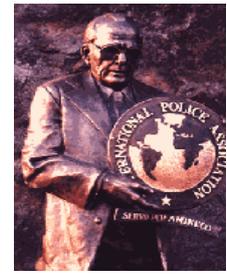




# International Police Association

Professional Commission



## Arthur Troop Scholarship 2018 REPORT

**Name of Scholar:** Stephen Onorato

**IPA Section:** Australia

**Course attended:** Security Threats within the EU

### Background:

I am a Federal Agent with the Australian Federal Police who is exposed to many different crime types in my routine employment. Upon being awarded an Arthur Troop Scholarship for 2018 it was difficult to choose just 1 seminar to attend as there are many great courses offered at Gimborn! I finally narrowed it down and chose to use the ATS on Security Threats within the EU, as many factors in organized crime are seen in Australia with links to Europe. Upon completion of this seminar I learned a lot of relevant information that I've been able to return home with and inform my colleagues of, as well as make some important connections through the seminar and keep in touch with new friends from around the world.

### Seminar Summary:

The seminar was run from October 1 – 5 2018 at Gimborn Castle with Polish/English speaking participants from all over Poland as well as Germany, Ireland, and Slovenia as well as me from Australia. The translator had his work cut out for him but did an amazing job of making sure everybody was able to understand each other and the presenters.



### Day 1:

As all seminars do, this started off with an introduction to the castle (amazing in itself), as well as introductions of the participants and other members that facilitated the course and the castle. Learning about the different areas of policing that were present was interesting in itself and the experience across the seminar was a testament to how the IPA can bring together such a variety of knowledge to share.

Following lunch we had our first presentation from Marek Mialkowski from Poland on the Grandson/Police Officer method type of fraud. This was a different style of fraud for me as

the Romani people, or commonly known as Gypsies, don't have a large presence in Australia. Learning how this crime type is prevalent through Europe and how they are able to target and combat it is a unique challenge and one that comes with many lessons learned that can carry over to other crime types.

We then had a short presentation from Clive Wood of the UK on Street Doctors, which is an initiative in the UK where doctors provide first aid skills to young people that are at risk of violence. These skills can assist the youth if their friends are victims of knife attacks on the streets. An interesting topic as knife crimes are quite common in both Australia and the UK and also quite hard to constantly monitor and police, however providing lifesaving skills to high risk young people could be one way to see a decrease in lives lost due to street attacks.



After the presentations concluded we were treated to a 'Polish themed night' in the bar where we were provided with as much Polish food and drink we could eat... and there were still plenty left by Friday!

### Day 2:

Day 2 commenced with a presentation from Gary Ogden, who works for Liberal. He presented on Irish Travellers and the variety of offences they commit, as well as the difficulty in identifying travellers, targeting them and generally policing around their areas. Another unique type of crime, however as their name suggests they are travelling globally and there are some recent instances of travellers in Australia committing these offences too.

The presentation showed the history of travellers, moving from non-violent burglaries of stealing large amounts of cash and gold up to aggressive violent crimes for jewellery etc. He also showed a case study of a Modern Slavery offence, which has only recently become its own offence type.

Following on was a presentation by Mark Bullen about Russian Organised Crime. Mark was very knowledgeable about the Vor (or Thieves) that make up the Russian Mafia and provided an interesting history of how they started and some interesting facts about their code of conduct. He then provided information about how to read a Vor's tattoos and what each tattoo means about the person.

After Mark's presentation we all got on a tour bus to Cologne where we got to do some sightseeing and then feasted at a local brewhouse that was good enough for former President of the USA Bill Clinton.

### Day 3:

Day 3 was spent with Andy Radcliff and Dave Magrath from UK Immigration Enforcement. The two discussed the issues of immigration criminality and looked at document forgery and identification. This day became quite hands on as we broke into groups and looked at a variety of identification documents



and passports and had to determine if they were authentic or not. We were able to score a reasonable 91% accuracy, but may have turned away 1 or 2 authentic passports thinking they were fake.

The presentations were quite similar to immigration offences that occur within Australia too and it was interesting being able to compare similar case studies observed in the UK to what's been reported on in Australia. Following the presentation we then returned to our previous groups and worked through a discussion exercise focused on immigration offences (people smuggling/modern slavery). Within my group we had a variety of countries represented (Ireland, Australia, Slovenia and Germany) and we spent a lot of time discussing the differences in our countries' legislations and how the same crime would be investigated in each country. From different powers that can and can't be used and the differences between what can be used as evidence in some countries can only be used as intelligence in others. These differences are what makes international crime investigations quite difficult to prosecute, however are important to know for all investigators.

#### **Day 4:**

Day 4 began with a presentation on legislation across borders & border security by Tim Royle of SCJS. This discussed the Prüm Convention which is a legislated agreement to share biometric data and other identifying information across borders within the EU to combat terrorism & other serious offences. All countries in the EU are involved except the UK, Ireland and Italy, which have their own biometric sharing legislation with the EU.

Some case studies were shown where serious offences have occurred in one country with DNA collected at the crime scene and being placed on the database, receiving a match to another country. Through the Prüm Convention the countries are able to share the information and identify an offender that leads to a successful extradition and prosecution. This agreement has assisted in terrorism offences as well as sexual assaults, homicides and burglaries.

The ability to share biometric data with other countries is quite a commonly discussed topic globally and to see the successful use within the EU is a great benchmark for where this could possibly go for countries outside the EU.

After lunch we had our final presentation from Poland's Stanislaw Sypulkowski who discussed fraud that occurs in the Polish Energy companies and how important cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies is to combat this. This was quite a unique challenge that I was not familiar with and something that all the non-Polish participants found different and unique. The big lesson from this presentation and all through the week was how important communication is when combating Organised Crime.

The day then turned into another themed night in the Gimborn bar, this type hosted by the UK sector and we were treated to different cheeses and whiskey... which was then joined by the remaining food and drink from the Polish night earlier in the week.

#### **Day 5:**

Sadly the seminar came to a halt on Friday and we got to share our experiences before saying our final goodbyes to each other and Gimborn Castle. I can't recommend Gimborn

enough to anybody, the lessons learned inside the classroom are one thing but the connections with members from around the world and lessons learned inside the bar are another. I can't wait to come back!

