



Police Federation
of Australia

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL POLICING EXPERIENCE

- The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has, since 2001, been increasingly involved in international deployments in a wide range of operations, but particularly in the Pacific region.
- This month marks 61 years since Australian peacekeeping operations began in Cyprus in 1964. Four Australian police officers have lost their lives overseas in peacekeeping efforts.
- The AFP currently has about 400 members deployed on peace operations and capacity development missions to 10 countries: Afghanistan, Cyprus, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- The AFP uses its off-shore strategy to combat the regional threat of terrorism, cooperating with global and regional partners, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing transnational crime, including for example terrorism and internet crime.

Pacific Countries & East Timor Policing

- In the light of increasing overseas deployments, and the likelihood of this demand increasing in the future, the Australian Government has been supporting an expansion of the capacity of the AFP's International Deployment Group (IDG). At mid-2008, IDG numbers stood at 873, around half of whom are sworn police officers. Some 100 were officers seconded to the AFP from Australia State and Territory Police agencies to the IDG. The IDG is planned to grow to around 1200 in 2008 and this will provide an important surge capacity.
- Around 208 officers were deployed to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and 130 to Timor-Leste.
- Civil unrest in vulnerable, poorly developed states has been the trigger for significant deployments in the last four or five years. For example civil unrest in 2006 led to AFP (and on occasion military) deployments to the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tonga.

- In addition, the AFP has around 87 officers undertaking international liaison work in 28 countries, including Indonesia, The Phillipines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia. Jointly with Indonesian law enforcement, Australia runs regional training at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation.
- Australia has allocated \$80.1 million over 4 years for a Pacific Police Development Program which includes PNG, Samoa, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- In addition, \$53.7 million has been budgeted over 2 years for a more effective police service in East Timor. Up to 80 specialist personnel are to undertake capacity development in East Timor.
- Our personnel deployed internationally include sworn police and specialists in areas such as capacity building, forensic capabilities, riot control and security, intelligence analysts and support services.

Afghanistan/Iraq

- \$47 million has been provided for an additional 8 sworn members for capacity building and counter-narcotics in Afghanistan and \$13.7 million for Iraqi Police Service specialist training of 243 members in Australia.

Other Initiatives

- \$5.1 million over 4 years to establish the Asia-Pacific Centre for Civil Military Police Cooperation in Australia.

Key Issues

- Effective workers' compensation laws for officers serving overseas.
- Indemnity for senior officers 'politically displaced' by the host government.
- A mechanism for resolution of employment issues which arise on deployment.
- Health issues (e.g. irritable bowel syndrome) from service with the IDG; a study is proposed.

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