

A.F.P. COMPUTER COMING ON LINE

by Chief Superintendent W. Williams, (O.I.C. Information Systems Division)

A planning and design study towards the development of a computer based information and communication system began in November 1979 with consultancy assistance from Planning Research Corporation International (PRCI).

Normally, the process of acquiring computer facilities in the Commonwealth Government Service takes three to four years. To avoid this delay the AFP bought surplus computer equipment from the Department of Health in July 1980.

This equipment has enabled the AFP to more rapidly build up expertise in computer-based systems and provide its members with improved information services pending the anticipated purchase of new equipment in late 1982.



It is expected that personnel will see results in late 1980 from the work undertaken so far. Initially the computer will be connected to terminals (Visual Display Unit and hard copy printer) located in the A.C.T.

However, connection to Sydney and Melbourne followed by other capital cities is expected to commence in early 1981.

When terminals are connected to any area, training will be given to staff in the use of a terminal and the services provided.

The following areas are scheduled to be provided with terminals in 1980. However, accommodation problems involving the relocation of various units may cause changes to the schedule.

AFP Complex Weston: Information Systems Division; Traffic records.

Civic Police Station: Communications; Watch House; Warrants; Registry; General Policing; Criminal Investigation Division; Personnel; Central Crime Intelligence unit.

National Mutual Building: Commissioner and Headquarters staff.

Belconnen and Woden Police stations.

It will take some years before the full effects of automation are felt in the AFP.

Apart from the lengthy process of obtaining all the necessary approvals in the government system, pur-



chasing equipment, systems design and programming, there is a considerable workload in converting data from the old manual systems.

Development must therefore be staged to proceed at a pace with which the organization as a whole can cope.

The following is a brief description of the services which will be available:

Message Switching — operational as terminal connected: This service enables a message to be sent from one terminal to any other terminal (or group of terminals) in the system. If a terminal to which a message is addressed is unavailable the computer temporarily stores the message until it can be delivered.

Persons of Interest — operational in October 1980: This is a computerised version of lists of persons of special interest (wanted on warrant, for questioning, missing, etc.) currently maintained by various branches. Information Branch Crime

(ISD) will be responsible for additions, deletions etc. Those branches with terminals will be able to make enquiries daily of the computer. Printed lists will be available to branches without terminals.

Vehicles of Interest — operational October 1980: Similar to persons of interest. Patrolling police will be able to check suspicious vehicles and persons by radio since the Communication Unit will be able to interrogate the system via its own terminal.

Names Indexing Facility: This is a generalised names (persons, organizations, etc.) indexing and file reference facility which will gradually be made available to user areas. It is designed for those users requiring a simple means of indexing names to files. Assistance will be given by the Information Systems Division to user areas in planning records conversion. A security feature is available by which access can be limited to the branch or division which originated the entry.



Subject Indexing and File Movement Control — available to selected users in early 1981: This is designed for use by registries as an aid in creating and identifying files and controlling their movement.

Other services (e.g. crime reporting, management and personnel) are in the planning stages, but most will not be implemented until the purchase of replacement computer equipment (scheduled for 1982).

The Department of Business and Consumer Affairs has notified the AFP that it does not intend to support the IRIS system (a computer

based system servicing drug intelligence activities) beyond mid-1982.

Consequently, the AFP is planning to develop on its own computer equipment a new system to service intelligence needs. Programming is expected to commence early in 1981 and the system should be operational in late 1981.

SECURITY FEATURES

Access to the services provided by the computer system and particularly to information of a sensitive nature will be controlled by a number of security features including terminal and user authorisation to access particular information.

While the computer system will enable Divisions and Branches to maintain indexes in a centralised computer facility and avoid the multiplicity of manual indexes cur-

rently needed, control will continue to be exercised by the responsible



Division and Branch.

For example, Information Branch Crime will be solely responsible for entering details of persons convicted of offences, while other authorised

branches will be permitted to make enquiries only.

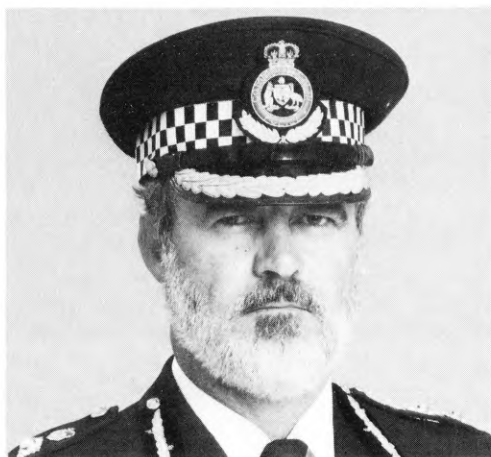
FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information will be disseminated through lectures and newsletters as implementation of the computer system proceeds.

Divisions and Branches will be contacted by the Information Systems Division regarding conversions from manual to computer systems and training of staff in the use of terminals and associated procedures.

If Divisional or Branch Heads require further information regarding the use of the computer system by their area contact Chief Superintendent W. Williams (062-870317) or Inspector M. Potter (062-870306).

Chief Superintendents A to Z



Chief Superintendent Jack Fletcher
OIC Special Operations

Twenty-three years Army experience preceded Chief Superintendent Jack Fletcher's appointment in March 1975, as head of the newly created Counter Terrorist Section of the former Commonwealth Police.

His last appointment in the Army was as Director of Army Training, and he is a former squadron commander of the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS).

An extensive traveller, he has visited Israel, Germany, France and Northern Ireland as a policeman and has served six years overseas with the Army in Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and the U.S.A.

In 1960 Chief Superintendent Fletcher was awarded the George Medal (GM) for his part in a commando amphibious exercise in Port Phillip Bay. He also holds the National Medal with Clasp.

He is an Arts graduate of the Royal Military College and of the Australian Staff College and lists painting, tennis, cats and cryptic crosswords among his favourite pastimes.



Chief Superintendent Norman Headland
(Crime Policy Co-Ordinator)

Detective Chief Superintendent Headland began his police career as a member of the former Commonwealth Investigation Service.

In 1960 he joined the former Commonwealth Police where he rose through the ranks to become Superintendent OIC Queensland Division in 1975.

After several transfers throughout the different districts, Mr Headland was seconded to the Australian Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drugs in 1978/79. He then served as OIC, ACT Division of the former Compol.

During his service, Mr Headland has undertaken major investigations in liaison with overseas enforcement agencies and was the first Australian Police officer to give evidence for 'the people' in a United States narcotics prosecution.

He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1977 and also holds the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Born in Adelaide in 1924, Mr Headland is married with three children. He follows cricket and Australian Rules and is a keen golfer and gardener.