

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 56**

**Senator Ludlam asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2009:**

Provide figures concerning the reduction in heroin and amphetamines produced in Burma being trafficked to Australia.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) does not collect statistics specific to Myanmar relating to the production of heroin or amphetamines. The AFP can however, provide the following examples of successful initiatives undertaken in Myanmar.

In August 2006, the AFP established an ongoing program to assist the Myanmar Police Force Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and its operational Anti-Narcotic Task Forces (ANTF) in identifying and dismantling heroin and Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) refineries. AFP assistance involves training and some operational support.

In August 2008, AFP support was provided to an ANTF operation which resulted in the discovery of a heroin refinery. Four other joint operations were undertaken which resulted in the dismantling of a further heroin refinery and the seizure of a significant amount of heroin and ATS precursors. One of those heroin refineries had been in operation for twelve months and produced approximately 120kgs of heroin per batch.

The four joint operations saw the following drugs and explosive materials seized by the ANTF:

- 800 litres cooked opium;
- 363kgs opium;
- 1,200kgs opium residue;
- 2,200 litres heroin precursors;
- 800kgs ammonium chloride;
- 21,000 ATS tablets;
- 77,500 pseudoephedrine tablets;
- 7 firearms and 2 hand grenades;
- 3,000 sticks of gelignite; and
- 2,900 detonators.

It is estimated that 800kgs of ammonium chloride would be sufficient to process 157kgs of raw opium into 9.42kgs of usable heroin (based on a 6% conversion rate). This amount of heroin would have a street value in Australia of between \$3.3 and \$3.8 million.

Between 23 and 26 January 2009, Myanmar Police seized two separate heroin consignments totalling approximately 150kgs. On the Australian market, 150kgs of heroin has a street value of approximately \$52.5 to \$60 million. The AFP's capacity building efforts in providing computerised analytical software and associated training to a specialist narcotic investigation team contributed to the success of this operation.