

AFP AT SYDNEY AIRPORT GET NEW HOME

by Stephen Simpson

EASTERN Region officers stationed at Sydney's Mascot Airport moved into the 20th century recently when they occupied their new Airport headquarters.

Although the building has not yet been officially opened, general duties airport police and the Bomb Response Unit, and sections of the Regional Intelligence Unit, have occupied sections of the building since December last year.

The contrast with their former accommodation at the airport is great.

The new building is an impressive four storey, distinctive mid-blue concrete structure, located north east of the International Terminal and highly visible to the main freeway linking to the city.

The purpose-built structure was designed for the requirements of its two major tenants, the AFP and the Australian Customs Service, although the building also houses small offices of the Departments of Defence, Health and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Federal Police occupy portions of each of the four floors, amounting to about 30% of the total space. Level one contains three cells, one of which is a 'dry' cell for observing people suspected of hiding illegal drugs internally, as well as a medical examination room and office. Level two is the administrative area for airport policing officers containing the communications room, a conference room, a muster room and offices. It accommodates the more than 50 officers working in the general duties area.

Level three accommodates the Bomb Response Unit members where there is also a workshop and storage areas in the basement car park specially constructed to meet their needs. Elements of the Regional Intelligence Unit are also housed on this floor. The top level contains a locker and shower area plus the canteen, with great views of the whole airport, which services the entire building.

A feature of the building is its security system, which is administered and controlled by the AFP. Movement of all personnel within the building is controlled to give access to specific

areas according to requirements. Security points throughout the building are monitored and remote control cameras monitor external areas. Communications are the latest with links to AFP computer systems, a fax machine and direct telephone lines to the FAC Airport Controller, Regional

headquarters and the Canberra AFP headquarters.

With all this new furniture and equipment, the memories of that ramshackle World War II vintage building that used to house General Duties police at the Airport is fading fast.



AFP officers and members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Works on a recent inspection of the new headquarters site. (From left) Assistant Commissioner (Eastern Region) Ian Broomby, Deputy Commissioner (Administration) John Johnson, Senator Glen Shiels, Mr Bill Taylor, MP, Mr Colin Hollis, MP (Committee Chairman), Mr Peter Roberts (Committee Secretary), Mr Barry Leyshan (Eastern Region project officer), Commander (Fraud and General Crime Eastern Region) John Spurling, Mr Frank Brown (Central Office) and Associate Commissioner Steve Gavin.

SYDNEY HEADQUARTERS UPDATED

THE PARLIAMENTARY Standing Committee of Public Works recently gave the go-ahead for the fitout of the AFP's new Eastern Region headquarters building.

The developers, Inprodel Pty Ltd, began construction in August, 1988.

The base building is due for completion by January, 1990 with fitout to be completed by March, 1990.

The \$8 million fitout will cater for all the specialised requirements of the AFP in Eastern Region. It will contain areas for scientific laboratories, radio communications, a drug vault, workshops and a pistol range.

Members will be able to make use of the gymnasium, locker rooms, sauna, squash court and hot meal canteen.

The 11 storey building, in Goulburn Street at the intersection of Wentworth Avenue, has a floor area of 1368 square metres per floor.

The Commonwealth has taken out a 15-year lease on the site, with a further five year option available.

The new site in the central business district will bring the AFP in Sydney — currently spread over six locations — together for the first time. It also brings the AFP much closer to the offices of the NSW Police, the National Crime Authority, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the courts and other government departments.