

2008 – Year in review

January

- ▶ **The AFP hosts the second** Radicalisation in Australian Prisons Seminar on 23 January. Participants endorsed the establishment of a working group to develop and implement counter-radicalisation strategies.
- ▶ **The Australian Government's** E-security National Agenda II program develops prevention strategies to mitigate identity theft relating to online fraud. Participants include the AFP's Joint Banking and Financial Sector Investigation Team, the financial sector, government departments and the IT industry.
- ▶ **AFP provides a member to fill the** role of Security Advisor to the Secretary of State (Security) in Timor-Leste. Commander Grant Edwards deploys to fill the position, and is also Commander International Deployment Group – Timor-Leste.

February

- ▶ **Operation Comity.** The first operational deployment for the International Deployment Group's Operational Response Group. Following the shooting of Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos Horta and an attack on Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao's motorcade, the AFP deploys 70 members to Timor-Leste in response to a request from its Government.

- ▶ **The Street Review.** On 29 February the Review findings are delivered to AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty. In November 2007, the review was established at the request of Commissioner Keelty to inquire into various aspects of AFP national security-related operations and the interaction between the AFP and its national security agency partners in relation to such operations. The Review recommended ways to maximise interoperability between all parties involved in national security.



- ▶ **The AFP provides 10 personnel** to the Timor-Leste Prosecutor General's taskforce at the request of the Government of Timor-Leste. Investigations advisors, intelligence advisors and forensics support deployed under the International Stabilisation Force after assassination attempts on the President and Prime Minister of Timor-Leste.





March

- ▶ On 1 March, the AFP forms a new portfolio called High Tech Crime Operations. The new portfolio incorporates the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, AFP Child Protection Operations (formerly OCSET and CST), AFP Technology Enabled Crime, AFP Technical Operations and IDG Special Operations Support Teams.
- ▶ The AFP delivers the International Cooperation in Counter Terrorism Workshop to the Philippines National Police at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. This workshop is part of the AFP's offshore counter terrorism exercise program funded under the *Regional Law Enforcement Counter Terrorism Liaison and Capacity Building New Policy Initiative*.



- ▶ *Exercise CyberStorm II* conducted in Australia, the United States, New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom. The AFP, in close collaboration with Government agencies and private sector partners, investigates and mitigates mock cyber attacks on Australia's national information and critical infrastructure by strategic planning, information sharing and interagency coordination.

April

- ▶ The AFP Community Liaison Team (formerly known as the Islamic Liaison Team) and Essendon Football Club jointly host the 'Unity Cup' family day celebration, uniting multicultural communities through their appreciation of Australian Rules Football.

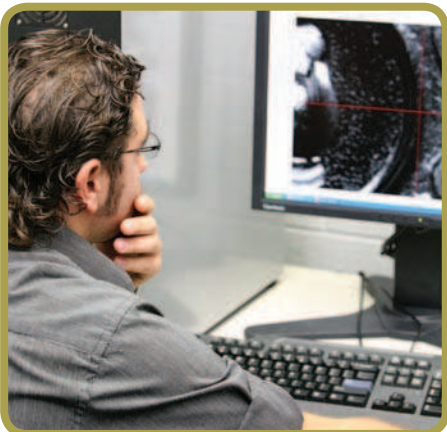


- ▶ On 24 April Canberra hosts the 2008 Olympic torch relay. The AFP presence of more than 550 sworn police members, along with volunteer personnel, ensured that all 80 torchbearers were able to participate. The 16km Canberra relay was the only Australian leg of the Torch Relay which was themed *Journey of Harmony*.
- ▶ Australian High Commissioner to the Republic of Vanuatu John Pilbeam presents two vehicles to Vanuatu Police Force Acting Commissioner Arthur Caulton as part of Australia's continuing assistance to strengthen police services and build public confidence in the work of Vanuatu's police force.
- ▶ International Deployment Group – Operational Response Group's (IDG-ORG) Brisbane accommodation is completed, finalising the construction phase of the ORG establishment. The facility provides the IDG-ORG a specialist base for training and rapid deployment to domestic and international tactical and stability response incidents.



May

- ▶ **AFP Forensic and Data Centres** introduce the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS), enabling the electronic capture and comparison of distinguishing marks on projectiles and cartridge cases.
- ▶ **The AFP's Human Resource and Financial Management system** successfully upgraded to provide additional functionality, including future automation, under Program Hummer. These improvements reduce costs and achieve better outcomes that align with established industry benchmarks.
- ▶ **Operation Ridgecrop/Norway.** Two men plead guilty, one man acquitted of all charges following a joint investigation by the AFP, NSW Police, the NSW Crime Commission and ASIO, with assistance of the Defence Security Authority, into the theft and disposal of light anti-armour weapons from the Australian Defence Force in 2002.



- ▶ **Operation Centurion.** The AFP's High Tech Crime Operations, in conjunction with State and Territory police agencies, coordinate their child protection efforts to execute search warrants for this operation.
- ▶ **The AFP's Senior Liaison Officer** Belgrade and the International Network contribute to the successful extradition to Australia from Greece on 16 May of convicted drug trafficker Tony Mokbel.

June

- ▶ **AFP Forensic and Data Centre opens** a new computer forensic laboratory and a fingerprint enhancement laboratory in conjunction with the Royal Thai Police as part of its offshore capability-building program.
- ▶ **Indonesian National Police (INP)** arrest a Singaporean Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) member in Palembang, Sumatra. The INP Bomb Investigation Team conducted operations against the network in Palembang, arresting nine suspected JI members and seizing 22 improvised explosive devices. The AFP provided analytical and investigative support to the INP.
- ▶ **Operation Statice/Octans.** An AFP investigation spanning three continents culminates in the arrest of 15 people and the dismantling of a criminal syndicate involved in the global production and distribution of narcotics. The operation exposed

a conspiracy to import 600 kilograms of the precursor chemical pseudoephedrine which had the potential to produce 430 kilograms of methamphetamine (ice) with a wholesale value of \$120 million.

July

- ▶ **The Australian Bomb Data Centre** celebrates its 30th anniversary on 1 July with a symposium held at the Australian Defence Force Academy outlining the history of the centre.
- ▶ **The enhanced Timor-Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP)** begins. The program will progressively deploy as many as 80 AFP advisors over two years.
- ▶ **The AFP escorts a delegation of** 10 young Australians to London to participate in the International Youth Advisory Congress (IYAC). Delegates helped create the Children and Young Persons Global Online Charter which will be submitted to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2009.





- ▶ **Forty AFP members deployed to assist NSW Police with security for World Youth Day at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney.**
- ▶ **Criminal Records Enquiry and Disclosure Service (CREADS)** processes its two millionth criminal record check, representing approximately \$79 million in revenue. In 2004 the AFP commissioned CREADS to automate processing national police checks. The AFP liaises with other Australian police jurisdictions and CrimTrac to provide this service. The revenue generated enables CrimTrac to provide national law enforcement computer systems to support policing across Australia.

- ▶ **Minister for Home Affairs** Bob Debus travels to Timor-Leste to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and Timor-Leste on technical cooperation for development relating to the Police Development Program supporting the enhanced TLPDP.
- ▶ **The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)** celebrates its fifth anniversary with country-wide celebrations in the island nation to showcase the relationship between its members and the community.
- ▶ **The Royal Solomon Islands Police** Maritime Division takes a major step forward when RAMSI funds the first Master Class 5 training for Royal Solomon Islands Police officers at the Maritime School, Honiara.



August

- ▶ **Operation Inca.** A 12-month investigation by the AFP and Australian Customs Service smashes an international drug syndicate, culminating in the seizure of 4.4 tonnes of ecstasy and 150 kilograms of cocaine. Twenty-two people are arrested and charged.
- ▶ **The Agreement for Lease for the AFP's proposed headquarters, the Edmund Barton Building, is signed by Commissioner Mick Keelty on 18 August.** The formal lease is expected to begin in mid-2009 and will be for 15 years with two options of five further years.
- ▶ **Operation Araxis.** This multi-jurisdictional operation involving the NSW Crime Commission, NSW Police, AFP and the Australian Customs Service results in the seizure of 662 kg of pseudoephedrine. The drugs, concealed in 45 boxes of fruit juice sent from Thailand, were worth a street value of approximately \$52.8 million.
- ▶ **Wellbeing Peer Support Program is launched on 30 August.** The program trains officers to be a source of information and immediate support for fellow members, helping to create a more positive help-seeking culture across the AFP. They serve as a first line of defence and a bridge to professional help when necessary.



September

- ▶ The AFP hosts Iftars to celebrate the breaking of the fast during Ramadan. Commissioner Keelty joins 265 members from more than 40 different Muslim communities in Melbourne on 7 September. On 16 September Commissioner Keelty and 415 guests break the fast at the Iftar in Sydney.
- ▶ The AFP hosts a Bio-Terrorism Seminar as part of the September-October Multi-Jurisdictional Exercise (Mercury 08).
- ▶ *Operation Orford*. On 10 September, Belal Khazaal is convicted of making a document knowingly connected with terrorism. The AFP arrested and charged Mr Khazaal on 2 June 2004 for terrorism offences in respect of his compilation and publishing of a document on the Internet entitled *Provisions on the Rules of Jihad: Short Judicial Rulings and Organisational Instructions for Fighters and Mujahideen against Infidels*.
- ▶ The SAP Environment Health and Safety module rolls out across the AFP, enabling online processing of workplace incidents and hazards including notification to Comcare of reportable incidents.
- ▶ The Papua New Guinea Government and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) welcome the AFP back to Port Moresby as part of the Papua New Guinea – Australia Policing Partnership.

October

- ▶ On 12 October, the AFP Disaster Victim Identification Team arrives in Nepal and works with the German Disaster Victim Identification Team to identify two Australians killed when flight YT101 from Kathmandu crashed on approach to eastern Nepal's Lukla Airport on 8 October. On 14 October, the Australians were positively identified.
- ▶ *Mercury 08* is the largest counter terrorism exercise ever undertaken in the southern hemisphere, involving more than 4,000 people. The AFP played a central role in the Australian Government response and led the investigation into the offshore maritime component of the themed terrorist incident.

- ▶ The first AFP contingent to Afghanistan returns to Australia after a 12-month mission in Kabul and Jalalabad.
- ▶ Commissioner Keelty, Department of Defence Secretary Nick Warner and Chief of Defence Force Angus Houston sign a Memorandum of Understanding on interoperability between the AFP and the Australian Defence Force.
- ▶ RAMSI Special Coordinator Tim George and Participating Police Force (PPF) Commander Denis McDermott welcome Solomon Islands Prime Minister Derek Sikua, and his Cabinet, to RAMSI headquarters in Honiara. Assistant Commissioner McDermott briefed Dr Sikua and the Cabinet ministers on the new strategy for developing the Solomon Islands Police force, 'Moving Forward Together'.





November

▶ The International Deployment Group (IDG) hosts its first family Open Day. Officially welcomed by Deputy Commissioner National Security John Lawler, families and friends of IDG personnel tour the international training complex and view displays and demonstrations from IDG missions, the K9 facility, firing range and Operational Response Group.

- ▶ On 21 November, John Clarke QC, a former NSW Supreme Court Judge, provides his report on the case of Dr Mohamed Haneef to the Attorney-General.
- ▶ Second anniversary of the multi-agency Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT). The AFP team is comprised of a team leader, four investigators and an intelligence officer, all sworn in as special members of the NT Police. Since the AFP joined CAT in March 2007, the team has dealt with approximately 250 matters, mostly involving child abuse.

December

▶ A crowd of approximately 200,000 people watch as an AFP contingent leads Sydney's second Christmas parade through the city's streets. The contingent is made up of members from ACT Policing, Recognition and Ceremonial and the Sydney office.

