

ICPRA CONFERENCE 2008

New Zealand Police Association Summary of Overseas Deployments

During the 2007/08 financial year, New Zealand Police were involved in five major international policing deployments. Total personnel numbers deployed during the year varied between about 70 and 80. The total number of person days engaged in providing international policing support was 27,750.

Afghanistan

New Zealand has supported the UN and NATO-led missions for security and reconstruction in Afghanistan primarily through leadership of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Bamyan Province in Afghanistan since 2003. This is primarily a Defence mission, but Police have contributed since 2005 and currently contribute three personnel to help train the Afghan National Police. The current commitment is expected to extend till late 2009.

Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

The Solomon Islands continued to be a major commitment for the Police this year, with 35 staff deployed there on six-month rotations as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) Participating Police Force. In addition, the Police has three senior staff seconded to the Solomon Islands police force on a bilateral arrangement outside of RAMSI, including New Zealand Police Assistant Commissioner Peter Marshall. New Zealand Police were first deployed in the Solomons to help restore security, and in the rebuilding phase have contributed to RAMSI since its inception in 2003. The commitment is currently expected to continue until at least March 2009.

Timor-Leste

The Police continued to provide 25 staff on six-month rotation to the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste to build capacity in the Timorese police. Defence and Police personnel have been involved in East Timor since before the referendum on independence in 1999, with the current deployment beginning in 2006 and expected to run until at least early 2009.

Bougainville (Papua New Guinea)

Seven Police staff were funded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), to train, mentor and advise the Bougainville Community Auxiliary Police and Bougainville Police Service. NZ Police involvement in Bougainville began in 2004.

Tonga

Following rioting in Nuku'alofa in November 2006, a 45-strong Police contingent was deployed at the request of the Government of Tonga. In 2007/08, the size of

the contingent gradually decreased to four officers who remained in and around Nuku'alofa in response to the Tongan police force's need for ongoing specialist policing assistance.

In late May 2008, the deployment transitioned to the Tonga Police Development Programme, a three to five-year Australia, New Zealand and Tonga programme of assistance to the Tongan police force. NZAID funds the New Zealand Police's contribution to the programme.

Other programmes

Alongside the major commitments outlined above, the Police worked towards developing a programme of long-term assistance to the Cook Islands police and a package of community policing assistance for Papua/West Papua, Indonesia.

The Police was also involved in a range of offshore programmes and projects to benefit New Zealand's national security, including:

- the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme
- the Pacific Police Dog Programme
- the Philippines Model Police Station Project
- Clandestine Laboratory Training (Indonesia)
- Crime Scene Investigation Training (Malaysia)
- the Police Armoury Redevelopment (Tonga).

Capability

New Zealand Police has an overseas liaison officer network, with officers posted in Bangkok, Sydney, Canberra, London, Washington DC, Jakarta, Suva and Beijing continued to engage with information and intelligence flows to extend New Zealand's knowledge and understanding of the international and domestic security environment.

Government is committed to combat terrorism and to strengthen post-conflict capacity in a number of parts of the world. Whereas the defence force has traditionally been the primary focus for deployment in these roles, attention has increasingly turned to using civilian police, recognising the need for a stable law and order environment for the achievement of other civil infrastructure development, including aid delivery.

Investment in strengthening police capability was boosted in 2005 through establishing a specialist International Services Group to manage requests for assistance, and enable more effective responses to regional security operations.

The United Nations is increasingly seeking civilian police contributions from New Zealand for its missions because of the professional and community focused style and skill NZ Police add to such deployments. The regional assistance mission in the Solomon Islands is considered a model internationally, demonstrating how countries can work together in a near-failed state to establish a basis on which recovery can be effected.