

NEW OFFICERS- THE CUTTING EDGE

New officers were described as the 'cutting edge' of the AFP by Assistant Commissioner Brian Bates (Personnel and Training) when he addressed passing out parade 1024 on November 19 when 21 recruits graduated.

This is an edited version of his speech:

I wish to extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guest, Dr John Alderson. Dr Alderson is an acknowledged authority on policing and was Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall from 1974 to 1982 after holding senior posts in the Metropolitan Police and the Dorset Police.

And now the graduates: You must all remember that as of Monday it is not the AFP College you will be dealing with any more but the community, both here in the A.C.T. and also in Victoria and New South Wales. It is, therefore, important that you show courtesy, compassion, commonsense and courage, both morally and physically.

Crime Levels -

And what of your careers and future in the AFP. I say to you somewhat enviously, that you should look forward with great anticipation as you begin to play your respective roles within the principal law enforcement body of the Commonwealth - the Australian Federal Police. You will now all be a part of the AFP's role to respond positively and directly to counter growing breaches of Commonwealth Law, especially the threat of major criminal activity against the Commonwealth, with particular emphasis on illicit drug trafficking, organised crime and major fraud, together with the most important role of policing here in the Australian Capital Territory.

Perhaps the highest accolade which a Police Force can achieve is for the public to be proud of it. In this context pride inspires confidence and confidence inspires co-operation. We depend upon public co-operation to achieve our goals in providing society with our services.

The question of police objectives in society is one which always produces discussion. As John Alderson himself said in his book 'Policing Freedom', and I quote - "Policing in traditional

terms has a matter of enforcing consensus: the law and the custom said so".

Community Policing -

With particular reference to the A.C.T., community involvement in policing has been hailed as new direction in modern policing. The principle of community policing is exemplified in Sir Robert Peel's celebrated statement of 1829, that "the police are the public and the public are the police". If society accepts second rate service then it must also accept the responsibilities of it.

History has shown that society does get the police service it deserves and any service which fails to cope with its requirements and falls short of its commitments, is a service which should be examined and restructured.

Whether we like it or not, whilst there are seven State police forces and a Federal Police Force in Australia, there will always be the need for some form of examination and accountability of their actions. One only has to consider what is occurring in Queensland, as an example.

Accountability -

Every police force must be subject to review and whilst that can be nuisance value to members of any administration, it is necessary that the police remain accountable. Therefore, members of Recruit Course 1024 you are accountable. You will administer and enforce the law, must observe, and must be seen to observe the law. I do not speak primarily of your observance of the law in your personal lives. Yet that is also important. What I speak of today is primarily of observance of the law in the discharge of your official duties.

If those who are charged with the responsibility for administering and enforcing the law fail to observe the law scupulously in performing their duties, then respect for the law will be undermined. The community entrusts to you great powers over your fellow citizens and they are entitled to demand that each and every one of you will submit to constant scrutiny in the way in which you will exercise your powers.



Assistant Commissioner Bates

Having said that however, there is an important qualification. There should be regular re-examination of those powers to ensure they are adequate for the purpose of protecting the rights and liberties of members of the community, are really necessary for the protection of genuine rights and liberties.

Police Duties -

Turning now to your duties in the AFP. Those of you moving to Sydney and Melbourne, after undergoing local procedures training, will have the opportunity of attachment and rotation through many areas of the AFP, such as Drug Units, Intelligence Units, Airport, Fraud and General Crime Units. You will be given every opportunity to learn and be part of the overall AFP operations

A.C.T. Policing -

Those of you remaining in the A.C.T. will also have the benefit of a local training course and will then become fully involved in the traditional policing role - providing a 24 hour, 7 day week, 52 weeks a year policing service to the community.

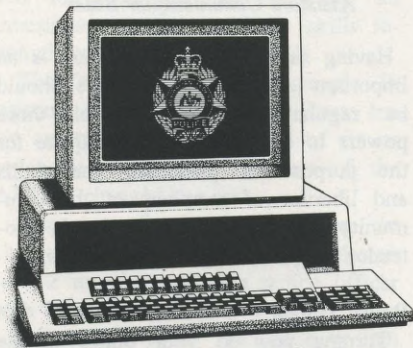
Community involvement policing has emerged as a most important dimension of policing in contemporary society. The A.C.T. Region has developed numerous community policing initiatives. Those of us here today who reside in the A.C.T. have a right to expect an effective and efficient police service from the AFP. Many of you here on this parade

ground will be a part of providing that service.

The Cutting Edge -

In any police organisation, it is the younger and more inexperienced members who comprise the cutting edge. They constitute the patrol force and provide the operational capability. It is they who interface with the public on a day-to-day basis on all aspects of policing. It is they who take the risks and produce results. All of you are now part of that cutting edge and having regard to your comparative youth, the results which you will achieve in resolving so many of the community's problems will be a credit to yourselves and the AFP.

It is the recruits of today who are the potential leaders of tomorrow. It is the future leaders who will be making the decisions which will determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the AFP 30 or 40 years hence.



FIGHTING COMPUTER CRIME

Barton College has a new course designed to help the AFP fight computer crime.

It was designed by Senior Sergeant Gordon Williamson who is the course instructor.

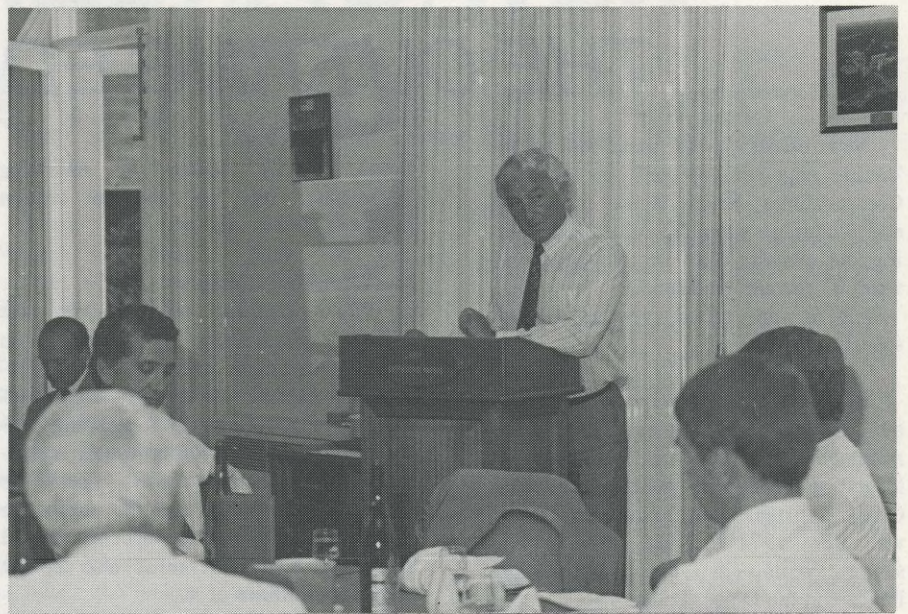
Senior Sergeant Williamson, who has been at Barton for two years, is well qualified to run the computer related crime course: Before going to Barton he was with the ACT Fraud Squad for two and a half years.

'The AFP has a lot of good investigators who don't know what computers are about, but this course will remedy that,' he said.

'The course is designed to make computers relevant to what the AFP is all about: Fighting crime.

It is based on a course run in 1985

THE BRITISH VIEW



Dr John Alderson

"I see police questioning more than ever before their role in society and their practices," Dr John Alderson said.

Dr Alderson, was speaking in Canberra on November 18 while on a Commonwealth Fellowship visit to Australia.

A British police officer for almost 40 years, Dr Alderson was shown over the AFP operation in the national capital during his visit.

'AFP senior officers are asking a lot of questions about future directions and the role of the Force,' he said.

'There are a lot of efforts to make progress and I have seen the same thing in New South Wales with the police there.

'This attitude is quite striking and it is not something I have noticed before.'

Dr Alderson described the concept of community policing as an excellent development, saying there had been an

interchange of ideas between police forces in the U.K., and the U.S. and Australia.

Problems common to police forces in all three countries were suicides and the plight of many young people.

'In England, for example, there is a lot more irrational behaviour. Many people have lost their moorings and society confounds them.

'There are family break-downs, school problems and unemployment.

'There is also the big problem of drugs. Young people find all those things very difficult to cope with and some destroy themselves with drugs or suicide.

'The social casualties of our time are continuing to grow in number.'

Dr Alderson said one way for police forces to cope with such issues was to set up consultative councils with young people and other members of the public so that the problems could be addressed.

by the Australian Police College and similar courses operated in the UK and by the FBI.'

Senior Sergeant Williamson said the course studied computer technology, computer aids to investigations and how to investigate frauds and other crimes perpetrated by using computers.

'We assume the students have no prior knowledge of computers and

give them 'hands on' training in how they work and business software.

'On the investigation side we look at how funds can be transferred by computer and undertake several case studies of fraud investigation.

'The course is a recognition of the growth in computer crime and the AFP has to be equipped to combat it,' Senior Sergeant Williamson said.