The AFP in the Indian Ocean region

In a complex global environment where uncertainty is a feature, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) contributes to safeguarding Australia's national security by fighting transnational crime, including terrorism, supporting whole-of-government efforts to enhance international security and stability, and contributing to solutions and responses to global problems.

The AFP employs a flexible model where the allocation of resources and effort is based upon the threat of crime types to Australia and considered in the context of wider Australian Government strategic interests. The AFP's engagement with law enforcement agencies in the Indian Ocean region is wide-ranging and includes activities such as:

- capacity building programs
- assistance with operational activities
- peace keeping and joint operations
- delivering training for host country agencies
- facilitating the exchange of information and criminal intelligence between agencies

AFP activities in the region

Regional cooperation

In recognition of the transnational criminal threats impacting Australia in the Indian Ocean region, and in line with its International Engagement Strategy (IES), the AFP has personnel dedicated to law enforcement cooperation in the following AFP International Network posts located in the region: Jakarta, Bali, Colombo, New Delhi, Yangon, Pretoria, Islamabad, Dubai and Bangkok. Staffing levels vary from post to post and comprise AFP members performing general and specific crime-type roles.

The AFP International Network operates closely with foreign law enforcement agency partners and Australian government agencies offshore to prevent, detect and investigate a variety of crime types including: terrorism, people smuggling, trafficking in persons, money laundering, corruption, cybercrime, child exploitation, intellectual property and narcotic offences.

As an example, the AFP's international counter terrorism efforts assist regional law enforcement partners in developing specialist skills and capabilities to combat the threat of terrorism while safeguarding Australia's interests offshore.

This collaborative approach is managed by AFP Counter Terrorism International through dedicated AFP Regional Cooperation Teams in Jakarta, Manila and the Bangkok Training and Development Centre. These teams provide investigative, forensic and analytical support to regional partners' counter terrorism investigations.

The AFP's Forensic and Data Centres (FDC) delivers forensic capacity development throughout the region. Project deliverables include advising the Indonesian National Police (INP) on their DNA laboratory, facial identification and disaster victim identification (DVI) training held at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) and the purchase and maintenance of scientific equipment and consumables for the Royal Thai Police and Philippines National Police.

The AFP also co-established the African Society of Forensic Medicine, whose key objective is to set minimum standards for forensic medicine practice in Africa. As a self-sufficient society, it will also provide guidance and advocacy to the African forensic medicine profession into the future.

The Australian Bomb Data Centre (ABDC) maintains a strategic relationship with bomb data centres (BDCs) established under the Fighting Terrorism at its Source New Policy Initiative. The AFP works with BDCs based in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The ABDC conducts explosives awareness, analysis, intelligence and exploitation training for regional stakeholders and sponsors regular heads of regional Southeast Asia BDCs Working Group meetings.

Specific law enforcement activities undertaken in the region:

Thailand

There is a long history of cooperation between the Royal Thai Police (RTP) and the AFP. A number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between the RTP and the AFP are in place, including an agreement to combat transnational crime and develop police cooperation. The AFP provides support to the Thai Transnational Crime Coordination Network (TCCN), which is a multi-crime type network operating in Thailand.

The Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (TCCC) in Bangkok provides an opportunity to extend and build on assistance already agreed to between the RTP and AFP. Transnational Crime Coordination Units (TCCU), which supports the TCCC as part of the Coordination Network, are located in a number of regional areas in Thailand.

Indonesia

The Transnational Crime Centre (TNCC) Project commenced in 2003 as a joint initiative between Australia and Indonesia in the aftermath of the 2002 Bali Bombings. Located in Jakarta, the TNCC enhances the sharing of information on transnational crime between regional law enforcement agencies. Indonesian National Police (INP) members staff the TNCC and are supported by an AFP advisor.

The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) is located in the INP Academy in Semarang, Indonesia. Established in 2004, JCLEC aims to consolidate and sustain the cooperation between the AFP and the INP. With the assistance of donor countries, including Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, JCLEC offers operational support and capacity building assistance to Indonesian and other regional law enforcement agencies to deal with all aspects of transnational crime, including terrorism. Since its opening in 2004, JCLEC has trained over 11,500 participants from 54 countries, through a range of programs, including forensics, investigations and intelligence.

Through the AusAID Counter Terrorism Cooperation Fund Project, the AFP is supporting the Indonesian National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT) in conducting a de-radicalisation and counter-radicalisation project pertaining to the future release of convicted terrorists from prison in Indonesia. The project aims to create a comprehensive community engagement strategy to facilitate early engagement by BNPT/INP and other government agencies with at-risk individuals and communities, while implementing a public information strategy designed to counter the influence of extremist literature and internet material.

Mauritius

In accordance with the AFP's international engagement priorities and support to regional capacity building initiatives, an AFP member was deployed with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Programme on Countering Maritime Piracy in the Horn of Africa. Initially located in Nairobi and subsequently Mauritius, the deployment occurred between March 2012 and November 2012. The role contributed to the planning, development, organisation and coordination of this UNODC Programme and related UNODC activities to inhibit piracy.

South Sudan

The AFP has contributed peace keepers to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) since March 2006. In July 2011, the UN unanimously adopted resolution 1996 (2011) establishing the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) for an initial period of one year.

In August 2011, the Australian Government approved the transition of the AFP contingent from UNMIS to the new mission in South Sudan. AFP members support the UNMISS objective to consolidate peace and security in the nation, assisting with the development of police training and evaluation programs, and the provision of assistance in the mentoring and training of members of the South Sudan Police Service.

Timor Leste

Australia has provided police assistance to Timor Leste since September 1999, both bilaterally and multilaterally, including through its support to United Nations missions. The AFP has contributed to capacity development in Timor Leste under the auspices of two programs: the Timor Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP) and, until 15 December 2012, the United

Nations Integrated Mission in Timor (UNMIT), providing a range of training, mentoring and capacity building programs.

Under TLPDP AFP members, along with some contracted and locally engaged support staff, conduct a range of training, mentoring and capacity building programs. This includes police training, in particular through investigations training and executive management and leadership development courses.

The UNMIT mandate was to ensure, through the presence of the United Nations Police (UNPOL), the restoration and maintenance of public security in Timor-Leste through the provision of support to the Polícia Nacional de Timor Leste. In February 2012 the UN Security Council extended the current UNMIT mandate until 31 December 2012. The Australian UNPOL contingent has been steadily withdrawing from mission since September 2012, in accordance with the planned drawdown for the termination of the mission on 31 December 2012, with a total of 38 AFP officers having departed UNMIT during this period. The final AFP officers departed Timor-Leste on 15 December 2012.

Pakistan

Enhancing Australia's Law Enforcement Engagement with Pakistan (Forensic Component) is an Australian Government initiative that provided funding to the AFP over four years (from 2008/09) to enhance the rule of law and increase forensic capacity in Pakistan. To date, ten forensic discipline-specific training courses have been held in Australia and Pakistan for over 100 participants from Pakistani police and forensic agencies.

In addition, the national Pakistan Forensic Leadership Forum, co-chaired by the AFP's National Manager FDC, was established to encourage local assistance and expertise and ensure the long term sustainability of the Forensic component of the project. A significant amount of scientific equipment and consumables have been gifted to various forensic facilities across Pakistan to promote long-term capability outcomes.

Africa

The AFP also received government funding over four years from 2008/2009 to implement the Increasing Australia's Law Enforcement Presence and Strengthening the Rule of Law in Africa project. Based predominantly in southern and eastern Africa, the project has a strong focus on crime scene examination, investigating sexual violence and forensic pathology. A number of courses and workshops have been delivered in Namibia, Botswana, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania to over 100 participants. Forensic equipment and consumables have also been provided to African stakeholder agencies.

The Indian Ocean rim region over the next 5 years – a transnational crime perspective

Over the next five years, Australia will continue to experience societal and national security impacts from transnational crime threats originating from

nations within the Indian Ocean region. The diverse nature of the Indian Ocean construct ensures that almost every contemporary crime type is present within the region. The nature of global population movements are such that ethnic criminal groups have an extensive diaspora in which to network and facilitate crime across the region.

Although inconsistent in nature at this point in time, capacity development in the Indian Ocean has the potential to disrupt and displace transnational crime threats. Regardless, the threat from transitional crime from the Indian Ocean rim is unlikely to grow in numbers or diversify in threat type for the medium term. Current threats from transnational crime include:

- technology-enabled crime
- money laundering
- drug trafficking
- identity crime
- child sex offences
- people smuggling
- fraud and corruption
- terrorism
- human trafficking.

The five year outlook for transnational crime within the Indian Ocean region will see criminal enterprises continue to network outside of traditional ethnic organised crime frameworks. The underlying driver for this crime will remain the pursuit of profits.

Some crime types and attendant networks – such as terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and people smuggling – are well established in the region. To address the threat of crime and disrupt it at its source, the AFP will continue to work closely with its Indian Ocean counterparts to address the existing and emerging criminal and security issues.