

# State and Federal co-operation in forming Haiti contingent

By Terry Browne



Members of the Haiti Contingent departing Canberra Airport.

**F**OLLOWING an announcement on September 21 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Gareth Evans and the Minister for Justice Mr Duncan Kerr that Australia would lend its support to the restoration of democracy in Haiti, the AFP started the process of providing 30 police volunteers to help monitor the

maintenance of law and order in Haiti for six months.

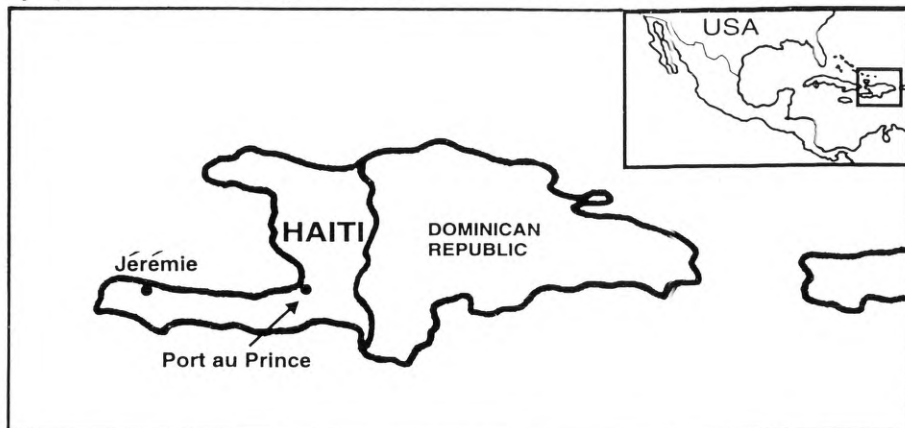
Australian police will form part of a UN-sanctioned multinational force which includes contingents from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Argentina and Bangladesh.

“The role of the Australian police

will be to accompany the Haitian police on patrols and be stationed with them at police posts to encourage proper policing procedures, they would not, however, be required to enforce Haitian law,” the Ministers said.

For the first time in thirty years State police were invited to join an AFP contingent serving overseas. A combined State and Federal contingent has not been formed since the early years of UN policing in Cyprus. The 30-strong contingent that left for Haiti on October 28 included three Victoria Police and two Queensland Police who were sworn in as AFP special members for the duration of the tour. The contingent included three policewomen; two from Canberra and one from Southern Region.

The responsibility of raising the contingent fell to the General Policing



Policy and Arrangements Division, which administers all of the AFP's overseas peacekeeping commitments.

Head of the division, Mr John Ireland, said that the limited time frame available to assemble the contingent put to the test the resourcefulness of his people to get the contingent away on time.

He said that the job could not have been done without the combined efforts of many AFP divisions which contributed to the selection, training and outfitting of the contingent members.

"In the time available, we have given the contingent the best preparation possible," John Ireland said.

Training for the contingent included learning the safety aspects of working with helicopters, as well as crash and rescue procedures.

Contingent members were trained to drive four-wheel-drive vehicles and in anti-personnel mine awareness.

The mine awareness training was carried out by army engineers who took members of the contingent through mine identification procedures and explained the way mines should be marked if they are discovered.

On September 26 it was announced that Commander Alan Bird would lead the contingent. Commander Bird brought to the position 35 years of police experience which includes a period as commander of AUST-CIVPOL in Cyprus during 1986-87.

Commander Bird left for Haiti a fortnight before the contingent for two weeks briefing by US authorities in Puerto Rico and to reconnoitre the situation for the AFP contingent.



An Army explosives expert instructing Haiti Contingent members on marking off suspected mine locations.

The contingent joined him on October 28 and received orientation training at Camp Santiago, located about one hour out of San Juan.

After a short sojourn in Port au Prince the contingent is accommodated in the only hotel in Jeremie, the 'luxurious' La Cabane. The members remain in high spirits and have commenced patrols with the Haitians.

Constable Andrew Brown remains in Port au Prince serving as the liaison officer. Mail to contingent members must be addressed as follows:

**Surname, Initial of first name  
Operation Uphold Democracy  
Australian IPM  
Post Master Military Forces  
Port au Prince  
HAITI**

## Members of the Haiti Contingent

Commander Alan Bird

Superintendent John Cooper  
Superintendent Edmund Cox

Sergeant Bruce Brown  
Sergeant Ray Carlin  
Sergeant Chris Dent  
Sergeant Ian Standish  
Sergeant Murray Turk  
Sergeant Shane Williams (QLD)

Constable John Andersen  
Constable Glen Askew (Vic)  
Constable Shaun Bennetts  
Constable Peter Weedon  
Constable Paul McEwan  
Constable Steve Hardy  
Constable John Pearce  
Constable Sharon McTavish  
Constable Peter Puddy (Vic)  
Constable Patricia Reynolds  
Constable Jacques Roussety  
Constable Andrew Brown  
Constable Adrian Selkirk  
Constable John Straskye  
Constable Bill Townsend  
Constable Robert Sobey  
Constable Mark Leonhardt  
Constable John Lewis (QLD)  
Constable Trevor McNaught  
Constable Delia Quigley  
Constable Bruce Segrave (Vic)



The Haiti Contingent includes three women. From left, Detective Constables Sharon McTavish, ACT Region, Dee Quigley, SID, and Trish Reynolds, Southern Region.