

# 2007: The year in review



This 12 month review has been compiled by *Platypus* to provide a snapshot of some of the key events and significant AFP operations of the year. The AFP's website at [www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au) also provides up-to-date information on the diverse roles and responsibilities of the AFP.

## December 2006

- The Australian High Tech Crime Centre, in a joint venture with the Australian Banker's Association and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, launches the *Protect your financial identity* website. ▼



- The AFP charges three people with sexual servitude offences for allegedly exploiting a Korean woman by making her work in a Sydney brothel against her will.
- The Australian Government announces the creation of an investigative taskforce to examine the findings of the Cole Inquiry into Certain Australian Companies in relation to the UN Oil-for-Food Program. The AFP-led taskforce (*Operation Morven*) is headed by former AFP Superintendent Peter Donaldson and will investigate possible prosecutions in consultation with the Commonwealth and Victorian Directors of Public Prosecutions. The Task Force includes members from the AFP, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Victoria Police.

## January 2007

- *Operation Ridgecrop/Norway* - A joint counter-terrorism (CT) team investigation conducted by the New South Wales Police and the NSW Crime Commission into the theft and distribution of Light Anti-Armour Weapons (LAWs) results in the 5 January arrest of Taha Abdul Rahman on charges of receiving and selling LAWs stolen from the Australian Defence Force (ADF).
- The AFP participates in a joint mission to Timor-Leste with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusAID to scope the long-term development assistance requirements of the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste.



## February

- Alleged conman Peter Foster is arrested on money laundering charges on arrival in Brisbane from Vanuatu.
- *Operation Foldboat* - Four people are charged in Brisbane over their alleged involvement in an importation into Australia of approximately 80,000 MDMA tablets concealed in toy boxes.
- AFP and Customs officers conduct workshops with law enforcement and customs agencies in Vietnam and Cambodia to develop strategies to prevent international drug trafficking and detect internal couriers.
- The AFP becomes the first policing agency in the Asia-Pacific to sign a strategic and operational agreement with Europol - the European Union law enforcement organisation. ▼

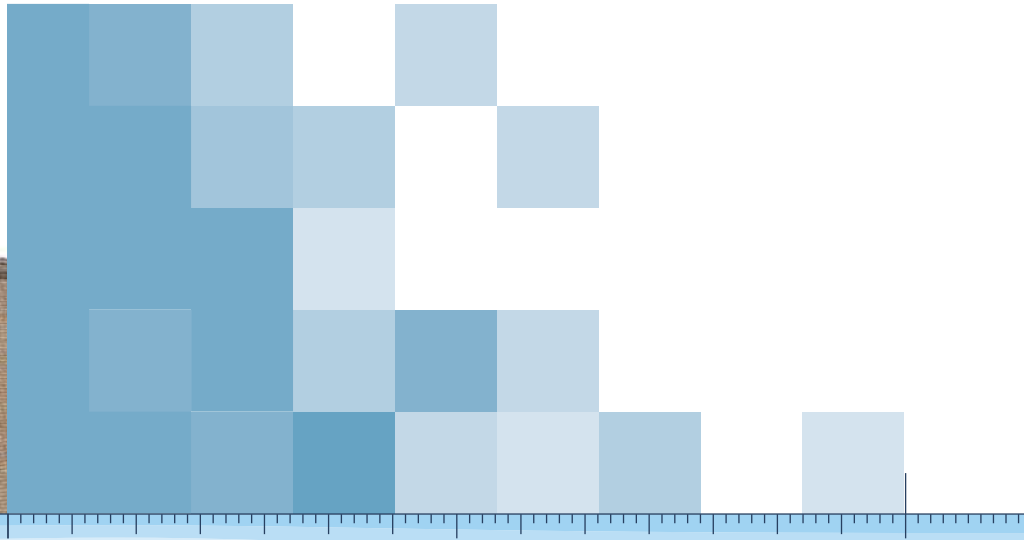




## March

- A joint scoping mission to Tonga is undertaken by the AFP, the NZ Police and NZ Aid to assess the ongoing development assistance requirements of the Tonga Police Force.
- A senior AFP advisor is sent to the Cambodia National Police (CNP) to work directly with its Deputy Commissioners to strengthen the strategic executive and technical capacity of the CNP.
- AFP office officially opens in Dubai.
- Federal agents Mark Scott and Brice Steele die in a plane crash on 7 March while travelling to Yogyakarta, Indonesia. A whole of AFP response was provided to the Indonesian National Police (INP).
- *Operation Uprush* - A joint Customs and AFP operation results in the seizure of 44kg of ephedrine concealed inside cosmetics. Five people charged over the importation.
- *Operation Analogy* - The multi-agency Joint Asian Crime Group (AFP, NSW Police, Customs, the Australian Crime Commission and the NSW Crime Commission) seizes 141 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside a water container. One man is arrested in Australia and investigators liaise with police in Hong Kong to identify other members of the syndicate.
- *Operation Carlisle* - In Jakarta, the INP, with the assistance of the Jakarta Regional Cooperation Team, arrests seven members of Abu Dujanah's network.
- *Operation Pendennis* - Thirteen men in Melbourne are committed to stand trial on terrorism-related charges including membership of a terrorist organisation. Nine men in NSW are also committed to stand trial on terrorism-related charges including acts made in preparation of a terrorist act. Both trials scheduled to begin in February 2008.
- *Operation Dunedin* - after a four-year investigation, New Zealand citizen Glenn McNeill is convicted on Norfolk Island for the March 2002 murder of Janelle Patton.





## April

- Australian Capital Territory Chief Police Officer, Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan APM, passes away on 20 April. She is farewelled in Canberra with full police honours on 27 April.



- *Operation Luminary* – An Israeli national is arrested in Bellingen, NSW as part of a joint AFP and Customs operation following the seizure of 113kg of MDMA powder hidden inside water heaters.

- *Operation Ridgeway/Norway* – A joint NSW Police, NSW Crime Commission and AFP investigation leads to the arrest in Sydney of a serving ADF captain and a former ADF member. They are charged with offences related to the theft, receiving and disposing of ten LAWs. Both men are remanded in custody.

- The AFP contribution to the Jordan International Police Training Centre concluded. During a three-year period 17 staff served at the Centre and assisted in the training of more than 48,000 Iraq police recruits.

- Aviation Joint Agency Investigations Teams (JAIT) reach full complement of 50 and become fully functional in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.



## May

- *Operation Halophyte* – Following a complex two-year investigation, two Melbourne men are charged with terrorism offences relating to their support of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

- Two men are charged following a joint AFP and Customs operation in which 25 litres of liquids containing crystal methamphetamine (ice) are seized. The two men were allegedly extracting ice from the highly flammable chemical solution in a makeshift laboratory in a hotel room in Sydney's inner west. ▼



- Solomon Islands High Court acquits two men charged with the December 2004 murder of Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning.

- Assistant Commissioner Andy Hughes is appointed Acting Chief Police Officer of the ACT.

- Two AFP members escort Guantanamo inmate David Hicks back to Australia under the *International Transfer of Prisoner Acts 1997 (Cth.)*. He is transferred into custody at Yatala prison in South Australia.





## June

- The Attorney-General's Department and the AFP host a Pacific Island Regional Workshop in Sydney on transnational crime. The workshop brings together law enforcement agencies from 14 Pacific Island nations to develop intelligence and investigative capacity.
- Commissioner Keelty attends the 27th annual ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference in Singapore as an observer. It is announced that from 2008, the AFP will become a dialogue partner to these high-level meetings. He also holds key meetings with Chinese and Thai representatives to discuss issues relating to law enforcement and transnational crime.
- With assistance from the AFP and Victoria Police, the Hellenic Police arrest convicted drug trafficker Tony Mokbel in Athens. He is served with a provisional arrest warrant to begin the process to extradite him to Victoria.
- UK authorities publicly reveal details of *Operation Lobate*, a joint Virtual Global Taskforce investigation which began in December 2006 into an Internet pedophile network. Significant breakthroughs result in 63 arrests in 35 countries, including four in Australia.
- *Operation Pleach* – the AFP deploys 11 staff to the Northern Territory as part of the Australian Government initiative to combat child abuse. Ten members are

sworn in as special members of the Northern Territory Police and one of the members is embedded into the NTPOL command structure.

- *Operation Carlisle* – Senior Jemaah Islamiya leaders Abu Dujanah and Zarkasih (AKA Sahroni) are arrested by the INP in Central Java. Zarkasih is the de-facto leader of JI and Abu Dujanah is the leader of the organisation's military wing. Their capture had long been a priority of the INP and the AFP's JRCT. A number of other members of the Abu Dujanah network are also arrested during this phase of the operation.
- In Jakarta, the INP arrests alleged people-smuggler Abraham Lauhenapessy, otherwise known as Captain Bram. Lauhenapessy was a priority target of the INP and AFP for five years. He is believed to have facilitated the unauthorised arrival of more than 1500 people into Australia since 1999.
- Commissioner Mick Keelty launches the AFP's new high-visibility vehicles which include distinctive branding for Protection, Aviation Security and ACT Policing.
- In Canberra, ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell, releases the *Review of ACT Policing's Watchhouse Operations*.

## July

- Former Attorney-General Philip Ruddock and Commissioner Mick Keelty officially open the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Data Centre in Weston, Canberra. The \$19.5 million state-of-the-art centre forms part of Australia's national security capability and enhances AFP's Forensic and Technical's ability to respond to CBRN incidents in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.
- *Operation Halophyte* – as part of a joint AFP and Victoria Police CT investigation, a 41-year-old Sydney man becomes the third person charged with terrorism offences into alleged links to the LTTE.
- *Operation Rain* – Indian born doctor Mohammed Haneef is arrested at Brisbane airport on 2 July and detained under 2004 anti-terrorism amendments to the Crimes Act 1914 – the first time these new provisions have been used. Dr Haneef is charged on 14 July with providing support to a terrorist organisation. The charges are dropped on 27 July following a review by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP).
- *Operation Pleach* – The AFP sends eight more staff to the Northern Territory as part of the Australian Government's Regional Assistance Initiative.



## August

- *Operation Calculus* – The arrest of a 49-year-old Australian national in Cuba follows a joint AFP, Customs and Queensland Police investigation into a global drug trafficking syndicate which had imported into Australia eight tonnes of cannabis resin 11 years ago. He is extradited to Australia in the first extradition between Cuba and Australia under the 1903 Treaty.
- The Australian Government provides the AFP with \$8.5 million over two years to address emerging intellectual property crimes and strengthen its capability to pursue these serious and complex crimes, particularly where organised or transnational criminal elements are involved. A dedicated intellectual property coordination team is implemented to focus on organised IP crime.
- The AFP appears before the federal parliament's Joint Standing Committee on the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade inquiry into Australia's involvement in peace keeping.
- Commander Dennis McDermott replaces Commander Will Jamieson as Commander of the Participating Police Force RAMSI. ▲
- *Operation Chaining* – A joint AFP and Columbian Department of Administrative Security (DAS) investigation in six countries results in the seizure of 12 kg of cocaine and the arrest of three men in Melbourne. It is believed that the syndicate involved was responsible for importing 600kg of cocaine to Australia over 10 years. This investigation is also the first major controlled operation (international controlled delivery) jointly conducted by the AFP and DAS.
- *Operation Novaria* – 19 search warrants are executed and 10 offenders arrested by the Aviation JAIT in Melbourne in relation to the theft of mobile telephones from Australian Air Express.
- *Operation Streambank* – South Australian Police and the AFP arrange the safe return of Australian resident Des Gregor who had travelled to Mali, in Africa's west, to meet a woman he had met on the Internet. He had been taken hostage in a dangerous scam. Federal Agent Gary Wynch liaised with Canadian authorities and Mali National Police to negotiate his safe return.
- A 45-year-old man is extradited from Costa Rica and charged with conspiracy to import 89kg of cocaine which had been seized in Queensland in May 2001.
- *Operation Crathes* - Four men are arrested in a joint AFP and NT Police investigation for attempting to manufacture nitroglycerine to use as an explosive device on bank vaults and ATMs. The men bought the chemicals from a Darwin company and the case was initially investigated by the Darwin JCCT before being referred to the Sydney JCTT.
- The AFP, through the National Missing Persons Coordination Centre launches National Missing Persons Week, a new media and advertising campaign including television, print and radio devised to help promote key messages to the Australian public.



## September

- A 21-year-old man from Sydney's west becomes the first person charged under new copyright legislation for allegedly recording on a mobile phone *The Simpsons Movie* and uploading it onto the Internet.
  - Acting Chief Police Officer of the ACT, Assistant Commissioner Andy Hughes, is appointed Police Advisor to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations based in New York.
  - Aviation launches an enhanced canine capability ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings. Twenty-two Firearms and Explosive Detection canines begin operations. The total number of Aviation canine teams at major airports around the country reaches 49, up from 27.
  - The AFP hosts in Canberra the third meeting of the United Nations International Police Advisory Committee.
- 
- Assistant Commissioner Mike Phelan is appointed Chief Police Officer for the ACT.
  - The AFP supports the NSW Police at the APEC Leaders Meeting held in Sydney. This is the largest security operation for a single event in Australian history with more than 6000 VIPs facilitated through Sydney Airport. Extensive resources are committed, including close personal and dignitary protection, aviation security, community policing, forensic and technical capabilities and specialist operations and investigations.
  - *Operation Galactin* – Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions advises there are insufficient grounds to recommend charges against three federal parliamentarians who had been investigated under the operation which began in March 2007 following allegations of alleged misuse of parliamentary printing allowances.
  - Europol Agreement comes into force on 27 September.
  - National Police Remembrance Day services are held around Australia.

## October

- Four officers deploy to Afghanistan to work directly with the Afghan National Police and the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan to develop policing capacity and disrupt the illicit drug trade.

## November

- AFP Guangzhou officially opens in China.
- A second contingent of Queensland Police begins training with the AFP for deployment to Airport Uniform Policing (AUP) roles. This is the last of 11 AUP courses for 2007 and takes the total number of AU police across all major airports to 233 out of a planned commitment of 357.
- Construction of the National AFP Canine Training Centre at Majura, Canberra, is completed. The centre will provide a state-of-the art training facility to support all AFP canine capabilities.
- More than 300 delegates from around the globe attend the *International Policing Conference* in Canberra to hear experts predict what the world will be like in 2020 and how law enforcement will have to evolve to meet future challenges.