



Improved security command structure at major airports

Australia's eleven major airports will have an improved command structure with the appointment of Airport Police Commanders to coordinate aviation security and policing protection against crime and terrorism.



Commissioner Keelty and Minister Ellison fielding media questions (Commander Schagen at rear) during the launch to mark the appointment of the Airport Police Commanders.

The Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison joined Commissioner Keelty on 9 February at an official launch to mark the appointment of the new Police Commanders at major Australian airports.

The Airport Police Commanders have commenced in their new roles overseeing crime and security-related matters at the 11 Counter Terrorism First Response (CTFR) Airports around the country.

CTFR Airports are located in Adelaide, Alice Springs, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, the Gold Coast, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

Speaking at the national launch at Canberra Airport, the Commissioner said

the Airport Police Commanders were all senior, sworn members of the AFP who now provide a central contact point for law enforcement and security-related matters.

"The Commanders wear AFP uniforms and have assumed all command and control responsibilities to provide a 24-hour unified policing presence at these airports," Commissioner Keelty said.

"A key part of their role will be to coordinate the security work of all Commonwealth, State and Territory law enforcement agencies operating within the airport precincts, as well as to liaise directly with airport operators and all businesses involved in safeguarding our airports."

National Manager Aviation Security Mandy Newton speaking at the announcement of the appointment of the new Airport Police Commanders.



Commissioner Keelty said most of the airport commanders had already commenced work.

Each has extensive law enforcement experience and participated in an intensive induction and training program in Canberra.

Their roles and responsibilities were agreed upon at a Council of Australian Governments meeting held in September last year.

"For the travelling public, the appointment of these new Commanders means a

simpler and more streamlined approach to airport security and, ultimately, safer and more secure airports.

"They will remove any ambiguity in terms of command and control of law enforcement responses to security incidents," Commissioner Keelty said.

Senator Ellison said the Airport Police Commanders were an important initiative in an aviation security reform program worth more than \$150 million, which was being implemented following the Wheeler Review into the industry.



National Manager Aviation Security Mandy Newton, Commissioner Mick Keelty and National Manager Protection Tony Negus with newly appointed Airport Commanders.



Adelaide	Superintendent Geoff Eaton
Alice Springs	Superintendent Marko Dokmanovic
Brisbane	Commander Stephen Grant
Cairns	Superintendent Jon Eyles
Canberra	Superintendent Colin Speedie*
Darwin	Superintendent Peter Timson
Gold Coast	Superintendent Paul Jones
Hobart	Superintendent Glenn Lathey
Melbourne	Commander Ian Thomas
Perth	Commander Malcolm Scott
Sydney	Commander Derek Schagen

(*Superintendent Speedie is due to commence in September 2006. Acting Superintendent Steve Collins is fulfilling the role in the interim)