

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: Australian Federal Police

Question No. AE17-087

Senator Pratt, Louise asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:

1. Please provide details on the number of staff currently working on measures that target gangs and criminal organisations.
2. How does this compare with 2015-16
3. Can the AFP guarantee no reduction in staff working in this area in 2017-18 and 2018-19?

On 28 February, the AFP indicated that the National Anti-Gangs Squad has had its funding reduced by 6.3 million this year alone.

4. Has there been any reduction in staff for this squad?
5. Can the AFP guarantee there will be no reduction in staff for this squad over the forward estimates?
6. What metrics do you use to measure the squads output/success?
7. Please provide metrics about the effectiveness and work of the squad that are publicly available/not confidential.
8. Have any State or Territory police force colleagues expressed concern to the AFP about the forecast reduction in funding to the National Anti-Gangs Squad and the cuts to date?
9. Please provide the number of AFP staff in overseas posts for the following years:
 - a) 2012-13
 - b) 2013-14
 - c) 2014-15
 - d) 2016-17
10. Please provide a list of every country where the AFP has a posting along with the number of AFP staff working in each of those countries for each of the following years:
 - a) 2012-13
 - b) 2013-14
 - c) 2014-15
 - d) 2016-17
11. Please provide the number intelligence reports which the AFP has received through its overseas posts for each of the following years:
 - a) 2012-13
 - b) 2013-14
 - c) 2014-15
 - d) 2016-17
12. Please provide the number of current overseas taskforces and projects, including:
 - a) the number of staff in the taskforce overseas or working on the project overseas (as 'average staffing level');
 - b) a general description of the taskforce/project; and
 - c) a projection of the funding and staffing for each project over the forward estimates.
13. Please indicate how many, if any, overseas taskforces and projects are set to be discontinued or will have their funding run out/expire over the forward estimates, and the area of work they focus on (e.g. drug supply, illicit firearms).
14. Please indicate how many, if any, overseas taskforces and projects will have a reduction in funding over the forward estimates, and the area of work they focus on (e.g. drug supply,

illicit firearms).

15. Please provide a breakdown of the overall amount of money that is spent in each country on training and capacity development (excluding resourcing allocated to the MH17 tragedy).

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. *Please provide details on the number of staff currently working on measures that target gangs and criminal organisations.*

As at 7 April 2017, the AFP have 43 AFP staff assigned to the National Anti-Gangs Squad and 430 AFP staff (headcount sworn & unsworn) assigned to Organised Crime and Cyber.

2. *How does this compare with 2015-16*

As at 30 June 2016, the AFP had 39 AFP staff assigned to the National Anti-Gangs Squad and 434 AFP staff (headcount sworn & unsworn) assigned to Organised Crime and Cyber.

3. *Can the AFP guarantee no reduction in staff working in this area in 2017-18 and 2018-19?*

Staffing levels in 2017-18 will be determined after the Federal Government provides the budgetary allocation for the AFP in May.

4. *Has there been any reduction in staff for this squad?*

The NAGS is made up of 91 members from the Australian Federal Police (AFP), State and Territory Police, officers from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Australian Border Force, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Australian Taxation Office and the Department of Human Services.

This staffing number has not been reduced, and since the NAGS implementation in 2013 the staffing numbers have grown by 20 members.

5. *Can the AFP guarantee there will be no reduction in staff for this squad over the forward estimates?*

The Minister for Justice announced additional funding from the Federal Government for the NAGS to continue its operations until 30 June 2019 and will operate in its current form.

6. *What metrics do you use to measure the squads output/success?*

The NAGS routinely collects and collates data from the NAGS Strike Teams and Liaison Officers in each jurisdiction in relation to their operational results.

7. *Please provide metrics about the effectiveness and work of the squad that are publicly available/not confidential.*

The establishment of the NAGS in 2013 created the opportunity for an unprecedented level of cooperation across Australian law enforcement agencies to address gang-related crime.

This partnership between the Commonwealth and State/Territory law enforcement significantly boosts our efforts to reduce the impact of organised crime.

In particular, the co-location of AFP, State Police and Australian Taxation Office officers in the NAGS Strike Teams in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide and the NAGS Liaison Officers in Hobart, Darwin and Canberra is the most effective way to understand, identify and target criminal gang activity in each jurisdiction.

As of 16 March 2017, the NAGS have assisted in:

- the arrest of more than 1000 offenders
- the laying of more than 3,100 charges
- the seizure of more than 5,600 illegal guns (includes more than 4,683 receivers/frames/replicas)
- the seizure of \$5.6 million in cash and illegal drugs - including more than 170 kilograms of methamphetamine.

8. *Have any State or Territory police force colleagues expressed concern to the AFP about the forecast reduction in funding to the National Anti-Gangs Squad and the cuts to date?*

No.

9. *Please provide the number of AFP staff in overseas posts for the following years:*

- a. 2012-13 – as at 1 July 2012, 84 positions
- b. 2013-14 – as at 1 July 2013, 79 positions
- c. 2014-15 – as at 1 July 2014, 89 positions
- d. 2015-16 – as at 1 July 2015, 95 positions
- e. 2016-17 – as at 1 July 2016, 72 positions

10. *Please provide a list of every country where the AFP has a posting along with the number of AFP staff working in each of those countries for each of the following years:*

- a. 2012-13 – Refer Attachment A
- b. 2013-14 – Refer Attachment A
- c. 2014-15 – Refer Attachment A
- d. 2015-16 – Refer Attachment A
- e. 2016-17 – Refer Attachment A

11. *Please provide the number intelligence reports which the AFP has received through its overseas posts for each of the following years.*

- a. 2012-13 – 547
- b. 2013-14 – 538
- c. 2014-15 – 574
- d. 2015-16 – 358
- e. 2016-17 – 134

12. *Please provide the number of current overseas taskforces and projects, including:*

- a. *the number of staff in the taskforce overseas or working on the project overseas (as 'average staffing level');*

There are currently three taskforces in operation within the AFP International Liaison officer network, as part of their overall role. In addition, the AFP has capacity to flexibly deploy as required.

- Taskforce BLAZE (China) – 6 AFP staff – (2 Beijing, 2 Guangzhou, 2 Hong Kong)
- Taskforce STORM (Thailand) – 4 AFP staff – (4 Bangkok)
- Strikeforce DRAGON (Cambodia) – 1 AFP staff – (1 Phnom Penh)

b. a general description of the taskforce/project;

Taskforce BLAZE:

On 2 November 2015, the AFP entered into an Arrangement with the Chinese National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) for the establishment of Taskforce BLAZE for an initial period of six months. The arrangements were renewed for a further 6 months on 5 July 2016 with the signing of the Joint Narcotics Taskforce BLAZE Phase 2 Memorandum of Understanding. In November 2016, in light of significant operational successes, Australia and China agreed to the extension of Taskforce BLAZE for an additional 12 months, from January 2017 to January 2018.

Taskforce BLAZE is focused on increasing law enforcement agency understanding of the methodology employed by organised crime syndicates engaged in the manufacture and export/importation of crystal methamphetamine between Australia and China.

Taskforce STORM:

On 30 May 2015, the AFP entered into the Joint Taskforce (Narcotics and Transnational Organised Crime) Agreement between the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the Royal Thai Police, the Department of Special Investigations and the Anti-Money Laundering Office. The Agreement established Taskforce STORM for an initial period of six months. On 30 November 2016, participating agencies agreed to formally extend Taskforce STORM for an additional 12 months.

The Taskforce arrangement allows for joint operations to be undertaken by two or more of the signatory agencies depending on the criminality being investigated.

Strikeforce DRAGON:

On 1 June 2016, the AFP entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Cambodian National Police and the General Department of Immigration on a Joint Strikeforce Arrangement to combat methamphetamine, primarily crystal methamphetamine.

Strikeforce DRAGON focuses its activities on key border provinces, sea ports, post offices, airports and logistics channels, and other key locations, and includes collecting and evaluating intelligence on transnational criminal syndicates involved in exporting/importing methamphetamines.

Cambodian National Police and the General Department of Immigration have agreed to extend Strikeforce DRAGON for a further six months to 31 May 2017.

c. a projection of the funding and staffing for each project over the forward estimates.

International Liaison Officers undertake these activities as part of their role in the respective countries. This funding is not categorised separately in the Budget.

13. Please indicate how many, if any, overseas taskforces and projects are set to be discontinued or will have their funding run out/expire over the forward estimates, and the area of work they focus on (e.g. drug supply, illicit firearms).

Nil.

14. Please indicate how many, if any, overseas taskforces and projects will have a reduction in funding over the forward estimates, and the area of work they focus on (e.g. drug supply, illicit firearms).

Nil.

ATTACHMENT A

AFP Liaison Posts		Positions at Post				
Post	Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Phnom Penh	Cambodia	3	3	2	2	1
Beijing	China	2	2	2	2	2
Hong Kong	China	2	2	2	2	2
Guangzhou	China	2	2	2	2	2
Bogota	Colombia	2	2	2	2	2
Suva	Fiji	2	2	2	2	2
New Delhi	India	1	1	1	1	1
Bali	Indonesia	1	1	2	2	1
Jakarta	Indonesia	20	15	19	17	10
Amman	Jordan				1	1
Beirut	Lebanon	1	2	2	2	1
Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	3	3	4	4	2
Yangon	Myanmar	1	1	1	1	1
Islamabad	Pakistan	3	3	4	4	2
Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea	2	2	2	2	1
Manila	Philippines	4	4	4	4	3
Belgrade	Serbia	1	1	1	1	1
Singapore	Singapore	1	1	1	3	3
Pretoria	South Africa	1	1	1	1	1
Colombo	Sri Lanka	1	1	3	3	1
Bangkok	Thailand	6	6	5	5	5
The Hague	The Netherlands	3	3	3	4	4
Ankara	Turkey				1	2
Dubai	United Arab Emirates	1	1	4	4	2
London	United Kingdom	3	3	4	4	5
Los Angeles	United States of America	1	1	1	1	1
New York	United States of America		1	1	1	1
Washington	United States of America	3	3	3	4	4
Port Vila	Vanuatu	1				
Hanoi	Vietnam	2	2	1	1	1
Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	2	2	2	2	1
Port Louis	Mauritius	1				
Pohnpei	Micronesia	1	1			
Lyon	France	1	1	1	2	1
Semarang	Indonesia	2	2	3	3	2
Wellington	New Zealand	1	1	1	1	1
Apia	Samoa	1	1	1	1	1
Honiara	Solomon Islands	1	1	1	1	1
Nuku'alofa	Tonga	1	1	1	1	
Pittsburgh	United States of America				1	
Total		84	79	89	95	72