

# Joint Transnational Crime Investigation Team sets up shop in Phnom Penh



The establishment of the Joint Transnational Crime Investigation Team in Phnom Penh, Cambodia provides the AFP with a unique opportunity to further its international efforts in the dismantling and disruption of transnational organised crime within the Asia-Pacific Region.

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On June 5, 2002, Commissioner Keelty and the Commissioner General for the Cambodian National Police, Hok Lundy signed Letters of Exchange which saw the commencement of the Joint Transnational Crime Investigation Team (JTCIT) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

This new initiative by the AFP is designed to focus attention towards the disruption and dismantling of all transnational crime types in Cambodia. The team will be funded by the AFP's Law Enforcement Cooperation program for a period of 18 months with a review of this funding after its first six months.

Recent AFP investigations have highlighted the growing need for the AFP to undertake a more proactive role in trans-national crime investigations in Cambodia. The establishment of the JTCIT provides a unique opportunity for the AFP to address the growing transnational crime problems in the region. It also provides considerable weight to the AFP's resolve to take the fight against trans-national crime offshore to source and transit countries.

The JTCIT will be responsible for the coordination and investigation of all transnational crime types in Cambodia. This includes people smuggling, money laundering, illicit drugs, terrorism, human trafficking and sex crimes, all of which impact upon Cambodia and indirectly, Australia.

Commissioner Mick Keelty and the Commissioner General for the Cambodian National Police, Hok Lundy sign Letters of Exchange to establish a Joint Transnational Crime Investigation Team (JTCIT) in Phnom Penh



The team will:

- provide a point for the collection and analysis of information and intelligence relating to all transnational crime types;
- investigate and prosecute matters that are generated from within the team;
- investigate and prosecute referrals from the Cambodian National Police and other international law enforcement bodies; and
- be adequately funded to provide leadership and training initiatives to the Cambodian National Police.

The AFP member attached to the team will act in an advisory role for the team that comprises five

Cambodian National Police officers. The team will be provided with safe-house facilities, that include office and surveillance equipment and will be adequately funded to ensure the objectives can be achieved.

An important element of the JTCIT includes the implementation of strategically focused training courses. The courses are designed to build capacity within the team to ensure that the members are adequately trained to carry out their duties. The AFP member assigned to the team will enable the training principles to be reinforced in the work environment.

It is anticipated that the team will commence operations in September 2002.

Phnom Penh joins an increasing network of AFP overseas liaison offices currently in more than 20 countries with more planned

# Australian Federal Police International Liaison Officer Network

A cornerstone of the AFP's policy of interagency and international cooperation is its network of International Liaison Officers. The network is vital in the AFP's fight against transnational crime groups that operate at the local, national and international levels. The network enables the AFP to combat transnational criminal activity in a range of geographical regions and locations.

When the AFP was established in 1979 it inherited a handful of police liaison positions that were located within Australian Embassies. The network has grown to include more than 40 liaison officers in 24 posts in 23 countries including Bangkok, Beijing, Buenos Aires, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Islamabad, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, London, Los Angeles, Manila, Port Moresby, Rangoon, Singapore, The Hague and Washington. Further expansion is being considered to ensure the AFP is positioned to meet emerging threats.

## AFP International Liaison Officer Network role

- Represent Australia's law enforcement interests internationally;
- Fulfill a critical role in establishing relationships of confidence with international law enforcement and other agencies;
- Gather intelligence on criminal activities or groups in support of AFP Crime Management Strategies (CMS) and National Intelligence collection priorities;
- Share intelligence on criminal activities and groups in support of international law enforcement efforts;
- Broker collaboration with international law enforcement for multi agency investigations; and
- Provide advice and coordination, where appropriate, on training and technical measures for international law enforcement to combat transnational crime.

The main role of the AFP liaison officer is to facilitate the exchange of information between the AFP, other Australian law enforcement agencies, both state and federal, and overseas law

enforcement agencies to assist in the fight against transnational criminal activity.

AFP liaison officers work closely with the host country law enforcement agencies to obtain useful and timely criminal intelligence to prevent or disrupt criminal activity before it enters Australia's jurisdiction.

Liaison officers coordinate operational arrangements with foreign agencies involved in investigations affecting Australia. Over the years, the overseas liaison officer network has been instrumental in the success of a large number of major drug seizures and in preventing people smuggling operations.

Liaison officers work closely with host-country agencies, but do not conduct independent investigations or carry out operational police work. They facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and report on crime trends and developments in law enforcement, including research, training and operations.

The network provides Australian law enforcement agencies with access to timely international law enforcement intelligence and international policing methodology. The Network is a major part of AFP efforts to detect the activities of Australian criminals seeking to avoid detection overseas.

In addition to the overseas liaison officers based in 23 countries around the world, a Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands is based at AFP Headquarters in Canberra. There are also overseas liaison officers based in Suva, Honiara and Port Vila. Strengthening the relationship between the AFP and South Pacific law enforcement agencies is an important priority for the AFP that reflects the growing recognition of their significance in the fight against transnational crime in the Asia Pacific Region.

To ensure the AFP remains prepared and equipped to deal with emerging crime trends and shifting law enforcement focus, the location and deployment of AFP liaison officers is periodically reviewed.