

Happy Christmas from Headquarters

IT seems as if it was only a few days ago that my wife and I were preparing with friends to celebrate the Christmas season in Darwin. At that time it was by no means certain where we would be spending this Christmas. I suppose to some extent all levels of police service carry with them the uncertainty of what will be confronting police officers and their families from year to year. This aspect of our duties is unsettling on the one hand, but probably a little exciting on the other.

Even as we plan for this festive season the nature of our work is likely to separate us from our loved ones. That aside, I sincerely trust that Christmas brings to all of you a great deal of pleasure and that there is prosperity and happiness in the New Year.

As I move around the organisation talking with many of you, I continue to be impressed by the achievements of the organisation. It would be remiss of me if I were to fail to convey to you my deepest appreciation for your outstanding efforts in the service of the nation during this year.

R. (Peter) McAulay
Commissioner of Police

Since the establishment of the AFP in 1979, we have gone through many good and some difficult times together. I suppose as Christmas comes around it does give us time to reflect on our progress and achievements over the ten Christmases we have seen together. In reflecting this year on the AFP's overall performance, I have come to the firm view that we have made excellent progress towards the achievement of a first class police organisation that is "second to none".

I look forward to many Christmases where the AFP's progress can be viewed in similar terms. 1989 will not be an easy period for the AFP with quite radical changes to our employment conditions being brought into effect. I am confident that 1989 will bring with it, as a result of the Career Structure Review and other changes, a much more effective AFP and a much happier organisation in which to work.

I wish everyone associated with the AFP a merry Christmas for 1988 and a happy and prosperous 1989.

John Johnson
Deputy Commissioner
(Administration)

I wish all members and staff of the AFP a very happy Christmas and a fulfilling and enjoyable New Year

The AFP is in the midst of many challenges and changes — more fundamental to our role and structure at present than perhaps at any time since our formation. All of us have a part to play in meeting these challenges, and your efforts in all areas of AFP activities are greatly appreciated.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Steve Gavin
Secretary of the AFP.

Our families have an understandable expectation that during the Christmas/New Year festive season, they will be together to celebrate or simply relax. For many that will not be the case, for unfortunately all things do not automatically stop for the Christmas break. Assaults, house breakings, drug importers, traffic accidents, especially those that may involve death and trauma, still go on and the public has an expectation that the police service will continue to operate over this holiday period. We are not, of course, the only service that does so.

I say to those families who will be without Dad or Mum when the kids rush out on Christmas morning to open eagerly awaited presents, because Dad or Mum is rostered for duty, that while the moment may be lost it doesn't follow that every Christmas/New Year will carry the same disadvantages. There are few of us who have not experienced rostered duty on Christmas Eve; that is the nature of the job.

In any event I would like to say "thank you" to the families that have experienced the inevitable inconveniences of having a mother, father, sister, brother, daughter or son in the police service, where the daily routine of home life requires regular adjustment to meet the needs of that service. Without the home support, commitment to duty may be even more burdensome. To members themselves, have a Happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year and thanks to each of you for your commitment over this past twelve months.

The AFP cannot of course, function without the support of public servants, the majority of whom are just as committed as the police themselves. Each, from the young ones in Registry to the very senior managers and policy makers, is a member of the AFP team. I hope that all of you have an enjoyable break.

Roy Farmer
Deputy Commissioner (Operations)

