

All going to plan: Securing CHOGM 2011

Securing the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth was a significant and successful undertaking for the AFP. The fact that the event was incident free is testament to the Agency's commitment to rebuild the capacity of its Protection portfolio only 12 months out from the event.

Perth's laid-back central business district was a bustling transit hub when leaders from more than 50 countries, their delegations, foreign dignitaries, business leaders, and the media moved between major venues at the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in October.

Before CHOGM, no security operation of this scale and complexity had been undertaken in Perth, indeed no event of such magnitude had been held in Western Australia.

AFP Protection, under the guidance of former Manager Protection Commander Greg Harrigan, was assigned the challenging task

of planning and implementing the AFP contribution to CHOGM security provisions.

Not surprisingly, securing CHOGM was an enormous job. More than 12 months in the planning, it required extensive consultation between cooperating parties, which included the AFP, Western Australian Police and other government security and intelligence agencies.

For AFP Protection, one challenge lay in re-grouping resources so soon after the successful participation in the security contingent at the Commonwealth Games in India.

"We barely had time to learn the lessons from the security project in

India before we were faced with the awesome task of building a project team to lead AFP preparations and planning for CHOGM 2011," Commander Harrigan said.

"Planning and coordinating resources for the security commitment for an event of this magnitude required a dedicated and committed team of security and protection experts to manage consultation within the AFP and with relevant partner agencies, and pull together a cohesive plan for the AFP's contribution to the operation."

The Operation Wollemi planning team was established in response to the assignment of 'Special Event



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01: The protective security detail tasked to secure the Western Australian State Reception Centre where the CHOGM Leaders' Retreat took place.

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Status' by the Federal Government under the National Policy on the Coordination of Protective Security Arrangements.

Once established, the team undertook the fundamentally essential task of determining a mutually agreeable definition of the scope of the AFP's responsibilities.

"The project team consulted with all relevant partner agencies and clarified exactly what the AFP's role would be with regard to CHOGM 2011," Commander Harrigan said.

With that definition, and taking into consideration the National Policy provision's three tiered, whole-of-government security overlay approach, AFP Protection was able to make accurate decisions about the required deployable resources for the operation.

Under the National Policy provisions, the security overlay was shared between state and federal governments and event coordinators, the CHOGM 2011 Taskforce.

The role of the AFP was to support the Commonwealth's Tier 1 security arrangements for venues and through the AFP Close Personal Protection (CPP) capability, Tier 2 security of individuals.

"We were also heavily involved with overarching 'Tier 3' security planning for the protection of Commonwealth interests, had there been an attack on the event," Commander Harrigan said.

Current AFP needs in other priority areas were another factor to take into consideration.

"Our challenge was to commit adequate resources for deployment to the Operation while also ensuring continuity of the AFP's usual business."

According to Commander Harrigan, the demand on AFP Protection resources to meet CHOGM commitments meant that it was time to reinvigorate the CPP 'surge capability'.

"The Federal Government had requested that the AFP was to

provide at least one CPP member for every head of government, and for any other additional invited guests," he said.

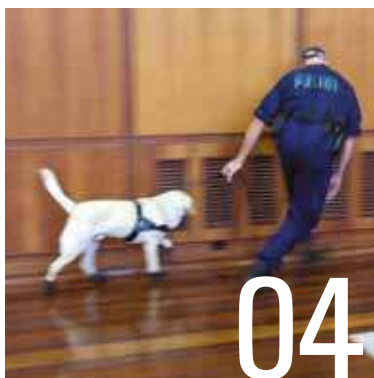
"This gave us a resource requirement of well over 60, and from the outset we needed to make sure we had the CPP staff to meet the demand."

The CPP surge capability was last used for APEC in 2007 and was designed to provide additional capability outside of Protection which could be called on in situations requiring a Protection response that was high above the norm.

02: AFP Forward Commander Greg Harrigan briefs AFP personnel during a CHOGM induction session held at the AFP Perth Office. **03:** Perth Airport AFP Operations Centre team members monitor security information.

04: A member of the AFP Canine team searches during CHOGM.

05: AFP Commissioner Tony Negus, accompanied by National Security Advisor Margot McCarthy and Western Australian Deputy Police Commissioner Chris Dawson, attends the CHOGM Leaders' Retreat.



Under the CPP surge function, AFP members previously trained in CPP but now working in other areas of the AFP can attend maintenance training and requalify in readiness to supplement CPP numbers in times of increased demand.

In addition to CPP, 99 Uniform Protection members were deployed to provide inner perimeter security such as mobile patrols, static guarding and electronic surveillance monitoring inside CHOGM venues in support and under the command of the Western Australian Police.

In all, more than 300 AFP members were deployed to Perth from portfolios across the organisation including Aviation, Protection, Intelligence, High Tech Crime Operations, ACT Policing, Information and Communications Technology, Close Operations Support and the International Deployment Group.

The AFP Aviation portfolio was heavily involved in CHOGM preparations and security. Naturally, the arrival of each visiting foreign dignitary and delegation at Perth Airport created the need for enhanced capacity on the ground.

Additional AFP Firearms and Explosives Detection Dog teams and Bomb Appraisal Officers were also deployed to Perth Airport from around Australia to support Operation Wollemi. Away from the airports, these teams also conducted security sweeps of meeting venues.

The AFP's High Tech Crime Operations provided support in the initial planning and during the event. Significantly, they oversaw the technical aspects of monitoring equipment at several venues, including the Kings Park State Reception Centre, where they deployed ground radar and infrared cameras.



In other areas of Perth and back in the nation's capital, more staff worked around the clock in the lead-up to and during CHOGM.

"The staff in the AFP Offices in Perth and at Perth Airport provided extensive advice and support to the project team throughout the planning and deployment phases of the operation," Commander Harrigan said.

"They know how things work in the west, and have well established relationships with the Western Australia Police, the aviation community and with state and Commonwealth government agencies. They were also key contributors to the development

// The interoperability was fantastic and demonstrated just how right we got the planning. //

of the overall plan outside of the protection operation."

In Canberra, an Incident Coordination Centre (ICC) also operated 24/7 within the AFP Operations Coordination Centre in support of the forward operation, providing situation reports to the senior executive. Staffed by Canberra-based members from various functions, the ICC was well placed to coordinate an AFP response to any significant incident or concurrent event.

Four months on, it is no secret that CHOGM 2011 was incident free – a fact that greatly satisfies Commander Harrigan.

"You can put together the most comprehensive plan, but it's the successful implementation of that plan by staff that know their business and work flexibly together toward an event-free operation that's most rewarding," he said.

"Watching how organised the teams were, seeing the plan unfold and knowing how well everyone knew their business was the win. The interoperability was fantastic and demonstrated just how right we got the planning."

But just like the transition from India's Commonwealth Games to CHOGM, the Protection team has already turned its focus to the 2012 London Olympics. And not long after that, the 2014 G20 Summit, 2015 FIFA Asia Cup, and the 2015 Cricket World Cup in Australia, and the centenary of Anzac Day in Gallipoli in 2015.



06: AFP Operation Response Group members with their multijurisdictional Counter Assault Team members.

07: AFP Aviation Canine's Sergeant John Connoley discusses the role of the AFP's explosives detection dogs with his Western Australian Police counterpart.

08: Close Personal Protection members meet Prime Minister Julia Gillard as she arrives at CHOGM. More than 60 AFP Close Personal Protection members were busy taking care of heads of government during the event.

09: The Maylands Command Centre.



CHOGM LOGISTICS: THE NUMBERS

- There were more than 6000 police-escorted dignitary movements during the week-long event.
- The technical equipment taken to Perth by AFP High Tech Crime Operations to support Operation Wollemi filled a shipping container.
- The total core security perimeter for CHOGM covered 42 kilometres.
- Almost 1000 international and domestic media attended CHOGM and three parallel events: the Commonwealth Business Forum, Youth Forum and People's Forum.
- Many large venues were protected during the event, including the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, King's Park State Reception Centre, the Burswood Entertainment Complex, and several of Perth's major hotels.

