

ing Branch with the necessity for full-time guarding of Turkish Consul-Generals' houses, a role ultimately taken over by the APS.

"Similarly, the murder and attempted murder of Family Court judges in 1984 required that a special squad be created to protect the houses of these judges in Sydney. This task was effectively accomplished until it was transferred to private enterprise some 18 months later."

Task forces

Mr McCabe says formation of AFP/State police task forces for specific investigations followed the success of the AFP/NSW Police Joint Drug Task Force created by the two governments in 1979.

"A milestone was reached in Eastern Region in 1988 when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by representatives of both forces, providing that both organisations shall exchange information, intelligence and evidence of offences covered by legislation policed by the other and which relates to drugs," Mr McCabe adds.

"All this progress has been assisted in no small measure by the immense strides made in obtaining, or building, outstanding office accommodation dedicated to the AFP and designed and fitted out to its standards and requirements," he says.

"Gone are the days of AFP offices located in buildings shared with other tenants, lacking in security and those special features so necessary to police operations." ■

The National Scene

By Keith Livingston

The AFP responds to the requirements of a national Government. The Federal Parliament itself is made up of people from each of the States and Territories which make up the Commonwealth, all perceiving the national concept in as many ways as there are seats in the House.

It is from the Federal Parliamentary processes that new laws emerge giving the federal police officer the 'weapons' with which to fight crime against the Commonwealth.

This, in itself, is the nucleus to ongoing changes, for indeed it was because of this process that the Australian Federal Police exists today!

In fully understanding the AFP regional role, it is virtually necessary to ignore the existence of State boundaries and accept a new set of concepts.

Appreciating the duties of a regionally-based federal police officer means eliminating the tendency to draw a parallel between a State or community police member and his or her Federal counterpart.

In reality, the only common links in the regions are the duties performed by AFP

members wearing uniforms at the nation's airports and Federal Courts, because, beyond the boundaries of those airports and the walls of those courts, the similarity ends.

State police are obliged to work within the confines of their borders and within clearly defined legal structures. They are able to predict with reasonable assurance their type of work, day by day, week by week, month by month.

Australian Federal Police members, on the other hand, work within a national concept and respond to national rather than parochial needs.

Threat to a nation

The national role introduces the need to look upon Australia as a whole and consider the requirements of all 16 million people living in the country.

Federal law must be seen in the national context—always growing, always changing.

It is this factor which demands that the one attribute an Australian Federal Police officer must possess is the flexibility to adapt, and be sympathetic, to change.

The importance of a national police



Divisional Heads of the newly-formed AFP meet for the first time at an early 1980 conference in Canberra. Front row, from left: Acting Assistant Commissioner W. Antill, Assistant Commissioner A. Watt, Deputy Commissioner R. Kennedy, Commissioner Sir Colin Woods, Assistant Commissioner R. Farmer, Assistant Commissioner J. Reilly. Standing, from left: Chief Supt. J. Kelly, Supt. R. Dixon, Supt. A. Mills, Supt. R. Dilllon, Chief Supt. V. McConaghy, Chief Supt. A. Bird (partially obscured), Supt. F. Humphries, Chief Supt. R. McCabe, Chief Supt. W. Williams, Chief Supt. A. Morley, Chief Supt. I. Broomby, Supt. R. Gillespie, Chief Supt. P. Dawson, Supt. R. Pight, Chief Supt. W. Bennett, Chief Supt. D. Morrison, Chief Supt. N. Headland.

force was clearly demonstrated in 1981 when the AFP was asked by the Department of Primary Industry to work with it and the United States Department of Agriculture in the investigation of alleged meat substitution.

Even the most naive investigators at that time quickly realised they weren't facing just 'another fraud' but one of the country's most serious national problems.

The ramifications of the investigation were to affect and threaten the entire Australian beef production industry, at that time generating national export earnings of around \$1 billion a year.

The investigators found themselves responding to a massive problem and having to cope at the same time with significant changes to investigative technique, and their relationships with State colleagues and the Government of the day.

The three-year task force investigation and the Royal Commission into the Australian Meat Industry which followed serves as an excellent example of what is expected of, and is addressed by, the AFP.

Such events should not be seen in isolation. There will be more such investigations; more need to adapt.

It is already established that the AFP member of today and the future will have to respond to problems which stretch far beyond the nation's territorial zone and incorporate inquiries of a world nature.

They will need to be able to interact with countries and the police forces of many other nations.

The recent shipment of compressed cannabis inside a shipping container transported from South-East Asia via Australia to the United Kingdom is an example.

The investigation and movement of the container continued over a period of seven months and required extensive patience on the part of the AFP and close co-operation between the AFP and the law enforcement agencies of several other nations.

The future

The training of new members underwent a substantial revamp in the mid-80s and, as a result, began producing people who were better prepared for the investigative role they were about to undertake.

Technology also has had its impact on



Tragedy was averted during this incident at Brisbane Airport in July 1985 when a man attempted to hijack a helicopter to take him and his two children to Japan. AFP and Queensland Police negotiators persuaded the 41-year-old man to surrender after he had stood his son on top of a fuel tanker, spread aviation fuel over a wide area and threatened to set fire to it. He was later charged with a number of offences.

the efficiency and effectiveness of the AFP. Quality and reliability has improved, electronic miniaturisation has been significant in its assistance in investigations, while change to the law itself has had no small effect.

Recent introduction of the taped recording of suspects' interview and the greater use of the weapons at the disposal of police, such as search warrants, are also a part of the milestones which have affected the entire national police force.

Regional leaders

Landmarks in a region's history are more difficult to define. But most would agree a change in leadership brings with it a lasting impression.

Each leader places a personal imprint during his term in the chair of the officer-in-charge, each having led the region in their own personal style and flair.

For the regions, there was major change late in 1988 with the revamp of regional definitions around the nation.

This resulted in the end of 'Southern Command' and gave both Central (South Australia) and Western (Western Australia) Regions independence from the 'Command' and direct responsibility to AFP HQ Canberra, while also retaining the status of 'Region'.

At the same time, Tasmania Region, which had been part of the 'Command', lost its 'Region' title and was incorporated as a Division within Southern Re-

gion.

Northern Command also ceased to exist, making way for Eastern Region, Northern Region and the Northern Territory Division, now incorporated within Northern Region.

Change again

Virtually on the eve of the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the AFP, the force underwent the most radical change of any police body in Australia with the introduction of the broad-banding of rank structures as a precursor to further proposed changes for the role and members of the organisation.

There will always be those who will doubt. That's human nature. But equally, there are also those who see the organisational changes as exciting, challenging and providing the AFP with those 'weapons' in its 'armoury' necessary in the ongoing 'war' against criminal activity.

Regrettable, it will again be history and history alone which will be the judge of the most recent moves in the AFP. It is with the wisdom of 20/20 hindsight that we are able to look back on the past decade and, today, make comment on the events in 1979 which were to have such a profound effect on national policing in this country.

As a matter of course, only those with this 'wisdom' will be in a position to make judgment when the AFP celebrates a second decade of operations. ■