

Empower, protect and pursue

December marks two and a half years since the AFP established the High Tech Crime Operations Portfolio. Headed by Assistant Commissioner Neil Gaughan, it has since evolved into a professional, highly functioning portfolio responsible for some of the AFP's most operationally intense and challenging work.

In November 2010 an Australian man was sentenced in a NSW district court in Sydney for child sex tourism offences committed against teenage boys in Nepal. He was the first to be convicted under offences introduced under the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Offences Against Children) Bill.

The legislative amendments strengthen the AFP's ability to investigate and prosecute Australians who offend against children off-shore, introducing new offences for dealing in child exploitation material overseas and using a postal service for child sex related activity.

Importantly, the Bill recognises the growing convergence between

online crimes against children and child sex tourism.

This case is one of many that the High Tech Crime Operations (HTCO) portfolio is responsible for under its main remit of investigating and prosecuting online child exploitation and protecting Australia's National Information Infrastructure and Critical Infrastructure. HTCO is also responsible for all covert surveillance activities, supplying valuable information in support of AFP operations.

Assistant Commissioner and National Manager of HTCO Neil Gaughan has said that the types of criminality the area deals with are unique and challenge traditional

forms of law enforcement. High Tech Crime Operations are characterised by constant change, as investigations keep pace with emerging technologies and the ways criminals are adopting and exploiting them.

In keeping with its innovative approach to addressing technology crime, HTCO uses a dedicated crime prevention team to develop and implement crime prevention and education strategies to raise awareness of online risks and lessen the impact on the public, businesses and government.

The 2010 calendar for HTCO has been challenging. The portfolio participated in inter-governmental and international forums, including



01: Dr Sue Packer from the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect addresses guests at White Balloon Day. **02:** Deputy Commissioner Michael Phelan and Assistant Commissioner Neil Gaughan at the Parliament House launch of a Symantec public education display titled BLK MKT (Black Market) in November.

the Australian High Tech Crime Conference, the Asia Pacific Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Protective Behaviours Conference and this month it chaired the fourth biennial Virtual Global Taskforce Conference.

Significant resources were also involved in the ThinkUKnow online child safety initiative, National Centre Against Bullying Conference, National Child Protection Week and, for the first time this year, National Missing Persons Week.

Hosted by the AFP and University of Technology Sydney, the High Tech Crime Conference saw domestic and international judicial, legal, government, law enforcement, academic and private sector agencies exchange information on ways to build Australia's capability and response to complex technology crime.

Speaking at the conference, Assistant Commissioner Gaughan said collaboration between agencies is crucial when investigating crimes of a technical nature.

"The breadth of knowledge and expertise necessary to be effective against high tech crime is significant and we must be willing to share our time, efforts, resources and expertise if we are to succeed together," he said.

During the conference, a panel of experts examined the commercial, privacy and law enforcement issues surrounding digital information and the responsibilities and obligations of content service providers.

Another highlight, and the centrepiece of the conference, saw participants examining a

contentious cybercrime case study during a moot court.

In December, HCTO was again in the spotlight, hosting the biennial Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) conference in Sydney. Chaired by Assistant Commissioner Gaughan, the conference attracted more than 200 delegates from areas including law enforcement, industry, academia, the private sector and government and non-government organisations.

Among other topics on the agenda, delegates looked at digital social networking, encryption and emerging technologies, as well as and the effect long term exposure to child abuse material has on law enforcement representatives. A panel session facilitated by Geoffrey Robertson QC was the focus of



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03: The Australian High Tech Crime Conference 2010. **04:** Students look at the ThinkUKnow website at the launch in Sydney. **05:** Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor speaking at the Victorian launch of the ThinkUKnow cyber safety program.

the conference. Titled *Improving International Collaboration in Protecting Children Globally*, panellists addressed a hypothetical scenario relating to global online protection of children.

Established in 2003, VGT members include the AFP, the United Kingdom Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Italian Postal and Communication Police Service, the United States Department of Homeland Security, Interpol, the Ministry of Interior for the United Arab Emirates and the New Zealand Police. The objectives of the VGT is to build an effective, international partnership of law enforcement agencies that helps to protect children from online child abuse.

In September, the AFP was a major promoter of National Child Protection Week. The AFP theme for the week, *Help Us Help Our Children*, focused on keeping children safe in a rapidly changing technological environment.

HTCO hosted a White Balloon Day event at the National Museum of Australia. Students from schools across Canberra were invited to attend the event which included the launch of a 'sexting' video by Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor.

Also in September, responsibility for the National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC) moved to HTCO's Crime Prevention Unit. Throughout 2010, the NMPCC coordinated advertising

campaigns for National Missing Persons Week, National Youth Week, International Missing Children's Day and World Mental Health Day.

In October, *Day for Daniel* celebrated the life of Daniel Morcombe, who went missing in Queensland in 2003. Through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, the day also aims to promote personal safety to the young and vulnerable.

During the past year, the Future Technologies Team has worked closely with Child Protection Operations and in collaboration with Microsoft, the Queensland Police Service and CrimTrac to develop the Australian National Victim Image Library (ANVIL). The library is based on the Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) application. ANVIL has the primary objectives of more effectively and efficiently identifying child victims and their abusers, and minimising investigator exposure to child exploitation materials

The business case for this latest weapon against online paedophilia received approval from the Senior Officers Group in May 2010 and was considered by the nation's police ministers when it was raised at the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management - Police in July 2010.





06: Neil Gain from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft participates in a panel discussion about the future of copyright law in Australia and the role of internet service providers at the Australian High Tech Crime Conference 2010 in Sydney. **07:** Commissioner Tony Negus, Assistant Commissioner Neil Gaughan and Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor at the launch of the Sexual Offences against Children Amendment Bill launch in February. **08:** Commissioner Tony Negus opens the Australian High Tech Crime Conference 2010.

High Tech Investigative Support has helped develop and support the delivery of a focused education program for investigators to up-skill them in online investigations and technology-based criminal activity.

Teams from the High Tech Collection and Capabilities area, including Surveillance, Technical Operations, Telecommunications Interception Division, Technical Capability Delivery and Radio and Electronic support supported operations and developed capabilities for the following AFP portfolios: HTCO, Counter-Terrorism, Intelligence, Serious and Organised Crime, International, Protection

and ACT Policing. Support has also been given to state law enforcement agencies and other Federal Government agencies.

A significant project beyond 2010 for HTCO is the finalisation of an Enhanced Technical Surveillance platform which will combine all telecommunications interception product and surveillance device material providing a suite of advanced analytical tools designed to assist AFP investigations.

A six month evaluation of the Enhanced Technical Surveillance platform system was completed in 2009 and it is set to be introduced

into service soon, initially as a replacement for the AFP Telecommunications Interception system.

