Inset above: Scenes of wreckage of the Bali bombs.



A Police member sifts through debris from the bomb blast.

“Our challenge is to try to prevent terrorists from carrying out their acts. To do that, we need to think like them, to think about the unthinkable and the what-ifs, so we are in the position to prevent the next phase in the evolution of terrorism.”

arrangements through the National Counter Terrorism Committee.

Domestically, the AFP works collaboratively with state and territory police through the Joint Counter Terrorism Teams (JCTTs) in each jurisdiction. The JCTTs work closely with other domestic agencies, the broader intelligence community and international partners to identify and investigate terrorist activities in Australia.

The JCTTs also form part of the

investigative response in the event of a terrorist attack in collaboration with state and territory partners.

Assistant Commissioner Lancaster says law enforcement, together with national security agencies, in Australia have been successful in investigating and countering the terrorist threat in Australia. He points to the four disrupted planned terrorist attacks in Australia as evidence of that expertise.

Terrorist tactics globally have adapted in response to the growing expertise of law enforcement and security agencies. There is a very good chance that centrally controlled; complex attack planning has a high chance of being detected. Prosecution of this type of criminal

activity is greater because the evidence is much more observable and detectable.

In response, the trend has changed from large-scale, spectacular attacks, to smaller-scale attacks potentially perpetrated by ‘lone wolves’. Terrorists endeavour to target vulnerable and disaffected individuals to conduct attacks – this strategy is often employed by organised crime groups.

He says law enforcement must look at effective alternative disruption strategies to ensure public safety and appropriate outcomes for those who are extreme in their views. Traditional prosecution is always part of the law enforcement remit but it is not necessarily the ‘end game’.

“You have to go to the cause of the problem,” he says. “There are people out there who think about, or talk about committing terrorist acts. But there is a quantum leap from talking about terrorism to planning and organising a terrorist attack.”

Countering violent extremism

The launch of the AFP’s Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) strategy on 15 March this year was a major milestone in developing the AFP focus of prevention where possible. The AFP strategy complements the



whole-of-government CVE framework led by the Attorney General's Department since 2008.

The AFP strategy highlights the importance of a combined approach of law enforcement, community engagement and social policy initiatives to strengthen community ties, trust and social cohesion. It also highlights the importance of developing and implementing preventive measures to address the long-term causes of violent extremism – and this focus is now central to Australia's ongoing efforts in tackling terrorism.

Assistant Commissioner Lancaster says adopting this preventative strategy and working with other government agencies and the community to achieve that is one of our primary objectives. A fundamental aim of the CVE strategy is to engage those individuals and communities and, where possible, give them the support they need.

“When people reach the stage of planning a terrorist act there are invariably signs that they are becoming radicalised. Key in going forward in this paradigm of prevention is identifying the groups or individuals who are displaying the signs of extreme behaviours through their community.”

To that end, the CVE strategy complements the important community engagement work already in place. As part of the strategy, AFP community liaison

teams in Sydney and Melbourne undertake a range of activities to build relationships. Activities include sporting events such as the Unity Cup, multi-cultural and interfaith workshops and Ramadan Eid dinners.

“Before you can achieve a deeper level of engagement with the community, you have to develop relationships and trust. You need those relationships in place where people trust you and talk openly”.

The Future

Assistant Commissioner Lancaster says that looking forward, we, as a community need to maintain focus and avoid becoming complacent. He cites the 10th anniversary of September 11, which prompted a significant increase in calls to the National Security Hotline. This increase was due to security being in the forefront of the public mind.

Top: National Manager Counter Terrorism Steve Lancaster attends the launch of the AFP Countering Violent Extremism Strategy.

Above: An AFP member contributes to the disaster victim identification effort in Canberra.



“What keeps me awake at night is the online threat. That’s a real challenge,” Assistant Commissioner Lancaster says. “The Internet is one of the greatest risks we have got in relation to terrorism at the moment.”

“Someone can actually radicalise in the confines of their own bedroom. One of the challenges we face in law enforcement is detecting this type of activity. In these instances, the role of the community in identifying changes in behaviour of someone they know, be it a family member, friend or work colleague is a critical factor in preventing terrorism.”

Assistant Commissioner Lancaster says the challenge now for law enforcement is to maintain our counter terrorism efforts while anticipating how terrorists are evolving. He says that terrorist groups have already adapted to the internet and their methods of communicating their messages and propaganda are well established.

“Terrorists are now thinking about what they are going to do tomorrow. They are thinking about perpetrating the next September 11 or Bali bombing.

“Our challenge and our goal, is to prevent terrorist acts and we have carried that ‘baton’ of responsibility well. To ensure that we do not ‘drop the baton’ we need to think about the unthinkable and consider the ‘what-ifs’ so we are in the position to prevent the next phase in the evolution of terrorism.

“The only way we can achieve this is to keep working together in the National Security space and with the community.”



Above: AFP Forensic officers survey the bomb-affected area

Investigation remembered

The AFP's definitive public account of its investigation of the Bali bombings will be on display at the Edmund Barton Building in October to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the tragedy.

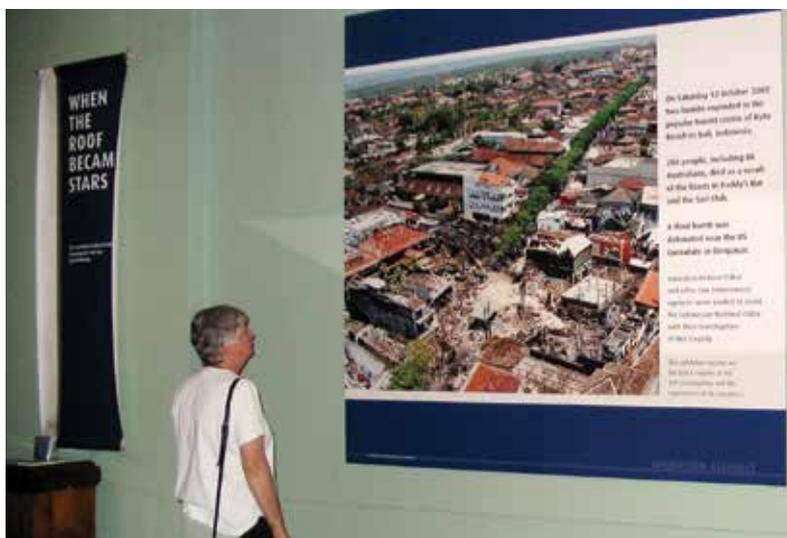
When the Roof Became Stars: The Australian Federal Police investigation into the Bali bombings gives a poignant and informative perspective on the 2002 tragedy from the investigators' point of view.

The display was developed by the Australian Federal Police Museum and was first displayed at Old Parliament House, Canberra, in October 2003, and has since travelled around Australia.

It will be displayed on the 5th floor of AFP Headquarters in October.

Museum curator Chris Cranston said the display features photographs, forensic techniques, damaged items and interviews with a selection of AFP officers that provide context for the key steps that led to finding those responsible for the crimes.

"The title 'When the Roof Became Stars' comes from comments made by an Australian Federal Agent who survived the Sari Club explosion in Bali," Ms Cranston said.



'When the Roof Became Stars' on display at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.



Operation Neath medals

Deputy Commissioner National Security Peter Drennan presented Operations Medals to 80 recipients in Sydney and Melbourne in recognition of their contribution to Counter Terrorism Operation Neath.

In May 2012, Deputy Commissioner Drennan presented Operation Neath Medals to AFP and New South Police Force members in Sydney. He also presented medals to members of the AFP, Victoria Police, and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, in Melbourne in August 2012.

Operation Neath was a complex, protracted, multi-jurisdictional counter terrorism investigation, involving the AFP, Victoria Police, New South Wales Police, the New South Wales Crime Commission and Australian Security Intelligence Organisation members.

The operation resulted in three men being found guilty of conspiring to plan a terrorist attack on an Australian Defence facility in New South Wales. The three men were each sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.



Bali remembered

When the Bali bombs exploded on 12 October, 2012, Detective Superintendent Michael Kelsey was just 500m from the Sari Club. He and the then Senior Liaison Officer, Glen McEwen, were in Bali to discuss three criminal investigations with their Indonesian counterparts and other AFP staff.

“We could actually feel the shock wave from the bomb when it hit the restaurant we were meeting in,” Federal Agent Kelsey says. “We could feel the building shudder and vibrate. I experienced the Jakarta Embassy bombing as well but the Bali bomb was worse.”

Just 20 minutes later the two Federal Agents were running up Poppy’s Lane to the bomb site.

“There were people streaming away from the bomb site as we were heading toward it, many of whom were injured and bleeding. There was shattered glass literally all over the ground, obviously from the shock wave from the bomb. When we got to the actual scene it was chaotic.

“There were still flames in the Sari Club and Paddy’s Bar across the road. There were literally hundreds of people around the scene, a lot of whom had suffered injuries, non-life-threatening cuts and abrasions, bumps and bruises and that type of thing. When we got to the Sari Club it was a mess and there was just a lot of chaos and pandemonium.”

For three hours Federal Agents Kelsey and McEwen assisted. The two agents later returned to the Australian Consulate about 2am to file reports. Later that morning, Superintendent Kelsey says, the then AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty telephoned. “He basically said ‘How can we help’ and offered as much as he could give.”



The touchstone for Senior Constable David Rixon killed in Tamworth on 2 March is the 754th police officer's name to be added to the National Police Memorial in Canberra.

Police pay tribute

Police members across the nation honour their own.

Police across Australia and the South-west Pacific paused on September 28 to pay tribute to police officers who have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties.

National Police Remembrance Day was held for the sixth time at the National Police Memorial at Kings Park in Canberra.

The AFP hosted a dusk service to commemorate those fallen police officers. The 2012 commemoration sadly marked the addition of Senior Constable David Rixon's name to the memorial.

Senior Constable Rixon was tragically shot and killed on 2 March, 2012, after a traffic stop in Tamworth, NSW.

Shortly before 8am on 2 March, Senior Constable Rixon stopped and spoke to the driver of a vehicle in West Tamworth for the purposes of a random breath test. As Senior Constable Rixon approached the vehicle, the offender drew a firearm and shot him.

Despite his injury, Senior Constable Rixon returned fire from his service pistol, which hit the offender. He then placed handcuffs on the offender. Senior Constable Rixon then collapsed from his injuries and died at the scene. He was unable to be revived.

AFP Commissioner Tony Negus said National Police Remembrance Day was an important day to reflect, remember and honour those officers who have dedicated their lives to duty.

"These fallen officers have put their lives on the line for the safety and protection of others, as do thousands of police across Australia every day," Commissioner Negus said.

"Today we pay tribute to the memories of these brave men and women and show that the sacrifices these officers have made will never be forgotten."

The National Police Memorial was completed in 2006 and honours all Australian police killed on duty since 1803. The memorial now carries the names of 754 police officers. Included in that number were three names added retrospectively following ongoing historical research into police deaths.

First Constable James Norman Brewis died from injuries suffered following a vehicle accident near Derrinallum in Victoria in 1954.

Superintendent Joseph James McCluskey drowned in 1896 following a boating accident at Tasmania's Spring Bay.

Chief District Constable William Bennett suffered a spear wound in 1827 while defending a homestead at St Peter's Pass in Tasmania.

National Police Remembrance Day was first declared in 1989 and is the day each state police force remembers its own fallen at services in their capital cities.

The national service held in Canberra brings together representatives from state and federal police to remember all Australian police killed on duty.

Aviation model takes flight

Much has changed in airport security in the decade since 9/11 and continued innovation is the key.

“9/11 was the game changer,” National Manager of the AFP’s Aviation Portfolio Shane Connelly says. As he reflects on the mammoth task of keeping Australia’s 95.3 million domestic and 28.1 million international travellers safe each year – Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the Aviation Portfolio is moving to “a natural state” where safety and security at airports matches the due diligence required in the post 9/11 world.

“When aircraft were used effectively as missiles the context in airport security had changed – the paradigm had changed. It was time for us – for all countries – to revisit aviation security and aviation policing more broadly. We had always looked at airport security seriously but September 11 was the definitive moment when people said ‘we really need to look at this;’” Assistant Commissioner Connelly says.

Now, 11 years on, important projects tracing their lineage back to September 11 are reaching completion. Assistant Commissioner Connelly stresses it’s been an evolution rather than a revolution. Important reviews such as the 2005 Wheeler and 2009 Beale reviews and the December 2009 Aviation White Paper shaped the direction. But the effort of many has breathed life into those ideas.

An important milestone in this evolution is Project Macer. The project was established to implement the recommendations of the Beale Review relating to Aviation. Project Macer will transition the Aviation sector from the Unified Policing Model at Airports under the Wheeler Review to the AFP’s ‘All-In’ model. Essentially, security for airports is now centred under the operational management of the Commonwealth. Similarly, the AFP is the primary law-enforcement agency at the 10 major Australian airports at Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Gold Coast, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The All-In model presents the most comprehensive and professional safeguards that Australian airports have ever had.

Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the effect of 9/11 was to force authorities around the world to really look at the vulnerabilities of airports and how to protect them. The Australian All-In model is what he says world-best research has shown as a highly effective safeguard against criminals and terrorists. Ongoing innovation and reform continues to build the supports underneath those big-picture strategic reforms. Now approaching the 11th anniversary of September 11, Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the natural state where preparations and precautions





National Manager Aviation Shane Connelly in Darwin.

are matched against the threat of crime and terrorism is almost complete.

“We are almost there,” he says. “We are very close.”



K9 teams deliver a highly visible law enforcement capability.

Project Macer

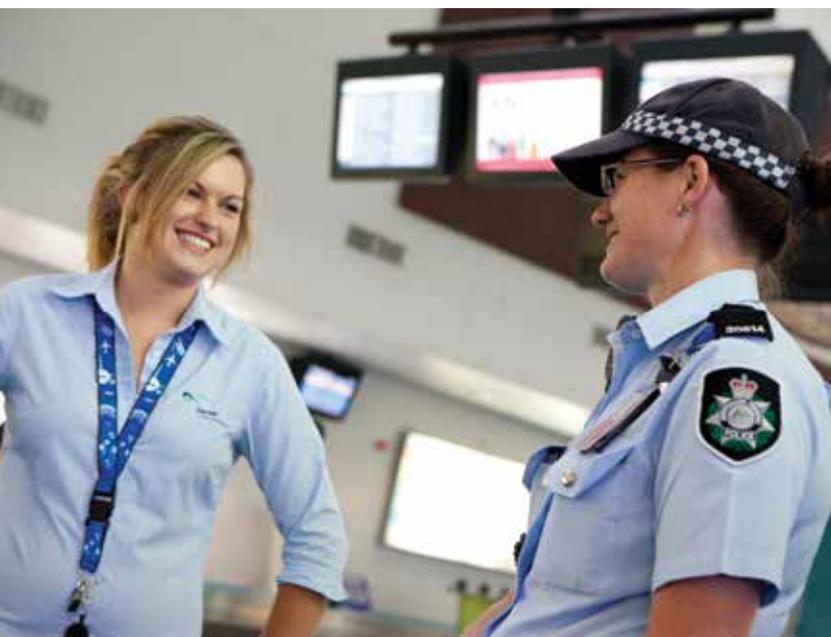
Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the most personally satisfying initiative for him is the success of the PSO gateway program under Project Macer. Under Project Macer, Airport Protective Service Officers (PSO) have the first option to transition as sworn police officers to staff the extra police positions required at airports under the All-In model.

“More than 400 PSOs had to make big decisions where they were going to go in their careers. They had to decide if they would remain as a PSO, transition to become a sworn police officer or reclassify and be redeployed to another role, or leave the AFP.

“There were a lot of sceptics who thought that the PSO workforce wouldn’t engage with the process. They were completely wrong. The take-up of the PSOs through transition has been phenomenal to the point where we have had to do very little external recruitment for Macer.”

Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the maturity and experience of the former PSOs adds to their effectiveness. Many have had long-term careers with the AFP in the PSO role. This was highlighted during the graduation ceremony earlier this year of the first Federal Police Transition Program (FPTP) graduation for 2012 and the seventh FPTP course since the Beale Review.

During his student response on behalf of the course, newly appointed Constable Will Collett highlighted this maturity within the FPTP 1/2012 ranks. He said the average age of the course participants was 42.5 years and they had a total combined service of 225 years. “Broken down, that’s an average of 11.3 years per person of prior service already to the AFP,” Constable Collett said. “That means we will be the first group to graduate and be due for long service leave at the same time.”



Airport Watch will encourage Australia’s commercial airport industry workers to assist with keeping airports safe.



The AFP is the primary law enforcement agency at Australia's 10 major airports under the All-In model of airport policing.

Program Jupiter

The construction of long-term, purpose-built facilities for the AFP at Australia's major airports continues under Program Jupiter. The project is an integral foundation to the All-In policing model. Facilities at Sydney Airport are now open and Darwin will soon follow. Canberra and Adelaide facilities are in process. The K9 facility on the Gold Coast is also open.

This accommodation provides certainty for policing operations and security of tenure into the future with 15-year leases. The funding provided from Government recognises the strategic role the AFP will continue to undertake in Australia's national and regional security environment, and will provide the AFP with contemporary and compliant accommodation that reflects the status and efficiency of the AFP's operations at airports.

During a tour of the new premises before its opening, Airport Police Commander Errol Raiser commented that the new accommodation will enable the implementation and ongoing effectiveness of the All-In model.

"The new building will provide appropriate infrastructure to support AFP operations at Sydney Airport," he said.

Some of the features in the new accommodation include extended floor area for Operational Safety Training and requalifications. It has an Emergency Operations Room for joint agency activities and an AFP Operations Coordination Centre with specialist equipment to provide greater support to commanders and provides a purpose-built gymnasium for members.

Airport Watch

Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the Airport Watch program launched in Sydney on 11 July is based on the successful methodology of any crime prevention community program. In this case it is harnessing the support of the civilian aviation industry workers at airports. Australian Neighbourhood Watch has donated the use of its logo, which has been amended to look like the tail of an aircraft. Aviation workers have been provided with the AOCC telephone number, which gives them direct access to report suspicious activity.

"Nearly 70,000 people work at Australia's airports – that's a big set of eyes and ears," he says. "So when they see something that is unusual or something that doesn't fit or concerns them it will come to the AOCC. The AOCC will assess the situation and determine

whether it forms an intelligence picture or whether it requires a deployment and will allocate a patrol to respond.”

BASQ training

Behavioural Assessment and Security Questioning training (BASQ) is a new initiative that attempts to identify and exploit the known behavioural traits of people about to commit crime or terrorism. It is based on the international research suggesting that people about to commit crime do exhibit common behavioural traits. It is anticipated that all operational AFP Aviation members will be BASQ trained in the next two years. Police will be trained to identify those traits and to ask targeted questions of persons of interest. Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the BASQ program is another level of prevention and will enhance existing security screening arrangements at domestic and international airports.

“BASQ groups will present as highly visible teams in the aviation environment. These teams will interact

with the travelling public and proactively identify threats to aviation.

“So it’s building a picture. But the wonderful thing about BASQ is it is a continuum so we can use it to make enquiries as to the true bona fides of a person of interest and we can use it to advise another airport that a person of interest is coming their way. It is trade craft and it’s not dissimilar to beat-style policing that a community police officer does in understanding his or her community.”

Assistant Commissioner Connelly says the mission now is to maintain the effort and innovation. He says people should not lose sight of the September 11 or Bali bombings and the many other incidents that have followed. He says it is the responsibility of Australian authorities and the aviation community to make sure that airports remain safe for all people who use them.

“I think a very naïve person would say Osama Bin Laden is dead so we don’t need to do this anymore. I believe the AFP is wise with its mindset and must continue to evolve and be ready to deal with any threat to national security, be it through crime or terrorism.”

AFP members patrol Sydney Airport.





All-In proves a model approach

The AFP's 'All-In' model creates a comprehensive web of specialist airport security capabilities under one umbrella organisation and one commander.

Sydney Airport Police Commander Errol Raiser, left, and Sergeant Darryl Poole inspect the AFP facilities at Kingsford Smith Airport in Sydney.

The All-In model has evolved through the Wheeler and Beale reviews following the September 11 attacks and places management and operational responsibilities under the mantle of the Commonwealth.

Airport Police Commanders

Airport Police Commanders are in place at all 10 major airports. They are responsible for the coordinated command and control of aviation security and policing activities in partnership with federal and state government agencies and private sector organisations as required.

Airport Uniformed Operations Policing

Airport Uniformed Operations Policing (AUOP) officers provide a uniformed policing and counter terrorist first response presence at the 10 major Australian airports: Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Gold Coast, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

Canine teams work in conjunction with other elements of the AUOP to deliver a coordinated, highly visible law enforcement capability to detect, deter and mitigate threats to our aviation environment.

Air Security Officers

Air Security Officers are specially trained AFP officers responsible for the containment or resolution of high-risk security incidents on Australian domestic and international flights. ASOs maintain an armed in-flight response and resolution capability in the event of an attack.

Joint Airport Intelligence Group

Joint Airport Intelligence Groups collect, collate, analyse and disseminate information and intelligence relating to both criminal activity and threats to security in the airport environment. JAIGs are made up of representatives from the AFP; Australian Customs and Border Protection Service; and local state or territory police. The Department of Infrastructure and Transport; the Australian Crime Commission; Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service; the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation also provide staff to these teams as necessary.

Joint Airport Investigation Team

Joint Airport Investigation Teams investigate serious and organised crime in the aviation sector, focusing on the 10 major airports. These teams are based at Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth international airports and can be deployed to any of the major airports. JAITs include representatives from the AFP, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and state and territory police.

Crime Prevention Liaison Officers

Crime Prevention Liaison Officers act as conduits between the AFP and aviation industry partners and stakeholders for all matters relating to law enforcement and security issues within the aviation environment. They support the airport police commanders at all major airports and the Airport Watch program.



Bridging the divides

A new Protection Assessment Team will significantly enhance the type of information AFP officers are given to plan operations.

National Manager Protection Michael Outram has been on a “bit of a journey” since he arrived at the AFP late in 2011. As an observer in Canberra of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Perth last year he says he was impressed by the efforts of AFP members across the portfolio. CHOGM proved to be just one of a series of operations over the next weeks and months of high-profile visits that included Queen Elizabeth and US President Barack Obama.

During this series of operations, Assistant Commissioner Outram says one issue did often raise itself. He says planning was mainly based on broad, long-term threat assessments. He adds that these assessments are important indicators of general security threats over the longer period.

Even so, his concern was that national threat assessments avoid getting into the degree of detail needed to make sound operational decisions and plans. This was further highlighted during some of the major operations and events in which the AFP was involved. The new Protection Assessment Team is designed to significantly improve the level of information Protection planners and operational officers have at their fingertips.

Assistant Commissioner Outram says better information is the solution. “Our people on the ground

sometimes hadn’t been provided with the information I think they needed and should have been provided with to inform their operational decisions at the time.”

The problem with threat assessments, he says, is that they are used to inform strategic level planning for six to 12 months ahead and they usually confine their scope to a particular threat, theme or context. They are not designed to inform officers about the day-to-day incidental risks that may be playing out on the ground at a tactical or operational level.

Assistant Commissioner Outram says while terrorism is a significant threat, other issues are equally important for Protection operations.

“If a high-office holder decides on a particular day of the week to go to a particular part of Melbourne to do something, then a national threat assessment is not going to tell you very much.

“What you need to know is whether there is anything specific that relates to the times and places a high-office holder visits. That could relate to crime, to protests, to infrastructure, to fixated persons and other related things.

“That risk – if there is a risk – might also materialise very shortly before or during an event. How do you monitor that? So that, in essence, is what we mean when we say we are moving from a threat-based to a risk-based approach; it is about providing a far more



operational, fast-moving, 360-degree view of what is happening on the ground and enables us to set our stall out more effectively.”

Since arriving at the AFP, Assistant Commissioner Outram’s journey has taken him to Britain. He was aware that the British Metropolitan Police had encountered a similar problem in its evolution of protection operations. He visited Britain with AFP Commander Close Protection Jamie Strauss.

In a pivotal moment for British Protection officers, the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall were ambushed in December 2010 by protesters at Leicester Square. The protesters had rallied during the day against the rise of university fees in the UK. What authorities didn’t know was that a splinter group of protesters had remained in the city. When the Royal couple arrived at a well-publicised gala event the protesters very nearly entered the vehicle.

“That has been a big wakeup call for the police in the last three years in their Protection area,” Assistant Commissioner Outram says. “We essentially benchmarked with the London Met and had a look at what they had been doing. They have been on their own journey.”

He says the Met have been very effective in influencing the British whole-of-government architecture. They are now at a point where the

National doctrine makes ‘common’ sense

The spirit of collaboration between Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement and security agencies is laying the foundations for a common doctrine for dignitary protection across the nation.

National Manager Protection Michael Outram says new initiatives will enhance the protection already provided to dignitaries and other high-office holders.

“The National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC) Dignitary Protection Working Group and its members are developing a doctrine for protective security operations around dignitaries nationally,” Assistant Commissioner Outram said.

Meanwhile, common training across jurisdictions is already greatly increasing interoperability between the states, territories and national agencies.

The AFP hosted the fourth annual NCTC Dignitary Protection Skills Enhancement Course at its Majura facility in Canberra earlier this year.

Former Capability Adviser for the NCTC Dignitary Protection Capability, Western Australian Police Inspector Barry Shelton, said the course was an important element in maintaining consistency and interoperability between jurisdictions and other selected agencies.

“It is very important to get national consistency and interoperability where people can be deployed into any jurisdiction to assist the host jurisdiction in a dignitary protection operation,” Inspector Shelton said.

Inspector Shelton added that the course covered all aspects of dignitary protection planning and included case studies and scenario training.

“Given that Australia will host the G20 Forum in 2014 it is important that officers can deploy into any jurisdiction and officers understand each other’s methods and you have consistent standard operating procedures.”

Senior Sergeant John Hodge, Queensland Police, has taken over as the new Dignitary Protection Capability Adviser from Inspector Shelton and the AFP’s Federal Agent David Pruckner is now Assistant Capability Adviser.

Federal Agent Pruckner also chairs the NCTC working group, which consists of a representative from each jurisdiction including the ADF Military Police.



AFP members at CHOGM, Perth 2011.

responsibility for protecting high-office holders is shared by a number of agencies, including the Met. The links between policing, policy and protocol are far more clearly understood and managed.

Just as important, there is a very clear understanding of what risk is and how to define and monitor that risk. A crucial difference in thinking is the type of intelligence and situational awareness that Protection officers are provided with to plan operations. Additionally, operational teams are updated with real-time information, which includes feeds from social and other electronic media sources.

Assistant Commissioner Outram has started the AFP's own evolution to what he calls an all-hazards risk approach. Approval from the Portfolio Budget Management Committee was granted in May to establish the new Protection Assessment Team and recruiting for the team has started.

Assistant Commissioner Outram says this "modest capability" will contain intelligence analysts, sworn police officers and protective service officers. He has also sought funding for contributions from intelligence officers. The new team will essentially migrate

operational methodology to a risk-based all-hazards model. This initiative will develop in conjunction with work that the AFP is undertaking at a national level with the Attorney General's Department (Security Coordination Branch) and National Counter Terrorism Committee (Dignitary Protection Working Group).

"I am looking for the ability to collect information and to get it to our people really quickly so they can have really good situational awareness. That's the bottom line. In doing so, it's important that our 800 or so people in Protection become proactive in collecting and sharing information". He says the approach is in line with one of the AFP's seven strategic principles that operations are intelligence led and risk-based.

"It's right to ground what we do in terms of risk management practices, but I think this is about creating situational awareness. It is far more real-time, far more down on the ground and doesn't necessarily correlate with threat assessments."

A transition plan has been developed and will be implemented over the next 18 months. Assistant Commissioner Outram says he hopes to "land" in a place where, like other portfolios, a fully developed



Targeted security assessments will better inform day-to-day action on the ground at important infrastructure such as Government House in Canberra.



High-office holders and close proximity of the population creates planning complexity for Protection operations.

doctrine exists on how Protection operations should be conducted in the AFP.

In the next 12 months he hopes to complete an important first step in that transition and develop standard operating procedures for the Protection Assessment Team. That will detail what the team should look like and what processes will be put in place.

“So it is very much a small first step,” he says. “At the moment it’s a team on paper. After the end of 12 months we will evaluate that, see how effective it has been and whether it is adding value to the business. If it is adding value then we may have to look at it and keep it the same, increase it or change it.”



Generic, longer-term, threat-based security assessments cannot adequately inform day-to-day planning for complex operations such as Queen Elizabeth’s Royal Visit in 2011.



Protective Service Officers train at a Defence establishment under the Project Vanguard initiative.

Project Vanguard reaches full strength

Staff numbers for new Uniform Protection stations at five designated Defence establishments under Project Vanguard have reached full strength following the graduation of 17 recruits.

The new Protective Service Officers (PSO) raise total numbers to 110 for the Enhanced Self Defence Capabilities (ESDC) project following the formal Defence approval of the project on 6 July, 2011.

National Manager Protection Michael Outram says Defence has thanked the AFP for a job well done.

“Our PSOs are forming great relationships with the local police and the clients on-site and they have the AFP’s intelligence architecture behind them as well,” says Assistant Commissioner Outram.

Project Vanguard was established after a Defence review into base security following the disrupted

terrorist attack on Holsworthy Barracks under Operation Neath.

The requirements for an AFP presence was identified by the ESDC project as an integral part of the overall detect, deter and respond package and includes the introduction of armed wardens.

The ESDC project is also supported through improvements in command and control, procedures, engagement and liaison with local state and territory police as well as other measures.

The 110 PSOs represent the single largest expansion of new business for the Protection portfolio since its integration into the AFP in 2002.



The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will consist of two black monoliths and a path between them that will glow with golden light. The light will symbolise the way opposing sides are brought together by peacekeepers.

The path leads to a paved ceremonial courtyard at the back of the Memorial. Along the back of the space there will be a stone beam on which will be recorded Australia's many peacekeeping missions.



For over 65 years, Australians have been risking their lives for peace and doing their bit to protect the world's most vulnerable people in the world's most dangerous places. More than 66,000 Australian members of the ADF, AFP, state and territory police jurisdictions and civilians have served on peacekeeping missions including Cyprus, Timor, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Bougainville and Haiti—to name just a few.

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade will celebrate the contribution of these brave men and women to international peace. Fundraising is underway with the aim of having the Memorial ready for the Centenary of Anzac in 2014.



Keep up with the latest news by liking the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Facebook:
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For more information visit:

www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au



Public order management is now centralised under the Specialist Response Group.



SRG bursts into life in Canberra

July 1 marked a new era in AFP capability.

The long, thin strip of explosive charge erupted into life and the door disappeared from view. The tactical response police rushed through the now open doorway amid the dull crump of stun grenades. Moments later the hostage was led from the building, soon followed by the terrorist surrounded by police clad in dark-blue fatigues.

It was a rare and privileged insight behind the normally closed doors of police tactical response teams and tactics. It was hard not to be impressed by the skills, the high-end weapons and equipment and the precision that comes from endless practice. Amid the noise and spectacle the AFP's Specialist Response Group (SRG) formally burst into existence on 5 July at the AFP's International Deployment Group Majura village facility in Canberra.

Officially, the SRG became effective on 1 July with the amalgamation of the AFP's Operational Response Group (ORG) and the ACT Policing's Specialist Response and Security team (SRS). AFP Commissioner Tony Negus says the SRG is a 'one-stop shop' of specialist functions.

"The creation of the SRG will provide an enhanced operational model for all AFP business and provide a more effective capability to meet AFP operational responses locally, nationally and internationally," Commissioner Negus says.

Manager SRG Commander Clive Murray says the SRG launch marks the culmination of two-and-a-half years of sustained effort. In early 2010, the AFP commenced two key reforms. First, that the ORG facilities in



Negotiators are one of the roles now centralised under the Specialist Response Group command.



A Specialist Response Group member takes part in the official launch on 5 July.

Melbourne and Brisbane should be centralised in Canberra. Secondly, that the ORG and ACT Policing's Specialist Response and Security team should be amalgamated into one functional unit of the AFP.

Commander Murray says that each project was initially undertaken as two separate but dependent bodies of work. At first, the task was to identify methods of enhanced interoperability between the ORG and the SRS. But it was very quickly realised that the ORG and SRS could go way beyond simply cooperating. Project Komet was initiated and the implementation team set about creating the SRG. When both organisations deployed to the Christmas Island riots under Operation Ridley in March 2011, it only served to highlight the need for one consolidated effort.

“Now we have a one-stop shop that delivers support to all AFP operations whether that’s in the ACT, national or international,” Commander Murray says. “There is one point of referral and one system to provide specialist operational support. Before 1 July, 2012, there were two disparate functions doing very similar business.

“By way of example, training and procurement of equipment was done separately. They were operating from different bases and all of their governance



Specialist Response Group members conduct an exercise during the official launch.



AFP Commissioner Tony Negus meets the press at the official launch of the Specialist Response Group.

and SOPs were different. So now we have brought that together into one consolidated position. Overall, this provides for a more effective and efficient operating model.”

Officer in charge of SRG Targeted Operations Sergeant Steve Cooke was the co-author of the 51 recommendations under Project Komet that brought the SRG to life. He says the formation of the SRG not only makes good sense for the organisation but enhances the professional opportunities for its members.

“If ever you can live the dream, most of us are probably living the dream at the moment,” he says. “There are fantastic opportunities for us on a number of different fronts – the equipment, the training, the ongoing validation and the operational opportunities that it provides on all fronts. We really are working at the community policing level, at the national level and at the international level.

“For me personally, being the officer in charge of Targeted Operations and building our disaster response capability is not only a great challenge: it is a really exciting time for us. We are engaging in some fairly high level search and rescue disciplines so that we will actually be capable of responding to any disaster anywhere in the world as required by the Commissioner.”



Specialist Response Group members showcase their skills at the official launch of the AFP’s world-class policing capability.



Specialist Response Group members conduct a public order management scenario at the official launch of the new organisation.

Consolidation brings new capability

Manager Specialist Response Group (SRG) Commander Clive Murray says consolidating resources and removing inefficiency was the primary focus for creating the SRG. But in bringing the SRG to life, the AFP has created four new areas that further consolidate, enhance and centralise its capabilities.

Centralised training

The SRG will provide a central coordination point for training. This will include the Specialist Support Teams located in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. Formerly called Advanced Warrant Teams, their training was conducted remotely from the International Deployment Group. The SRG will now have a responsibility to coordinate their governance, training and provision and maintenance of equipment.

Maritime

The SRG will be the new centre of excellence for all things maritime in the AFP. The Maritime Team provides a specialist water and dive capability to support AFP operations in the ACT, nationally and internationally. This includes maintaining a community policing presence on and within the waterways of the ACT and providing a first response to water-rescue emergencies in the ACT.

Public order management

The SRG has assumed the coordination of public order management response for the AFP. In the past that capability has been spread across a number of areas including International Deployment Group, Protection, Aviation and in the ACT, which included the Operational Support Group.

Negotiators

ACT Policing has previously delivered the negotiator capability for the AFP. This has placed a significant burden on resources as negotiations invariably involve senior investigators. The AFP now has a dedicated full-time team to deliver all the negotiator capability for the AFP locally in the ACT and at the national and international levels.

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Biometrics, the face of new capability

It's new and it's evolving but the launch of the AFP Facial Recognition System is a significant moment for the organisation.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Senior Level Photographic Technologist Dr Richard Vorder Bruegge says it was supposed to be the perfect crime. More than 400 valid US names and social security numbers had been stolen from legitimate foreign nationals with temporary US work visas. The 400 workers were hired to staff a temporary factory in the Pacific, so they would never set foot on mainland US. When they returned home there was no-one to complain about the multimillion dollars in mounting fraud committed against their names.

A breakthrough came when the FBI approached the Department of Motor Vehicles of one its partner state agencies to use its photo database. When a search of the most often abused social security numbers was entered into the database there was a return of more than 14,700 candidates. As Dr Vorder Bruegge says, that's 14,700 crimes in one database in one state. One candidate alone had 11 identities. When probe images of suspected criminals involved in the network were run against that list of 14,700 faces the FBI then had 36 prime suspects to pursue.



Dr Vorder Bruegge is a leading expert in facial recognition and facial identification science. The distinction between 'recognition' and 'identification' is significant and represents the two sides of the science. On the one hand, facial recognition refers to the automated recognition of measurable facial characteristics (biometrics) that are unique to an individual. Facial identification is the human forensic science of processing those automated results into an identification that can support a prosecution in front of a judge.

Dr Vorder Bruegge was invited to lead a two-day conference hosted by the AFP Forensic and Data Centres portfolio during a visit to Australia in June. He admits that the full capability of biometric facial recognition and forensic facial identification is not quite at the fictional level of CSI television franchises. He stresses that the science will still be in development when those now practising it have retired. But real developments of the technology are taking the science out of the realms of fiction and solving real crime.



AFP member Jason Prince demonstrates the AFP Facial Recognition system.

The operational rollout of the AFP Facial Recognition System to the AFP Net in February is already producing results. In more than one investigation since February, witnesses to an offence have described an alleged offender to an AFP forensic artist. The forensic artist then pieced the description into a composite facial image. When that image was searched against the facial recognition database it presented a number of candidates that ultimately led to the identification of offenders in those matters.

Coordinator AFP Forensic and Data Centres Biometrics Dr Simon Walsh says the launch of the AFP Facial Recognition System is a significant moment. He says the way people are identified is changing and will continue to evolve; to rely more on biometrics, which has typically meant fingerprints and more recently DNA. Biometric facial recognition and potentially voice and even iris and other modalities will be included to that.

“This really is recognition that identification can occur with the assistance of biometric technologies and that is something that – once it changes – will

never change back. It will be our future in terms of identification management in the AFP,” Dr Walsh says.

The monumental potential of biometric face recognition has been known for years. But the software technology to support real-time police operations has only really been good enough in the last two or so years. The FBI itself is leading the world in this technology and it only stood up its Biometric Centre of Excellence in 2009.

The capability can be applied for multiple uses from access control, automated identity verification and human identification to surveillance and law enforcement and national security investigations. But the potential of biometric facial recognition to support investigations continues to grow as the technology advances.

One example cited by Dr Vorder Bruegge was the footage tracking the movements of the 2005 London bombers. The sequential movements of the bombers’ respective paths were painstakingly pieced together by human beings from closed circuit television footage. New biometric cluster technology and software now in use will, first of all, be able to identify a human face in a given piece of video footage. Once identified, the probe image will automatically search that face against a database or nominated databases. It can then automatically search and match subsequent video footage using candidates found in the first piece of video footage.

Dr Walsh says the AFP is presently evaluating a system that will potentially support the identification of faces from video material that would be used in support areas such as surveillance and protection activities. The technology obviously has a role to play in screening large amounts of video footage for identifying people in crowds or child exploitation in an online environment.

“The AFP system will primarily be used to store photographs of people taken while in AFP custody and then it will be capable of searching that database using those images. Other images might come from a range of different investigative areas but the objective would be to try and link an identity with a probe image.”

“The main thing is, it is an additional capability for investigators and intelligence. It’s new and it’s evolving. It’s got a long way to go but it has fantastic potential.”

Facial recognition rolls out to AFP

National Coordinator for the AFP's Identity Security Strike Teams (ISST) Darren Booy, stated that the AFP Facial Recognition System had been utilised by the ISSTs for some time now.

During the developmental phases of the facial recognition capability, there have been some great operational results from the facial recognition system, which have provided intelligence linking identity crime investigations and suspects.

The facial recognition system has now been embedded as a standing capability across the wider AFP. It is being applied across all investigations and intelligence assessments including serious and organised crime, counter-terrorism, people smuggling and child protection operations.

Its use will assist investigators and intelligence officers to develop actionable intelligence and identity of previously unknown suspects through facial recognition.

The use of the facial recognition capability aligns with the objectives of the National Identity Security Strategy where one of the key objectives was to enhance the national interoperability of biometric identity security measures.

Facial recognition is one such measure and its use by the AFP will enhance operational outcomes.

FBI biometrics expert Dr Richard Vorder Bruegge presents to AFP members in Canberra on the development of automated face recognition.

Biometric recognition is the face of the future

Dr Richard Vorder Bruegge is confident that face recognition will eventually be an accepted biometric tool in the same way as fingerprints.

The FBI's Senior Level Photographic Technologist said creation of the Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) as a development from the FBI's Biometric Centre of Excellence was an important step in that development.

The FISWG was created to provide leadership to the law enforcement community by developing international standards, guidelines and best practices for the discipline of image-based comparisons of human features, primarily face.

It also aims to provide recommendations for research and development and activities necessary to advance the state of the science in this field.

"We are there to develop consensus guidelines as best practices. We have participants all over the world and the next meeting is in November in 2012," Dr Vorder Bruegge said.

"It is through these scientific working groups that we want to try to develop standards that will apply to the forensic science across the discipline."

AFP Coordinator Forensic and Data Centres Biometrics Dr Simon Walsh said the potential for facial recognition had long been identified.

"It is only in the last year or two years that the software that supports the system has been good enough and discerning enough to make reliable identifications," Dr Walsh said.



Building capacity in Afghanistan

Afghan police are now taking the lead in training their recruits.

Since October 2007, 105 AFP members have deployed to Afghanistan. Initially, just four members worked directly with the Afghan National Police (ANP) and the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan to develop policing capacity and disrupt the illicit drug trade.

As the Australian role changed over time, so too have the numbers. The AFP commitment expanded to 28 in May 2010 when Operations Synergy and Contego combined into Operation Illuminate.

Under Illuminate, a main objective has been to train, develop and mentor the ANP in the southern province of Uruzgan, complementing the efforts of the Coalition throughout the country.

It can be seen as a measure of the mission's success that the AFP role has transitioned from delivering the hands-on training to ANP recruits to one where the ANP now directs its own training and the Australians. More broadly, active policing throughout Afghanistan is increasingly in the hands of the ANP.

AFP Commissioner Tony Negus believes that capacity development initiatives such as this are an encouraging sign that establishing the rule-of-law within Afghanistan is not only possible but a reality.

At a recent farewell for AFP members deploying to Afghanistan Commissioner Negus said the AFP continues to build (with Australian

and international counterparts) a secure nation governed by rule-of-law principles.

"This may seem ambitious, but we are committed to the task and our previous experience tells us it is possible," he says.

"The successes we have had in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands show that it is possible to create tangible benefits for the people of countries affected by conflict."

The results are definitely impressive. The AFP has delivered the Uniform Patrolman's course (the basic recruit training) to 2194 ANP recruits at the Multinational Base Tarin Kowt Training Centre in Uruzgan.

Other courses have included non-commissioned officer training, as well as train-the-trainer initiatives, delivered in conjunction with the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan.

An additional 212 ANP members have been trained on the investigator's course and 65 members trained in surveillance courses conducted at the Afghan Major Crimes Taskforce Centre in Kabul.

The AFP also has assisted training ANP personnel in topics such as exhibits handling, in partnership with the Australian Defence Force's Special Operations



An Afghan National Police recruit marches up to receive his graduation certificate.



A proud Afghan National Police recruit holds aloft his graduation certificate after eight weeks of training.

Taskforce. Despite this effort, there are many challenges ahead. In a country beset by decades of violence and an ongoing insurgency, there is still work to do.

AFP Superintendent Jason Byrnes has recently returned from an 11-month posting to Afghanistan. He says “being a police officer in Afghanistan is literally a life-and-death occupation”.

At a recent graduation ceremony of more than 100 ANP members he felt the most sobering part of the event was his silent reflection that many in the graduating class would most likely be dead or seriously injured in the coming months.

“Attrition rates are high,” Superintendent Byrnes says. “In just the past few years alone, over 3000 ANP officers have been murdered by insurgents, have

died on duty from vehicle crashes, or have been assassinated by insurgents whilst off duty.

“Thousands more have been injured. The insurgents deliberately target police, soldiers and government officials in an attempt to cause panic and concern within the broader community.”

In adopting modern concepts of service provision and accountability, Superintendent Byrnes says the ANP is rapidly implementing what has taken Western nations around 200 years to develop.

He says in many areas of the country the ANP is now assuming responsibility for providing security in their local districts and cities. Training efforts are now focusing on the non-commissioned and senior officer ranks and, through this, the ANP is developing a resilience that is gradually overcoming the myriad of challenges.

AFP and United States military mentors alongside Afghan National Police recruits and instructors at Tarin Kowt.



“In fact, progress has been so solid that in many areas the ANP is starting to stand on its own in relation to the provision of security and policing services. Military forces from NATO are moving very much into the background.

It is expected that the ANP (along with the Afghan National Army) will be firmly in the lead throughout the country by 2014. It’s my hope that most of those who graduated at the event I attended will be part of that historic event.”

National Manager International Deployment Group (NMIDG) Mandy Newton unreservedly shares Superintendent Byrnes’ optimism. Assistant Commissioner Newton took over as NMIDG in April and says she has been impressed by the work and commitment of AFP members deployed at all missions.

She says the AFP’s success in transitioning the ANP to deliver its own recruit training in Uruzgan was so complete that “we have made ourselves redundant almost and we are just providing some of the back-of-office guidance and mentoring work”.

“I don’t know if anyone else has been in a position where they can walk out the door and know that it can operate in its own right. And that is where you want to be – developing their ability to run training themselves so that we can move on within the region,” Assistant Commissioner Newton says.

“We hope they will maintain that capability to run their own general training and can be proud of it themselves without feeling as though they have to rely on us as a backstop. The goal is to make sure that they are doing it okay and they have got the confidence to do it.”

Assistant Commissioner Newton says as the military withdraws, delivering effective policing becomes increasingly important in maintaining public order.

“In Afghanistan, it is still a very dangerous occupation for the local ANP to be fulfilling that role. We have to focus very much on how we assist them with reducing the corruption that occurs and that people will continue getting paid.

“We need to focus on making sure the organisation can support itself to deliver. Otherwise you end up exacerbating the issues of corruption if the police don’t have the ability to be paid and have the fundamentals for their needs to live.”



Afghan National Police recruits on parade for the last time at their graduation parade.



Approval has been granted for deployment of 28 AFP members for the next two years.

She says another future challenge is how donor countries coordinate the consistency of different policing capabilities. As Western military forces withdraw as part of transition efforts in the lead-up to 2014, the AFP presence will centralise in Kabul and focus increasingly on developing the ANP at the strategic level.

To that end, Commander Wayne Buchhorn will soon move to a senior police role with the National Police Coordination Board – an international group whose mission is to coordinate the various training and development initiatives between the ANP and other countries.

Meanwhile, funding for 28 AFP officers in Afghanistan will be maintained for at least the next

two years. Assistant Commissioner Newton says a decision will be made in the next 12 months as to whether that level of commitment will continue.

“We only want the right number of people there according to what our outcomes are going to be or where we need to have people. So we will be reassessing that over the next 12 months. As the military withdrawal occurs [we need to determine] what position we want to be, what [positions] are the most effective and what contribution we need to give.”



Inspector Brett Swan, left, speaks with senior defence officers at the Afghan National Police Training Centre in 2010.

Training to succeed

Recruits to the Afghan National Police (ANP) undergo an intensive, eight-week program designed to impart the basic policing, security and survival skills necessary to operate in a community deeply scarred by an ongoing insurgency.

Training includes human rights, basic arrest procedures, combat first aid and defensive skills. Considerable effort is also given to delivering basic literacy skills.

Few if any ANP recruits outside of Kabul have formal schooling and, as a consequence, most are illiterate. The basic recruit program aims to have graduates capable of reading and writing at a third grade (primary school) standard by the end of the course.

Joint Task Force Polaris targets organised crime

Joint Task Force Polaris gets on the front foot with organised crime on the waterfront.

Law enforcement officers call it a classic ‘rip on-rip off’ operation. Two sports bags with 50 kilograms of cocaine and a street value of \$13.2 million were inserted into a container in Panama after the consignment was sealed. The broken seal was then glued back together. A replacement seal was also included with the drug shipment. While it wasn’t used, it shows the forward planning of drug syndicates. The container targeted by criminals belonged to a large multinational shipping company with a solid importing history to minimise scrutiny from customs

in Australia. The drugs could then be removed and the seal replaced while the container waited in Customs at Port Botany. But Australian authorities had already been tipped off by the US Drug Enforcement Agency that a shipment was imminent.

On 18 September, 2010, Customs identified the sports bags in a container on the MV *Maersk Jackson* under Operation Polaris Tempest. By 23 September, three male and one female alleged offenders were fronting Sydney courts.

Two sports bags seized in Operation Polaris Tempest contained approximately 50 kilograms of cocaine.





Manager Serious and Organised Crime David Sharpe says the joint effort to target crime on the waterfront has resulted in phenomenal success.

It was the first big success of the Joint Task Force (JTF) Polaris. The task force had formed on 1 July, 2010. Just two months before, senior AFP and NSW law enforcement and crime authority executives met in Sydney. Delegates discussed a NSW Crime Commission (NSWCC) proposal to establish a joint task force to target waterfront related crime in NSW.

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) estimates that organised crime costs Australia between \$10-15 billion each year. It also identified that organised criminal infiltration in the maritime sector posed significant risks to Australia's national security. The threat of unchecked imports of biotechnologies and weapons through criminal supply chains is a serious concern to national security planning.

Thus, when Polaris was raised on July 1, 2010, the AFP, ACC, New South Wales Police (NSWP), NSWCC and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) joined their resources to take the fight to crime on the waterfront. Two years on, JTF Polaris has 73 staff including 40 cross-agency investigators, six intelligence officers and 27 Customs enforcement personnel.

Manager Serious and Organised Crime Commander David Sharpe says "the results have been phenomenal". The task force has effected 16 arrests (including 77

charges), and seized more than 12 tonnes of illicit substances and pre-cursor chemicals. It has also seized 114.8 tonnes of loose leaf tobacco, \$1 million in cash and 92.7 million individual cigarettes. The arrests and broader results are significant in themselves. But the success of JTF Polaris is important for three unique reasons.

The task force represents a new approach to investigations. Commander Sharpe says crime had always been targeted on the waterfront. The difference now is that investigators are also targeting the processes that support criminal activities from the departure port to the destination port. By fully understanding the processes used, investigators can target the weaknesses in the system, particularly in the supply chain logistics.

The second key objective of the task force was to identify vulnerabilities in the waterfront environment. "Operation Tempest highlighted what this was all about," Commander Sharpe says. "It highlighted very clearly what the vulnerabilities are throughout the waterfront system. We are identifying and targeting each of those vulnerabilities in the entire supply chain.

"Part of the Polaris role was to develop a vulnerabilities register, which has been tabled to the Joint Management Committee. The register has been completed and included a suite of recommendations that we developed to target-harden the waterfront environment. The Minister, Attorney General's Department and Prime Minister's office have been briefed on that register."

The third innovation for JTF Polaris is the extraordinary cooperation between national agencies, state organisations and industry. The determination between partners is changing the playing field. That change began in December 2008 with the National Security Statement by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. In that statement the Government articulated the impact of organised crime and its intent to seriously take it on.

Even so, the confidence of criminals on the waterfront gives some indication of just how comfortable they are in exploiting the environment. Commander Sharpe says throwing 50 kilograms of cocaine on legitimate cargo and expecting an easy removal in Australia shows an almost arrogant complacency from criminal elements infiltrating the system.

At Port Botany there was no urgency to ‘rip-off’ the cocaine. The syndicate waited patiently while the container went through Customs. But during the process police replaced the cocaine with an inert substitute in the Container Examination Facility. The container was returned to the dock where it sat for a few days under 24-hour surveillance. The container was then transferred by rail to Macarthur Intermodal Shipping Terminal (MIST).

On the first night at MIST the container was relocated to an easily accessible part of the container yard. A non-MIST employee entered and removed the cocaine. The bags were then placed in the rear of a utility and moved to a nearby address. Receivers arrived the next day and lifted the cocaine from the vehicle. Law enforcement then moved to make arrests.

Clearly, there are other ways to import contraband goods into Australia. But Superintendent McErlain says any significant quantities of criminal imports need to come via sea lanes and through waterfronts. For that reason, the JTF Polaris mission was to know the process and target goods while they were under Customs control.

Commander Sharpe says an important development is the willingness of industry to help. Legitimate multinational companies are equally concerned that their brand is being exploited by criminals. “We have been able to go to them and say ‘did you know your container was carrying 50 kilograms of cocaine?’.”

Similarly, port authorities and unions are keen to defend their reputations. They have a mutual concern to end crime in their environment. “We can’t do it alone,” says Commander Sharpe. “We need to tap into their knowledge of the processes and help each other eradicate crime.”

He highlights that placing security seals on consignments entering Australia is not even mandatory. Many companies don’t bother with low-risk cargo. But he adds that the company exploited by the Panama-Australia drug syndicate now places two seals on each container. “It’s a small step but an important one,” Commander Sharpe says.

New automated port systems will be an industry innovation that will seriously harden ports to crime. Sensor-operated machinery will automate the load-unload function of containers at ports. The new system will almost entirely remove human presence



The cocaine shipment inside a legitimate container.



Cocaine seized in the Operation Polaris Tempest investigation was valued at about \$13.2 million.



A replacement seal packaged with the cocaine as forward planning to disguise the breach in container security.

from the ground level at terminals. Importantly, unauthorised access at ground level will be a criminal offence.

Government support is critical and its response to the JTF Vulnerabilities Register was swift. Minister for Home Affairs and Justice Jason Clare announced an 11-point reform plan on 25 May, 2012, to limit waterfront infiltration by crime. Mr Clare said he would give law enforcement the powers and tools they need to target organised crime. "This is a major crackdown on organised crime and a major overhaul of security of the waterfront and the entire supply chain," Mr Clare said.

Multi-agency collaboration of law enforcement organisations is the lynchpin to success. In fact, it's been so successful that Task Force Trident was established on 1 July, 2012, in Melbourne. Task Force Yelverton in Western Australia is also underway. A similar task force is scheduled for Brisbane in mid-2013.

JTF Polaris is also working closely with the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI). An Integrity Reporting Framework has been established to ensure that all agency Professional Standards teams and the Joint Management Committee are provided with timely briefings.

Mr Clare also announced a new industry forum of law enforcement agencies and stakeholders on the waterfront and in the supply chain. The forum will consider further opportunities for law enforcement and industry to work together to address vulnerabilities. His 25 May announcement also flagged that detailed development of legislation and its implementation will be done in close cooperation with industry and unions. Commander Sharpe says maintaining interagency teamwork is the key to continuing the successful fight against organised crime on the waterfront.

"The Commonwealth Organised Crime Strategic Framework recognises the need to work together and share intelligence. We cannot target high-level international organised crime syndicates unless we do it together.

"Sharing our intelligence, experience, resources and technological governance is key to future success."

Crime on the waterfront

If one investigation demonstrates just how confident criminals are in exploiting the waterfront then that is Operation Polaris Tuskers. The operation commenced when an Australian Government official was approached at a hotel in Indonesia and offered a bribe.

The official was in-country on work-related duties and was offered a large amount of money for each successfully imported container to assist in the importation of illicit tobacco products to Australia.

While it's no surprise that criminals will flout the law for their own benefit – it was the brazen nature of the crime that astounded authorities. AFP Manager Serious and Organised Crime Commander David Sharpe says it shows just how vulnerable the waterfront is to criminal exploitation when a criminal walks off the street and attempts to bribe an official.

Considerable evidence against the Australian syndicate and other persons was obtained during this investigation. The investigation also identified specific methods the criminals used to evade law enforcement detection when importing containers of tobacco products.

On 1 September, 2011, Operation Polaris Tuskers investigators executed 15 search warrants on eight properties and seven vehicles. Evidentiary material including computers, documents and \$420,000 in cash was seized.

Two Australians were arrested for alleged bribery and importation offences following the seizure of more than 60 tonnes of illegal tobacco and almost 25 million counterfeit cigarettes.

Six containers attributed to the arrested persons were seized by the taskforce and Australian Customs. The seized imports had the potential to divert more than \$36 million from Australian revenue.



Independent research shows the Canberra community has positive views of ACT Policing.

Canberra community confident in ACT Policing

Independent research commissioned by ACT Policing has shown that the Canberra community has positive views of its police service.

The issue of how well ACT Policing understands its audience and, in turn, Canberra community's understanding of ACT Policing was raised at an executive level in 2010, specifically community expectations in terms of police visibility.

Consequently, Grey International and Colmar Brunton Social Research engaged with more than 1000 Canberrans to find out what they think of their local police service and more importantly – what they expect.

Happily, satisfaction of police was high across the board with 57 per cent of respondents rating police performance as 8 or above (where 10 was the highest score and 1 the lowest).

Blue collar workers were more satisfied with police than white collar, and the most positive

groups were those with lower incomes, and those not working.

All participants mentioned the AFP and ACT Policing as having responsibility for protecting and safeguarding the ACT community.

Importantly, locals understood the role of ACT Policing to be in traffic law enforcement and road safety, crime prevention and local crime such as burglaries, homicides and assaults.

The way the community interacts with its local police service and the way they'd prefer to engage with police were also questioned.

Telephone remains the primary method of contact with ACT Policing in the first instance, but most participants could not recall the police assistance (131 444) phone number, which is of great concern.



Thousands of Canberrans seized the opportunity to take a 'behind the scenes' look at the new Belconnen Police Station.

“They do a good job and I have a lot of respect for them,” male, under 20 respondent

More than 7 in 10 people who participated in the research didn't know what number to call, and would instead call Triple Zero (000) – something we clearly need to work on.

This wasn't a great concern to the younger audience though, who would

simply 'google' or use their smart phone, or go online to get through to police.

While 64 per cent of people said the level of communication was 'about right', 32 per cent felt there was too little.

More information about police activities via the media (traditional and non-traditional), and online was highlighted as a key need.

While satisfaction with police is high, people expect to see more police at community events, on the road, and through roadside messaging. An increase in foot patrols during the day was also raised.

While not reflected in crime statistics, crime in the ACT was felt to have increased over the past decade or two.

Many believe this is due to a cultural shift and changing social norms and, interestingly, greater access to information about crime in recent times.

Research objectives

The research was explorative using qualitative analysis (focus groups) and used a quantitative computer aided telephone interview survey of 1200 Canberrans.

The objectives were to:

- understand perceptions towards, and attitudes/opinions about, ACT Policing
- explore the understanding and visual appeal of ACT Policing's look and feel, profiling/positioning and the role of ACT Policing
- identify levels of understanding between the AFP and ACT Policing
- gauge requirements in terms of public/police interface, visibility of policing and future needs/wants
- identify audience segmentation and preferred communication channels, including outreach.



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