

LANHAM Geoff

From: AYLIFFE Zoe
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2005 11:45
To: LANHAM Geoff
Cc: LATIMER Simon
Subject: RE: questions for woman's day

Geoff,

As discussed on the phone, this is the original email I received from Norm Lipson on May 16 and my response.

If you need any further information, please feel free to call me.

Kind regards,

Zoë Ayliffe
Public Affairs Officer
Corporate Communication
Australian Customs Service
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-----Original Message-----

From: AYLIFFE Zoe
Sent: Tuesday, 17 May 2005 11:44 AM
To: 'dffdd dsfd'
Subject: RE: questions for woman's day

Dear Norm,

Please find the responses to your queries as below. Any issues/ further questions, please do not hesitate to call.

1) Did a security group at Sydney International Airport called Tarmac (AKA Tango) exist? Customs did have a team known as Tarmac operating at Sydney airport for many years. The original Tarmac team comprised 5 people and was tasked with looking at the Customs related border security issues within the airport. Legislation was passed in 2002 which strengthened the powers under which it operated. The name of the team has been changed to Air Border Security and its numbers have been increased to 20 officers to ensure that it has effective coverage around the clock and can undertake a wider range of tasks.

2) What was its job? The Air Border Security function covers a range of tasks, including aircraft searches, maintaining the integrity of the Customs controlled areas and managing the various risks that may be posed by people working at the airport. For operational reasons it is not appropriate for Customs to comment on which groups of people may, at different times, have been assessed by Air Border Security but it is fair to say that all aspects of the airport environment are considered. The Air Border Security concept has been implemented at other Australian airports and the teams have achieved a number of successes.

As well as making it more difficult for any potentially illegal activity to take place, security breaches have been identified and smuggling activity has been detected and prevented. The Air Border Security team in Cairns was instrumental in detecting unlawful access to the Customs controlled area that led to a prosecution and significant fines just last week.

3) Did it supply two reports, one in February, 2003, and another in November, 2003, warning about corrupt baggage handlers? For operational reasons, we are unable to comment.

4) Was Tarmac disbanded after the Corby arrest and if so, why? This team has certainly not being disbanded. Rather, its importance was recognised and its role was

expanded well before the Corby arrest.

5) Was there in fact video surveillance at the airport's sterile area, with a number of closed circuit cameras in hidden locations and others overtly placed? Customs does use a range of CCTV technology at international airports. These cover a wide area and, on occasion, covert cameras are utilised to identify particular risks.

6) Is there any security concern over the activities of aircraft cleaners and if so, what? For operational reasons, we are unable to comment.

Kind regards,

Zoë Ayliffe
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-----Original Message-----
From: dffdd dsfd [mailto:nlipp@hotmai.com]
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2005 1:19 PM
To: AYLIFFE Zoe
Subject: questions for woman's day

Dear Zoe,

Re our telephone conversation earlier today, I have been asked by Woman's Day to put together a story on Sydney Airport security in the wake of the Corby case and the cocaine importation aided by baggage handlers.

My questions are:

Did a security group at Sydney airport called Tarmac (AKA Tango) exist?
What was its job?
Did it supply two reports, one in February, 2003, and another in November, 2003, warning about corrupt baggage handlers?
Was Tarmac disbanded after the Corby arrest and if so, why?
Was there in fact video surveillance at the airport's sterile area, with a number of closed circuit cameras in hidden locations and others overtly placed?
Is there any security concern over the activities of aircraft cleaners and if so, what?

Regards,

Norm Lipson. Tel 0411 240 325.

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