



Attorney-General Philip Ruddock observes a demonstration at the new CBRN Data Centre, as Commissioner Keelty, Deputy Commissioner Lawler and Deputy Commissioner Negus look on.

CBRN Data Centre opens at Weston

On **2 July 2007**, the new state-of-the-art Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Data Centre was opened at the AFP Police Complex in Weston, ACT.

Commissioner Keelty was in attendance at the opening, as were key Government and law enforcement dignitaries including Federal Attorney-General the Hon Philip Ruddock MP and Retired VICPol Deputy Commissioner Bill Kelly.

This key national security initiative was developed to improve the security and safety of the Australian public, and will significantly help in combating nuclear threats in Australia and abroad.

The first of its kind in the world, the new Centre will be responsible for the collation of technical information and intelligence relating to the criminal use of CBRN data. This information will then be used to provide high quality advice to the Federal Government.



Commissioner Keelty addresses the congregation at the opening of the CBRN Data Centre.

The two laboratories commissioned today – the MobiLab and the Evidence Recovery and Triage Laboratory (ERTL) – will complement the centre and further enhance the AFP's forensic ability to support investigations into terrorism-related incidents.

The readily-deployable MobilLab is a critical part of the initiative, scheduled for use at Sydney Airport during APEC Leaders' Week in September. It will assist through the sophisticated chemical and biological analysis of suspected hazardous materials.

The facility's creation resulted from the outcomes of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in September 2005, where the Federal Government pledged a \$19 million commitment over five years to the establishment of a CBRN Data Centre.



Commissioner Keelty and Attorney-General Philip Ruddock address the media.

"The Data Centre is a world-first in bringing together the technical, intelligence and law enforcement capabilities related to CBRN threats," Mr Ruddock said.

"It will be staffed by Australian Federal Police scientific and technical experts who will collect and analyse information on CBRN incidents and threats throughout the world."

The Centre will be the central repository for CBRN incident information and intelligence, and will work closely with national and international law enforcement agencies and emergency services. It is an additional resource to the Australian Bomb Data Centre (ABDC) which has been in operation for 29 years.



Inside the MobiLab.

The Centre's staffing will include technical experts who hold various Science qualifications, many at PhD level. These experts have been sourced from Government agencies, academia, and the private sector.

The AFP's law enforcement partners in the UK and US have already shown a keen interest in the development of similar Centres in their jurisdictions, bearing testament to the benefits of such a pioneering Centre of technical excellence.