

Southern Region looks to the future

By Assistant Commissioner Walter Williams

ONE of the great pleasures of working in Southern Region is the sense of team spirit. I am proud of the way members at all levels have participated in the team effort to accept the challenge of the future.

There are many examples of team initiative and innovative approaches. The successful establishment of proactive target development units, improved interaction between intelligence and investigative areas and the development of computer crime investigation skills provide excellent examples of team initiative and innovation.

Commanders Bob McDonald (Intelligence and Drug Operations Division) and Nigel Hadgkiss (Fraud and General Crime Division) are enthusiastic team builders who aim to achieve excellence in their Divisions. Favourable reports from auditors together with improving relations with client and associated agencies are a tribute to their efforts.

The tremendous efforts by the various administrative and operational support units of the Southern Region Team have ensured improvements in the delivery of logistical support and other services. They have met the challenge of structural change, successfully trained a new and younger team and, despite staff shortages, ensured the



Southern Region's senior management team: (l to r) Commander Bob McDonald (Officer-in-Charge, Intelligence and Drug Operations Division), Assistant Commissioner Walter Williams (Officer-in-Charge, Southern Region) and Commander Nigel Hadgkiss (Officer-in-Charge, Fraud and General Crime Division.)

operational units are better equipped and supported than ever before.

As a major Region with significant training responsibilities, Southern Region has a high proportion of new or less experienced members. This presents a major challenge which has been taken up to the credit of the experienced members at all ranks.

There are many examples of members with less than two years' experience performing high calibre work - a credit to them, their supervisors and the substantial effort put

into improving the AFP training program.

The cover of the new Corporate Plan for 1992-95 depicts the AFP looking to the future. The development of our new members as highly skilled professionals with the capacity to meet future challenges is perhaps our greatest responsibility. New members are the lifeblood of the organisation.

When talking with new members, I am often asked: What is the future for the AFP? The answer is, of course, they are the future. It is a cliché, but it is a fact that they are tomorrow's leaders, their vision and their decisions will determine what the future will be.

We want them to meet the challenge and to be better equipped to do so. We want to lift their future level of competence and achievement above our own. I believe that Southern Region is playing its part in meeting that challenge and its most important asset, its people, are now better qualified than ever before in the history of the AFP and its predecessors to do this.

Southern Region is in good shape, it is performing well as a team and is able to look forward to the future with enthusiasm and confidence.

