



Inside the new building.

plex through an electronically controlled access system (ECAS) linked to a central computer which can identify who accessed (or attempted to gain access to) which section, when they did it and how often.

Each officer has been issued with an encoded identification key which must be used each time a designated security zone is entered.

In the unlikely event of unauthorised people gaining access to the complex, highly sophisticated motion detectors will quickly alert security control officers.

Southern Region Headquarters' fleet of vehicles has also been well provided for with 85 parking bays available within a secure perimeter. Once again, personal identification is needed to gain access to the complex, even after passing the garage security doors.

Most office accommodation is positioned around the perimeter of the floor plan, providing most of the staff with natural light. Security and storage areas have been positioned more centrally — well away from the public gaze and in keeping with the security requirements essential for this kind of establishment.

Individual offices are mostly enclosed by floor-to-ceiling glass walls and access is through doors angled at 45 degrees which eliminates the 'dog-box' feeling associated with many conventional office designs.

All important telephone communications go through an NEC 2400 PABX which is almost identical to the system installed in AFP Headquarters, Canberra.

Sections which were not previously

incorporated in Southern Region Headquarters and are now to be found in the new complex include: Training; Legal Services; the Electronic Services Unit; the Scenes of Crime Unit; the Fraud and General Crime Branch; the Internal Investigation Unit; the Exhibit Store and the Currency Branch.

The building also accommodates several new areas of operations not previously available, including an equipment store; interview/fingerprint rooms; medical officer rooms and sick bay and a canteen and auditorium.

Social Facilities

AFP members can now take advantage of many facilities previously denied them. Social Club activities are catered for in a specific area adjoining the roof of the building.

With fitness in mind, staff are welcome to work out in the gymnasium and are encouraged to use it as much as possible.

A recent building requirement introduced by the Melbourne City Council states that 'low rise' buildings, such as the new AFP Southern Region Headquarters, must have aesthetically pleasing roof designs because they are overlooked by tall office buildings.

The design of the floor plans up to and including the top floor was closely coordinated but the roof design was a matter for the builder.

To the delight of AFP members, the roof boasts a full size tennis court with artificial turf and alongside it is a squash court. At the other end of the roof is an area ideally suited to barbeques.

The biggest problem facing the staff now is who gets the ball when it is sent over the mesh netting surrounding the roof-top court!

Logistic Advantages

The new building, which brings together so many arms of the AFP's operation, has already proved its value in easier communication between sections and in time saving.

It is a headquarters of which the Southern Region is justifiably proud.



Former AFP Commissioner, Major General Grey, received the US Secret Service's coveted Honour Award Plaque from the Special Agent in charge of the Asian Pacific Region, Mr Stephen Ramsey, at the AFP College, Barton, on February 5. It is the US Secret Service's highest award and Major General Grey is the first Australian to receive it. The US Secret Service's role is to protect the US monetary system, particularly against counterfeiting and fraud, and to provide close personal protection to US and visiting dignitaries.

(Picture by Sen. Const. Wayne McConaghy)