

Australian Defence Force Investigative Service Fact Sheet

- **A tri-Service investigations unit has been established, led by Provost Marshal ADF Colonel Tim Grützner who reports directly to the Chief of the Defence Force.**
 - **ADF investigative policy and procedures comply with the Australian Government Investigations Standards.**
 - **Investigation teams are located across Australia and deployed with all major ADF contingents in operational areas.**
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What is the ADF Investigative Service?

It is a new tri-service unit responsible for complex and major investigations involving the Australian Defence Force, led by Provost Marshal ADF (PM ADF), Colonel Tim Grützner. The role of ADF Investigative Service (ADFIS) is to assist the Chief of the Defence Force and the Service Chiefs to maintain discipline in the ADF through the lawful, ethical and effective investigation of matters involving persons subject to Defence Force Discipline Act jurisdiction.

How did it come about?

The change was prompted by a specific recommendation of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Reference Committee report 'The Effectiveness of Australia's Military Justice System' released in 2005.

In April 2006, Colonel Grützner was appointed as the inaugural PM ADF. Meanwhile, the CDF-commissioned Defence Investigative Capability Audit found the need for a tri-service investigative capability. In October 2006, the Service Chiefs agreed to the formation of ADFIS and planning began, involving the unification of around 150 personnel from the three Services into the new organisation.

Previously, each of the three services maintained a separate policing capability:

- The Navy's Naval Police Coxswain (NPC) category which included the Naval Investigative Service and NPC staff assigned to HMA Ships and shore establishments,
- The Army's Royal Australian Corps of Military Police which included general duties MPs and the Special Investigation Branch, and
- The RAAF's Security Police which included a Service Investigations capability in addition to its other streams of general duties policing, counter intelligence and Military Working Dogs.

What is the benefit in having a joint investigative service?

Establishing ADFIS was designed to increase the professionalism and effectiveness of ADF policing, and to address the issues identified in the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Reference Committee report from 2005.

The audit identified the need to group the investigative capabilities of the three Services into a single, joint investigative agency. Guidance from CDF was to form the unit using the existing tri-service workforce currently in position around Australia and the one permanent overseas location, Butterworth airbase in Malaysia, with a review of the unit's structure to be conducted in May 2008 after one year's operation.

Do investigators use specialised equipment?

ADF investigators are equipped with specialist computer, digital photographic recording and crime scene examination equipment. This equipment is similar to that used by the Australian Federal Police and Australian State and Territory Police.

What would be a typical day for an ADF investigator?

As with their Federal, State and Territory Police counterparts, ADF Investigators usually have a number of investigations open at any one time. On any given day, Investigators may be required to respond to newly reported incidents, interview witnesses and process a crime scene through to ongoing work on existing cases such as document examination, requesting records checks from Defence and external agencies or interviewing suspects. As members of the ADF, Investigators are required to maintain their common soldier, sailor and airman/airwoman skills and complete mandatory training and testing including physical fitness, weapons training and promotion courses.

Do ADF investigators work with Australian Federal Police Investigators?

ADFIS has strong links with the Australian Federal Police and the State and Territory Police which are being formalised through Memorandums of Understanding and continuing operational cooperation. ADF Investigators have similar training to their civilian counterparts – they are fully qualified investigators in accordance with Australian Government Investigation Standards and are referred to as 'ADF Investigator'. ADFIS personnel are expected to conduct more training and operational secondments with Australian police agencies in the future.

What are the achievements to date?

ADFIS has Investigators deployed with the major ADF deployed force elements overseas including Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands. The unit includes a Major Investigation Team that is deployable at short notice to a serious incident in Australia or overseas.

A large amount of work has already been done on Defence Investigative Capability Audit recommendations to increase training and secondment contact with the Australian Federal Police, State and Territory police.

All 99 recommendations from the audit report were accepted and work continues on implementing these initiatives across Defence. The next few years will be an exciting time for the ADF investigative capability as it adapts to working under the new joint construct, in the joint arena and with a high operational tempo, including overseas deployments.