

Walk softly, but have good back-up

Last December, representatives of agencies responsible for the safety of the 2007 Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC) forum were given a practical demonstration of the AFP's security capabilities.

The AFP Coordinator of the APEC task force, Mike Casey, said good security is about having a non-obtrusive presence backed up with the appropriate levels of support and technology.

APEC, the inter-governmental forum facilitating economic growth and prosperity, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region, operates through non-binding commitments, open dialogue and equal respect for the views of all participants regardless of the size of their economy.

The APEC Australia 2007™ year will be the largest and most important series of meetings ever held in Australia with security coordinated by the Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC), a division of the





Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.

APEC meetings are being held throughout regional Australia leading up to the APEC leaders meeting in Sydney on 8-9 September. Security at the various venues used throughout the year will be provided by a range of agencies with the AFP assisting as requested by host jurisdictions.

AFP involvement in APEC began in an overt sense during a security conference which was held in Sydney from 11-13 December 2006. Commissioner Keelty was a key-note speaker at this conference.

The conference was an introduction for security planning for APEC economy security officials, and served as a showcase event for a number of APEC 2007 systems

and procedures including police (NSW and AFP) capabilities. The conference also served as an introduction for APEC 2007, specifically for economy security officials and as a precursor to the formal advance programs in 2007, set down for April and July 2007.

The conference also enhanced and built upon the confidence of APEC delegates that the Australian security-planning framework will deliver a safe and secure APEC 2007 year.

More than 200 delegates comprising security representatives from APEC economies, Australian Government agencies, NSW APEC Command, APEC Task Force and PSCC representatives attended the conference with around 100 delegates attending a capability demonstration held during the conference.

The demonstration scenario pivoted around the physical and personal protection of an internationally protected person attending and APEC event. The scenario took place in conjunction with a demonstration of advanced and specialised technology and the skills of highly trained AFP members assigned to the physical protection of a minister travelling in a motorcade.

To date AFP resources have been deployed to APEC related events in Canberra, Perth and Hobart. Planning is well under way for future AFP deployments to Adelaide, Darwin and southern Queensland, culminating in significant resources being sent to Sydney in September 2007. Future editions of Platypus will keep staff informed in relation to APEC activities.



This demonstration was held in conjunction with the Department of Defence at a facility south of Sydney in front of Australian and overseas government representatives. State police responsible for providing security overlays at APEC events, outside of Sydney, also attended the demonstration.

The capability demonstration put a number of areas of the AFP through their paces supported by equipment and technology from its Protection, Aviation, and the International Deployment Group areas.

Left: Observers arrive at the APEC security capability demonstration provided by AFP Protection.

Right: The safe extraction of a VIP, depending on circumstances, is supported by a range of security processes (see top of page).



ACT Policing is best at Show

Months of careful planning and preparation resulted in the interactive ACT Policing display at the 2007 Royal Canberra Show being awarded the Grand Indoor Champion title by Show organisers.

The display centred on the *Our community too* theme, incorporating the Suburban Policing Strategy (SPS) and support for our local community programs such as Crime Stoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and Safety House. AFP Recruitment also played an important role, promoting careers within the organisation to interested members of the community.

The award was only one area of the display's success. During the three-day event, more than 20,000 Canberrans and interstaters passed through the stand, learning valuable safety information, collecting show bags filled with crime prevention tips and AFP merchandise, and perhaps even more importantly, breaking down barriers between police and their community.

Acting Superintendent of Crime Prevention Matt Varley said the value of one-on-one contact between police and the public was significant.

"Having that contact with members of our community, particularly in a positive and relaxed environment, really helps strengthen the relationship we have with the Canberra community.

"There were so many instances during the three days of the Show where parents brought their children up to police officers to meet them, so the kids



Top: Some of the ACT Policing members who participated in the Royal Canberra Show display the Indoor Grand Champion ribbon.

Left: Sergeant Sharan Slater of Volunteers in Policing, hands out show bags to young visitors.

Above right: Members of the public had the opportunity to be photographed in a marked traffic XR8

could see police were friendly people who can help them. That sort of contact is invaluable," he said.

The display's main feature saw children given the opportunity to have their photo taken in a police car and presented to them in a specially-designed ACT Policing folder, promoting the concept of the SPS and the close ties between police and our community. Crime

Prevention's Nicole Towers took many of the photos and said it was a huge success.

"We took around 2000 photos of little kids – and big kids – in the car. It was a really exciting experience for a lot of young children and I heard hundreds of them talk about how much they liked police," she said.