

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Inquiry into the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2013-14

Questions Taken on Notice

Question:

CHAIR: We have not updated the score yet, yes! Perhaps could you give us a little more detail about some of the work that was done by the AFP in Afghanistan? What you learnt, perhaps what mistakes were made in the past that we could learn from and how successful you believe that was—maybe you could make a few comments on those?

Mr Colvin: I think that on any measure it was a very successful deployment. Obviously, it was a deployment in difficult circumstances and under difficult conditions. We were effectively 'within the wire', if you like. We stayed within a compound there with the Australian military in Uruzgan province. We also had a role in Kabul, working alongside the UN police commander—sorry, the coalition police commander. I do not have the figures in front of me—I am pretty sure they will be in the annual report—of how many Afghanistan police we trained. They were police as opposed to their Afghan narcotics unit—this was their uniformed police. I am not sure if anyone has the number close at hand; if not, we will give it to you on notice. But the number was in the many thousands of police that we trained in our 6½ years there. I think it was successful.

Of course, it is one small piece in a much larger jigsaw, but the Australian government has withdrawn most of its military personnel, and with that we brought out our police personnel. It looks like we do not have the figure, but we will get it for you.

Answer:

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) maintained a presence in Afghanistan between 2007-2014, contributing to the development of a credible Afghan National Police (ANP) through training and mentoring programs. A total of 136 AFP members were deployed to Afghanistan over the following three missions: Operations Synergy (2007-2010), Contego (2008-2010) and Illuminate (2010-2014). These activities were aligned with the Afghan Ministry of Interior and NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A) strategies. These activities saw the AFP deployed to Kabul and briefly Jalalabad, and in Southern Afghanistan at the Tarin Kowt Police Training Centre and the coalition base at Kandahar Airfield. In 2012 the focus of the mission transitioned towards strategically influential positions and special training delivered in Kabul. A senior AFP member transitioned into the role of Senior Police Advisor with the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB). The IPCB is the primary organisational body mandated to coordinate, prioritise and direct the international police reform efforts in Afghanistan.

As recorded in the AFP Annual Report 2013-14, internal evaluations were strongly supportive of the worth and positive outcomes of the mandated AFP mission to Afghanistan. The AFP has also contributed to whole-of-government reviews of Australia's involvement in Afghanistan, including the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee inquiry into *Australia's overseas development programs in Afghanistan*. The September 2012 AFP submission to this inquiry is attached for reference (Attachment A).

As part of the whole-of-Australian-Government drawdown strategy, from March 2013 the AFP gradually withdrew members from regional areas. AFP effort was then directed toward strategic projects including the development of ANP two year plans and a ten year vision statement.

The below table shows the number of personnel trained during the AFP's training and mentoring role in Afghanistan from 2007 to 31 March 2013.

Personnel Trained	Description	Location
2194	Afghan National Police (ANP) – Afghan Uniform Patrolman's Course	Multinational Base – Tarin Kowt Training Centre
259	ANP – Non-Commissioned Officers Training	Multinational Base – Tarin Kowt Training Centre
98	ANP Provincial Response Company – Evidence Collection	Multinational Base – Tarin Kowt
570	ANP – Investigations courses	Afghan Major Crimes taskforce – Kabul
65	ANP – Surveillance courses	Afghan Major Crimes taskforce – Kabul
13	ANP – Train the Trainer Programs	Staff College - Kabul
96	ANP – Leadership/Development Programs	Staff Training College - Kabul

Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence & Trade

Inquiry into the administration, management and
objectives of Australia's overseas development
program in Afghanistan in the context of the
'Transition Decade'

AFP Submission

September 2012

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the management of Australia's overseas development programs in Afghanistan.

This submission gives context to the AFP's deployment of personnel to Afghanistan, outlines the roles and challenges confronting the mission into the future, and explains how the AFP contributes to a whole-of-government approach.

Background on the AFP

The role of the AFP is to enforce Commonwealth criminal law, to contribute to combating organised crime and to protect Commonwealth and national interests from criminal activity in Australia and overseas. The AFP is also Australia's international law enforcement and policing representative and the Australian Government's chief source of advice on policing issues. The functions of the AFP are:

- the provision of police services in relation to the laws of the Commonwealth, the property of the Commonwealth (including Commonwealth places) and property of authorities of the Commonwealth;
- the safeguarding of Commonwealth interests and anything else that is incidental or conducive to the provision of these services;
- the provision of police services in relation to the Australian Capital Territory and Australia's external territories;
- protective and custodial functions as directed by the Minister;
- the provision of police services and police support services to assist or cooperate with an Australian or foreign law enforcement agency, intelligence or security agency or government regulatory agency; and
- the provision of police services and police support services to establish, develop and monitor peace, stability and security in foreign countries.

In collaboration with its domestic and regional law enforcement partners, the AFP is currently focused on:

- countering the threat of terrorism to Australians and Australian interests, both nationally and internationally;
- providing assistance to the Pacific region and to other areas of national interest such as Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan to strengthen order and their rule of law;
- preventing and investigating organised and serious criminal activity affecting Australians and Australian interests; and
- countering the threat posed by high-tech crime and cybercrime.

As at 30 June 2012 the AFP had in excess of 6500 staff serving domestically and internationally.

AFP presence outside of Australia

The AFP's International Network, as at end August 2012, had 93 staff at 29 posts in 30 countries, undertaking law enforcement liaison and coordination duties on behalf of the Australian Government. These members are also the first point of contact for overseas law enforcement inquiries.

In 2004 the Australian Government established the AFP International Deployment Group (IDG) in response to the demands of managing programs and short-term missions offshore, such as Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and PNG. The breadth of law enforcement activity and the nature of deployments have since evolved to meet the Government's objectives, with a gradual change in emphasis more on long-term capacity building than on crisis response. It was in this context that the AFP sent its first officers to Afghanistan in 2007 and began a program of in-country mentoring and training assistance that continues to the present.

The IDG is currently funded for approximately 730 members, comprising approximately 480 Mission Component members able to be deployed overseas, 116 Australia based members providing administrative and Executive support and 134 Specialist Response Group members who provide operational specialist response capabilities both domestically and internationally.

The AFP's role in delivering aid

The AFP works closely with agencies such as the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to ensure a coordinated delivery of aid programs in the Pacific, Afghanistan and Timor Leste. The AFP, through the IDG, has liaison officers embedded at the ADF's Joint Operations Command and with AusAID to ensure appropriate representation and input to whole of government aid programs. The AFP's skills in law and order capacity building are well regarded and contribute to the overall goals of Australia's aid policy.

The AFP is the second largest provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) on behalf of the Australian Government, with \$192.1m in funding for 2012-13. The majority of this funding provides for capacity building programs in Timor Leste, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan.

In delivering aid and assistance in Afghanistan, the AFP supports the achievement of Australian Aid Program goals and objectives, through the enhancement of community safety, stability and security. This is in alignment with the Government's response to the Independent Review – the Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework.

AFP operations in Afghanistan also align with the criteria regarding the allocation of aid as specified in the Australian Government's response to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, which mandated poverty reduction, effective aid, Australia's capacity to make a difference and Australia's national interest, as being key considerations in the provision of Australian aid.

Policing in Afghanistan

The Afghan National Police (ANP) is responsible for policing services throughout Afghanistan. The ANP is in a nascent state and is constituted by a number of subset agencies, most of who are structured to primarily conduct counter insurgency operations.

The ANP was formed after 2001 and encompasses several agencies, each with a specific roll – often overlapping with other agencies.

The ANP is under the control and direction of the Ministry of Interior (MOI). The MOI, and the Minister, have a far more direct role in the administration and operations of the ANP than is the experience in western nations such as Australia.

The MOI is in the process of reorganising and reforming the ANP to improve police training, education and overall effectiveness. The four main pillars of the ANP currently are:

- Afghan Uniform Police (AUP)
[the main body of civilian police undertaking uniformed policing roles, along with traffic policing and fire/rescue services in cities]
- Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP)
[Lead in police counter-insurgency operations]
- Afghan Border Police (ABP)
[Border patrolling and policing responsibilities within designated border regions and airport locations]
- Afghan Anti-Crime Police (AACP)
[includes a number of specialist investigative units and forensics]

In addition to the above, the following agencies/groups are expected to be formally acknowledged as additional pillars of the ANP:

- Enabling Forces
[incl. logistics; medical; administrative & personnel; training; recruitment]
- Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF)
- Judiciary Police (JSU)
- Afghan Local Police (ALP)
[ALP personnel stay in their areas supported by ANP, Afghan National Army and the International Security Assistance Force forces. The ALP do not have a police mandate to investigate crime or arrest suspects.]

In addition, the Afghan Customs Police are a developing body that primarily undertake Customs functions, albeit with law enforcement powers.

The AFP's role in Afghanistan (2007 – 2012)

The AFP works closely with AusAID, the ADF and DFAT in developing and implementing a whole-of-government approach to Australia's commitment to Afghanistan. This is in keeping with the requirements of strategic documents such as the *Afghan National Development Strategy* (ANDS).

The AFP seeks experienced employees who bring with them extensive skills in policing, investigations, training, mentoring and/or support, which are used in mission on a daily basis. Most members have either previously undertaken other international peacekeeping or stability operations, or have extensive domestic policing experience.

In August 2007 a bilateral agreement was signed by the governments of Australia and Afghanistan. The AFP initially deployed four members to Afghanistan in October 2007. Two members conducted training duties with the Counter Narcotic Police of Afghanistan

(CNPA) in Jalalabad and two members were advisers attached to the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan in Kabul.

In October 2008, the AFP deployed an additional eight members under *Operation Contego*. AFP members deployed to Kabul, Kandahar and Tarin Kowt and were engaged at a strategic intelligence level in a counter narcotics capacity. The mission objective was to support the international stabilisation operations in Afghanistan through the deployment of policing expertise to Australian whole-of-government activities in Southern Afghanistan and other international efforts in Kabul, as well as supporting the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) with their efforts to rebuild the Afghan National Police, based in Kabul.

By November 2009, the AFP deployed a total of 22 members to Afghanistan. In addition to the counter-narcotics focus of *Operation Contego*, an additional ten AFP members deployed to Afghanistan as training advisors to the Provincial Training Centre (PTC) at Tarin Kowt in Uruzgan Province. This operation was known as *Operation Synergy*.

In December 2009, in accordance with Government direction, the AFP reviewed and consolidated its Afghanistan commitment. In July 2010 *Operations Synergy* and *Contego* were amalgamated into *Operation Illuminate*, a deployment of 28 members which continues to this day. The primary objective of *Operation Illuminate* is to train, develop and mentor Afghan National Police (ANP), in conjunction with Afghan and coalition efforts.

From 2010 to mid-2012, 21 members of *Operation Illuminate* personnel were based at the Provincial level. These personnel undertook train-the-trainer and mentor duties at the PTC, which was located inside the Multi-National Base Tarin Kowt (MNBTK) in Uruzgan province. This was in support of a broader, nation-wide program administered by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A). NTM-A is tasked with coordinating institutional training and support for the ANP throughout Afghanistan.

AFP experience is that ANP instructors at the PTC were able to quickly develop training skills. The Tarin Kowt PTC was one of the first centres where Afghans were able to fully assume responsibility for training recruits. As a consequence, AFP members focussed on mentoring the ANP instructors, as well as a range of liaison duties within MNBTK.

Since late 2011, the AFP has also provided assistance to the ADF by providing evidence collection training to members of the ANP's Uruzgan Provincial Response Company (PRC). The ADF partners the PRC and all AFP training is done within the confines of the MNBTK. The training has increased the capacity of the PRC to conduct its operational duties.

During this period AFP members have continued to assist ANP national capacity development through occupying various Kabul-based policy and planning positions within NTM-A, which in turn works closely with the MOI to increase the capacity and capabilities of the ANP.

As approved in the May 2012 Budget, the AFP is in the process of progressively transitioning capacity development efforts away from provincial level training in Uruzgan, to national training and the higher level strategic development of the ANP at the national level in Kabul. Fifteen members are deployed in Kabul, ten are based at the MNBTK and three at Kandahar Airfield.

This approach has been assessed as being the best way for the AFP to provide long-term capacity development that will have fundamental impact on ANP operations and organisational development through the strategic influencing of more senior ANP officers.

The AFP is employing a 'four pillars' strategy that contributes towards ANP and NTM-A objectives, recognising the operational and security challenges confronting all parties. The four pillars are:

- facilitating a coordinated approach
- influencing and shaping the policing environment
- building and developing the ANP in Afghanistan
- contributing to the targeting of serious criminality through capacity development efforts.

To assist in achieving this, AFP personnel continue to occupy NTM-A positions, working alongside police and military personnel from various coalition nations, as well as with ANP personnel.

The AFP has recently deployed two personnel to the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB), one of whom (an SES level Commander) now occupies the position of Head of ANP Development, the most senior police position with the IPCB. The IPCB's mandate is to be the coordination point for all institutional and police reform within the wider context of rule of law within Afghanistan. The Board is chaired by the Afghan Minister of the Interior, and it directs, prioritises and coordinates international effort in institutional and police reform, including those efforts which strengthen the justice sector.

Following the 25th NATO Summit held in Chicago in May 2012, the Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan was promulgated. The Declaration is a formal summary of the outcomes from the Conference and indicates the IPCB will play a greater role in developing the ANP plan to provide a civilian law enforcement service responsible for domestic security. It is anticipated, the IPCB will also coordinate the police training function across Afghanistan once NTM-A draws down post-transition.

The AFP's participation with the IPCB is designed to support, influence and contribute to a more effective coordination of police aid projects and initiatives throughout Afghanistan and reflects the AFP's expertise and high standing in this area. This in turn will obviously benefit the capacity and development of the ANP.

In addition to the above, AFP trainers based in Kabul are currently assisting the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPol), at the latter's Kabul Police Training College. The EUPol College focuses on providing management and leadership training to mid and senior level ANP staff.

These efforts enable the AFP to directly support the first three elements of the priorities set by the Afghan Government in its Afghanistan National Police Strategy, being:

- training and education
- develop police leadership
- eliminate corruption.

The success of the AFP's capacity building efforts is reflected by the fact that training of ANP members at the PTC is now conducted by ANP officers with only minimal mentoring by AFP advisors.

As at 2 August 2012 the AFP has:

- trained 2194 ANP personnel in the Afghan Uniform Patrolman's (AUP) Course at the MNBTK Training Centre, Uruzgan

-
- trained 212 ANP personnel in investigations courses at the Afghan Major Crimes Taskforce in Kabul
 - trained 65 ANP personnel trained in surveillance courses at the Afghan Major Crimes Taskforce in Kabul
 - trained 39 ANP senior officers have completed leadership programs with AFP instruction at the Police Staff College in Kabul
 - facilitated Non-Commissioned Officers training for 188 ANP members at the MNBTK Training Centre
 - in conjunction with the European Union Police Mission, trained ANP members in the train-the-trainer program who are now trainers at the MNBTK Provincial Training Centre
 - trained 38 Provincial Response Company (PRC) members in evidence collection training in Tarin Kowt. There will also be an ongoing program of mentoring and training for the 98 member strong PRC
 - sponsored a project to build a number of semi-permanent office and utility rooms located within the MNBTK Training Centre for the purpose of improved training delivery.

Security and safety

The AFP takes the safety of its officers deployed to Afghanistan very seriously. In December 2011, the AFP conducted a security assessment into its role in Afghanistan. This assessment supports the findings of previous assessments, that the risk to AFP operations in Afghanistan remains very high. AFP personnel are operating in an active war zone where the ANP is a priority target of the insurgency. To date, AFP personnel have remained safe with no major security incidents occurring.

All AFP members who deploy to Afghanistan have explicitly volunteered for the mission and have been selected through a highly competitive application and training process. The AFP seeks experienced employees who bring with them extensive skills in policing, investigations, training, mentoring and/or support, which are used in mission on a daily basis. Most members have either previously undertaken other international peacekeeping or stability operations, or have extensive domestic policing experience.

Protective security measures in place include:

- private contract arrangements for security, protected accommodation, and other life support requirements in Kabul
- force protection and logistic support through ADF and coalition partners outside of Kabul, namely in Kandahar and Tarin Kowt. So called 'outside the wire' movement for AFP personnel is strictly limited and carefully managed
- use of ballistic protective equipment and the requirement to carry firearms;
- Adherence to military policies and practices in regards to safety, whilst ever AFP members are housed/located at military bases.

AFP officers based at Tarin Kowt are confined to the base as the AFP does not consider the security environment in Uruzgan to be permissive enough for civilian police mentoring given the fact that the ANP is a primary target of the insurgency. The AFP also

considers its focus on training to be the most effective way of contributing to police development in Uruzgan.

The AFP is performing current roles in accordance with Australian Government Policy, focused on police reform and development within the confines of the Multinational Base Tarin Kowt Training Centre.

Safety measures are regularly reviewed and adapted to reflect contemporary security developments. Whilst the AFP and its members strongly embrace a 'safety first' approach to duties in Afghanistan, it is readily acknowledged that a residual risk remains.

The risk for any aid worker or Coalition member is dramatically heightened when they undertake 'outside the wire' travel – that is, when staff leave a military base and interact with Afghans or others in the village or city environment. For this reason, the AFP avoids 'outside the wire' travel in Uruzgan.

An increase in the number of 'Insider Threat' attacks is at the forefront of most security briefings in mission. Insider attacks this year have not occurred within major bases such as MNBTK or Kandahar Airfield where AFP members are located. As a result of the emerging 'Insider Threat', generic and specific mitigation strategies are employed by AFP in-mission.

Issues challenging ANP development

It is estimated that up to 70% of ANP base level recruits are illiterate. Literacy rates among commissioned officers is higher but not all commissioned officers are literate. This particularly impacts the development of the ANP in that its officers have generally been unable to read and understand the laws they are required to police with professionalism and discretion. Considerable effort is being expended on incorporating rudimentary literacy training into all recruit training courses, however the rapid increase in ANP numbers in previous years impacted on the quality of base recruitment.

Historic levels of corruption and malpractice within the ANP are also a hindrance for the development of the force into a professional organisation. Corrupt practices (or practices culturally discordant with a modern western policing perspective) have tarnished the ANP's image in the broader Afghan community. As with the issue of literacy, authorities are focusing on eliminating corrupt practices as well as tackling associated issues that foster corruption, such as ensuring that ANP officers are paid regularly.

The future

Success in regards to assisting the development of the ANP as a professional civilian police force is a long-term proposition. As outlined above, a variety of factors have combined to create a situation where it is unlikely that the development goals for the ANP will be achieved in under a decade.

Despite this, achievements over the next two years (leading into full transition for authority of security in Afghanistan) are likely to be extremely important even though they may appear limited in scope. The aim of the AFP is to ensure that it effectively contributes, alongside partner agencies, in providing assistance that consolidates a strong foundation which protects existing gains and ensure the continued professional growth of the ANP.

Within the foreseeable future it is expected that the ANP will be able to achieve minimum standards of basic and specialist training, acknowledging that the organisation will still be predominantly undertaking paramilitary operations. Middle and senior leadership will continue to professionalise, as will various specialist policing and investigative units.

The role of the AFP to 2014 and beyond

In line with Australian Government direction, the AFP will continually review the degree and capabilities of its commitment to Afghanistan. It is readily acknowledged that a standing contingent of 28, operating in the current security environment, is limited in its ability to provide widespread support and change. The AFP's strength is ensuring roles the AFP hold are relevant to influencing the direction of the development of the ANP, providing assistance in specialist areas such as strategic planning, training, mentoring and policy development, in cooperation with Afghan and other Coalition partners.

At this stage, a continuation of an AFP presence beyond 2014 in aid terms, will likely focus on consolidating gains made thus far – in a fashion consistent with government Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding. Efforts will be focussed on providing training and (where possible) mentoring, to executive and senior level personnel, providing liaison, policy and strategic planning support, as well as assisting in strategic efforts to maximise the evolution of the ANP.

The degree and nature of continued AFP deployments will be guided by ongoing security assessments and consideration of factors such as the ability of the ADF or others to provide vital logistics and force protection support.

Conclusion

This submission outlines the AFP's role in Afghanistan and how it fits within the broader aid program, and the type of experience and role that the AFP brings in delivering aid.

The AFP is an effective partner in Australia's aid effort, noting the challenges that face the ANP and broader donor operations in a country beset by a vicious insurgent campaign. The AFP would not be able to successfully undertake its business without the assistance and partnership of agencies such as AusAID, ADF, DFAT, NTM-A, EUPol, IPCB and of course, the ANP.

In any endeavour as complex as the international aid program in Afghanistan, there will be issues and challenges arising in regards to coordination and cooperation of international agencies, governments and initiatives. The AFP is pleased with the discussion and efforts that are underway to maximise effectiveness in this area (as highlighted earlier with the role of the IPCB in coordinating police aid). The AFP remains fully involved with its Australian partners to ensure that a whole-of-government approach is maintained.

Due to the security situation in Afghanistan, the presence and operations of personnel such as the AFP and other agencies (both government and non-government) occur with a significant risk which can at best be mitigated, but not entirely eliminated. Mitigation requires the extensive use of military or private provider security arrangements.

The AFP will continue to deliver on the expectations set by the Australian Government in regards to the provision of capacity development support to the ANP.

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Inquiry into the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2013-14

Questions Taken on Notice

Question:

Senator SINGH: In relation to the annual reports, I would like to ask about transnational narcotic trafficking and any other kind of transnational drug related policing. All I can find is what is on page 41 in relation to a snapshot of—

Mr Colvin: That is a case study of the job.

Senator SINGH: Can you elaborate?

Mr Colvin: We did this intentionally for the first time in this annual report. If you turn to pages 8 and 9, there is a quick snapshot of our key figures. In terms of our illicit drug activities, we seized almost eight tonnes of illicit drugs during the reporting period. Of course, transnational crime is not limited to narcotic seizures. There is also a breakdown on page 51 about our narcotic seizures. As I said, transnational crime is not limited to narcotic seizures; it crosses a range—child sex tourism, for instance; it could be a number of fraud matters; terrorism.

Senator SINGH: Included in narcotic seizures?

Mr Colvin: No, not included in narcotic. If you are asking specifically about narcotics, I would direct you to page 51 or page 8, but they are only a subset of transnational crime more broadly.

Senator SINGH: Do you provide a breakdown of the countries, other than the case study, which refers to Cambodia, I think? Do you provide a table or breakdown of the countries where—

Mr Colvin: I do not believe I have ever seen us provide a breakdown of the country of origin or the country that it may have transited through. We would be able to pull that data out. It might take some manipulation of our material and information. I think we would be able to do it.

Senator SINGH: Because you highlighted a case study, or you have listed a country or two. Page 8 is fairly skint on detail as far as breakdowns go. Page 51 has the drug group, but it does not go any further as far as transnational illicit trafficking or drug seizures go from country of origin.

Mr Colvin: No, that is quite right.

Senator SINGH: I am seeking that information in your annual report.

Mr Colvin: We could take that on notice and certainly pull the material out regarding the country of origin and, importantly, country of transit as well—that is, that last point before it reaches Australia. The examples on page 51 are more to give the reader of the annual report a flavour and a sense of the type of work that we do, but of course they are just one or two of many operations of that nature.

Senator SINGH: Thank you. That would be good to take on notice.

Answer:

Based on information in our case management system (PROMIS), a total of 72 distinct countries were listed as the source country (or transit country) for drugs seized in 2013-14. The table below shows the top 15 countries by weight of drug seized. An additional 57 countries are represented in the "Other" seizures (weights less than 24 kg). Note that in 30% of seizures this information is not known or not recorded in PROMIS. The AFP's forensic area also undertakes specific examination of source country (where possible) through examination of parcel post seizures under the National Forensic Rapid Lab facility and also through drug profiling and analysis of seizure samples.

Breakdown of AFP drug seizures in 2013-14 by country		
Source/transit country	Kg	%
UNITED STATES	2,308	30%
INDIA	1,017	13%
CHINA	879	11%
HONG KONG	249	3%
MEXICO	150	2%
AUSTRALIA	115	1%
NETHERLANDS	89	1%
LEBANON	69	1%
POLAND	67	1%
CANADA	43	1%
TAIWAN	34	<1%
THAILAND	33	<1%
UNITED KINGDOM	31	<1%
MALAYSIA	29	<1%
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	24	<1%
Other (57 countries)	257	3%
Unknown	2,343	30%
Total seized	7,739	100%

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Inquiry into the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2013-14

Questions Taken on Notice

Question:

Senator KETTER: I apologise for not being here earlier. The first question I had was in respect of the new ministerial direction from 12 May of last year—has that been raised as yet? No? The report talks about ministerial direction and sets out a number of new key strategic priorities. My interest was in how that differs from the previous priorities of the AFP.

Mr Colvin: The ministerial direction was May 2014. I do not have it personally with me. I am not sure if other colleagues do. I can certainly get it up. But, in terms of the key differences, it largely added to the priority areas that we already had and reflected the current environment. It was updated from 2010—I think that was the previous one.

Mr Wood: Yes.

Mr Colvin: I do have a copy of it in front of me. What I do not have is the old one to tell you what the key differences were.

Senator KETTER: I am happy if you want to take that on notice.

Mr Colvin: Yes, we can take that on notice.

Mr Wood: From my recollection, there was at least one area in the previous one that more appropriately aligned to the responsibilities of state and territory police forces. And that was particularly in the area of engagement of first Australian communities around the country, which was something that for the AFP, other than a particular role the government might assign us as part of the Northern Territory intervention, in terms of a historical example, was not normally our business. So there were a couple of things in the earlier one that were more the province of state and territory law enforcement agencies that were not carried over to the new one. But, otherwise, there is very little difference between the two, given that the national priorities are generally in the expected areas of serious and organised crime, national security, counter-terrorism, protection of children, etcetera.

Mr Colvin: We will take it on notice and give you the key differences. It really was about emphasis, though. As Mr Wood says, it was asking us to focus on our relationships with state and territories police, the Australian Crime Commission and the Attorney-General's Department as a key initiative of this government.

Answer:

The previous Ministerial Direction was revised and reissued by the then Minister for Home Affairs on 1 July 2010, after the AFP appropriations arrangements were announced in the 2010-11 budget. The current Ministerial Direction was issued on 12 May 2014.

The key differences are listed below.

The addition of:

- protecting Commonwealth revenue
- contributing to whole-of-government efforts to prevent Australia from being a safe haven for proceeds of crime, including from corruption, or used for money laundering purposes.
- leading Commonwealth's efforts to disrupt organised criminal groups by restraining and seizing their assets and unexplained wealth
- maintaining focus on investigating Commonwealth offences, particularly those relating to firearms and foreign bribery
- taking a leadership role and collaborating with state and territory law enforcement to deliver national law enforcement initiatives to disrupt the operation of criminal gangs, reduce the proliferation of child exploitation material and reduce the harm caused by illicit drugs.

The removal of:

- implementing the relevant recommendations of the Federal Audit of Police Capabilities (this has been implemented)
- taking account of the Government's long-standing opposition to the application of the death penalty (this is part of AFP's standard procedures)
- building a relationship of trust with the indigenous community (this was a focus during Operation Pleach — the joint NT Police/AFP Child Abuse Taskforce in the Northern Territory).

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Inquiry into the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2013-14

Questions Taken on Notice

Question:

Senator KETTER: Okay, thank you. I was wondering if I could get an update on Operation Ebrima, which is referred to on page 50 of the report. You indicate that it seems to have been a fairly successful operation. Are there any further updates on that?

Mr Colvin: We would have to take that on notice. That matter would be before court. I could not attempt to try to tell you what stage of court. If it was September 2013, I dare say we are probably approaching the trials. But I would have to take on notice the exact update.

Answer:

Operation Ebrima has been finalised with the following results:

- Patrick CINI and Rhys CINI pleaded guilty in the Melbourne Supreme Court to the importation of a commercial quantity of a border controlled drug and possession of a commercial quantity of a border controlled drug respectively. In August 2014, both men were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment with a non-parole period of six years; and
- Rami TAWACHI was charged with attempting to possess a commercial quantity of a border controlled drug. In February 2015, he was found not guilty at trial.

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Inquiry into the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2013-14

Questions Taken on Notice

Question:

Senator LEYONHJELM: I did remember the question that slipped my mind before. Looking through your annual report, there are various references to your involvement in enforcing drug laws. You have seized almost eight tonnes. You have restrained assets, and I assume a lot of that would be relating to drug crimes.

Mr Colvin: Quite a bit of it would be taxation crime as well.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Where I am heading with this is that I would like you, if you could, to give me an estimate of the proportion of your resources—and you could say financial resources or human resources or whatever—that is devoted to enforcing drug laws.

Mr Colvin: We will have to take that on notice, definitely, but we will be able to break that down and give you a figure.

Answer:

In terms of investigative effort (in comparison to other criminal investigations), 42% of time was attributed to enforcing drug laws. Relative to all AFP activity (including the full range of protective services, prevention activity, capacity building, international liaison, assistance and corporate support), 9% of time was attributed to drug investigations. These figures are based on time attribution of hours worked recorded within corporate systems in the 2013-14 financial year.

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Inquiry into the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2013-14

Questions Taken on Notice

Question:

CHAIR: I want to go back to the table on page 51—you might want to take this on notice. Do you have any long-term figures on seizures going back 10 years that show a particular trend? I understand it bounces around, but has the amount of amphetamines that you are seizing increased substantially over a 10-year period? Is heroin declining?

Mr Wood: We could certainly get that data. There is a drug harm index table in here as well that goes back to 2008-09, on page 26. It is not a direct correlation to seizure rates of weights, but the drug harm index is a performance indicator we use that demonstrates the impact on the community that would have occurred if we had not intercepted the drugs. It is not directly related to weights; it is a bit of a surrogate measure rather than a direct correlation. What it does clearly indicate is that, in any given year, we could have one rather large job such as 2011-12—and I was trying to remember whether that was Inca or something else—that can distort a gradual pattern or an even trend. In any one year, it potentially only takes one or two jobs to change the numbers quite dramatically, as well as more strategic focusing and the other things that the deputy mentioned earlier. We could get data for 10 years, but this gives a sense going back a little while, anyway.

Answer:

Although there is variation from year to year, on average, total seizures have increased by approximately 600 kg per year in the last 10 years. Amphetamine seizures (including MDMA – ecstasy) have increased, particularly in the last couple of years. In fact, AFP seized over 3 tonnes of amphetamines in each of 2012-13 and 2013-14. The increase for cocaine has been more consistent over time. Heroin seizures were particularly high in the period 2010-2012 but back under 200kg last financial year (2013-14). Pre-cursors have been consistently high (>1 tonne) in eight of the past ten years.