

# AFP commitment to international peacekeeping continues with 52nd contingent



The AFP's 52nd contingent to Cyprus. From left AUSTCIVPOL officers Superintendent Peter White, Sergeants Michael Hawthorn, Toni McNeill, Craig Sheehan, Station Sergeant Bill Hourigan, and Sergeant Michael Plociennik. Front: Sergeants Vince Pannell, Michael Jarratt, Michelle Museth and Station Sergeant Ross Crafter.

*The AFP's 52nd peacekeeping contingent to Cyprus left Australia on May 16, continuing Australia's ongoing commitment to peacekeeping operations on the island.*

Australia has contributed police to the United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) in Cyprus since peacekeeping was established there in 1964.

Federal Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Daryl Williams said recently that the utilisation of civilian police was an integral part of Australia's commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

"Australia has been there from the start and we are committed to continuing that involvement, Mr Williams said.

"This involvement is underpinned by the AFP's extensive community, national, international and United Nations policing experience," he said.

The UNCIVPOL role is that that as observers, investigators and reporters. Members patrol the buffer zone which extends the length of the island. It varies in width from a few metres in central Nicosia to several kilometres in other parts of the island. The AFP contingent covers two sectors in the zone, supporting Argentinian troops in sector one and British troops in sector two.

The 10 members who left in May are part of a 20-member rotational team being led by Superintendent Peter White who has extensive policing experience on Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and in Papua New Guinea.