

Commissioner's message



This edition of *AFP Platypus Magazine* celebrates two achievements by the AFP at the international level of law enforcement.

The first of these achievements is the completion of the AFP contribution in Timor-Leste from June 1999 to December 2012.

Saturday 15 December, 2012, marked the homecoming of the AFP's final eight members from Timor-Leste. This signified 13 years of almost unbroken service to the young nation.

Since the initial deployment of our members with the United Nations Mission in East Timor, more than 800 AFP members have worked in Timor-Leste, often in difficult times.

Each one of these members has shared in the development of Timor-Leste as a nation and, in particular, has contributed to the development of the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL).

The AFP was involved at the inception of the PNTL and can be justly proud of the contribution our members have made to its evolution into an effective and stable police service.

The second achievement celebrated in this edition of *Platypus* is the AFP's achievements with the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT).

December 2012 also marked the end of the AFP's three-year tenure as the chair of the VGT, handing over the reins to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

The VGT has developed enormously as an international force against online child exploitation under the guidance and leadership of the AFP and Assistant Commissioner Neil Gaughan from 2009–2012.

The success of Operation Rescue, highlighted in this edition, illustrates the astonishing potential of

international partnerships to value-add to the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

It is a credit to the AFP and its members that our organisation can accept an international leadership role and continue work at such an exceptional level.

This edition also focuses on the ever-expanding use of high technology in crime and the many new and evolving problems that presents to effective law enforcement.

The number of Internet users has grown from 361 million to more than two billion since 2000 and the use of technology has impacted across all crime types. High Tech Crime Organisation (HTCO) is leading the AFP response to criminal use of technology.

An overview of Operation Lino included in the article on HTCO illustrates the difficulty in combating cyber-based crime. Neither the financial system nor the retail businesses targeted could identify how credit-card information was being stolen from point-of-sale outlets.

Operation Lino would eventually prove to be Australian law enforcement's most significant cybercrime investigation. Ultimately, the investigation would lead to Romania and include the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service and the Romanian National Police (RNP).

On 27 November, 2012, more than 200 RNP officers executed 36 search warrants across Romania. More than 150 terabytes of data were seized and 16 people were detained by police. Seven of them were arrested and charged.

Again, the diligence and professionalism of AFP investigators in collaboration with international partners serves to illustrate the AFP vision to fight crime together and win.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. W. Negus'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Commissioner TW Negus