

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade – References Committee Inquiry into the Indian Ocean

Question 1

The Committee asked the below question following the hearing on 22 March 2013:

CHAIR: I would like to change horses slightly now. There was a report, Offshore oil and gas resources sector security inquiry, by the Office of the Inspector of Transport Security. That report, among other things, stated that:

To date, Australia has been consistently considered as a low-risk, location with high security and supply reliability. However, the shape of the oil and gas industry is changing and Australia increasingly has a range of characteristics within its operating environment that are likely to heighten security implications in the future.

The report outlines a number of potential threats to offshore infrastructure, including individual attack from within an installation and cyber intrusion.

I was just wondering whether the AFP had made any similar studies of threats and risks to the resources companies and facilities such as rigs off the north-west coast.

Mr Whowell: There are no studies that I am aware of, but, if you do not mind, I will go back and check that, and if it is incorrect I will correct that statement. We are aware of that study by the OITS, but I am not aware of any individual studies by the AFP.

Response is as follows:

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Counter Terrorism (CT) portfolio has not undertaken any specific body of work on threats and risks to offshore resource facilities, including oil and gas platforms.

The AFP is reliant upon the work done by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, Office of Transport Security and the Attorney-General's Department.

The National Counter Terrorism Committee Handbook identifies responsibility of response to terrorism incidents within the maritime environment.

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Question 2

The Committee asked the below question following the hearing on 22 March 2013:

Senator FAWCETT: Gentlemen, thank you for your submission. I note that, in the submission, you talked about the African Society of Forensic Medicine that the AFP helped co-establish. Could you tell us a bit more about that: where it is located and who the constituent members are? It is a good news story, but I have never heard of it.

Mr Whowell: I am sorry, may I take that on notice? We do not have anybody here from forensics who was involved in that, so I am not able to answer that question right now.

Senator FAWCETT: I will give you a couple more elements then to put in your question on notice. You talk about being a self-sufficient society. So I am interested in whether we just had some academic or intellectual input or did we have funding as part of the start-up? Was that ODA funding or was that out of the AFP budget? Do we have an ongoing involvement or did we help to create it and then walk away? Is that a governance or a technical involvement? I am just interested to know more about the nature of that model and our ongoing involvement in it.

Mr Whowell: We will be able to answer that on notice.

The answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

As part of the Australian Government's *Increasing Australia's Law Enforcement Presence and Strengthening the rule of law in Africa* New Policy Initiative, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) was provided with \$4.8 million to aid in the development of the application of forensic science in Africa.

As part of this initiative, the AFP co-hosted with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) an 'African Forum on Forensic Pathology' in Botswana in 2010. The forum was planned and delivered by VIFM and was attended by 35 representatives from 13 African countries and international bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Criminal Court (ICC), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The forum was funded by the AFP at a cost of \$173 000. The African Network of Forensic Medicine (ANFM) was established as a result of this event.

A second forum was hosted in Uganda in March 2012 with VIFM again involved in its planning and delivery with the AFP providing \$130,000 in funding. Approximately 50 delegates attended the three day forum, plus two days of workshops, from 11 African countries. During this forum the ANFM Committee voted to formally create the African Society of Forensic Medicine (ASFM).

The third forum was badged as an ASFM event and hosted in South Africa in March 2013 with the AFP providing \$90,000 in funding on behalf of the ASFM Executive Committee

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who took ownership for the delivery of this forum. The event was the largest held to date with 80 participants representing close to 50% of African nations including Liberia, Tunisia, Senegal, Lesotho and Kenya. The forum aimed to set minimum standards for forensic medicine practice across the entire region.

With the formal completion of the AFP's initiative as at 30 June 2013 funding to support the 4th ASFM Forum (to be held in Abjua, Nigeria in March 2014) is being sought from other international partners. It is also hoped that the African Union (AU) may also have a presence at this forum.

The ASFM is run by an Executive Committee of seven members from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Kenya with the Chairperson and Secretariat hosted in Nigeria. The society has been registered as a legal entity in Uganda and has its own website www.asfmonline.org/.

In addition to providing funding of the ASFM forums the AFP also sponsored and hosted three Executive Committee members to attend the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society's (ANZFSS) 21st International Symposium in Hobart in September 2012. This provided the committee members an opportunity to experience a world class gathering of forensic professionals in preparation for their own forum as well as an insight into the best practices in forensic medicine.

The AFP has also provided ongoing mentoring and advice on society governance issues, particularly throughout 2012/13.

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Question 3

The Committee asked the below question following the hearing on 22 March 2013:

Senator FAWCETT: You also make a statement about capability development having the potential to displace transnational crime. Are there any particular developments that you think would be a priority to have a maximum impact on displacing or reducing a number of those threats?

Cmdr Raiser: I am not in a position to talk in a more strategic sense about the wider AFP focus. I can certainly comment on people smuggling that that is one area where we have worked very closely with a few of our Commonwealth colleagues in disruptions.

When you talk about displacing the crime, certainly disrupting it and upsetting the flow of people, boats and money, yes, we have focused quite specifically in that area. That is obviously given the volume and what we are seeing as an increase. It is a good example of where, due to the changes and the growth, we are looking to how we can best utilise resources.

The answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

The AFP contributes significantly to capacity development for law enforcement partners across the region. The aim of the AFP's capacity development program is to build and enhance capability and capacity within partner regional law enforcement agencies to better position them to displace transnational crime threats including people smuggling and terrorism.

In terms of people smuggling, the AFP's effort is part of a broader whole-of-government approach addressing national security and border management to tackle the occurrence of people smuggling in the region. The effective delivery of AFP's capacity development program strengthens investigations in source and transit countries to dismantle people smuggling syndicates and in turn, decrease the number of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMA) coming to Australia.

The AFP's capacity development program has enhanced law enforcement capacity in Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka with a strong focus on combating people smuggling and developing greater in-country technological capabilities. The AFP's role in providing police-to-police assistance in the Indian Ocean Rim is founded in governance instruments between the AFP and foreign law enforcement agencies. These governance instruments predominantly take the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). The AFP currently has agreements and MoUs with 20 nations located in the Indian Ocean Rim and neighbouring regions¹. The objectives of these MoUs are wide-ranging and provisions can include: promoting police cooperation (to assist in combatting transnational organised crime), information exchange and access to information, provisions for joint activities or operations and the provision of training and professional development.

¹ These nations include: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Jordan, Brunei, Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, China, the European Union, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom.

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In Indonesia, the AFP has delivered a range of capacity building measures including: providing two AFP members to support the Indonesia National Police (INP) in training of policing methodology, investigations and anti-people smuggling operations; gifting technical and surveillance equipment, a vehicle and three patrol vessels to Indonesia; completing the construction/renovation of 12 people smuggling taskforce units (SATGASDAs); and establishing a core technical investigation (physical and electronic surveillance) capability in Jakarta.

In Malaysia, the AFP has undertaken capacity building activities with the Royal Malaysia Police including: facilitating bilateral meetings, intelligence exchanges and border enforcement workshops, and providing investigations prosecutions training programs and technical assistance training to RMP officers.

In Sri Lanka, the AFP has assisted the Sri Lanka Police Service to build its capabilities in criminal investigation of people smuggling. The AFP has assisted the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) establish a dedicated maritime human smuggling investigation unit and has provided training in intelligence, financial investigations and money laundering investigations to CID officers.

The AFP's provision of courses and training to Foreign Law Enforcement Agencies (FLEAs) through its Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP), has also contributed to the development and enhancement of the skills of those agencies to combat transnational crime.

Examples of long term projects relevant to nations in the Indian Ocean Rim include; the Brice Steele Scholarships (which funds positions for officers from the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) to obtain post-graduate qualifications at Australian Universities); Asian Regional Law Enforcement Management Program (ARLEMP) in Hanoi where regional police leaders from throughout Asia participate in AFP funded leadership training delivered by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology; and training placements at the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) on Police Management Development Program and Police Executive Leadership Programs.

The AFP also works with the South East Asia Transnational Crime Advisors Network (SEATCAN) and funds four Transnational Crime Advisors working within Transnational Crime teams in Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. The advisors provide capacity development to improve capability of the teams to effectively combat transnational crime affecting their respective countries and the broader South East Asian region.

In relation to countering the threat of terrorism, the AFP Regional Cooperation Teams in Jakarta and Manila and the Training and Development Centre in Bangkok, provide ongoing investigative and intelligence support to offshore partners in order to prevent terrorism at its source and combat terrorism regionally and globally.

Other capacity development initiatives in the region, such as the establishment and ongoing development of Bomb Data Centres and the Case Management and Intelligence System; and the provision of training in leadership, investigations management, intelligence, forensics and surveillance, significantly enhance law enforcement partners' capability to investigate and disrupt terrorist related activity.

These capacity development initiatives promote a cooperative approach to counter terrorism investigations; enhance intelligence sharing and contribute significantly to counter terrorism outcomes across the region.

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The end purpose of these capability development initiatives is the implementation of a coordinated regional approach to combating people smuggling and countering terrorism.

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Question 4

The Committee asked the below question following the hearing on 22 March 2013:

Senator FAWCETT: Are you familiar with the IOR-ARC?

Mr Howell: Personally, no, I am not quite sure what that refers to.

Senator FAWCETT: Essentially, in layman's terms, it is a coordinating committee for nations in the Indian Ocean rim where they come together once a year to have a ministerial conference and seek to develop capacity, interoperability, trade, business and other things. We are going to be the chair of that, and we are being told by DFAT that there is broad engagement with all other departments, but I want to establish whether other departments believe that there has been broad engagement and that their agendas are being heard for that chairmanship. I am not convinced at the moment.

Mr Howell: Generally, DFAT are very good at engaging with us on ones where they need our interest, but I cannot answer that. I will take it on notice.

Senator FAWCETT: Can you take it on notice and let me know who is representing the AFP's interest at the interdepartmental committees that DFAT tell us are established.

Mr Howell: Sure, no problem.

The answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

The AFP has, to date, not had any involvement in the IOR-ARC or any interdepartmental committees relating to the IOR. The AFP would like to be involved in any future IOR-ARC interdepartmental committees and will discuss AFP's involvement with DFAT.