

Northern Chief makes training a top priority

"Simply put, my approach is that I have a good team, achieving good results — a team, despite its limited size, being deployed to the best advantage."

That quotation goes a long way to summing up Chief Superintendent William Leslie Antill, Regional Commander for the Northern Region of the Australian Federal Police.

The youngest serving Chief Superintendent in the Australian Federal Police, at 43 years of age Bill Antill has the reputation of a man who gets things done.

He is a person who is not content to sit back and let things happen, but likes to see what improvement can be made.

Bill Antill is an innovative man who looks to the future.

"In August, 1982, when I took over the Northern Division, my first step to see how the region was running," he said.

"I identified the need to reorganise and restructure the region to a more workable form and so it was decided to have two areas — operations and administration.

"Operations includes investigations and general and protective policing. Administration includes support, transport, communications, welfare, legal and training.

"My main point in restructuring was to release operational people from dealing with administrative matters as far as possible."

Bill Antill also embarked on significant training courses in the crime (detective) area.

Before any officer proceeds to the CIB area, he or she must be assessed by a committee comprising the Detective Inspector and officers-in-charge of the CIB and Drugs Branches and must be suitable for the position.

Training sessions are held every week (two hours) for detectives.

"There is also a training program for uniformed members," Bill said.

"This has been conducted since April 1983 and 36 officers have had the benefit of attending a one-week Local Procedures Course. The help we have received from the Queensland Police in this regard has been excellent.

"Training is mandatory in the use of firearms and this is conducted every week."

Approved strength is 144 members of the AFP in the Northern Region and 18 officers of the Australian Public Service.

The numbers are not sufficient to cater for all the demands made on the region, but priorities are dealt with as they arise, he said.

The priorities for the criminal area, are:

- Narcotics/major organised crime.
- Official corruption/internal investigations.
- Major fraud on the Commonwealth, including Medifraud.
- Crime referred by such authorities as the Department of Social Security and other Government instrumentalities.

Other priorities are terrorist and airport security.



● Chief Superintendent Antill.

Members are stationed at Cairns, Townsville, and Coolangatta, as well as Brisbane Airport and the Regional Headquarters in Eagle Street, Brisbane.

"I am confident that the manpower allocated to this region is being used effectively with the major priorities uppermost in mind," Bill said.

"Our training programs have helped us to achieve objectives, despite the constraints on manpower and budgets. I am very fortunate to have a hard-working team achieving good results".

Born in Molong, Western NSW, in 1940, Bill Antill joined the ACT Police Force in 1960, serving in the police and traffic divisions until appointed a police prosecutor in 1962. He was appointed Senior Police Prosecutor in 1972, Inspector in 1973 and Senior Inspector in 1976 when he became Officer-in-Charge of the City Division, the largest in the ACT, and then was promoted to Superintendent in 1977. In 1979 he was appointed to the AFP's Planning Headquarters.

Before being appointed OIC of Northern Region in January, 1982, he had served as Officer-in-Charge, Manpower Control and Development and OIC Eastern Division. He also acted as Assistant Commissioner, Personnel.

He was police representative to the Australian Law Reform Commission and assisted the Commission on references concerning complaints against police; criminal investigations; alcohol, drugs and driving; privacy; access to courts; and as consultant on the evidence reference.

Airport squad's job is plane hard work



● All in a day's work for AFP airport personnel... a tip-off, or perhaps simply a hoax call, and the search is on for anything from contraband to explosive devices. In this particular instance, Senior Constable John Pontello and Policewoman Constable Sharon Foster prepare to check out one of the hundreds of points of concealment in a Qantas 747 Jumbo jet.

\$3000 ball gift

"The donation will be of great help to us — we just cannot afford full time workers," ACT Multiple Sclerosis Society Chairman, Mr Syd Drury, said when accepting a cheque for \$3,000 from the AFP Ball Committee recently.

Mr Drury said the money would be used to assist with the costs of the Society's part-time welfare officers throughout the ACT.

"It will be put to good use," he said.

Making the presentation, the Ball Committee President, Detective Inspector Alan Cockcroft, said it was

pleasing to reflect that after enjoying themselves at a wonderful evening, AFP members could then know that they were also assisting such a worthwhile charity.

● BELOW: Inspector Cockcroft presents the \$3,000 cheque to Mr Drury, watched by Senior Constable Sue Beattie (centre) and Senior Sergeant Peter Thompson (far right). Also pictured are Multiple Sclerosis Society representatives Lyall Noble and Betty Matthews.

