

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 290

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) How many requests for assistance in preventing terrorism have been received by the Rapid Response Taskforce of the AFP?
- b) Of these requests, how many were acted on?
- c) How many requests have resulted in officers been deployed overseas, and to where are they deployed?
- d) What are the usual time frames for the deployments?
- e) How long do the deployments last for?

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

- a) Since inception on 1 July 2004, there have been 10 instances where the AFP has deployed rapid response teams. These responses have either emanated from requests for assistance or an acceptance by the host country of an AFP offer of assistance.
- b) The AFP acted on all requests for assistance.
- c) Response matters include mass casualty incidents, contingency planning for special events and hostage negotiation situations:
 - Olympics Liaison - Greece (August 2004)
 - Australian Embassy bombing – Indonesia (September 2004)
 - Alleged hostage negotiation situation – Iraq (September 2004)
 - Superferry 14 bombing – Philippines (October 2004)
 - General Santos City market bombings – Philippines (December 2004)
 - Tsunami – Thailand (December 2004)
 - Valentine's Day bombings – Philippines (February 2005)
 - Anzac Day ceremonies - Turkey (April 2005)
 - Iraq hostage negotiation situation – Iraq (May 2005)
 - Bali bombing 2005 – Indonesia (October 2005)
- d) Within two days for all requests.
- e) From one to six weeks.