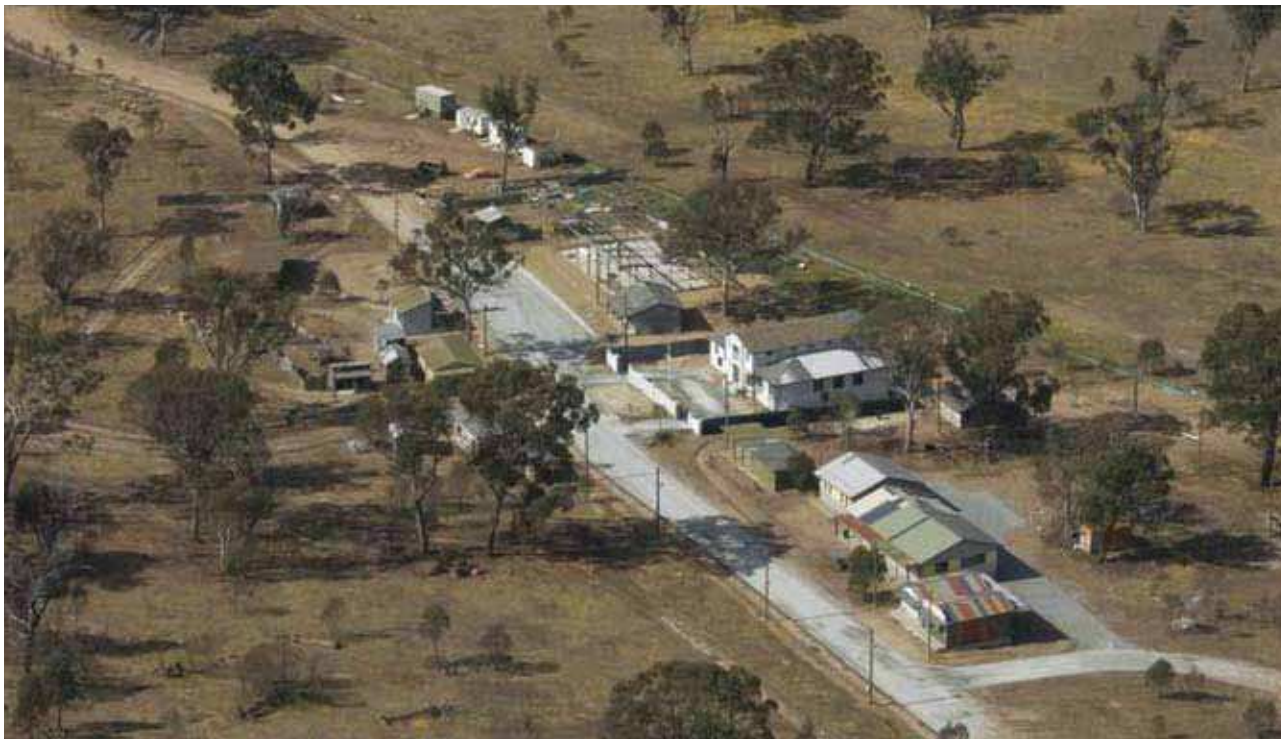


IDG – one year on



AFP training complex at Majura

By Federal Agent Paul Jevtovic, National Manager IDG



Australia's ability to fight terrorism and transnational organised crime was significantly strengthened through the provision of regional capacity building missions following the announcement by the Prime Minister of the formation of the International Deployment Group (IDG) last February.

Under the command of Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Mick Keelty the IDG is assisting regional law enforcement agencies and contributing to the maintenance of a safe, stable and secure region.

Prior to the IDG's formation, arrangements for Australian police serving overseas was essentially mission focused with AFP members deploying to Cyprus, Timor-Leste (East Timor) and the Solomon Islands under the banner of Peace Operations.

Eighteen months on, IDG members are deployed to missions in the Solomon Islands, Cyprus, Timor-Leste, Jordan and Nauru, and have worked in PNG under the Enhanced Cooperation Program (ECP)

The IDG is further complemented through the Australian Government's commitment to the Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP), which is successfully delivering mutually beneficial law enforcement outcomes and capacity building initiatives throughout our region and increasingly throughout the world.

Through the various missions and programs, the IDG banner provides AFP and state and territory police members with the opportunity to experience policing on a whole new level, and to participate in extraordinary and challenging work. Training Iraqi police in Jordan, a police advisor in Nauru, assisting in development programs or peacekeeping in Timor-Leste, peacekeeping in Cyprus, and becoming mentors to members of the Royal Solomon Island Police (RSIP) and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) are examples of how Australian police are making a difference.

State police involvement

There are a number of critical support functions to IDG operations, including Project Belmopan, which involved the negotiation, recruitment and training of state and territory police for international deployment.

More than 80 officers have been seconded to the IDG from Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia police services. The majority of members have deployed to the Solomon Islands, plus two to Timor-Leste, one to Cyprus and two members to Jordan. The Northern Territory Police have also committed to international deployments.

The benefits these officers bring include experiences and skills that contribute to the overall effectiveness of the IDG. Deployment periods for state and territory police range from 60 to 80 weeks service, depending on each individual Memorandum of Understanding.

Early planning has commenced for the first Victorian police rotations to commence in January 2006, which demonstrates the committed relationship between the AFP and the state and territory police services. It is anticipated this relationship will continue for the duration of the IDG. Ongoing negotiations are still underway with NSW and Queensland police services.

Pre-deployment training

In order for members to be deemed suitable for international deployment, a number of gateways have to be successfully completed, including attending International Deployment Pre-Deployment Training (IDPT). The training package delivered

today has expanded dramatically since Australian police were first deployed to Cyprus in 1964.

Through Learning and Development, and under the School of Peacekeeping Operations, the success of IDPT has been attributed to maintaining original training concepts. The course is designed to introduce scenario-based training delivered in an adult learning environment, with a key factor being the knowledge of experiences gained from members from previous missions. The training cycle is comprised of three stages: IDPT, which is a two-week generic program; mission specific information sessions conducted immediately prior to deployment and in-country briefings.

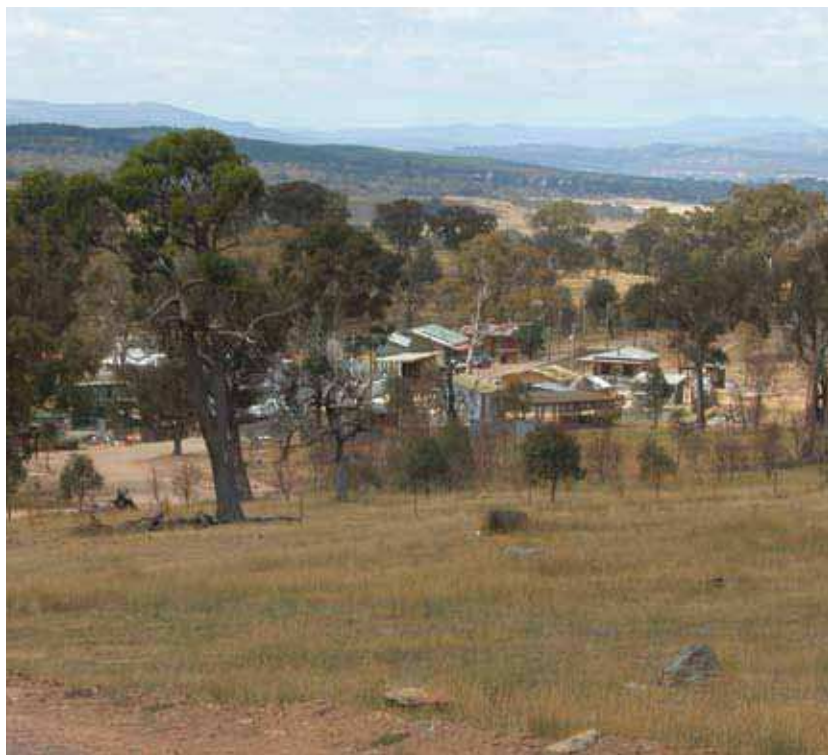
Throughout the training, the IDG focuses on building the knowledge and skills of Australian police, so they become effective advisors and mentors.

During 2004, 745 members successfully completed IDPT, including members from the AFP Protective Service (PS), VICPOL, TASPOL, SAPOL, WAPOL, police from Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Nauru, Kiribati, Fiji and one officer from the NSW Fire Brigade Service.

Training complex

Members undertake their IDPT at the AFP training complex located at Majura. This training facility is suitable for use by all areas of the AFP and provides state, territory and international police with the opportunity to train in an environment similar to conditions at some overseas missions.

The IT system provides trainers with the capability of replaying video of training scenarios and students are able to receive debriefing and evaluations with footage relevant to their training. The complex has also recently been used for Disaster Victim Identification and Operational Response Team training scenarios.



AFP training complex at Majura

Current missions

Solomon Islands

The Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands commenced on 24 July 2003, and since day one the AFP has played a leading role. It is expected Australian police will be involved in the mission for a number of years to tackle ongoing law and order issues. RAMSI is also assisting in development and training to rebuild the reputation, capacity and effectiveness of the RSIP.

The largest and most visible element of RAMSI is the PPF which comprises police from Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Cook Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea. They are currently led by Federal Agent Sandi Peisley, who is both Commander PPF and a Deputy Commissioner in the RSIP. Commander Peisley took over the position on 24 July 2004, replacing the original Commander, Federal Agent Ben McDevitt.

Now focused on building capacity and capability, the PPF work alongside the RSIP as advisors to investigate serious crime, remove illegal weapons from the community and dismantle militant groups and organised crime syndicates. The PPF also provide

training and are assisting to reform the RSIP, with the introduction of recognised professional standards.

The initial deployment met with overwhelming support from the Solomon Islands community and made significant operational gains. More than 4000 arrests were made, including powerful militant leaders and corrupt police officers and more than 3700 weapons were collected during gun amnesties, 670 of which were military-style weapons.

Many villages now have signs that declare them weapons free. To mark the significance of this, a dawn dedication service was held in July 2004 where signatories and officials marked the burial of all weapons seized by RAMSI. They now lie buried under a monument at Police Memorial Park at Rove. An adjacent monument pays tribute to the memory of all police officers killed on duty.

A stone monument seals the weapons burial place with a plaque which reads: "Sealed beneath this monument are the destroyed remains of thousands of weapons surrendered to the National Peace Council and Officers of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands July 2003 to July 2004. Working together as friends and partners with the people and government to restore law and order and establish a gun free Solomon Islands."

Members are located in Honiara and at 16 police posts established throughout the provinces. The presence of PPF personnel throughout the country has resulted in a significant improvement in stability of the government, with the PPF role developing from front-line policing to one of training and capacity building.

Since the commencement of RAMSI, members of the RSIP have taken a number of steps forward, including the graduation of new members.

Instrumental in this achievement has been the assistance provided under the PPF which has allowed AFP personnel to



CPPF Sandi Peisley (far left) gives encouragement to PPF members at the weekly Commander's muster.

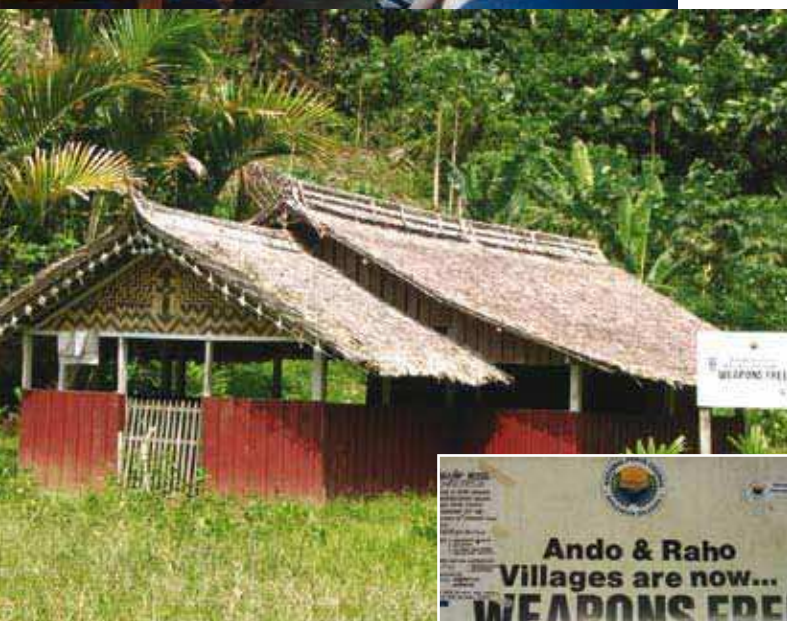


Photo above: Tita village church with the weapons free sign at its entrance.

Photo inset: Weapons Free sign at the entrance to Ando and Raho village.





1. New Royal Solomon Islands Police pose for their graduation photo.
2. The RAMSI monument that sits atop the remains of weapons that almost destroyed a nation.
3. RSIP fire fighters publicly display their capabilities
4. The fire that destroyed the Honiara supermarket.
5. RSIP vessel 'Jackpot'



assist with the recruiting campaign and selection process and providing much needed support through on-the-job training and specific in-service training. More than 120 recruits will be required each year for the next four years to bring the RSIP up to its required strength.

Once within the RSIP, members are able to enhance their skills in a number of policing areas, including general duties, investigations, prosecution, maritime duties, and the Fire Service. In order to effectively rebuild the RSIP Fire Service, a fire-fighting capacity review was conducted in late 2003 by a NSW Fire Brigades Inspector. In response to that review, the IDG provided \$1.2m of fire fighting equipment and vehicles with the first two vehicles being handed over on 28 January. The drive to modernise fire fighting services was highlighted by a major fire at a shopping centre in Honiara which caused significant financial loss to the business community.

Because of the hundreds of islands, and the harsh terrain restricting access to many areas by vehicle, there is also a requirement for qualified RSIP coxswains. Members are required to graduate with a master class 1V from the School of Marine and Fisheries, with qualified officers enhancing policing capabilities throughout provincial areas, particularly in remote and isolated island communities.

The live-in course takes one month and requires officers to develop skills such as navigation, seamanship, nautical knowledge, communications, outboard motor maintenance and basic sea safety skills.

Forty seven members completed the course in 2004, utilising their skills on vessels known as Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, a number of which were recently commissioned for use by the RSIP.

Other successes of this mission include the work of members outside normal hours, as was evident in *Operation Decoration*, where PPF members transformed the Red Cross Special Development Centre for Children with tinsel and Christmas decorations. Early the following morning more than 40 excited children arrived for a Christmas party they will never forget. Santa arrived in a new fire truck and gave all the children a gift purchased by the RAMSI social club.



Police Officer Alice from RPNGC and Santa meet the children



Henderson Village children in front of their new shelter



Everyone gathered for a group photo



Bottom left: construction stage of the shelter.

Bottom right: PS Inspector Wrench at the hand over.



Soon after the arrival of Protective Service members' contingent 5A, they had an extra item on their already busy agenda. The nearby Henderson village needed a school shelter, and every weekend for three months, a dedicated team went into construction mode until a shelter was completed in November 2004. The opening involved a sausage sizzle where the children were given books and materials purchased with donations from the PS officers to use under their new shelter.

Papua New Guinea

AAP members first arrived in Bougainville in late August 2004, and in September 2004 arrived in Port Moresby. They were deployed across a wide range of areas including general duties, CID, forensics, prosecutions, national fraud and anti-corruption, communications, transnational crime and administrative support.

Following a constitutional challenge to the legality of the ECP brought by the Governor of the Morobe Province, Luther Wenge, the PNG Supreme Court found that elements of the treaty and enabling legislation were not consistent with the PNG Constitution, particularly sections relating to immunities and police powers which significantly impact on the operation of AFP personnel.

As a result, and at the direction of the Australian Government, AFP members left PNG and returned to Australia on 17 May to a warm welcome by family, friends and work colleagues.

Assistant Commissioner Tony Wagambie (left) and Commander Barry Turner cut the ribbon at Waigani Police Station welcoming ceremony.

The RPNGC and AAP first became jointly operational in December when AAP officers commenced patrols from Gordon police station into the streets of Port Moresby.

Public applause met the first mobile and foot patrols as they left the police station. RPNGC members at Waigani and Badilli were joined by their Australian counterparts on patrol on 31 January as the AAP contingent expanded its operations.

One of the biggest events of 2004 was the first-ever Christmas concert, a free event staged at Boroko Police Station, made possible by the support of local businesses and coordinated by members of the RPNGC and AAP.

The success of the concert was both as a community event bringing together police and the residents of Port Moresby, and as a fund raiser. A cheque for more than K12, 500 was presented to the Port Moresby Cancer Relief Society by RPNGC Commissioner Sam Inguba.

Another community service followed an urgent request to AAP in Arawa, Bougainville to donate blood to help with the ongoing treatment of a young Bougainville women suffering from severe anaemia.

AAP members were happy to assist, and the young patient responded well to her treatment.

I wish to thank you very much for having such a “Good Samaritan” spirit and donating much needed high haemoglobin fresh Australian and Kiwi blood.

The poor anaemic patients from distant areas of Bougainville without “wantoks” to donate blood have benefited and in fact some have left hospital before we would officially discharge them.

The local media showed a keen interest in the AAP deployment to Waigani and Badillia Stations.

The local Padre prayed at the Waigani police station opening.



Our hopeful return

National Manager IDG, Federal Agent Paul Jevtovic, remains confident of our return to PNG.

"First and foremost in the minds of the AFP Executive is the safety and wellbeing of our people anywhere in the world," he said. "We will continue to play our role with the whole of government framework to find solutions to the current issues.

Jordan

This mission began in May 2004, following the invitation in late 2003 to Australia from UK authorities to help British and coalition police train thousands of Iraqi's who had volunteered to become police officers in a multinational program.

After detailed planning and preparations, two AFP trainers deployed, not to Iraq, but to the Jordan International Police Training Centre (JIPTC), which is a large, purpose-built police training facility. The trainers have extensive operational experience in community policing, investigations and intelligence and are qualified instructors.

The AFP will continue to maintain involvement in Jordan until JIPTC concludes its mandate in December 2006. By that time, 32,000 new Iraq police recruits will have been trained at the centre.

The subjects members instruct upon include: women in policing; human rights and the police service; police ethics; communication skills; first response tactics and procedures; mine awareness; note taking skills and interviewing techniques.

Nauru

An MOU was signed between the Australian and Nauruan Governments to assist with governance difficulties in the island nation, including the provision of police support to the Nauruan Police Force.



Federal Agents Alan Ross (left) and Andrew Clarke (right)



Timor-Leste contingent 13

Federal Agent Alan Ross and Federal Agent Andrew Clarke were deployed to the positions of Director of Policing and Senior Police Adviser in November 2004. They assist the Nauruan Police Force to increase skills, accountability and professionalism in the force and reduce the backlog of prosecutions. This mission is part of a multi-agency approach with officials from other departments already deployed to provide critical expertise to the Government of Nauru.

Nauru is also the site of an overseas asylum-seeker processing centre which is protected by the PS function of the AFP.

Timor-Leste

The commitment to Timor-Leste began when the United Nations supervised a referendum in August 1999, which was to begin a process of independence for East Timor. In October 1999 the mandate changed and the mission became that of a transitional administration.

AFP staff were among the first police deployed, and sixteen IDG members, both AFP and state police, remain in Timor-Leste. In addition to the deployment of Australian police personnel an AFP member is currently the Deputy Senior Police Advisor to the UN.

The mission has an emphasis on providing technical advisors to Timor-Leste and helping to build and train local police, after the withdrawal of the previous Indonesian police. In addition, there are eight AFP members involved in an ongoing AFP/AusAID capacity-building initiative.

Timor-Leste is an example of the AFP's continuing work to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies throughout the Asia-Pacific in a bid to fight transnational crime including people smuggling and money laundering.

The role of the UN Civilian Police in Timor-Leste is ongoing, enabling the establishment of the Timor-Leste Police. Today UN Civilian Police perform a technical advisor role to Timor's national police service.

The UN successor mission is called the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL). With the mandate for UNMISSET expiring on 19 May, UNOTIL is set to run for another 12 months.

The AFP is continuing to contribute to UNOTIL with four members, down from the 17 working in UNMISSET.

In July 2004, the AFP and AusAID mobilised a team of police advisers into Dili as part of the Timor-Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP). The team comprises six AFP members and six advisers who have been contracted and funded by AusAID. The purpose of the program is to assist the Timor-Leste Government's own efforts to promote and maintain a safe, stable environment conducive to economic and social development and sustainable poverty reduction. Areas of focus include crime prevention and community safety; investigations and operations; training and development; administration, oversight and strategy including financial, human resource and logistics and asset management.

AFP members have established a support link with the Santa Clara Orphanage in the village of Villa Verde, Dili. Santa Clara is a small orphanage headed by two Catholic madres – or sisters – both from Sumatra. There are 12 children at the orphanage, ranging in age from 4 to 12 years old. They have been at the orphanage since 1999 when they were separated from their families during the conflict.



Portable disaster victim Identification Lab

The TLPDP team volunteered to sponsor the orphanage with donations collected once a month from members, with the money being used to provide food and other supplies for the children. At the end of the week, team members visit local markets to buy fruit, vegetables and fish for the children. They also donate their time teaching English, running movie afternoons and taking the children to the beach.

Cyprus

There are currently 15 AFP members deployed to the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which commenced in May 1964.

Mission objectives include policing the official buffer zone separating Greek and Turkish Cypriots, ensuring humanitarian assistance is provided and creating an environment for reunification.

After the recent referendum failed to unify the country, the south joined the European Union. The future of UNFICYP is uncertain and the AFP's involvement is assessed with each new six-month deployment.

The island of Cyprus is currently divided by the official buffer zone into a Greek Cypriot south and Turkish Cypriot north. The two sides are separated by a thin strip of land patrolled by the UNFICYP, which consists of personnel from more than 15 nations, with Australia being one of the few nations to have been involved since its early days.

AFP members deal with emerging civilian policing issues among the local communities, working alongside police from the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands and India. Australia's contribution to this mission is the longest sustained commitment to international policing in the world and the 41st anniversary of the AFP in Cyprus was celebrated on 27 May.

Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP)

The LECP was established in July 1998 from the second instalment of funding provided under the National Illicit Drugs Strategy (NIDS) and initially involved countries in the Asia Pacific region; however further funding has enabled the program to expand its activities to include the Pacific and the Americas.

LECP provides capacity building and assistance programs designed to identify, prevent, disrupt, dismantle and prosecute transnational crime activity. The major aim of the program is to strengthen the capability of foreign law enforcement agencies to gather information and evidence against organised crime groups through education, training programs and the provision of equipment, while fostering closer personal and institutional linkages.

In July 2004, LECP implemented a strategic three-year planning cycle to enable larger and more sustainable capacity-building projects.

LECP is currently implementing the following major project activities.

Asia:

- Funding support to maintain a Thai response team at Bangkok International Airport;
- Information technology and high tech surveillance equipment for Cambodian National Police Central Department of Security;
- Equipment and funding support for the Cambodian National Police Anti-Human Trafficking Department;
- Funding support to maintain the joint AFP/Cambodian National Police Transnational Crime Team in Phnom Penh;
- Funding support and high tech equipment to the Royal Thai Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau operations in Northern Thailand;

- Annual sponsorship of the Asia Region Heads of Criminal Intelligence Working Group;
- Equipment, training and funding for the Vietnamese Police High Tech Crime Centre in Hanoi; and
- Capacity building and assistance, in partnership with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime for narcotics law enforcement agencies in Guangdong and Fujian provinces, Southern China.

The Pacific:

- The ongoing establishment of a joint transnational crime unit network across the Pacific, including Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, PNG and Vanuatu.
- Funding support to maintain the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre in Suva;
- Establishment of computer-based training schools in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, PNG, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands;
- Conversion of the AFPs basic intelligence course into interactive CD Rom training modules;
- Disaster Victim Identification training, including equipment provision to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, PNG, Fiji and The Philippines; and
- The annual secondment of a Pacific Island law enforcement officer to the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Secretariat in Wellington New Zealand.

The Americas:

- A series of AFP intelligence training workshops in major Colombian cities;
- Financial investigations training programs in Trinidad for Caribbean law enforcement officers;
- English language training for Brazilian Federal Police Drug Investigation Division; and
- Secondment of a Colombian law enforcement officer to assist the AFP liaison office in Bogotá.

In partnership with AusAID:

- A joint AFP/AusAID/Indonesian National Police Transnational Crime Coordination Centre in Jakarta; and a joint AFP/AusAID/Philippines counter terrorism support package.

Benefits of the IDG

The long-term benefits of capacity building and peacekeeping activities performed under the IDG will make a difference by improving the service of the host country police forces. These programs result in strengthened partnerships with the joint aim of preserving peace, stability and good government.

Other benefits include:

- identifying potential criminal threats exploiting vulnerable governments and immature police and law enforcement systems;
- developing contacts within emerging societies and reinforcing police networks and principles; and
- developing local police skills and greater awareness of human rights in emerging police organisations.

The AFP benefits through personnel development and an increased understanding of the role of police in a free and democratic society.



The IDG celebrated its first birthday on 2 February 2005