

Australian policing at its finest

The first half of 2008 has resulted in a range of operational successes for the AFP and its international law enforcement partners. The commitment, excellence and dedication of AFP personnel in protecting the interests of Australians at home and overseas have earned praise around the world.

The AFP has continued to perform at its finest in a range of international operational success during the past six months. Closer to home, the AFP has been honoured for its strong bilateral relationship with Singapore's law enforcement authorities.

In May, the President of the Republic of Singapore Mr Sellapan Ramanathan, presented Commissioner Keelty with Singapore's Distinguished Service Order. Commissioner Keelty was pleased to accept the award in recognition of the great working partnerships the AFP has with its regional neighbours including Singapore's Police Force.

The following achievements in 2008 provide a snap-shot of the AFP's global capacity that has developed through strong partnerships.

In June, a two-year AFP investigation spanning three continents culminated in the arrest of 15 people and the dismantling of a criminal syndicate. The highly-sensitive investigation – unprecedented in its complexity and multi-jurisdictional coordination – required more than 250 officers from law enforcement agencies in Australia, The Netherlands, Pakistan and Thailand, and brought down a sophisticated



President S.R. Nathan and Commissioner Keelty with Mrs Nathan, SPF Commissioner Khoo Boon Hui AO, Mrs Betty Khoo, Mrs Keelty, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Mr Wong Kan Sent and Mrs Ruth Wong and other senior SPG officials

syndicate which had been responsible for the global production and distribution of illegal narcotics.

In the same month, a second major international success for the AFP was achieved when one of its largest investigations, conducted simultaneously by law enforcement authorities in 170 countries, identified 90 alleged child pornographers in Australia and demonstrated the organisation's commitment to respond to and disrupt online child abuse.

In March, a three-year investigation by the AFP, US Drug Enforcement Agency and Hellenic [Greek] Police, into the importation of 100,000 MDMA tablets into Greece resulted in three people, including one Australian, receiving 20-year sentences in Greece.

In the same month, the Royal Malaysia Police invited the AFP's Specialist Response Amphetamine Type Stimulants team to assist in the examination, decommissioning and analysis of a sophisticated clandestine drug manufacture laboratory.

An alleged sex trafficking syndicate worth more than \$3 million a year was also



uncovered in Australia in a joint operation with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). National Manager for Border and International, Tim Morris said the arrests highlighted the way DIAC and the AFP worked together to stamp out the exploitation of those who arrive in Australia seeking work.

"This investigation ... prevented more women from being lured into such terrible circumstances," Assistant Commissioner Morris said. "While the number of trafficking victims in Australia is low, this is a very serious crime and the AFP continues to work with other agencies, including the Korean National Police Agency, to fight trafficking and provide support to victims."

AFP assistance to the Royal Thai Police and the Royal Malaysian Police in developing a strategy to investigate a narcotics syndicate based in Kuala Lumpur resulted in the arrest of five people in Malaysia who were planning to import a quantity of cocaine from South America, via Malaysia to Australia.

The December edition of *Platypus* will feature a 12 month review of key events and significant AFP operations of the year.