

Justice satisfied in four year swot

Four-and-a-half years ago three experienced AFP members, each a family man, embarked on the long road to tertiary qualifications — an Associate Diploma in Justice Administration.

And each was successful; a remarkable achievement considering they achieved success despite the hardest of 'doubles' — studying part-time and by correspondence.

The best indication of the hardship was the course drop-out rate. In their class it was well over 50 per cent.

The successful trio is Senior Sergeant Bede Price, Senior Sergeant Terry Paff and Station Sergeant Bryan Hepworth.

All three are based at the City Station in Canberra.

"The course, at Mitchell College of Advanced Education, Bathurst, NSW, was designed in conjunction with the NSW Police Department," said Terry Paff.

"Initially, our class consisted of some 60 or 70 officers, the great majority of them from the New South Wales Police. There was, of course, a very high drop-out rate."

The Mitchell CAE handbook says: "The aim of the 18 unit course is to enable officers of the police forces and correctional institutions to develop competence in the analysis and use of management practices and to develop skills in the areas of leadership, communication and counselling."

"The course is recognised by the New South Wales Police Department and the New South Wales Department of Corrective Services as criterion for promotion within the respective departments."

All three AFP members now have enrolled for the Bachelor Business Studies course, but will probably take the usual year-long spell before beginning studies.

For those interested in the Associate Diploma in Justice Administration course, there is an initial two bridging units (both compulsory and probably pre-requisites) in research and reading skills and research skills and report writing. There are 11 core units, again compulsory, four strand units and one elective unit.

The core units include two units each in Sociology of Crime Deviance and Psychology in Law Enforcement and two units as an introduction to psychology and sociology. There are also units on the criminal justice system and criminal law and process, as well as evidence and procedure, and politics.



• Distinguished in their caps and gowns, are from left, Bede Price, Terry Paff and Bryan Hepworth.

EXERCISE TESTS SOT COMMUNICATIONS

Fast action saves a 'visiting' diplomat

By PHILIP CASTLE, of The Canberra Times

There was a break in the International Hockey Championships at the Bruce National Stadium and a number of people took the opportunity to go to the toilets, including one of the Asian Ambassadors resident in Canberra.

Just as he was about to leave the toilet block, two men, with a woman watching outside, grabbed him and tussled him back into the toilet area.

There were a few screams and shouts as the two men produced guns and warned everyone to keep away. No one argued.

A police officer nearby was told. The message came through that the Ambassador had been taken hostage in exchange for the release of a political prisoner jailed in his home country.

It was at that point that the Aust-



• On the alert during the SOT exercise.



• Checking over a car at the scene for possible bombs.

ralian Federal Police counter terrorist machine swung into operation.

Real situation? No, on this occasion it was just a procedures operation to test the response and paper work, particularly the communications.

Within 30 minutes the area was cordoned off and about 30 Special Operations Division members were at the scene in the background. The long wait to see what the terrorists were going to do had begun.

Two expert hostage negotiators were called in. A special communications van and side tent were set up. The forward headquarters, filling in for the City Police station, was set up at the Ginninderra Water Police Station, about six kilometres away.

It was soon discovered that a car parked under one of the main light poles had at least one bomb placed in it.

A similar make car was parked some distance away so that every step could be tested before it was performed on the suspect car. Ultimately both cars would become partially dismantled.

The overall officer-in-charge of the training exercise was Chief Superintendent Chris Campbell-Thompson. He said the exercise was a test of procedures mainly but other police besides the SOT members would get useful experience.

He said the scenario did have some similarities with the Olympic Games at Munich. He agreed that the Bruce National Stadium had been chosen partly because it

would be the site of the World Cup Athletics in October next year.

He said he would be worried if the exercise produced no bugs.

When foul-ups occurred the exercised stopped to sort them out. As expected, there were sufficient foul-ups to satisfy Chief Superintendent Campbell-Thompson and others that it had been worthwhile.

According to Inspector John Sharp, the terrorists ultimately moved to a simulated airport — in fact the AFP's services centre at Weston about 15 kilometres away — where the exercise ended at about 11pm.

Part of the exercise involved escorting a vehicle carrying the terrorists and hostage and securing a safe route through the streets of Canberra.

One side aspect that was intriguing was the nonchalant way that those workmen, athletes and visitors to the Stadium took the whole exercise. Apart from a brief one paragraph report in The Canberra Times that the exercise would be held, most people there knew nothing of it.

From their only mild curiosity they were not at all put off by having police vehicles parked about, a bomb squad defusing a car and SOT members moving about in full rig, including their M-16s.

A few, and a very few at that, asked a couple of questions and then went on their way. Most considered it to be very much what they expected to see or didn't notice at all.

One lonely painter did, however, get a start when at the beginning of the operation he was in the toilet block and was confronted with some armed people who seemed to be very serious about what they were doing.

Somehow, he had not been told and the first he knew about it was looking down a gun barrel. After a few quiet words he calmed down and agreed to move and paint elsewhere for that day.

BMWs IN NT

In the story about new AFP BMW motorcycles in the sixth issue, reference was made to NSW Police as being the only Police Force in Australia using BMW machines. Senior Constable Dennis McGuinness, of Darwin, informs us that the NT Police have 10 BMWs — 8 in Darwin and 2 in Alice Springs. The NT Police introduced them in December 1982 to replace 750cc Hondas.

Dennis sent the picture below of Senior Constable Martin Hollaway, of NTPOL astride one of the NT machines.



MEDALS

In our issue of October, 1984, the story on the Police Olympics in Phoenix, Arizona, gave the number of medals won by AFP members as 19. Platypus has now been informed that the total was 21. The medal count for Leanne Lomas should have read: 4x50m. freestyle relay, Gold; 10kms road race, Silver; 50kms breaststroke, Silver; 100m. breaststroke, 100m. butterfly, 200m. individual medley, 1500m. track (all Bronze). Leanne also came fourth in both the 5-mile cross country run, and the 5kms track.