AFP’s ROLE IN CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEACE OPERATIONS

WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

Capacity Development in the AFP is defined as:

“Developing competencies and capabilities in individuals and groups, through the processes of consultation, coaching, advising and supporting, leading to sustained and self-generating performance improvement”

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has an increasing role in international peacekeeping and capacity building missions. This role predates the formation of the AFP 25 years ago, with members of the former ACT Police and Commonwealth Police participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions since 1964. This work is part of core business for the AFP, and a key way of strengthening links and partnerships with the international law enforcement community.
INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT GROUP (IDG)

The International Deployment Group (IDG) was formed in February 2004 to manage the deployment of Australian police overseas. The AFP is committed to working alongside our overseas neighbours to achieve long-term law enforcement results of maintaining a safe, stable and secure region. Regional stability depends on well trained and equipped police agencies working together.

Goal
To provide leadership within the law and justice sector in the delivery of offshore law enforcement initiatives.

Purpose
To contribute to regional stability and security on behalf of the Government of Australia.

Achieved by
• Contributing to offshore law enforcement initiatives.
• Participating in capacity development programs within the law and justice sector.

As of August 2006, there were around 440 AFP members serving overseas, of which around 130 members were seconded from Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia Police services. Each mission is about upholding the law and people’s rights through mentoring and capacity development to support regional police.

Under the IDG banner, Australian Police personnel are currently deployed to Cyprus, Jordan, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Timor Leste and Vanuatu.

The IDG employs around 140 Australian based personnel that provide support with all aspects involved with the deployment of AFP members for overseas missions and capacity development initiatives. The administrative office, Australia Base (A Base) is located at the Wanggirrali Ngurrumbai Centre in Canberra.

The support teams include the following areas:

• Executive
• Corporate Services
• Contracts and Logistics
• Pacific Islands Police Advisor
• Strategy, Monitoring and Governance
• Learning and Development
• Planning and Technical Support
• Capacity Building
• Missions
• Protective Service
• Operations Response Team
• Wellbeing Services
• Marketing and Communications
• Forensic
• Intelligence
CURRENT IDG MISSIONS

JORDAN

Jordon International Police Training Centre (JIPTC)

This mission started in May 2004, following an invitation to Australia to help British and coalition police train Iraqi police in the neighbouring country of Jordan. Two AFP members are deployed to the JIPTC, near the capital of Amman and are rotated every four months.

The JIPTC is a large Police training facility built specifically for the purpose of training Iraqi Police. The trainers have extensive operational experiences in community policing, investigations, intelligence and are qualified instructors.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands - (RAMSI)

In July 2003, RAMSI commenced to restore law and order and to assist capacity development with the Royal Solomon Island Police (RSIP).

RAMSI Participating Police Force (PPF) is in Phase 4 and 5 of the planned 10 phase engagement. Phase 1 involved direct intervention to stabilise the law and order environment of the Solomon Islands, while Phase 2 involved sustaining the outcomes of Phase 1. Phase 3 onwards is solely involved with the capacity building of the RSIP.

Since the arrival of RAMSI, in excess of 3700 weapons have been seized and over 7000 arrests have been made. The RSIP has commenced taking the lead in policing operations with the PPF in a support role. This is a solid indication of the success in capacity building the RSIP.

Today there are approximately 300 members deployed to the Solomon Islands from AFP, State Police, New Zealand and twelve Pacific Island countries. This is part of a Whole of Government approach to maintain law and order, strengthen the criminal justice system and support peace building.

The PPF in mission play a great role in the capacity building of the RSIP, as well as actively engaging in various community projects, for example, the recent PPF facilitated renovation of the Red Cross School in Honiara.
TIMOR LESTE

Current IDG deployment to Timor Leste

Following unrest in Dili in April and May 2006, and at the invitation of the Government of Timor Leste (GOTL), the AFP deployed a contingent of 200 members to Timor Leste. This deployment is part of a multinational police presence formed to return stability to Timor Leste. In consultation with the UN and with the GOTL, the AFP will continue to contribute to the security and development of Timor Leste.

The commitment to Timor Leste (previously known as East Timor) began in 1999, with AFP members among the first overseas police deployed under the banner of the United Nations. The United Nations Office in Timor Leste (UNOTIL) is a special UN political affairs mission that commenced on 20 May 2005. The UNOTIL mission has been suspended pending the outcome of a United Nations review.

Capacity building project- Timor Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP)

On 16 June 2004, the IDG deployed a training team of six officers to Timor Leste to assist the Government with training and development of the Policia Nacional de Timor Leste (PNTL) as part of the TLPDP, a project of the AFP Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP).

CURRENT UNITED NATIONS MISSIONS

CYPRUS

United Nations Force in Cyprus- (UNFICYP)

There are 15 AFP members deployed to the UNFICYP, which commenced in 1964. These officers police the official buffer zone separating Greek and Turkish Cypriots ensuring humanitarian assistance is provided with the objective of creating an environment for reunification.

AFP members work alongside other police officers from Argentina, Bosnia, Croatia, El Salvador, Holland, India, Ireland and Italy who all make up the United Nations Police in Cyprus, of which there are now 69 members.
In November 2005, the Australian Government approved the deployment of AFP personnel to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sudan. On Monday 6th March 2006, 10 AFP members departed Australia for Khartoum where they joined police from more than 40 countries participating in the UNMIS operation.

The major role of UNMIS is to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in January 2005 between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, which ended the long-running north/south civil war. UNMIS also plays a role in supporting the African Union’s Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in the Darfur region.

The Australian contingent are based in various areas of Sudan where they work closely with Sudanese police as mentors and advisors, as well as providing training in general policing practices, leadership and management skills. The AFP deployment contributes positively to improving stability and peace in the south of Sudan through participation in the UNMIS operation.

**CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES**

The IDG Capacity Building Business Area was established in December 2005 following an IDG internal review and restructure. In support of the IDG goal and purpose, the Capacity Building Business Area is responsible for the coordination, delivery and reporting on a range of bilateral and multilateral international law enforcement capacity building initiatives. Examples of the work currently being undertaken by the Business Area include:

**Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP)**

As part of the IDG, the Law Enforcement Cooperation Program delivers capacity development programs to overseas law enforcement agencies. Since 1998, almost $30 million has been spent providing operational assistance, training, equipment and technical support.

LECP is the key mechanism by which the AFP increased the awareness and understanding of transnational crime issues within the international law enforcement community. LECP capacity building and projects are delivered on behalf of the wider AFP, primarily focusing on the Asia/Pacific regions, with projects in other parts of the world delivered on a more selective basis.

Under the umbrella of the LECP, transnational crime fighting centres have been established with overseas law enforcement agencies in Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa and Fiji. These centres provide a coordination point for gathering and sharing intelligence on transnational crimes as well as running joint operations to dismantle organised crime groups.

LECP also manage a number of AusAID funded projects. These include a four year, $4.7 million, Jakarta-based Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (TNCCC). Through the establishment of the TNCCC, and provision of training, this will assist the Indonesian Police (INP) to develop their counter-terrorism capability. There is also a two and a half year, $3.7 million, Philippines Counter-terrorism Capacity Building Project (PNPCTP).
CAPACITY BUILDING MISSIONS

NAURU

**AFP Provision of Assistance to Nauru**

Beginning in October 2004, AFP personnel have been deployed to assist in the capacity development of the Nauru Police Force. Currently there are 3 members on the island including the Commissioner of the Nauru Police Force, a Senior Training and Investigations Advisor and a Protection Unit Advisor. These members assist in increasing skills, accountability and professionalism in the force.

This mission is part of a Whole of Government approach with officials from other departments already deployed to provide critical expertise to the Government of Nauru. The AFP also deploys Protective Service Officers to Nauru as a first response capability at the Overseas Processing Centre.

VANUATU

**Vanuatu Police Force Capacity Building Project - (VPFCBP)**

Since 2003 Australia has provided assistance to strengthening Vanuatu’s Police Force (including training, policy and organisation reform) as part of an interim phase of a longer term VPFCBP.

In December 2005, the Governments of Vanuatu and Australia signed Memorandums of Understanding, which enables an AusAID managed and funded VPFCBP to be implemented over a five year period. A Record of Understanding signed by AusAID and the AFP in March 2006, enables the AFP to resource and deliver the VPFCBP.

The goal of the VPFCBP is to contribute to creating a safe and secure environment for all citizens and visitors of Vanuatu, including providing a secure business environment through the provision of excellent policing services.

AFP Technical Advisors commenced deploying in February 2006. There are currently 8 full time advisors, 1 AusAID project officer and 2 locally engaged staff members working with the VPFCBP. A further 8 part time Technical Advisors will be engaged over the life of the Project.

**OPERATION RESPONSE TEAM - (ORT)**

The Operations Response Team role is to provide tactical policing services to the AFP with particular focus on those services required by the IDG. It contributes to the IDG Goal by enhancing safety and security of members in mission and provides tactical policing services to achieve outcomes inline with mission goals.

The team consists of approximately 30 fully trained police tactical operators which currently rotate through RAMSI, Timor-Leste and Australia. The team is able to provide a wide range of tactical policing services including waters operations, air operations, and civil disorder responses, as well as providing general community policing services.

The team is made up of various lateral and AFP members who bring a wide range of skill sets to the ORT. The team is based at a remote facility at Fairbairn, Canberra and report functionally to the IDG Executive through a small coordination cell based at Fairbairn.
MISSION TRAINING

AFP officers have been deploying to overseas peacekeeping missions since 1964 with the early training packages maturing into the current International Deployment Pre-Deployment Training (IDPT) scenario-based training. The new International Training Complex in the ACT represents a new era in hands-on, practical training that can’t be gained in the class room. The IDG continually adapts its training regime and implements new learning and development methods to ensure its personnel are highly skilled and ready for rapid deployment.

The live-in program is both mentally and physically challenging and designed to replicate some of the rigours of mission life. Training at the complex gives members the ability to enhance their skills in many real situations, including cultural awareness, remote first aid, 4WD skills, navigations, medivac rescue and exposure to environments that may be encountered overseas. The multi-purpose facility also caters for other areas of the AFP, providing a venue for training in counter terrorism, search and rescue, protection and forensics.

Opened in 2005, the Complex is used to train the AFP and other Australian, New Zealand and international police from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

FOREIGN POLICE LIAISON

The Foreign Police Liaison (FPL) team is responsible for coordinating and delivering capacity building training to Foreign Police participating in the RAMSI. The team encourages the development of strategic partnerships with international participating Police organisations providing a framework for collaboration and consistency.

The FPL team assists and mentors international participants undertaking pre deployment training in Australia, generating an additional capacity for the IDG to deploy effective, efficient and accountable personnel, in line with multilateral Government agreements.

More information on the International Deployment Group is available on the AFP website

www.afp.gov.au

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