



Submission No 24

Inquiry into Australia's Overseas Representation

Name: Mr P Whowell
Manager, Government Relations

Organisation: Australian Federal Police
GPO Box 401
Canberra ACT 2601

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence & Trade

Inquiry into Australia's overseas representation

AFP Submission

December 2011

Introduction

The AFP welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry into Australia's overseas representation.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) was established in 1979 through the amalgamation of the Commonwealth Police, the Australian Capital Territory Police and the Federal Narcotics Bureau. At that time Australian law enforcement officers were posted to three overseas locations in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. Since 1979 the AFP's overseas representation has increased to contemporarily be known as the Australian Federal Police International Network. The breadth of AFP activity and span of deployment has evolved to meet the Government's objectives. The AFP's International Network remains highly responsive to changing priorities.

The AFP welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to this Inquiry. This submission addresses the first three terms of reference.

The Activities that Australia's diplomatic posts must undertake

The AFP presence overseas in Australia's diplomatic missions provides a law enforcement resource which delivers valuable strategic and operational outcomes for all Australian governments and contributes to the overall objectives of each post where the AFP is present or accredited. The AFP's presence overseas is consistent with its functions as described in the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*.

AFP officers at post deliver outcomes in accordance with the Commonwealth Government's policy and objectives with respect of serious and organised crime, counter terrorism, security and transnational crime (including people smuggling, money laundering and cyber crime). The AFP's police-to-police liaison in-country provides valuable contributions to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade overarching diplomatic effort at post and in certain countries provides a unique channel of strategic communication between Australia and the host government.

Although the majority of International Network overseas positions are attached to Australian diplomatic missions, the role of the AFP differs from that of diplomatic staff and focuses on direct police to police engagement. AFP Officers are also seconded to non-law enforcement agencies to assist them in providing law enforcement advice, support for capacity building initiatives and assistance in fostering and building multi lateral partnerships for the benefit of all stakeholders. AFP activities are wide ranging; activities include advisors and intelligence analysts embedded into People Smuggling investigative teams in Malaysia and Indonesia. AFP has an advisor attached to the Jakarta Cybercrime Centre as well as the Transnational Crime teams in Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, Manila and Bangkok. Counter terrorism officers work alongside their counterparts in London and Washington.

The AFP International Network brokers collaboration with international law enforcement agencies to drive investigations and support bilateral or multilateral cooperation on behalf of all Australian State, Territory and Federal law enforcement agencies. The Network collects and exchanges criminal intelligence, as well as enhances the capability of international law enforcement agencies to combat crime. The Network also works offshore with Australian agencies.

In the Pacific for example the AFP supports the Pacific Transnational Crime Network consisting of 14 Transnational Crime Units (TCUs). The Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) in Samoa coordinates the TCUs and facilitates information and intelligence exchange in the Pacific region. The PTCN is a law enforcement network based around a multi-agency fusion concept of police, customs and immigration officials. The AFP provides financial support for the day-to-day operations of the PTCCC and the TCUs.

The AFP International Network facilitates in excess of 22,000 tasks annually. More than 7,500 outgoing and 15,000 incoming tasks are lodged with various overseas law enforcement agencies.

The following operational outcomes are examples of those achieved through overseas activities supported by the International Network:

- Operation Avalon is a joint AFP operation with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Queensland Police Service, Panamanian Police and assistance from authorities in Vanuatu. The AFP commenced the investigation, based on intelligence regarding an international organised crime syndicate suspected to be involved in money laundering and planning a substantial importation of cocaine into Australia. Two hundred and seventy five kilograms of cocaine and almost AUD\$4 million in cash were seized, with four Spanish nationals arrested. The TCU established in Vanuatu provided substantial assistance to progress inquiries within Vanuatu.
- Operation Hoffman is a joint AFP, Australian Crime Commission and New South Wales Police Force investigation into a multi-tiered, transnational syndicate alleged to be involved in importations of commercial quantities of border-controlled drugs, domestic drug distribution and the laundering of proceeds of crime throughout countries such as China, Hong Kong, Singapore, India and Thailand. To date, in Australia and offshore the operation has resulted in 37 arrests, the seizure of over 1 tonne of illicit drugs, precursor and other drug manufacturing chemicals with an Australian wholesale value of \$44.5 million, the seizure of illegal firearms and other restricted weapons, the seizure of over \$528 000 suspected of being the proceeds of crime and the restraint of \$2.3 million in assets.
- Operation Thaic, a joint AFP and Cambodian National Police Transnational Crime Team investigation, led to the first arrest of an outbound internal drug courier from Cambodia. Further joint investigations resulted in the arrest of another five people, including

two Cambodia based heroin suppliers who have previously supplied heroin to couriers importing drugs into Australia.

The AFP has in recent years reformed the structure of the International Network to facilitate the flow of intelligence to partners and clients, increase engagement with foreign law enforcement agencies and reduce overheads and duplication at posts. A leading example of this is the AFP and United Kingdom Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) pilot project that enables SOCA and the AFP to use each other's International Networks in certain locations. The arrangements serve to maximise the use of resources, improve capability and timeliness in responding to international inquiries and reduce associated costs.

In addition, the role of the AFP as the INTERPOL National Central Bureau for Australia (INTERPOL Canberra) complements the role of the AFP International Liaison Officers, particularly in countries where the AFP does not have a permanent presence. Over 30,000 operational and transactional enquiries are undertaken each year through INTERPOL Canberra on a police-to-police basis. These are facilitated by the AFP on behalf of all Australian policing, regulatory and other relevant government agencies and transmitted through INTERPOL's network of 190 countries.

The geographic location and spread of the AFP International Network

As at 1 November 2011 the International Network had 92 members posted to 29 countries with 87 locally engaged support staff assisting in the delivery of services. Staffing levels, specific roles and responsibilities, operational priority and complexity of the Post are considered on a regular basis and adjusted accordingly. The International Network also facilitates inquiries of Australian Government and other state and national law enforcement agencies with secondments to EUROPOL and INTERPOL and through the secondment of officers to UNODC positions. Currently the AFP has two members seconded to the UNODC, one in Nairobi attached to the Counter Piracy program and the other in Bangkok attached to Computer Based Training program. (Attachment A - geographical locations and area of responsibility for each Post).

To provide a strategic framework for all of its international activity, including the International Network, the AFP developed in 2010 the International Engagement Strategy (IES). Currently the International Network is working to supplement the IES with regional strategies tailored to differing operating environments to ensure that AFP resources are best placed to combat transnational crime threats affecting Australia. The AFP IES is an overarching, whole-of-agency document that outlines the international engagement objectives and priorities of the AFP and takes into account Australian foreign policy and security policy objectives. At the operational level, a series of Post Action Plans translates the priorities identified within the IES by providing detailed direction concerning the roles and responsibilities, and expected activities to achieve same, at each of the International Network locations.

The appropriate level of staffing, including locally engaged staff

The AFP International Network overseas presence is determined by operational priorities. Consistent with these changes, the number of Locally Engaged Staff (LES) engaged to support the AFP staff have increased, particularly over the past ten years. The LES provide a range of services including administrative and office manager roles, drivers, investigative assistants and linguist interpreters. These valuable roles at Post support not only the administrative roles that have be conducted overseas but also provides operational support by establishing long term relationships with law enforcement agencies and other areas of the overseas community that engage with the AFP. This is a cost effective way of achieving this support as the alternative is to use A based people transferring into the overseas Post.

Geographic Locations and Spread**Pacific Posts**

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands
Port Vila	New Caledonia and Vanuatu
Suva	American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Wallis & Futuna,
Australia, Canberra	Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and Pitcairn Islands

South Asia and Gulf Posts

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Colombo	Maldives and Sri Lanka
Dhaka	Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal
Dubai	Bahrain, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Kuwaitm, Oman, Qata, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sundan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen
Islamabad	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
New Delhi	India

Asia North Posts

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Beijing	China, Mongolia, North Korea
Guangzhou	Southern China
Hong Kong SAR	Hong Kong, Japan, Macau SAR, South Korea and Taiwan

South East Asia Posts

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Bali	Bali Region of Indonesia including West Timor and West Papua
Bangkok	Thailand
Hanoi	Laos and Vietnam
Ho Chi Minh City	Ho Chi Minh City
Jakarta	Indonesia
Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia
Manila	Philippines
Phnom Penh	Cambodia
Rangoon	Myanmar (Burma)
Singapore	Brunei, East Timor and Singapore

European Posts

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Beirut	Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cypress, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey
Belgrade	Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Palestinian Territories, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Vatican City
London	Andorra, Channel Islands, France, Gibraltar, Ireland, Isle of Man, Monaco, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom
The Hague	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faeroe Island, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Svalbard & Jan Mayen, Sweden and Switzerland

Americas

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Bogota	Aruba, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Georgia, South Sandwich Island, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, Venezuela and Virgin Islands
Los Angeles	Canada (West Coast), Mexico and United States of America (West Coast)
Washington	Canada (East Coast), Greenland, Saint Pierre & Miquelon and United States of America (East Coast)
Australia, Canberra	Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and Pitcairn Islands

Africa

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Pretoria	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal,

	Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Western Sahara Zambia and Zimbabwe
--	---

Seconded Officers:

Post	Areas of Responsibility
Wellington	Pacific Islands Chief of Police - Secretariat
Nairobi	UNODC Maritime Piracy (AusAid funded)
Bangkok	UNODC – Computer Based Training Management
Lyon	Interpol – Strategic Engagement
New York	Advisor to the United Nations


