



# **ILEC 2006 AGENDA**

**SESSION 7 – OUT OF COUNTRY POLICING**

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## **Out of Country Policing**

New Zealand Police are deployed overseas to assist with United Nations missions and New Zealand bilateral and development aid projects. New Zealand Police currently have 80 police officers deployed overseas on various missions.

### **Solomon Islands**

Our largest police deployment is to the Solomon Islands. In October 2002, 10 police flew to the Solomon Islands as part of the NZ Solomon Islands Policing Project. This project then developed into Operation RAMSI (Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands). This operation comprises of members from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu and Nauru.

The purpose of Operation RAMSI is to support the Solomon Islands in upgrading infrastructure of key government functions including the criminal justice system, police force and prisons. A NZ Police Superintendent is also on secondment to the Solomon Islands as the Deputy Police Commissioner.

NZ Police were led by the Australian Federal Police and provide operational policing services along with assistance in reforming the Royal Solomon Island Police. This operation began in August 2003, with 35 NZ Police Officers being deployed to the Solomon Islands.

Over time the security risk in the Solomon Islands has fluctuated. On 18 April 2006 riots broke out in Chinatown, Honiara as a result of unrest caused by the outcome of the Solomon Islands elections. Several NZ Police Officers were injured in the rioting and NZ Police were forced to withdraw back to barracks.

NZ Police has 35 Police Officers currently serving in Solomon Islands. To date the security threat level is assessed as medium, several well-publicised incidents illustrate the danger faced by our members. For example in December 2004, Australian Police Officer Andrew Dunning was shot dead while on routine patrol in Honiara. In December 2002 two Pacific Island police officers and a civilian police scout were killed in an operation.

Depending on the security risk threat assessment NZ Police deployed in the Solomon Islands may be armed. For example if the security risk is high, police officers are required to carry firearms, wear body armour and restrictions are placed on what they are able to do both on and off duty. When the security risk has been lowered, they are able to leave their firearms at base.

## **East Timor**

In July 1999, there was a referendum of all East Timorese people to determine whether East Timor should become independent of Indonesia. The outcome was overwhelming support for independence. This caused violent clashes with the Indonesian military.

As a result an Australian led military force was deployed for peacekeeping purposes. New Zealand contributed Defence Force and Police personnel. The Police contribution comprised of ten armed police officers on six-month deployments. The last deployment was in early 2002.

In April 2006, gangs of youth allied to feuding East Timor Police or army units went on a rampage in Dili. This resulted in further Australian led military intervention.

The NZ Police has deployed 25 police officers to East Timor - initially this will be a three-month rotation. Their role is to restore law and order. They will work alongside NZ Defence Force, Australian Defence and Australian Police personnel. The NZ Police Officers will be armed at all times and except for when off duty they will be confined to their compound.

## **Bougainville**

Since 2001 NZ Police have sent police officers to Bougainville. Currently there are five NZ Police Officers serving a 12-month deployment. They provide mentoring and advisory services to Bougainville Police.

The peace process is still fragile in Bougainville and NZ Police members deployed there often face high level security threats - at times being forced to evacuate to Papua New Guinea.

## **Afghanistan**

Three NZ Police Officers are also currently deployed to Afghanistan. These Officers have been deployed to train and educate the Afghanistan Police Force. This is a five-month deployment. These officers are fully armed with military weapons whenever they leave their base and have at times experienced lockdowns where they are confined to the base. There have been three rotations to Afghanistan. NZ Police Officers serve alongside other countries in the UN led deployment.

## **Other Deployments**

The NZ Police also has long-term deployments of two and three years in other locations. These include three Police Superintendents posted to London, Washington and Jakarta. Four Police Inspectors employed as Liaison Officers to Sydney, Bangkok, Canberra and Fiji. A liaison officer has also recently been appointed to Hawaii.

These types of senior deployments are likely to increase. At times some of these locations have experienced heightened security threat levels. For example in Jakarta our liaison officer had to meet family members outside of Indonesia due to elevated security threat levels.

## **Working Conditions**

When each deployment is organised to leave New Zealand, the Association negotiates allowances and conditions with NZ Police. This negotiation is described as a variation and is a "variation" of the Sworn Police Collective.

Many of the conditions in the Sworn Collective remain applicable but this can change for each deployment. Each variation has different conditions depending on the length of deployment and situation of the country. For example if a deployment is longer than six months, the cost of a flight home or equivalent is provided.

Many of the supplementary conditions in a variation cover:

- Meal Allowances
- Uniforms and equipment
- Accommodation and Standard Utilities (when accommodation is not provided)
- Body Armour (if necessary)
- Travel Insurance
- Leave and Rostered days off
- Operational and Incidental Allowances (according to threat assessment and environmental conditions)

## **Tax Arrangements**

Recently, the Association presented a submission to the Parliamentary Finance and Expenditure Committee with regards to the tax status of members who are deployed overseas. Amendments to the Income Tax Act of 2004 have proposed that NZ Defence Force employees who are deployed overseas will be eligible for tax exemptions.

The Association submitted that we believe NZ Police should be included on any tax exemption that NZ Defence Force received. We explained NZ Police contributes significantly to many overseas deployments and they include the same or similar risks and responsibilities as the NZ Defence Force. The deployments often require the NZ Police and the NZ Defence Force to work together. Consequently NZ Police personnel should be entitled to the same tax exemption regime as NZ Defence Force personnel.

The Association have also appeared before the committee for an oral submission. The committee have yet to report their findings on the bill to Parliament

## **Conclusion**

NZ Police contribute to many of New Zealand's neighbouring countries either through the United Nations or in conjunction with Australia. The amount of police assistance we provide fluctuates in relation to the amount of instability and risk associated with each country.

Greg O'Connor  
President  
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