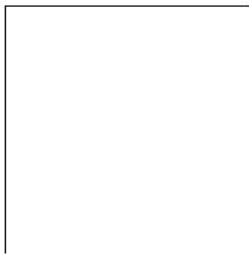


Australian Federal Police

Annual Report 1999-2000

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In the same way that technology is changing the way that the AFP does business, it has the capacity also to have an enormous impact on the way in which those involved in illegal activities conduct their pursuits. In such an environment, crime can be committed at the speed of thought.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Annual Report

1999–2000

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Australian Federal Police

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Glossary

ABA

Australian Broadcasting Authority

ABCI

Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence

ABDC

Australian Bomb Data Centre

ACPR

Australasian Centre for Policing Research

ACS

Australian Customs Service

ACT

Australian Capital Territory

AFP

Australian Federal Police

AIPM

Australian Institute of Police Management

AMSA

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

ASIC

Australian Securities and Investment Commission

ATO

Australian Taxation Office

ATSI

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

AUSTRAC

Australian Transaction Reports & Analysis Centre

AWIPAC

Australian Women in Policing Advisory Committee

CCPM

Case Categorisation and Prioritisation Model

CHOGM

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

CSCAP

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific

CSP

Commercial Support Program

DFAT

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DIMA

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

EMP

Employment Management Plan

FOSIC

Federal Olympic Security Intelligence Centre

IMOSC

International Management of Serious Crime

ITSA

Insolvency and Trustee Service, Australia

KPI

Key Performance Indicator

LEAP

Law Enforcement Assistance Program

LECP

Law Enforcement Cooperation Program

MDMA

An amphetamine-type stimulant

MOU

Memorandum of Understanding

NCA

National Crime Authority

NCS

National Central Bureau (Interpol)

NIDS

National Illicit Drugs Strategy

NWPP

National Witness Protection Program

OH&S

Occupational Health and Safety

OSEC

Olympic Security Command Centre

PBS

Portfolio Budget Statement

PSG

Performance Standards Group

PSOCC

Protective Security Olympic Coordination Centre

RCMP

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

SAC

Student Administration Centre

SACPAV

Standing Advisory Committee - Protection Against Violence

UN

United Nations

UNAMET

UN Assistance Mission to East Timor

UNCIVPOL

UN Civilian Police

UNTAET

UN Transitional Administration in East Timor

USP

University of the South Pacific

“A Commonwealth law enforcement agency second to none in the world”

[Prime Minister John Howard, addressing Interpol's 15th Asian regional conference on February 17, 1998]



The AFP's national headquarters is located in Canberra.

The AFP is a Commonwealth statutory authority brought into existence by the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*, and is responsible to the federal Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon. Amanda Vanstone.

The AFP's mission is to provide dynamic and effective law enforcement to the Australian people.

The AFP's chief executive is the Commissioner of Police, Mick Palmer. He was assisted throughout the reporting period by Deputy Commissioner Adrien Whiddett and Chief Operating Officer James Kelaher. Figure 1 depicts the AFP's executive structure.

The AFP provides the Government with the capacity to:

- Investigate and prevent crime against the Commonwealth and protect Commonwealth interests in Australia and overseas.
- Create a safe and secure environment through the provision of policing services to the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) under an arrangement with the ACT Government.

The AFP works in partnership with the police services of the States and Northern Territory, other government agencies and with international law enforcement organisations.

In particular, the AFP has a strategic alliance with the National Crime Authority (NCA) and close links with the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) and the Australian Customs Service (ACS). Criminal intelligence liaison staff are based in 16 countries, and an AFP representative is attached to Interpol in France.

The AFP's corporate office is in Canberra, and major operational centres are located in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Perth. Smaller operational bases are located in Adelaide, Cairns, Coffs Harbour, Darwin, Geelong, Gold Coast, Hobart, Launceston, Newcastle and Townsville. Federal agents are also stationed in Broome, Geraldton, Port Hedland and Thursday Island.

The AFP provides members for United Nations (UN) operations in Cyprus and East Timor, the Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville, and police services for the Commonwealth territories of Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and Jervis Bay.

Executive team

Commissioner Mick Palmer	
Deputy Commissioner Adrien Whiddett	Chief Operating Officer James Kelaher

Management and responsibilities

General Manager National Operations Mick Keelty	Assistant Commissioner and Chief Police Officer of the ACT Bill Stoll
General Manager Northern (A/g) Tony Negus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations• Operations Support• Corporate Services
General Manager Eastern Bob McDonald	
General Manager Southern Nigel Hadgkiss	General Manager Finance & People Management, Simon Overland
General Manager Western John Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal Investigations• Internal Security and Audit• Integrity Coordination Centre• Human Resources• Medical Services• Health & Safety Services• Finance• Employee Assistance and Psychological Services
<small>*All GMs supported by Operations and Operations Support positions.</small>	
General Manager Policy, Planning and Legal, Chris Whyte	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy• Forensics• Legal• Commercial Support• Information Technology	General Manager Protective Security John Lawler
General Manager Professional Development, Rod Leffers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian Bomb Data Centre• Prime Minister's Team• Special Events Planning Team• Special Operations• Security Intel. & Diplomatic Liaison• VIP Protection• Witness Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning and Development• Management of Serious Crime project	

Figure 1: The executive structure of the AFP as at June 30, 2000.

Organisational outcomes

In the first year of the accrual budget, the AFP operated under a five-outcome structure:

- Outcome 1: Criminal activity is deterred in areas impacting on the Commonwealth Government's interests.
- Outcome 2: Those individuals and interests indentified by the Commonwealth Government or the AFP as being at risk are kept safe and secure as a result of AFP protective services.
- Outcome 3: Policing activity creates a safer and more secure environment in the ACT.
- Outcome 4: The Commonwealth Government contributes effectively to international law enforcement interests.
- Outcome 5: Community confidence in the honesty, effectiveness and accountability of the AFP is high.

Figure 2 outlines the AFP's outcomes for 1999–2000, their relationship to the previous program structure and to the two-outcome structure of the next reporting period.

The AFP's outcomes included the following items:

- Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM)
- Australasian Centre for Policing Research (ACPR)
- Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI)
- UN Cyprus
- Interpol membership.

The AIPM provides executive leadership and management development opportunities to Australasian law enforcement and allied agencies. It comes under the corporate umbrella of the AFP, but is governed by a board comprised of all Australasian Police Commissioners.

The ACPR is an institution fundamentally devoted to applied research. Annual costs are administered by the AFP, but shared – with one-third being met by the Commonwealth, and the remaining two-thirds being met by the States, the Northern Territory and New Zealand. Like the AIPM, a board comprised of all Australasian Police Commissioners directs the ACPR's activities.

The ABCI maintains a national criminal intelligence database and provides shared access to the AFP and State and Territory police agencies, all of which contribute personnel and funding to the bureau.

The activities of the AIPM, ACPR and ABCI are detailed in the annual report on the National Common Police Services presented to the Australian Police Ministers Council. Details relating to UN Cyprus and Interpol membership are reported under Outcome 4.



Figure 2: Map of program to outcome structure.

“An environment of change and challenge”

[Commissioner Mick Palmer]



Commissioner Mick Palmer, talking with members of a new agent program.

The Australian Federal Police and law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally face a future environment of constant change and challenge.

Challenges arise from the increasing transnational character of crime, the trend to globalisation, innovations in commerce and trade facilitated by the Internet and the growing irrelevance of borders between states and countries to criminal enterprises.

There are those who believe policing cannot be effective in the new millennium. They argue that the emerging environment will be so complex, dynamic and unpredictable that attempts to merely enforce the law, let alone deal with criminality pro-actively, are doomed to failure.

Whilst the future environment will be difficult, I do not accept this view. Indeed, whilst some of the boundaries of responsibility may change, government and society in general cannot afford for us to fail. We in the AFP are committed to doing everything possible to ensure we do not.

The AFP's operational successes

Since the introduction of the 'mobile strike teams', which provided the AFP with a mobile, proactive, investigative capacity, and the overall move to intelligence driven investigations, the AFP's successes in disrupting major criminal enterprises and in the number and size of drug importations detected and seized has reached an all time high.

Without suggesting that we are yet winning a very tough fight, over the past year the AFP and partner agencies have disrupted and dismantled a significant number of international criminal syndicates and seized record amounts of heroin, cocaine and amphetamines.

In many cases we were assisted by intelligence received from overseas law enforcement agencies with which we have ongoing and/or newly forged links and partnerships. The Law Enforcement Cooperation Program has materially assisted the AFP to gain priority from its overseas counterpart agencies all of which have competing interests to manage.

The AFP continues to foster and build strong and meaningful relationships with law enforcement agencies in other countries. This is a key element of its programs to more effectively detect drug importations, to defeat people smuggling

operations, to identify money laundering enterprises throughout the Asia-Pacific region, to investigate the growing incidence of electronic crime and otherwise properly protect the Commonwealth's interests.

Drug importation

The past two years have seen a dramatic increase in the level of seizures of illicit drugs by Australian law enforcement agencies. Heroin production reports from international agencies indicate world production was some 570 tonnes during 1999.

Apart from record heroin seizures over the past two years the AFP has recorded its largest seizures of cocaine and amphetamines.

Intelligence indicates that the production and trafficking of amphetamines will continue to trend upwards, with enormous production rates evident on Australia's doorstep. Despite this, however, most of the amphetamines imported into Australia are still manufactured in Europe.

In dealing with these issues the AFP has moved quickly to close gaps in its intelligence gathering capabilities in countries posing the highest levels of interest including Burma (heroin), The Hague (amphetamine-type stimulants) and Bogota (cocaine). The AFP will continue to monitor importation and trafficking trends to ensure its resources and overseas representatives are effectively deployed and targeted.

People smuggling

During the year under review the AFP has become increasingly involved in investigating people smuggling and the organised criminal activity that surrounds the organisation and exploitation of individuals.

People smuggling has emerged as an important issue for Australia. Some of those involved in smuggling drugs have incorporated people smuggling into their illegal activities, utilising similar infrastructures and equipment for both.

Reports from the International Migration Office indicate that worldwide, about 100 million people are estimated to be seeking to migrate to another country. About 4 million attempt to migrate illegally each year and organised crime earns about \$US7 billion on people smuggling.

In addition to the real financial burden on communities targeted by people smugglers there are significant threats to the individual immigrant.

To avoid detection or pay organisers many illegal immigrants will be coerced into lifestyles that pose economic and social threats to the country, as well as hardship, sadness and other dangers for the individual immigrant. They are often involved in criminal enterprises such as prostitution, drug couriership and low level dealing. They also provide significant labour for sweat shops which have a real potential to

threaten legitimate industry. On occasions, people will be smuggled and family members held hostage until money for the transporting has been paid.

National Illicit Drug Strategy initiatives

One of the key Government initiatives pursued by the AFP during the year was the National Illicit Drug Strategy.

The additional funding provided in the 1999–2000 budget has allowed an expansion of the AFP's overseas liaison capabilities and has provided an additional capacity to pursue Law Enforcement Cooperation Program initiatives. In both of these ways the AFP is able to enhance its overseas capabilities and develop a more effective and broader criminal intelligence capacity.

The extended Law Enforcement Cooperation Program continues to provide strong, relevant and useful links to other law enforcement agencies throughout the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world. Its aims of improving both the levels of cooperation and capacity of the AFP's overseas law enforcement partners have derived continuing law enforcement intelligence leading to the greater interdiction of drugs and illegal immigrants before they reach Australia.

The Program has achieved the delivery of a series of education and training programs, operational law enforcement officer short-term attachments and exchanges and the provision of modest equipment purchases, all of which assist in improving police practice and cooperation across the region.

International peacekeeping

The AFP continued its long tradition of commitment to peace keeping and peace monitoring by providing personnel to the establishment and oversight of the popular ballot in East Timor in June 1999. The ballot took place in August 1999.

The courage displayed by our members during the violence that followed the declaration and throughout the intimidation they faced in the lead up to the ballot is great testament to the quality and tenacity of all personnel involved.

Since June 1999, more than 200 AFP members have served in East Timor with UNAMET, InterFET and UNTAET, often in conditions of danger, hardship and privation, always with distinction.

From February 2000 approximately 30 State police officers from all over Australia, sworn as Special Members of the AFP, have joined contingents to East Timor. They have served, and continue to serve, with distinction.

Forensic Services

The new AFP forensic laboratory at Weston Complex was completed during the year and is due to be formally opened by the Minister in August 2000.

This state of the art laboratory is a tangible demonstration of the increasing capability and sophistication of the AFP's forensic services. AFP forensic resources are now world class, as are our scientists. As a small but significant example, during the year AFP scientists developed new technologies to detect finger prints on difficult surfaces such polymer bank notes with the use of vacuum metal deposition technology.

Community policing in the Australian Capital Territory

How the AFP provides community policing services to the ACT was reviewed during the reporting period. On 15 March 2000 a new policing arrangement was signed by Senator the Hon. Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Justice and Customs, and Mr Gary Humphries, ACT Minister for Justice and Community Safety.

The new agreement supported a range of new accountability measures and enabled the development of an annual purchase agreement with the ACT Government specifying levels of service to be provided to the community.

The year also saw a significant change of the criminal environment within the ACT with a 19.8 per cent increase in reported offences. The introduction of an intelligence-led policing model which ensures police resources are targeted to address existing and emerging criminal activity was having a significant impact towards the end of the reporting period in addressing the rising crime rate.

Finance and people management

A new certified agreement was adopted by members of the AFP in November 1999. The essential intent and purpose of the agreement is to provide individual personnel with improved remuneration equity and certainty whilst increasing our capacity and productivity to deal with an unpredictable work environment.

The ability of AFP personnel practices to respond more effectively and quickly to the needs of Government and the community also underpinned the changes to the AFP legislation which was passed by the Parliament in February 2000.

Senior officer movements

After a period of senior staffing stability, one of the issues we have been focusing on over the past year or so has been the identification and promotion of a number of new senior executives who will be available to take the place of those retiring or moving on during 2000-01.

The AFP has many leaders and the number is growing. Leadership occurs at all levels and it is imperative that an organisation's ethos embraces this fact. Our cultural transformation strategy strongly encourages and facilitates the professionalism, development and personal accountability of our members. It is aimed at creating the confidence and skills which leaders need.

A willingness and capacity to be successful in these areas will, I believe, determine the organisations that will not only survive but prosper in the new millennium.

Part of our strategy involved changes to the role of General Manager Professional Development to develop the professional development and in-service training infrastructure required by AFP management and operational priorities.

At the same time, a senior executive position of General Manager Finance and People Management (GMFP) was created. GMFP's first priority was to initiate a thorough review and, where necessary, restructure our people management activities.

The review took into account the changes in human resource practice made possible by the new certified agreement, and the need to update and streamline our recruitment, advancement, internal investigation, discipline and other human resource practices made possible by the legislative amendments.

Accrual budgeting

Like all Commonwealth agencies, the AFP has moved to the accrual budgeting and outcome model. The model records revenues and expenses when goods or services are provided or consumed, rather than when cash is received or paid. The first attempt — a five outcome structure used during 1999–2000 — proved too complex a tool for effective accountability. The revised two outcome approach which was approved during the year for use in 2000–01 reflects Commonwealth and ACT Government arrangements and aligns services/outputs along similar lines to the former program structure.

Throughout the reform process of the last two years the AFP has worked strenuously with support from the Department of Finance and Administration to improve the credibility of our financial reporting. I believe the success of this process is reflected in the operational results the AFP is achieving.

There is little doubt in my mind that without the Government's investment in the AFP reform process and our commitment to the findings of a number of external reviews we were likely to have failed in this process.

Future outlook

The criminal environment in the first decade of the 21st century will be, and already is in many instances, very different to that ten years ago. E-commerce, e-crime and money laundering are increasingly reliant on and indeed facilitated by the growing sophistication of technology. The rapid development of technological capabilities presents an enormous challenge for law enforcement.

Crime at the speed of thought, the theme of the 2000 Commissioner's Conference was much more than a catchy motif, it is a reality and we must develop the expertise to use this technology to our advantage. Encryption of data and financial records has the potential to make law enforcement even more difficult.

The AFP has an increasingly diverse role in addressing many of the issues we now face as a result of the impact the Internet is having on our environment. Computer crime and associated activities will continue to receive a high level of attention by the AFP. We already have in place electronic evidence teams (formerly called computer crime teams) in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

The AFP's electronic forensic support team in Canberra will continue to service the increasing demand for forensic analysis from within the AFP, and from our law enforcement partners. This facility will be supported by state of the art computer technology and will draw on the services of specialist computer professionals who are otherwise engaged in research and development activities for the AFP.

It is fundamentally important, however, that the AFP develop its capability in alliance and, at times, in partnership with other law enforcement agencies and indeed the business community. The AFP must ensure, in developing its capability to protect Commonwealth interests and in this area it has the respect and cooperation of all stakeholders and is able to work with business to ensure the exploitation of the e. environment benefits all sectors of the community.

Overall, I believe the performance of the AFP during 1999-2000 and the support it has received from its key stakeholders, has demonstrated the investment and commitment of the Government is well founded.

Despite this environment of almost constant change and challenge, the AFP is in a sound corporate and operational position. Firstly, we have created a flexible and professional work environment and have a highly motivated and skilled workforce. Secondly, whilst, quite properly, we have the responsibility to argue our case for longer term funding requirements, we presently have the support of the Government in terms of the work we are doing and a commitment to the funding we need to do it.

“Australia's intelligence and investigation capabilities are up to the task”

[Senator Amanda Vanstone, speaking after Australia's first-ever seizure of black cocaine]



The seizure of approximately 115kg of black cocaine on February 11, 2000 came just days after a record seizure of 500kg of cocaine.

Measuring crime levels or deterrence of crime through law enforcement strategies is complex given the nature of the criminal environment, the multiple and varied factors which shape it, and the difficulty in ascribing cause and effect relationships to variances in reported crime.

The Attorney-General's Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) 1999–2000 identified a number of ways in which the AFP's achievement of its outcomes might be measured. During the reporting period, the AFP focused on five key performance indicators (KPIs) in assessing the success or otherwise of achieving outcome objectives:

- KPI 1 – Disruptive effects of AFP operations on the criminal environment locally, nationally and internationally.
- KPI 2 – Financial performance of the AFP as a cost-effective service.
- KPI 3 – Level of accountability, honesty and dedication throughout the organisation.
- KPI 4 – Level of client satisfaction with the services the AFP provides.
- KPI 5 – Ability to attract, satisfy and retain high-performing people.

KPIs 1, 3, 4 and 5 are discussed throughout the text of this chapter in relation to the outcomes to which they apply. KPI 2 is discussed in the Management section, in relation to the AFP as a whole.

Outcome 1: Criminal activity is deterred in areas impacting on the Commonwealth Government's interests

The objectives of this outcome are to:

- Enforce Commonwealth laws and protect the integrity of Commonwealth programs, including investigation of serious and complex frauds against the Commonwealth.
- Effectively contribute to international efforts to counteract and prevent criminal activities identified by the Government as requiring a higher priority response (by conducting investigations, encouraging cooperation in law enforcement in the region and involvement in AFP's international network).

Australian Federal Police

- Protect the integrity of national economic and social institutions and the environment, and ensure there is a national response where criminal activity impinges on national security and/or is of a trans-jurisdictional character.

To achieve these objectives the AFP:

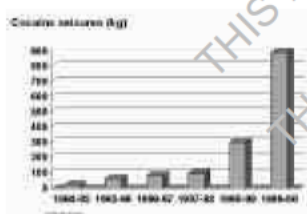
- Undertakes investigations into organised crime, illicit drug trafficking, fraud against the Commonwealth, corporate and other economic crime, money laundering and other serious crimes.
- Provides appropriate assistance to Commonwealth agencies involved in law enforcement activities.
- Recovers proceeds of crime arising from AFP or other agency investigations.
- Provides advice to Government to enable the formulation of appropriate policy responses to emerging criminal activities.

Information on performance measurement is in Appendix 1.

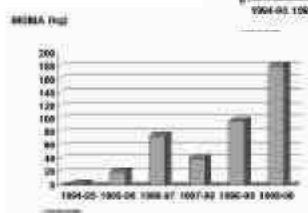
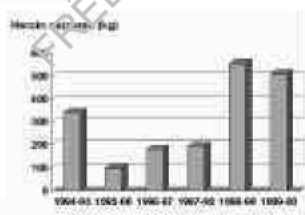
Disruptive effects on the criminal environment

During 1999–2000, the AFP achieved successes in operations targeted at criminal activity in each State and Territory in Australia, as well as cooperative activity targeting transnational crime groups. Substantial proceeds of crime were identified, assets restrained and recoveries made.

The success of these operations was based on the mobility and flexibility of its personnel as well as the use of technologies, made possible as a result of the National Illicit Drug Strategy (NIDS) and other funding decisions that have increased the capability of the AFP.



Statistics show increased seizures of illicit drugs.



Investigations by the AFP over the year had a significant disruptive effect on the criminal environment through:

- 1443 offenders being apprehended for 3135 offences.
- 1661kg of illicit drugs being removed from circulation.
- 3380 new cases being referred, of which 347 were

assessed as having an impact on Australian society as high or very high, indicating that the AFP is focusing on disrupting high level criminal syndicates.

- Identification of \$46.2 million, restraint of \$13.1 million and recovery of \$17.3 million in criminal assets.

The AFP has the primary law enforcement responsibility for investigating criminal offences against Commonwealth laws and directs its resources accordingly.

The number of such offences reported or identified, however, far exceeds the AFP's capacity to investigate. The AFP must ensure that its resources are directed to the matters of highest priority and the decision to accept or reject matters for investigation is based on this precept.

All matters are evaluated in accordance with a Case Categorisation and Prioritisation Model (CCPM) which considers the nature of alleged crime, the impact of the criminality involved, and the resources required for the AFP to investigate the matter.

Each reported matter is assessed against all other newly reported matters and ongoing investigations. The decision to investigate a particular matter is made by a regional management team, which assigns resources to the investigation and monitors its progress.

The priority of an investigation refers to the degree of urgency, interest or exceptional circumstances of the matter and thus gives an indication of the immediate disruptive effect of conducting the operation.

Of the 3380 new cases which the AFP investigated, the priorities assigned through the CCPM were: essential 294 (9%), routine 1603 (47%), response 1171 (35%), special 239 (7%) and other 73 (2%).

The impact refers to perceived and assessed impact of the matter on Australian society and takes into account additional information such as the disruptive effect investigating the matter will have. The impact of the 3380 new cases according to the CCPM was: very high 62 (2%), high 285 (8%), medium 591 (17%), low 2411 (71%) and other 31 (2%). As at June 30 2000, the AFP had 1852 referrals on hand and a further 590 referrals in the legal process, having finalised 2894 referrals during the year.

The dollar value of a crime does not determine whether or not the AFP accepts a referral, it is the underlying criminality. However, the dollar value does give an indication as to the magnitude, prevalence and rate of detection of certain crime types, which also helps ascertain the disruptive effect the AFP has on the criminal environment. The median value of economic crime was \$18,428 per case, compared to \$21,066 the previous year.

Of the 1661kg of illicit drugs seized during the year amphetamines made up 234kg (a 100% increase), cocaine 814kg (a 164% increase), hallucinogens 6kg (same as last year), heroin 501kg (a 7% decrease) and cannabis 33kg (a 60% decrease) with the remaining consisting of other minor drug types. These increased seizures reflect that the AFP targets syndicates involved in the importation of illicit drugs rather than individuals.

Illicit drugs

The AFP disrupted a number of syndicates involved in the importation and distribution of illicit drugs during the reporting period, with syndicates identified within Australia and internationally.

These operations principally resulted in large seizures of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants. The use of electronic technologies associated with these operations

allowed the AFP to positively identify and apprehend a number of the syndicate members.

A seizure of 510kg of cocaine in February 2000, initiated from AFP national intelligence product, was the largest seizure of cocaine in Australia to date. Seven persons were arrested during this operation and assets including \$368,000 in cash, four vehicles, six bank accounts, two properties and three marine vessels were identified for proceeds of crime action.

Aside from the principal objective of serious disruption to this syndicate, the seizure of the drugs and arrest of importers, this operation has provided an effective deterrent by showing other importers that the AFP has the capacity to detect and seize large imports. It also prevented approximately 3.3 million caps of cocaine from being sold within Australia.

A long-term importing syndicate involving established members of the East Coast Criminal Milieu was disrupted in January 2000 following the seizure of 76kg of MDMA (an amphetamine-type stimulant) and 9kg of cocaine, and the arrest of seven persons. During the execution phase \$351,000 in cash was seized.

In November 1999, two offenders were arrested and charged with being knowingly concerned in the importation of 219kg of heroin. Evidence obtained indicated that the syndicate responsible had utilised the same modus operandi previously. The syndicate was severely disrupted by this operation.

In July 1999, federal agents seized 12kg of the MDMA found concealed in fitness equipment air-freighted from Belgium. Five people faced court for their involvement in the importation, but the news was suppressed while international aspects of the operation continued.

In the wake of the Australian arrests, German authorities seized a further 58kg of MDMA. A drug laboratory, firearms and explosives were discovered and a principal organiser of the network arrested by Dutch and Belgian authorities, 49 people were arrested in Europe and Israel, and 150kg of the drug seized in The Netherlands.



Australia's largest seizure of cocaine to date was made on a vessel in NSW.

As a result of intelligence, a container was located and examined by the ACS during July 1999. The examination revealed approximately 95kg of heroin. The alleged offender was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment with a non-parole period of eighteen-and-a-half years.



Sentencing continued throughout the period in relation to a national investigation in which 19 persons were arrested and cash and property valued at over \$16 million identified for potential proceeds of crime action. Four relatively minor members of the syndicate received sentences ranging from seven to nine years.