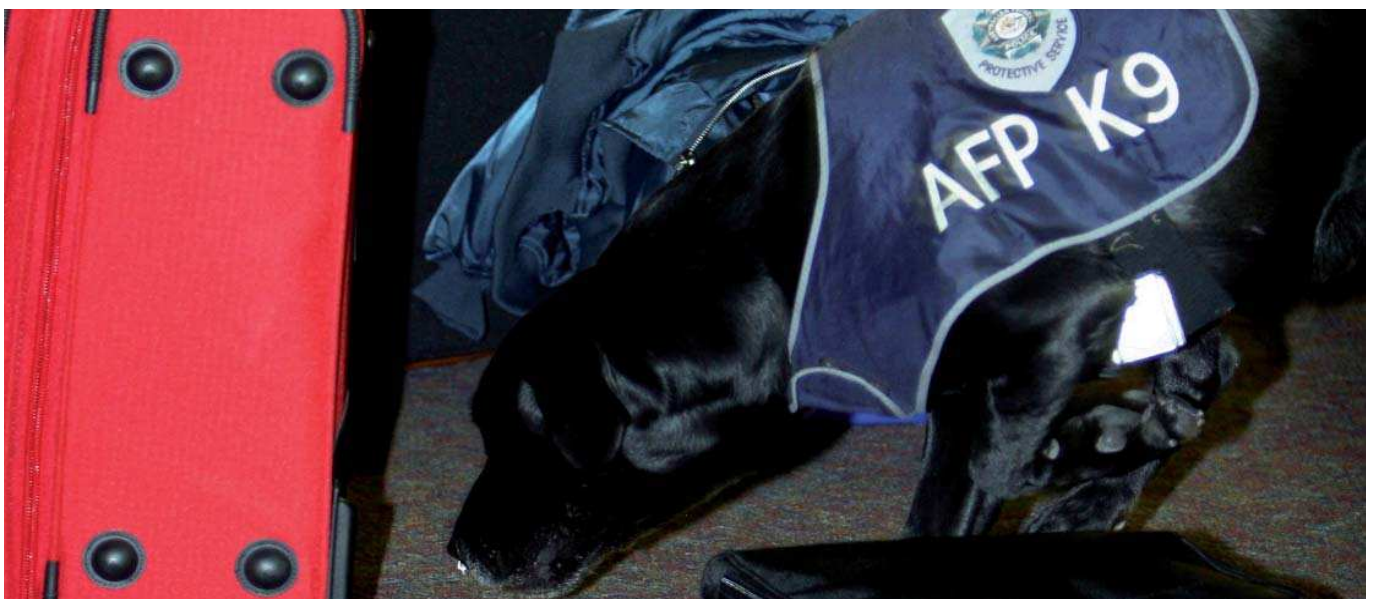


# Proactive approach to airport security

As part of its commitment to airport security, the AFP conducted a proactive operation at Brisbane Airport recently, with similar operations anticipated for Australia's other major airports.

All areas of the aviation portfolio and many of the AFP's strategic partners including Queensland Police Service, Australian Customs Service, the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs participated in the event. The highly visible uniformed presence was particularly valuable in building relationships with industry and the public, as well as serving to combat criminal activities within and around the airport precinct. Similar operations are anticipated for each of the 11 major airports as teams reach capacity. >





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Photos: Brian Hartigan, AFP Photographer

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Brisbane Airport is located 25km north east of the Brisbane central business district and, in area, is Australia's largest airport. Facilities located on airport land include an International and a Domestic Terminal, light industry, freight transport sector, service industries, shopping centre, restaurants and two railway stations. More than 7500 people are employed at the airport, and 34,000 people travel through the airport daily.

To protect this public asset and its clients, Airport Police Commander Steve Grant identified a need to develop proactive and targeted strategies, with the proactive day forming part of the overall approach.

An extensive planning phase culminated in the proactive operation on 15 June, with 61 members of the AFP and partner agencies patrolling the airport during the afternoon.

Operations included deployment of drug detection dogs, firearms and explosive detection dogs, uniformed

and plain clothes police patrols, traffic enforcement, intelligence collection and aviation security enforcement.

The operation saw a male arrested at the Domestic Terminal on immigration offences, as well as detector dog examinations of 130 vehicles and three passenger trains including dog reactions to eight suspects. An unlicensed driver was identified, 105 random breath test screenings were conducted, 250 taxi inspections undertaken with three regulatory infringements and 15 speeding infringements issued.

A significant amount of information was also obtained which is to be developed into intelligence for future use.

Throughout the operation, members of the various agencies worked collaboratively to develop a greater understanding of the environment and the roles, functions and legislation available to law enforcement

personnel at Australia's airports. Commander Grant said this was the first of an ongoing program of Proactive Operations to be conducted at Australian airports by Aviation and its strategic partners. "This operation demonstrates a collegiate approach to combating crime at our airports and I am impressed with the professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by all those who participated," he said. "We will now be looking forward to taking this proactive model and applying it at other Counter Terrorism First Response Airports throughout Australia".

JAIT Brisbane Team Leader, Federal Agent Roger Brown said the operation sent a strong message to those wishing to exploit the airport for criminal gain. "Australia's airports are not a soft target". The success of the day was reflected by the positive feedback received from partner agencies and airport community stakeholders," he said.