

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 77

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

In relation to the Christmas Island Deployment:

1. Can you provide an update of how many AFP officers are currently stationed at Christmas Island?
2. Can you provide the figures as at the first day of the month for the past six months?
3. Over the past six months, have the AFP had to respond to any incidents at the Immigration Detention Centre and associated facilities on Christmas Island? If yes, detail the specific dates and nature of the incident including how many people and officers involved?

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

1.

Organisational Unit	Total
Command	1
Support	1
Public Order Management	16
Specialist Response Unit	6
Joint Intelligence Group	1
People Smuggling Strike Team	11*
CI Police	7
TOTAL	43

(As at 24 October 2012)

* The People Smuggling Strike Team (PSST) deploys a team of 10 members to Christmas Island on 5 week rotations. PSST also has a permanent part time member stationed on Christmas Island.

2. See table below

Area	1-May-12	1-Jun-12	1-Jul-12	1-Aug-12	1-Sep-12	1-Oct-12	25-Oct-12
Christmas Island Policing	8	7	9	8	8	9	9
Op Eton	27	32	17	25	31	23	25
Crime Operations	11	11	40*	11	11	19	19
Op Duval (Protection)						5	6
Grand Total	46	50	66	44	50	56	59

* includes Op Calder

Note – does not include Special members (casuals), secondees or contractors

For the past 6 months PSST have had a team of 10 members and one permanent part time member stationed at Christmas Island on the first day of each month.

3. See table below

Date	Type	AFP involved	Detainees involved	Details
23-May-12	Assault	2	2	Minor assault, alleged victim was friends with alleged offender and the alleged victim never wished for the matter to be reported to Police.
28-Sep-12	Assault	2	5	Assault involving one detainee holding a plastic knife to the neck of another detainee over a dispute about the alleged victim sitting in the alleged offender's chair. Enquiries are still continuing.
18-Oct-12	Assault	4	3	SERCO guard responded to reports of screaming from within accommodation unit. Upon entering a male detainee was observed slapping his wife about the face. As a result AFP (CI Police) attended, arrested, charged and bailed the offender for common assault. The offender admitted the assault during a record of interview.
23-May-12	Assault	2	2	SERCO reported an indecent assault by a detainee against a SERCO officer. The SERCO officer involved stated that he had not reported it formally to SERCO or the Police and did not wish for the matter to continue.

21-Oct-12	Assault	2	3	Two Police attended the Construction Camp IDC and spoke with ██████████ (name suppressed) about an alleged assault. This person stated that they had observed detainee SEIV 469/48 place his hands on the ears of the child and move his head gently backwards and forwards as the child was whinging. This person stated that the child did not appear to be hurt by it and the child stopped crying immediately after being removed from its father. There is no assault as originally reported and no further Police action required.
4-Jul-12	Assault	2	2	One detainee was allegedly punched in the face. The victim, however, was sent from Australia a short time later and no further action was taken prior to his departure.
14-Jun-12	Assault	2	2	Two Police attended Phosphate Hill after IHMS reported a DV incident. The two detainees involved (Husband and wife) stated that the husband had hit the wife whilst they were in Indonesia. As it was on foreign land AFP could not investigate. A Police order was served on the husband.
26/07/2012	Assault	2	2	Two detainees had an altercation where one detainee allegedly threatened the other with a plastic knife. CI Police attended where the Offender was arrested and charged with Detainee armed and assault. Currently before court.