

# TOP-LEVEL PROMOTIONS

## HE PLANNED HIS OWN HQ

**A**SSISTANT Commissioner Walter Williams' recent return as Commander Southern Region was a matter of *deja vu*. It was while he was Officer-in-Charge on his previous tour of duty in Victoria in 1984-85 that he initiated the proposals which culminated in the AFP's new Regional Headquarters in La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

Mr Williams, 52, comfortably fits the title 'career police officer' having joined the Victoria Police when he was 21. He served with the State police for 13 years during which time he studied at Melbourne University and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1969.

He continued his studies for a further year and was awarded a Diploma in Criminology.

In 1970, Mr Williams decided on a change in career path, rather than direction, and he signed up with the then Commonwealth Police.

During his early years with 'COM-POL' Mr Williams recognised the enormous value computer facilities would be as an aid to policing, especially in the area of intelligence. He pressed for the use of new technology and is today regarded as a pioneer in that specialised field.

Mr Williams was responsible for the development of today's AFP national computer system.

Recognition for his invaluable contribution in this area came in the form of a Queen's Police Medal, awarded in the 1979 New Year's Honours List.

Further acknowledgement of his expertise came in 1981 when he was appointed Deputy Director of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, a post he held for the next two years.

Mr Williams was promoted to Assistant Commissioner last year and appointed to head the Services Department. He takes over in Melbourne from Assistant Commissioner Brian Bates, now Commander ACT Region. •



*Assistant Commissioner Williams.*

## BEAT IS ONE OF BIGGEST

**A**SSISTANT Commissioner W. (Bill) L. Antill, Officer-in-Charge, Northern Region has been honoured by His Excellency, the Governor-General, with the award of the Australian Police Medal.

Mr Antill, whose "patch" includes the Northern Rivers area of NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territory — one of the most extensive police beats in the world — began his career as a constable with the old ACT force in 1960. That was a time before Canberra had its first traffic lights and when parking metres had not begun to sprout in the national capital. Traffic and Prosecuting were some of his early duties.

Rising steadily through the ranks, Mr Antill was Superintendent in command of the ACT Legal Division, Senior Police Prosecutor and in command of the General Policing Division before being seconded to the Task Force which led to the establishment of the AFP in 1978.

He was next appointed to Officer-in-Charge of Eastern Division, being later seconded in 1986 to the directing staff of the Police Staff College at Bramshill, Hampshire, England. During this duty he inspected several British police forces, concentrating much attention on community policing. He also visited European forces and then Washington DC and Los Angeles.

On return to Australia, Mr Antill

was appointed in October 1987 to control of the Internal Investigations Division before posting to his present appointment in October. •

## NEW HEAD OF SERVICES

**T**HE Commissioner announced the appointment of Commander Phil Baer as Assistant Commissioner (Services) on 10 March. He takes command of Computer Services, Electronic Services, Logistic Services and the Telephone Interception Division.

"The future will see the AFP employing much new technology," he said. "We are currently updating our forensic and computing facilities, and are in the early stages of implementing a completely automated electronic mail system".

Phillip William Baer was born in Sydney in 1943. He was a cadet deck officer in the merchant navy for over two years before joining the ACT Police in 1964.

He was dux of Squad 5 of 1964 at the Victoria Police training academy in Melbourne, returning to Canberra to take up general duties. At the police station in the old Jolimont building he was radio operator/watchhouse officer/front counter attendant combined.

In 1965 he transferred to Scientific Section, which then consisted of one other officer, Ian Broomby. He undertook crime scene investigation, photography, fingerprint dusting and bomb response duties while there. He recalls destroying grenades, mortar and artillery shells, and a crude bomb planted at a Canberra hotel.

In 1979, as projects officer with Personnel Division, he and Sergeant Fred Fawkes designed the first AFP organisational structure.

He received a Commissioner's Commendation in 1980 for his role in planning and establishing the Weston Services Centre and AFP College at Weston.

He was appointed to command the International Division in 1988.

Assistant Commissioner Baer was awarded the Australia Day Medal on 26 January 1988 and received a second Commissioner's Commendation for his services to the AFP. •