

MOSC moves to Barton College

By Terry Browne

FOUR weeks of intensive training and mindgames," is the way one course member described the Management of Serious Crime (MOSC) course, while another said it was "mentally exhausting, but worthwhile".

The AFP's second MOSC course took place on 9 March - 3 April, for the first time at Barton Training College. The original course was held at the Majura Complex in June 1991.

To enable Barton College to accommodate the course, a sophisticated control room was constructed complete with computer networks and audio visual monitoring systems.

Deputy Commissioner Adrien Whiddett said that the aim of the course was to sharpen the skills of

senior AFP officers in the management of serious crime.

For the AFP, a serious crime may be defined as one which requires an investigation that crosses international, national and State boundaries, and involves substantial human and financial resources, numerous operations and the management of competing operational demands.

Mr Whiddett said MOSC is the only course of its type available in Australia and is the peak course in the AFP. In time, placement on the course will be available to State police and other investigative agencies.

The course Director, Commander John Dau, added that the course focused on the macro issues associated with the management of

such investigations, particularly multi-disciplinary inquiries.

He said for course participants to be successful, they needed to step back from the operational side and address matters such as lead agency issues, reporting arrangements, funding and accountability issues, political sensitivities, media arrangements and review processes.

The course involved three weeks of workshops with the threads of a major crime scenario running through it until the crime scenario became the prime activity of the fourth week.

The crime scenario is based on the activities of a major drug importation and money laundering syndicate, and is a blend of actual AFP case histories.



Back row: Sgt Frank Atkinson, D/Supt Dick Downing, D/Supt Bruce Provost, D/Supt Bob Lehmann, D/Supt Ray Tinker, D/Supt Jim Duffy.

Middle row: Sgt Steve Samuels, D/Sgt Will Jamieson, Mr Keith Innes, Cmdr Rod Leffers, D/Supt Dave Lewington, D/Supt Cedric Netto, D/Supt Lloyd Miller, D/Supt Dennis Witt.

Front row: D/Supt Peter Donaldson, Cmdr Ric Ninness, A. D/C Ian Broomby, Cmdr John Dau, Cmdr Bob McDonald, D/Supt Andre Legosz.

Directing staff in the control room monitor the progress of each syndicate by video camera and, as appropriate, orchestrate twists and turns in the exercise.

Course members are expected to put into action the theory learned during the first three weeks of the course with the aim of bringing about a desirable conclusion to the investigation.

Throughout the course the emphasis is on developing multi-disciplinary teams.

The course members included nine superintendents and two commanders. Among the guest presenters were: Sir Max Bingham, Chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission; Mr Ian Temby, Commissioner of the ICAC; Mr Justice Lee, who presided over the Blackburn Royal Commission and Mr Kevin O'Connor, the Federal Privacy Commissioner.

Another feature of the course was the extensive hands-on computer experience gained by the course members, who were routinely required to use the local area network to pursue the crime scenario. This requirement was in keeping with the emphasis on 'active learning', a theme that carries through the entire period of the course.

Commander Dau said, "There is no other course like this in Australia. It is a very complex course to organise; over the four weeks, in



Syndicate members take a team approach to formulate management strategies for the major crime scenario.

excess of 60 presenters are required to speak on their particular area of expertise.

"It is a challenge to ensure that the speakers present their topic at the macro-management level and to keep the course members focused at that level also.

"Often there is a tendency for course members to want to get involved in investigational issues."

Two mentors are used to keep course members on track. For this course, Superintendent Peter Donaldson of Eastern Region and Detective Superintendent Andre Legosz from Northern Region filled the role. Mr Keith Innes from

Headquarters was on hand to deal with Intelligence matters.

As a course member, Superintendent Bob Lehmann found much in the course content that was relevant to ACT Region. The course deals with liaison with other law enforcement agencies and members of government; activities quite common in the national capital.

He found the opportunity to present and discuss past major operations, complete with the problems experienced during the operations, to be most instructive.

"I think the exposure to this type of course has the potential to raise the standard of crime management within the AFP and will produce a higher quality in investigations," he said.

Commander Bob McDonald from Southern Region said he thoroughly enjoyed the course. He found it provided an opportunity to discuss with other members of the AFP a diverse range of critical issues in an informal arena.

He said he benefited from the course content and gained knowledge of the management of serious crime and the methodology of applying that knowledge in the workplace.

Commander McDonald particularly enjoyed the opportunity to go abseiling, an activity which is used by course directors to promote group solidarity.

The next MOSC course will be held in November 1992 and will be under the Direction of Commander Lloyd Worthy.



Sergeant Steve Samuels and Sergeant Frank Atkinson in the MOSC control room monitoring syndicate progress.