

Acting Commander Richard Stanford APM

Australian Federal Police

Manager Counter Terrorism Engagement and Operations Support

Acting Commander Stanford is a career police officer with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), commencing in 1989. He has led several international deployments during his AFP career including to Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He was posted to Beirut, Lebanon for three years and to South Africa for four years as the AFP's Senior Liaison Officer.

He has degrees in politics and criminology from UWA and Sydney University respectively, and has studied terrorism in the Middle East, the USA and Australia.

He was the AFP's Senior Investigating Officer in terrorist cases in Iraq, India and Indonesia, and a member of an Interpol Emergency Response Team to India after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

He is responsible for the AFP's Community Liaison Teams in addition to the AFP's international counter terrorism liaison officers.

The Interaction Between Police Force Challenges and Efforts to Promote Social Cohesion

The presentation will provide an overview of the role of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in building social cohesion within the Australian community, and how it responds to the challenges in the current 'high threat level' environment. The presentation will specifically focus on the AFP's Community Liaison. The AFP Community Liaison has been established to assist in building positive, trusting and cohesive relationships with the community. The AFP has Community Liaison members located in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth. The AFP aims to enable community groups to increase their resilience to extremist behaviours, and create greater levels of social cohesion, resulting in the reduced likelihood of vulnerable individuals becoming radicalised.