



investigations in relation to Proceeds of Crime and assists with financial inquiries being undertaken by other Branches and Regions within this jurisdiction.

The three members also assist with money laundering investigations and asset tracing. They are responsible for the management and co-ordination of Taxation Administration Act requests and many other functions including a specific focus on the financial assets of criminal enterprises.

In the past year there were four overseas and 10 interstate extraditions by Northern Region, and one mutual assistance matter. One matter concerned people being sought for extradition to Italy.

With amendments to current legislation, and in particular the anticipated Transactions Report legislation, the AFP and the Region continues to move into the international arena and has the capacity to lead the way in this area as the Australian Government's primary law enforcement agency during the coming year.

The Observation Section is staffed by two Detective Sergeants and 10 Constables. The Section assists all Branches within the Operations Division. It operates in an area extending from Ballina in northern New South Wales to far northern Queensland and even as far west Darwin.

Due to the extent of the territory covered and the limited resources available, these members are often stretched to the limit but to their credit the pressures and demands appear to bring out the best in them. They continue to provide excellent support to the operational investigators.

The Australian Securities Commission (ASC) attached members are Detective Sergeants Ian Eriksson and Mike Platzer who are supported by Constables Lex McLay and Warren Creighton. These members who are attached to the ASC by secondment for a given period, generally assist and undertake criminal investigations on behalf of the ASC. They are providing a valuable service to the ASC in the form of investigative expertise.

Crime Support and Co-ordination

A role in all inquiries

THE Crime Support & Co-ordination Branch plays a role in all major criminal investigations and political or sensitive inquiries within Northern Region.

The Branch has four distinct sections: the Operations Co-ordination Section, the Criminal Assets and Investigation Section, Observation Section and Australian Securities Commission attachment.

The OIC of the Branch, Detective Superintendent Charles Kemp came to the Region in 1986 from Eastern Region where he was the OIC of Training. Prior to taking command of the Crime Support & Co-ordination Branch he was the OIC of the Region's Drug Operations Branch and later the Region's Intelligence Branch.

He believes he is fortunate that while he has a relatively small number of members and staff members working for him they are all dedicated personnel who strive for perfection in their day-to-day duties.

The Operations Co-ordination Section performs a vital role within the Region in that it receives, records, prioritises and responds to

referrals to the Australian Federal Police by complainant departments in accordance with the national priority system. It also co-ordinates all security arrangements within the Region for visiting Heads of State and VIPs.

The Section is responsible for the co-ordination of protection arrangements for witnesses and Federal Court Judges when required, as well as the co-ordination of all matters relating to requests for assistance under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act and foreign extraditions.

The Section is staffed by Detective Sergeant Coutsolitis and staff member Ms Joyce Lawson who assists with the Section's day-to-day duties.

The Section recently facilitated the visit of General Mario Cucci the Vice Commandant Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri who, on his return to Rome, wrote a letter of thanks to the Section.

The Criminal Assets Investigation Section, which is presently staffed by Detective Sergeant Peter Ellis and Constables Kim Dwyer and Janine Enniss, undertakes Regional