

# AFP WINS FBI'S PRAISE



*Jim Kelly demonstrates the FBI method of restraining an errant jumbuck while visiting a Southern New South Wales property (picture by Acting Chief Superintendent John Dau)*

**A** very gracious agency with no ego problem at all" is FBI Supervisory Special Agent Jim Kelly's lasting impression of the AFP.

Jim, the first US participant in the AFP/FBI faculty exchange programme, was attached to the Directing Staff of the Inspectors' Qualifying Course at the AFP College, Barton, from July 20 until October 4 when he returned to the FBI Academy at Quantico in Virginia.

"The AFP is going through the process of trying to change from a policing agency to an investigatory agency and the participants will see some of the same phases the FBI went through," he said.

"There will be difficulties on the human side, the psychological side. When you are dealing with people and changing jobs, changing titles, there are always difficulties.

"People tend to think of police officers as a little inhuman, a little robotic, and that they can easily adjust but police are just the same as anybody else — they are human and need time to cope with change."

Jim said that in his experience uniformed and plainclothes branches of a police service could exist side by side and he cited the US Secret Service as an example.

"The uniformed division protects the White House and the non-uniformed branch investigates currency matters, fraud against the United States. Someone has to make the decision about whether that is how the AFP will be organised or whether the two areas will be split apart," he said.

Jim said the AFP's standard of training compared very well with that of the FBI and that AFP training tended to involve more time in

specialised courses. In his final summary report about the faculty exchange visit to Acting Chief Superintendent John Dau (Commander Training Division) he states: I am particularly impressed with the AFP teaching mechanisms used in the areas of accountability and command (syndicate approach). With that comes, not only the value of individual assessment, but it identifies and teaches the responsibilities of an individual within a group.

"Among the many additional benefits of this programme was the opportunity to meet senior management and discuss problems in law enforcement in an Asian-Pacific environment. They provided me with thought and insight which could potentially affect American law enforcement."

Speaking to *Platypus* he said: "What I did find in conversation with AFP officers was that they, as a service, want to be told clearly by government what they have to do and to go ahead and do it. They want specific crime violations set, over which they have exclusive jurisdiction and they want uniform jurisdiction across the states.

"But I don't see the AFP as having any ego problem at all. It is a very gracious agency that wants to do a good job and it will do that job if the politicians let it get on with the work." He said many shared his view that drugs were the major crime concern of the 1980's because of the devastating effect of drugs — all drugs — on young people.

Jim, who joined the FBI in 1971 said the Bureau and the AFP contained similar types of people. "I would come back tomorrow!" he said. "The contacts made with such visits cannot be quantified. Faculty exchange brings with it those intangible links that help law enforcement flourish on the international scene.

"Aside from the law enforcement aspects, Australia is a fascinating country. Most Yanks only go to Sydney and Melbourne and think they've seen Australia but Sydney is like San Francisco and Melbourne is another Philadelphia. It's only when you get outside those major centres that you see the real country."

And Supervisory Special Agent Jim Kelly's lasting memories of Australia?

"I will remember two things most of all — Vegemite and magpies — but I won't say which one I don't like!" he said.



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