

# AFP establishes a presence at the International Law Enforcement Academy, Bangkok

By Federal Agent Richard Terry



*Delegates at the joint RTP/AFP/DIMA workshop on travel document fraud, Bangkok.*

The importance of developing and maintaining strategic international law enforcement relationships has long been recognised as a crucial element in the fight against transnational crime.

In this article, **Federal Agent Richard Terry** from the AFP's Learning and Development Team gives us an insight into the role of the AFP at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok; a collaborative training centre focused on enhancing the effectiveness of regional cooperation against the principal transnational crime threats in South East Asia – illicit drug trafficking, financial crimes and people smuggling.

*The Australian Federal Police Learning and Development Team (L&D) established a training position at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) Bangkok in October 2000 under funding from the Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP).*

Since its inception, the role has grown to address both the training needs of the

International Academy and supporting AFP initiatives in the Asia region. These initiatives include:

- the secondment of an AFP investigator to the Royal Thai Police (RTP) Immigration Bureau;
- the development and delivery of an intelligence workshop to key Thai law enforcement agencies, and
- a joint training program with the (then) Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA), aimed at combating people smuggling.

### What is ILEA?

The concept of ILEA was proposed in 1994 by US President Bill Clinton when he addressed the United Nations at its 50-year anniversary. He advocated setting up a worldwide network of international law enforcement academies to enhance international cooperation in combating transnational crime.

Since that time four academies have been established:

- 1995 – ILEA Budapest
- 1998 – ILEA Bangkok
- 2001 – ILEA Botswana
- 2001 – ILEA Roswell, New Mexico, USA.

There are further plans for an ILEA in South or Central America.

The objectives of ILEA Bangkok are two-fold; to support criminal justice institution-building in Asia – with emphasis on the rule of law and the building of law enforcement capacity; and to strengthen partnerships among countries in Asia by:

- addressing narcotic trafficking and other transnational crime;
- providing quality training; and
- promoting mutual legal assistance and extradition.

These objectives are achieved through the provision of training courses and conferences for senior decision-makers from the participating countries.

The participating countries in ILEA Bangkok include Brunei, Cambodia, China (including the administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau), Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The participants are drawn from a wide and diverse field of the law enforcement spectrum, including the judiciary, legislators and investigators.

ILEA Bangkok is currently located at the Civil Service Training Institute near Bangkok International Airport. The academy is staffed by members of the Royal Thai Police under the direction of Police Major General Watchapol Prasarnrajkit PhD. The international staff includes Program Director Mark Lloyd (US Drug Enforcement Administration DEA) and Deputy Program Director Robert Hanni (US Department of State).

### The AFP's role in ILEA

The AFP's training position at ILEA Bangkok creates unique challenges in terms



*Inside one of the classrooms at the ILEA intelligence workshops.*

of developing curriculum and delivering training to meet the needs of the participants, who come from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds. The AFP delivers training on all ILEA courses. This training is conducted with the aid of a bank of translators who provide a running monologue, which is fed to the participants through headphones, in five different languages.

The ILEA program for 2002 includes the following two-week courses:

- Post-Blast Investigations,
- Airport Programs and Controlled Deliveries,
- Personnel and facility security,
- Crime Analysis Intelligence course,
- Computer Crimes Investigations,
- Integrity Assurance and Corruption Investigations,
- Complex Financial Crime Investigations,
- Intelligence Applications in Law Enforcement, and
- Illegal Migration/Trafficking in women and children.

### Cybercrime Course – 2001

In July 2001, L&D sponsored the attendance of Jodie Durrant and Tony Speldewinde at ILEA's two-week Cybercrime Course, which was delivered by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and US Customs Service (USCS).

Both Ms Durrant and Mr Speldewinde were involved in the design of the AFP's *Introduction to E-Crime* program. Their attendance at the ILEA course allowed them both to compare the training delivery methods utilised by the ILEA and to validate



Above: A group photo of the AFP members and Royal Thai Police representatives from the Intelligence Workshop, which was presented by the AFP at the Australian Embassy in Bangkok.

AFP members: (seated left to right) LO Steve Moore (second from left), SLO Paul Osborne, LO Clinton Gutheride, Federal Agent Richard Terry, and (standing, centre) Federal Agent Bob Thomas.

For more information about the ILEA visit the website at: [www.ileabangkok.com](http://www.ileabangkok.com)

the content of the AFP product.

Lessons learnt from their visit to ILEA have been used in the AFP's e-crime course, which is rapidly advancing the AFP's capacity in this emerging crime trend area.

Senior executive conferences

In line with ILEA's objective "to support criminal justice institution building in Asia", three senior executive conferences are held each year.

These conferences bring together leading figures from law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial environments, enabling them to broaden their perspective on key issues concerning transnational crime.

In July 2001, Federal Agent Peter Wood, the AFP's Director Professional Standards, was sponsored by the LECP to attend the "Police, Prosecutorial and Judicial Ethics" conference. Other presenters were drawn from Hong Kong, Thailand, the United States and India.

Federal Agent Wood delivered a presentation on "the Role of Training in establishing and maintaining a culture of high standards of professional conduct".

Each of the participating countries gave a presentation on the legislative and policy frameworks supporting ethical conduct within their countries. These presentations were of a high quality and demonstrated a clear commitment to addressing unethical conduct in the global policing environment. For more information in relation to ILEA Bangkok you can view the web page at [www.ileabangkok.com](http://www.ileabangkok.com).

ILEA and its relationship with the AFP's post in Bangkok

One of the key functions for the ILEA posting is to support AFP initiatives in the South East Asia region. The AFP post, in conjunction with LECP Board of Management, has fostered productive working relationships with the Royal Thai Police Immigration Bureau and the Bangkok Intelligence Center. The LECP sponsored a short-term deployment by an AFP member to each of the agencies.

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Disclaimer  
Mailing address of ILEA-Bangkok: International Law Enforcement Academy 47/101 Building 3, Floor 4, Suite 3404, Tiwanont Road, Muang Nontaburi, Nontaburi 11000, THAILAND  
Telephone: (662) 527-7500  
Facsimile: (662) 527-7508



As part of this initiative, Federal Agent Bob Thomas worked with teams from the Royal Thai Police Immigration Bureau in an effort to counteract and prevent people smuggling, while Federal Agent Michael Hawley was deployed to the Bangkok Intelligence Center to assist in the collation, evaluation and dissemination of criminal intelligence.

In supporting these initiatives I worked with members of the Bangkok post in developing a three-day intelligence workshop, which was delivered to the members of the Royal Thai Police Immigration Bureau while they were working with the AFP at the Australian Embassy from June 19–21, 2001.

The workshop focused on identifying emerging sources of intelligence, disseminating timely intelligence product, and contributing intelligence product to the wider strategic policing network throughout South East Asia.

After a positive response to the training, the AFP (LECP) and ILEA co-sponsored three further intelligence workshops at ILEA. The agencies selected to attend have close working relations with the AFP and included:

- RTP – Narcotic Suppression Bureau (NSB),
- RTP – Foreign Affairs,
- RTP – Special Branch,
- RTP – Metropolitan Police Bureau,
- RTP – Provincial Police regions 1 - 8,
- RTP – Tourist Police,
- RTP – Foreign Affairs Division,
- RTP – Crime Suppression Division,
- RTP – Border Patrol,
- Royal Thai Customs,
- Office Narcotic Control Board (ONCB),
- Anti Money Laundering Office (AMLO), and
- National Counter Corruption Commission.

#### RTP / AFP / DIMA travel document fraud workshops

The AFP, though the LECP, jointly funded a four-day training workshop on travel document fraud with the (then) Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. The training was delivered to key areas of Thai law enforcement that support the Royal Thai Police Immigration Bureau in combating people smuggling.

The Royal Thai Police Immigration



*Federal Agent Terry presenting at the RTP/AFP/DIMA travel document fraud workshop in Bangkok.*

Bureau are responsible for a land border in excess of 2000 kilometres long, and rely on the assistance of other Thai law enforcement agencies in the detection and detention of illegal immigrants.

In recent years, Thailand has seen people smugglers taking advantage of improved transportation and communication routes. These criminal syndicates are becoming more proficient at employing novel techniques to avoid detection.

During the workshop, the RTP addressed current legislation applicable to illegal migration, DIMA focused on the detection of false travel documents, and the AFP completed the program by examining intelligence gathering techniques and profiling the various stages of a people smuggling enterprise.

The workshops were delivered in the cities of Udon Thani (125 participants) Chang Mai (125 participants), Bangkok (380 participants), and Hat Yai (135 participants).

#### Conclusion

The provision of a trainer from L&D to the ILEA Bangkok has contributed to the institutional strengthening of the criminal justice systems of Asia and enhanced the AFP's capacity to deliver timely and relevant training to key partner agencies.

Through collaborative partnerships such as the one developed within ILEA, international policing efforts to counteract and prevent transnational crime are now more focused, more coordinated and more effective than ever before.