

AFP exercise in wake of airline tragedy

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On the evening of Thursday, 21 February, 1980, a Beechcraft "Superking Air" of Advance Airlines, carrying a pilot and 12 passengers including a week-old baby, crashed at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.

By 1916 hours members of the Federal Police Emergency Team had responded to the call for assistance and eight members were on the scene helping airport fire service members in a rescue attempt.

Within an hour 40 AFP members,

including Divisional O.I.C. Chief Superintendent M. Martin and O.I.C. Protective Services Chief Inspector J. Burrows, had answered the call. All members worked alongside N.S.W. Police in an attempt to save any survivors. No-one had survived the crash but Police continued to work tirelessly through the night to recover bodies and property.

After the immediate emergency was over Federal Police Protective Service members from the Airport

and divisional headquarters remained on duty at the crash scene around the clock until 1335 hours on Saturday 23 February.

Three of the passengers killed in the crash were Temora Police officer Constable Henderson, his wife and week-old baby. Eastern Division are holding a collection for the surviving Henderson children and any member who wishes to make a donation can forward it to Chief Inspector J.B. Burrows, D.H.Q. Eastern Division.



At 1335 hours on February 26, 1980, Lunar Airlines Flight 001 alerts Sydney Airport control that it has an engine malfunction. Aboard the plane are 325 passengers, 16 crewmembers and two packages of highly radio-active material.

This was the mock situation which confronted the emergency services of Sydney Airport at the start of the annual Sydney Airport air crash exercise. Seconds after receiving the alert the emergency services of the airport and surrounding areas swung into action culminating months of planning by the Department of Transport, Police and support service officials.

The exercise is in accordance with an international agreement which requires major international airports to conduct such an exercise each year. The concept behind the exercise is to contrive a simulated incident involving the crash of an aircraft including passengers who have been 'injured' or 'killed'.

A senior Police official explained that the purpose of the mock drama was to involve those services which would be required to assist in a similar real situation.

Unfortunately this was demonstrated all too clearly as just four

days before the exercise was staged an Advance Airlines Beechcraft had crashed at the airport killing the pilot and all 12 passengers including a week-old baby.

More than 800 people from the Department of Transport, Airport



Members of the Australian Federal Police, NSW Police and Department of Transport officials inspect a piece of 'wreckage' where one of the two 'lost' radio-active packages was found. Protective Service and General Duties members worked side by side during the annual mock plane crash exercise conducted at Sydney Airport.

Fire Services, NSW Ambulance, Salvation Army, NSW Police and AFP were involved.

The 50 AFP members who took part were Eastern Division Protect-

and organise 'uninjured' and slightly 'injured' passengers who had been taken there by bus.

The two radio-active packages 'lost' in the crash (well hidden by the

Chief Inspector Burrows, OIC, Protective Services, Eastern Division, said after the exercise: "It was a great success considering that for the first time Australian Federal



'Victims' of the air 'crash' are scattered over a wide area. The mock plane crash exercise is conducted to prepare emergency services for real life air crash tragedies.



Federal Police assist an injured passenger to collect her belongings before being transferred to the international Terminal at Sydney Airport for Medical attention.

ion Services personnel stationed at Sydney Airport and Divisional Headquarters.

They worked alongside their NSW Police counterparts and assisted in crowd and traffic control, search of wreckage and nearby areas and rendered assistance to 'injured' passengers.

Other AFP members were stationed in the International Terminal building where they helped NSW Police and medical teams identify

crash organisers) were found by Police minutes after rescue teams moved in.

The fire caused by the impact of the crash was extinguished by Airport fire service tenders, then the rescue and search teams moved systematically through the wreckage.

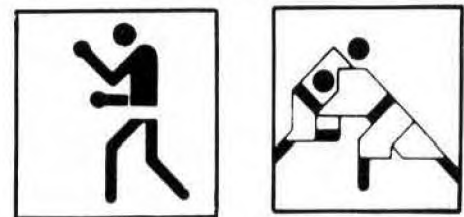
Passengers and wreckage were strewn over a wide area of rugged, bush-like ground which made rescue attempts more challenging.

Police and New South Wales Police worked under joint command, ensuring full utilisation of police resources.

"Unfortunately, AFP still lack much equipment and this prevents the force from operating at full efficiency. This same problem arose at the crash of the Advance Airlines and hopefully steps will be taken very soon to remedy these shortages".



Police care for kids, too . . .



Last year, 1979, was the International Year of the Child and radio and television stations throughout Australia were broadcasting the catchy tune, 'Care for Kids'. Since 1960 Police in Canberra have been doing just that at the Police and Citizens Youth Club.

Initially, the Club was formed in 1957 by Sergeant Harry Luton (who recently retired as Inspector). But, it was not until December 1960 that a clubhouse was opened with Sergeant Luton as its first Secretary/Superintendent.

Its popularity in catering for the physical fitness and recreation of boys and girls highlighted the need to expand the original building to its

present size. Some 1550 names currently appear on the membership roll and this figure is equally divided into senior and junior members.

Many diverse forms of sport and culture are catered for, from boxing to ballet, saunas to sailing. The Club offers supervised recreation for the young and not so young, and includes keep fit programmes for men and women.

The club facilities include sauna, hot-tub spa, trampoline, table tennis, weight lifting, volleyball, basketball, yard tennis, boxing ring, judo room, gym, as well as sailing (in the summer only!), a television, pool, pin ball machines and bad-

minton. And, if all that creates an appetite or thirst, there's a canteen too!

The Club relies on membership fees, public donation, hall hire and Government subsidy for its upkeep and to purchase new equipment. Continued Police participation and support is welcomed to maintain the high standard of supervision and training.

Enquiries about membership and information on Club activities should be directed to the Secretary/Superintendent Sergeant C. Pearson or his assistant First Constable C. McAllister, or the Club receptionist, Mrs S. Trewin on Canberra 470206.