



AFP members provide security and protection at APEC 2007

From January to September 2007 the Australian Government hosted a series of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings.

The APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) held in Sydney from 2-9 September concluded what has been

the largest security operation for a single event in Australia's history.

The AFP supported the NSW Police at AELM with a range of resources including: close personal, dignitary and aviation protection, specialist operations and investigations, community policing and general duties canine teams.

National Manager Protection Assistant Commissioner Mark Ney explained that AFP personnel contributed significantly to the planning and execution of *Operation Mawarra*. From the command centre based at Government House, Sydney, to the major incident room located at the AFP Sydney office,



members conducted a range of surveillance, monitoring and reporting activities. The use of technology, including the AFP's specialist intruder detection equipment, *Gryphon*, also played a critical role in security.

Prime Minister John Howard expressed his appreciation for the policing role at

APEC to AFP Manager Close Protection Neil Gaughan. In a public statement Mr John Howard said, "I particularly extend my thanks to the officers, women and men of the NSW and Australian Federal Police."

Commissioner Keelty was also pleased to receive positive comments from dignitaries and high-level government

officials when they visited a number of secured sites in Sydney and were impressed with the technology used for this significant event. The success of APEC 2007 demonstrated the AFP's capacity to respond effectively to critical situations and to do so with flexibility and professionalism.