

Commissioner Palmer takes office

SWORN in as head of the AFP on May 20, Commissioner Michael (Mick) John Palmer took office in Canberra on June 14.

Commissioner Palmer, 52, has been appointed for a five-year term and has come to the AFP after more than five years as Commissioner of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Mr Palmer joined the NT Police in November 1963 and served in Darwin and Alice Springs, including long periods with the CIB and Training Directorate.

In 1975 he became an officer. When he retired in 1979, he was inspector in charge of recruit and in-service training.

He settled in Brisbane and in 1982 he graduated with Honours from the Barristers' Admission Board Scheme. He then practised privately at the Queensland Bar until his return to the NT Police in September, 1983.

After his return as Chief Inspector, he worked at the Legal Services and Prosecution Directorate, was head of Darwin CIB, Chief Superintendent Northern Command and Deputy Commissioner. He was appointed NT Commissioner in January 1988.

In announcing Commissioner Palmer's appointment to the AFP, Federal Justice Minister Duncan Kerr said: "Mick Palmer was the outstanding candidate in an outstanding field for the position of AFP Commissioner.



Commissioner Mick Palmer

"It was most encouraging for the future of Commonwealth law enforcement that the selection was made from such a strong field.

"I am looking forward to working with Mick Palmer and I am confident that the men and women of the Australian Federal Police will continue their great work under his leadership."

Commissioner Palmer said that he believed the AFP was being left in excellent shape by Commissioner McAulay and that the AFP has very significant and substantial expertise and is recognised as a highly sophisticated law enforcement agency.

Commissioner Palmer was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 1988.

He and his wife Kay have two sons.