

Offender takes the long trip home

Law enforcement cooperation provided a novel way to get an offender home to face justice.



Robert Boyd (aka Robert Nakane) is handed over to New Zealand police at RAAF Base Richmond to be extradited on a New Zealand C-130 Hercules.

It took a joint effort and a New Zealand Air Force (NZAF) C130 Hercules but serious New Zealand offender Robert Boyd (aka Robert Nakane) is back in his home country to face justice.

Boyd was to be extradited on 22 January but his 'non-compliant' behaviour made it impractical for him to be returned on a commercial airlift.

A joint effort including AFP Crime Operations, Specialist Response Group (SRG), Specialist Support

Team (SST), Aviation, Australian Defence Force liaison staff, New Zealand Police and, of course, the New Zealand military aircraft finally got Boyd airborne on 24 January.

Coordinator Crime Operations 'A' Sydney Benjamin McQuillan said Boyd was remanded in custody on his return to New Zealand and faced court in February.

"It demonstrates the work we do with our close law enforcement neighbours, as well as being a



The C-130 'Freedom Bird' of the Vietnam War era represented a very different result for serious offender Robert Boyd (aka Robert Nakane) who was returned to New Zealand to face trial.

somewhat unique method of achieving the desired outcome," Detective Superintendent McQuillan said.

Boyd was arrested in New Zealand on 6 August 2011 and charged with sexual violation by rape, four counts of indecent assault, assault with a weapon and common assault.

He was remanded in custody but was released on electronic bail on 15 March 2012. He was prevented from applying for a new passport and was required to surrender all currently held passports.

But the 44-year-old Boyd applied for and was granted a New Zealand passport in the name of Robert Nakane after adopting the surname of his recently wed 22-year-old Japanese wife.

He fled New Zealand on 24 January 2013 in the days just before facing trial in New Zealand.

On 23 May 2013, AFP members arrested Boyd at a rural property in Dorrigo, NSW. Boyd's wife was also present at the property and the New Zealand passport was retrieved from the address.

Boyd was remanded in custody and since that time has appeared before the Local Court of NSW, Federal Court of Australia and the Full Bench of the Federal Court of Australia contesting his extradition.

On each occasion, Boyd stated that he feared for his life should he be returned to New Zealand due to previous gang affiliations. He was adamant he would not receive a fair trial in New Zealand and that the allegations against him were false.

The Extradition Act 1988 stated Boyd had 15 days to appeal the decision of the Full Bench of the Federal Court to the High Court of Australia. As of 21 January 2015 no such application had been made.

So it was that on 21 January, three members of New Zealand Police, including the informant Detective Alexandra York, arrived in Australia to return Boyd to New Zealand.

About 6.00am on 22 January, SRG, SST and SO Crime Operations members attended Parklea Correctional Centre to transport Boyd to Sydney Airport for the first attempt to return him to New Zealand.

When they arrived at Parklea, Boyd was in a holding cell and acting aggressively. Correctional facility staff extracted him from the cell and placed him in the rear of an AFP caged vehicle.

While he was in the caged vehicle Boyd repeatedly struck the rear door of the vehicle with his feet.



The New Zealand Air Force C-130 was tasked to take serious offender Robert Boyd back to his home country after a discontinued attempt to extradite him on commercial air due to his behaviour.

Federal Agent Crime Operations 'A' Sydney Robert Jenner said Boyd was so determined to stay in Australia that he claimed he had swallowed two razor blades in the early hours of the day he was to be extradited by commercial air.

Boyd had been previously cleared to travel by commercial air. Even so, New Zealand police attended the cells to speak with Boyd and very quickly determined he would not be cleared to fly with Air New Zealand.

After being refused entry to the Air New Zealand flight he was then conveyed to St George Public Hospital and medically examined.

"No foreign objects were identified on X-ray and Boyd was released into police custody and returned to NSW Corrective Services at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre Silverwater pending the development of alternate extradition strategies," Federal Agent Jenner said.

Ultimately, at about 5.30pm on 23 January, the RNZAF Hercules landed at the RAAF Base Richmond and signalled the end of the Boyd saga of getting him back to New Zealand to face his charges.

Early on 24 January, the SRG, SST and SO Crime Operations members attended MRRC Silverwater and took Boyd into custody.

By 9.05am the AFP members arrived at the RAAF Base Richmond. Boyd was compliant during the trip and at 9.30am was officially handed into the custody of Detective York.

After being secured in the rear of the C-130 Hercules, the aircraft flew out of the RAAF Base Richmond bound for Christchurch, New Zealand.

New Zealand Police (NZPOL) liaison officer in Canberra Detective Inspector Steve Wood said the NZPOL were very grateful for the cooperation and professionalism from the AFP.

"We were very keen for Mr Boyd to face court in New Zealand and knew it would be a difficult enough task just to locate him," Detective Inspector Wood said.

"He was a fugitive on the run that recognised he could face a very long term of imprisonment if caught. We were pleasantly surprised how quickly he was located and the ongoing communication and cooperation between all the agencies involved was first class."