

UNITED AGAINST CRIME



Mr Jack L'Epagniol

"There is no distinction between police and public servants within this area — we have grown up together," Mr Jack L'Epagniol (Director, Intelligence Services Branch, Bureau of Criminal Intelligence) said.

"The level of criminal activity is such that intelligence gathering and police/public servant co-operation is vital. In the old days a policeman could keep the necessary knowledge stored in his head and do it all himself but these days you need computers and teams of analysts."

A recent case involving drug imports by yacht is used to demonstrate the value of the intelligence people.

"One of the senior analysts, Mr Geoff Stewart, is a blue water sailor who has sailed extensively in Australian waters," Mr L'Epagniol said. "Information he provided about Northern Australia, including detailed calculations of tides, currents and the likely speed of the yacht, enabled the operations team to predict where the yacht would be at a certain time and allowed them to make a successful 'bust'. It is a case we always bring up whenever we want to emphasise our worth to the organisation!"

"We have staff who served in Vietnam and they often find themselves working with police with similar experiences — it all helps to make for common ground," Mr L'Epagniol said.

The AFP Bureau of Criminal Intelligence is divided into two branches; the Intelligence Investigation Branch which is manned by AFP members and headed by a chief inspector, and the Intelligence Services Branch which is headed by the Director who answers to the Commander, Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, currently Detective Superintendent David Schramm.

The work of the Intelligence Investigation Branch includes target identification

and target development. The Intelligence Services Branch concerns itself with analysis and document control.

"The police are the investigators who collect the information and the intelligence officers, including the analysts, are the people who process that information and produce intelligence," Mr L'Epagniol said.

"We are here to predict the trends so that the police can allocate their resources in the most effective way. At the tactical level the analysts work with the AFP operational teams so that they are able to advise the case officers where gaps in information lie. Police work, in its planning and direction, is really driven by the products of intelligence collection."

The Intelligence Services Branch

There are two sides to the Intelligence Services Branch: The Analyst Unit and the Information and Data Services Unit which supports the Bureau as a whole by recording data and assisting in research and training.

"In the next year we hope to have more staff in the IDS Unit working on research," Mr L'Epagniol said.

"It is the document control centre for the BCI. Overall, we have 38 Public Service staff in the AFP BCI's Canberra headquarters and another eight analysts in the regions. Later this year we hope to have at least one analyst's position created overseas.

"An analyst on the spot overseas could sift through information and initiate research; he could organise further information collection requests to fill gaps and so speed up the intelligence-gathering process. We hope to get more positions overseas to help with the intelligence process."

"There is a strategic section as well as a tactical section in the Analyst Unit which

studies what is happening overseas and liaises with the FBI and US Drug Enforcement Administration liaison officers in Canberra and the AFP overseas liaison officers. They also work on UN reports and other figures gathered internationally.

The AFP BCI's data processing team in Canberra receive about 1,000 pages of printed matter a week from all sources, including some in languages other than English.

"We have the capacity to translate 11 languages which cover most of the significant ethnic groups in Australia," Mr L'Epagniol said.

"About 90% of AFP heroin seizures are linked to people of Chinese ethnic origin both in and outside Australia. The Chinese languages and dialects we can handle include Cantonese, Mandarin, Chiu Chow, which is spoken in Thailand, and Hokkien, which is spoken in Malaysia and Singapore. We can also handle Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese. Our capability with the European languages includes Serbo-Croat and Turkish."

The Military Connexion

"We have a number of people in the ISB with a background in military intelligence mainly because there are very few other intelligence-trained people on the open market," Mr L'Epagniol said.

The Director has been with the organisation four years and two years in his current position.

"I joined the Australian Army in 1952 and after the first nine years all my time was in Intelligence until I left in 1978," he said. "The Australian Army's most recent experience is not conventional warfare; it is the Malaya and Vietnam revolutionary warfare type of conflict where intelligence gathering in populated

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areas closely reflects the type of experience one comes across in police work.

"The procedure for processing a piece of information is the same in both fields of endeavour."

The Future

He said there is a limit to the number of operations that analysts can be involved in at any one time, and that limit can be attributed to a lack of resources, both in manpower and funds.

"Our intelligence picture is never as complete as we would like it to be and we are taking a much greater interest in statistical analysis in an effort to improve it."

"The Analyst Unit, which is commanded by Mr Paddy Mahoney, is looking much more closely at statistics so that we can predict trends in drug trafficking much more readily. At present we are studying statistics on cocaine for any indications of an anticipated increase of the drug coming into Australia from across the Pacific.

"In my view the drug problem should have been identified as a national emergency much earlier and all the national resources now being mobilised in the anti-drug crusade applied much sooner. Some indication of the epidemic and the effect in store for Australia should have been evident several years earlier, based on the situation everywhere else."

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Industrial Relations is one of the busiest divisions in the AFP and for Mike Garrett (Executive Officer) one of the attractions is its multi-disciplined nature.

"The combination of police and public servants side by side works very well," he said.

"We get the dual input so necessary to successful industrial relations work — the police operational input which is balanced by the public service industrial relations wages and policy expertise.

Mike, who first came to the AFP in February, 1986, when the Industrial Relations Division was formed, has an involvement in industrial relations going back to the 1960's.

"I became involved with the Electrical Trades Union after I qualified as a licensed electrician and I still maintain my licence.

"Before joining the AFP I was with the Industrial Relations (Commonwealth Employment) Division of the then Department of Employment and Industrial Relations," he said.

Mike's time with the AFP coincides with the development of some of its most



Mr Mike Garrett

important industrial relations initiatives. These include industrial democracy, occupational health and safety, a superannuation review and a career structure review. (Latest CSR report page 20).

The superannuation review culminated in a joint working party report to the Government recommending changes to existing AFP superannuation. The Minister for Justice, Senator Michael Tate, approved a "cessation payment" as an interim answer to the report's findings pending the Commonwealth Superannuation Review this year.

"The success of the Industrial Relations Division, which with 12 staff is a major one in the organisation, has shown that an integrated multi-disciplinary group can function very well in the AFP," he said.

Mike's first links with the force date from early 1985 when he was a Department of Industrial Relations representative on a team that reviewed AFP salaries.

"I saw it as an organisation which would benefit from formalising its industrial relations with government and unions and one which needed to develop employment policies which would benefit the organisation in the long term. Overall, I saw the AFP as a challenge — and it has been!"

Mike was seconded last year to the working party that produced the career structure review report and is part of the project team now undertaking a further review at the request of Commissioner McAulay.

BRITISH VISITOR

Police work was high on the agenda for discussion when Paddy Mahoney met his brother in Canberra recently.

Tim Mahoney is Public Relations Officer with the East and West Sussex County Police in England and his career spans about 15 years in police press relations, including time with Old Scotland Yard

Paddy visited his brother's force, and the Regional Crime Squad, last October. Returning the visit, Tim Mahoney said he had noticed some similarities between British forces and the AFP.

"All the UK forces are under pressure to civilianise posts which don't need police," he said.

"There is pressure to get every available officer back on the beat and back to operational policing. That is the major movement in British policing at present.

"The cry is for more manpower. All the forces are trying to prove they are making the best use of the police manpower they have so that they can get authority to get more police officers."

The East and West Sussex County Police is one of 43 forces in the UK and

has about 3,000 officers assisted by about 1,000 civilians to cover a population of 1.2 million people.

"The beat covers Gatwick Airport, which is the busiest international airport in the world after Heathrow, and cities such as Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings," Tim said.

"A total of two hundred and fifty officers are stationed at Gatwick for security plus about 40 more in the Special Branch contingent

"A lot of our operations there involve planning for terrorist incidents and aircraft accidents."

The city of Brighton is a particular security concern.

"The Conservative Party will be holding its annual conference in Brighton this October and in the Grand Hotel which was the venue for the October 1984 Conservative Party annual conference which was bombed by the IRA," he said.

"Security planning began more than twelve months ago and a planning team has been on it full time since Christmas"