

# Meet the new Commissioner

**In celebrating its 30th anniversary, the AFP also welcomes Tony Negus as the organisation's sixth Commissioner.**

He takes the reins at a time when the AFP has grown to occupy a central role in Australian law enforcement and national security.

The complexities and challenges facing the organisation today can be illustrated by the growth in its budget to \$1.4 billion today from \$73 million during its first year of operation.

The number of overseas posts has grown from three in 1979, to 31 international posts and 11 overseas missions in 2009. Staff numbers have doubled, and there are now more than 6000 members of the AFP.

The new Commissioner says the future environment will continue to challenge the organisation, but he is looking forward to putting his stamp on how it does business, and to working with the AFP's partner agencies both in Australia and overseas. Developing such relationships will be a priority.

"The area of interagency cooperation, joint task forces and the use of specialist private sector skills will be a focus for the AFP under my term as Commissioner," Mr Negus said.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd also emphasised the need for greater cooperation between agencies when he welcomed the new Commissioner to the role at his swearing-in ceremony.

"Policing is a central component of national security," Mr Rudd said.

"Effective future policing will increasingly require whole-of-government and cross-jurisdictional strategies to respond to crime."

He also stressed the need for shared intelligence between investigative agencies, and enhanced bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between the AFP and international law enforcement organisations.

Commissioner Negus believes this is essential to the AFP's ability to carry out its core business and key areas of priority including countering terrorism and combating organised crime.

"The highest level of cooperation between State, Territory and Commonwealth agencies is not an option but a necessity," he said.

"The networked and transnational nature of crime also demands that Australia must maintain and further develop relationships with our international law enforcement partners."

The need for this approach is clearly illustrated by the effort to stop organised crime. The Australian Crime Commission estimates that organised crime costs the community around \$15 billion a year.

"This is money that could otherwise be spent on health,





01: Commissioner Negus 02: Commissioner Negus with Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor 03: Commissioner Negus talks to AFP members at the National Police Remembrance Day service

education or any other number of community needs," Commissioner Negus said.

"Accordingly, attacking and recovering the proceeds of crime will play a key role in our future strategy."

The role of organised crime in financing terrorist organisations is also an area where cooperative relationships are essential in gathering the information needed to conduct successful prosecutions and the AFP is well placed to see connections between various crime types. This point is not lost on Commissioner Negus who, as Deputy Commissioner Operations, had a clear overview of the AFP's abilities to fight crime on a number of fronts including high tech crime, international operations and forensics.

He has also a wide array of experience in overseeing complex operations, having worked as the manager of the AFP's Sydney and Brisbane offices.

As a career police officer, Commissioner Negus has worked in a wide variety of roles within the AFP. After joining the organisation in 1982, he started out in the traffic division of ACT Policing, working with motorcycles and as a pursuit driver of cars and motorcycles. From there he worked in the special crime squad and drug squad, graduating as dux of his detectives class in the 1990s.

He has also worked in several non-operational areas, including learning and development, where he formed part of the faculty responsible for delivering the AFP's flagship Management of Serious Crime Program.

Commissioner Negus holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Administration as well as a Graduate Diploma in Executive Leadership. He has also completed the Executive Leadership program at Harvard University.

This commitment to learning and education extends beyond his personal achievements. Commissioner Negus believes it is important for all members of the AFP to reach their full potential and he is dedicated to ensuring that the organisation's men and women have access to opportunities which enhance their skills and abilities.

It's an attribute the Prime Minister says is important to the AFP's future.

"The key to the AFP responding to the challenges of the emerging environment is the

professionalism and flexibility of its people," Mr Rudd said.

"Those attributes which have been a trademark of this organisation will hold it in good stead as it builds its organisational resilience to withstand the domestic and international winds of change."

He has also praised the new Commissioner's intention to put more sworn officers into frontline positions.

"He believes investigation is the core of this police force and regardless of future challenges he wants that core to remain strong," Mr Rudd said.

"He has recognised the way the world is heading and is passionate about further developing the AFP's hi-tech crime capability."

Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor agrees that the new Commissioner's approach towards nurturing talent in the organisation is important.

"We are very fortunate to have in the AFP service and leadership of the highest calibre," he said at the Commissioner's swearing-in.

"Let me say that it's an expression of our confidence that Tony Negus ... will lead the organisation into the next step of its journey as it seeks to preserve our peace and works to ensure this nation's safety and security."

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