

# New beginnings in New Delhi

**New Delhi poses some unique challenges for law enforcement. But for the AFP's first liaison officer to India, there are also significant opportunities to work with the AFP's partner agencies to promote regional security and stability.**

The eyes of the world will be focused on India's capital New Delhi next month when it hosts the XIX Commonwealth Games. The event is being staged against the background of a publicised high threat environment. This presents a challenge for agencies that deal with security issues, like the AFP, which is working as part of Australia's whole of government effort to negotiate as safe an environment as possible for Australian citizens who attend the Games.

But it is also an exciting period, following close on the heels of celebrations in July to

mark the official opening of the AFP's first liaison post in India. In February the Indian Government agreed to the creation of a Police Liaison position within the Australian High Commission, and Senior Liaison Officer (SLO) Richard Moses began his appointment in March.

He says the new post is already playing a significant role in the AFP's international network, especially given last year's agreement between India and Australia to officially form a Strategic Partnership.

"The new post has been welcomed by the Indian

authorities as well as law enforcement agencies from other countries like Britain, Canada, the United States and Germany, which also have liaison posts in Delhi," he said.

"Areas of cooperation we will be focusing on include joint efforts to combat terrorism and transnational organised crime, people smuggling, maritime and aviation security, and police and law enforcement cooperation."

Relationships are a key ingredient of the post's ongoing success, and SLO Moses says he spent a great deal of time during the first few months of his posting getting to know his Indian partners and colleagues from foreign law enforcement agencies.

"In India everything revolves around patience and persistence," he said.

"Being able to develop relationships with the people is crucial. Being able to know who to go to and who has the authority to do what is of critical importance, particularly working in a multi-layered and compartmentalised bureaucracy. Being able to talk to someone face-to-face



01: View of the Commonwealth Stadium in Delhi, courtesy of Greg Harrigan.



is a substantial advantage that you can only get by having someone on the ground.”

The enhanced relationship between the two agencies is already reaping rewards, with several positive outcomes in areas relating to the AFP’s core business.

AFP Commissioner Tony Negus recognised the value of the deepening partnership between the two countries when he officially opened the post in July.

“The AFP places a high value and level of respect on the India-Australia law enforcement relationship,” he said.

“In an increasingly globalised world, transnational crime is a growing threat. As regional partners, Australia and India face common threats related to transnational crime including drugs, human trafficking, terrorism and cyber-crime.”

And with such a variety of work to contemplate, it seems unlikely the pace of life will slow down for SLO Moses in the near future.

“From the first day in the office it has been incredibly busy,” he said.

“Not only have we had a significant number of visitors, including the Commissioner, we are heavily involved in Australia’s whole of government preparations for the Commonwealth Games.”

The AFP’s role in Australia’s Games preparations involves providing advice on protective security, safety and law enforcement, as well as performing close personal protection duties for Australian high office holders.

Manager Close Protection Greg Harrigan is coordinating the AFP’s contribution. He believes the Games are providing an opportunity for Australia to enhance the way it works with its law enforcement counterparts from a number of countries.

“In addition to building our relationships with our nominated Indian partners, we are working closely with our counterparts from other Commonwealth nations including Britain, Canada and New Zealand,” he said.

“These relationships are an important aspect of our work, not only will they benefit safety and security preparations for the Commonwealth Games,

they are part of our ongoing efforts to further enhance our security arrangements in our region and around the world.”

If the lead up to the Games has been busy and challenging for Richard Moses, it has also helped to cement his role as the AFP’s Senior Liaison Officer.

“My number one priority at the moment is ensuring preparations for the Commonwealth Games run smoothly,” he said.

“Against the background of setting up a new post, finding accommodation and ensuring that effective communications channels are in place, it has

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been a somewhat interesting challenge, but at the same time it is already a rewarding experience."

SLO Moses has worked in a variety of posts for the AFP over the years, including Islamabad, New York and Beirut. All have posed their own challenges, but he believes being able to overcome obstacles to achieve the desired outcome provides a great sense of achievement in the long run.

"I know there will be times during this posting when things are difficult," he said.

"However having a spouse who is extremely supportive and flexible in relation to the role I perform, and having a group of SLO colleagues across South Asia and the Gulf who share a strong collegiate approach to our business, means that it becomes very much easier."

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02: Map showing New Delhi. 03: Commissioner Negus at the official opening of the AFP's Delhi liaison post. 04: The national flag of India. 05: Lodi Gardens, a 15th Century landmark in New Delhi. 06: SLO Dick Moses at Mother Teresa's home. Mother Teresa founded The Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta to help destitute people. Her selfless service is recognised worldwide.



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