

Around the world in 45 days — all in line of duty

A hectic assignment recently took Perth-based Acting Detective Kevin Humphries round the world in 45 days and involved 23 separate flights.

In that time he interviewed 22 people and managed one day off.



• Kevin Humphries spent his one day off in 45 days taking in the sights.

Detective Sergeant Humphries is involved in a lengthy inquiry initiated by a Commonwealth Government agency.

Between 26 April and 10 June, he and a member of the agency embarked on a whirlwind intensive investigation through Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Norway, Scotland, England and across the US from New York to Los Angeles via places like Atlanta, San Antonio and Denver. They returned via Honolulu.

From the humidity of South-East Asia to the cool summer of Norway, the Alps to the Rockies and cities to villages, it was a trip Kevin will not forget.

Hectic it certainly was. The pair spent an average of two days at each place. For example, they arrived in New York at 7pm one day and left at 5pm two days later. They 'did' the city in a one-hour dash to the top of the Empire State Building.

On reflection, back in the comparative peace of AFP Perth HQ, Kevin considered it surprising that nothing went wrong. Not a bag was



• While overseas, Kevin Humphries, second from right, presented six AFP plaques to police forces. Here he makes a presentation to Gerhard Folger, head of Germany's National Central Bureau, Interpol, at its headquarters in Weisbaden. Right is a German Interpol officer.

lost, not a flight missed.

He attributes this to the excellent handling of flight arrangements by Qantas and the general efficiency of airlines, particularly in the US. An example of this was at Atlanta where Kevin was told 17,000 people were being flown in and out during a week of conventions. The airport there has 'people movers' — a computer-controlled mini-railway system.

Overseas police forces also impressed Kevin, particularly in Germany, Holland and Switzerland — "very formal but very correct", and "super efficient".

In the US, where enforcement agencies at federal, state and county level run into the thousands, the two Australians were placed in the hands of the US postal inspection service, which helped cut through the administrative boundaries.

WA is the top spot for top stayers

Western Australia is the place to be if long-serving officers is anything to go by.

Ten Western Region officers have received National Medals in the past few months for 15 years' Commonwealth Service.

The medals were presented by Regional Commander Superintendent Frank Pimm.

Recipients were:

- **Sergeant Maurice Shanahan**, who joined the Commonwealth Police in South Australia in 1968 and served in Salisbury and Woomera Divisions, later taking up supervisory duties in Alice Springs and consular work in Canberra. As Sergeant he transferred to Exmouth last year.
- **Senior Constable Ian Beard** joined in 1975 after serving with Western Australia Police for seven years. He worked in Canberra for nearly six years, and served for one year in Cyprus. He moved to Perth in 1980.

- **Detective Sergeant Doug Veitch** served in general crime squad, Eastern Region, and at Sydney airport before transferring to crime intelligence Western Region in 1976. He is acting Senior Sergeant in charge of Special Intelligence section.
- **Detective Sergeant Ray Jaques** has been attached to plainclothes Eastern Region and CIB Darwin. In 1978 he transferred to CIB Perth and is currently acting Senior Sergeant Drug Operations.
- **Senior Constable Robert Looney** served several years at Adelaide, Salisbury and Woomera before being attached to embassy duty in Warsaw. He transferred to general duties Tasmania then to Western Region in 1983 as firearms testing officer.
- **First Constable Lloyd Meredith** has worked at all uniformed stations in Western Region and is currently on general duties



• Western Region National Medal recipients are, left to right: Senior Sergeant Peter Salter, Senior Constable Ron Debnam, Detective Senior Sergeant Doug Child, First Constable Lloyd Meredith, Senior Constable Robert Looney.



• Superintendent Pimm presents the National Medal to Sergeant Maurice Shanahan.

- at Perth Airport.
- **Senior Constable Ron Debnam** served several years at Salisbury, Railway Squad and Adelaide Airport station and Warrants Section before moving to Western Region in 1983. He is currently at Perth airport.
- **Detective Senior Constable Doug Child** served in uniform branch and CIB Western Region before transferring in 1981 to CIB Southern Region then CIB Melbourne. He returned to Western Region later in 1983 and was attached to CIB, Regional Headquarters.
- **P.S. Senior Sergeant Peter Salter** was deployed in all uniform stations in the ACT then transferred to Townsville to serve in plainclothes and at the airport where he acted as Senior Sergeant OIC. In early 1979, he transferred to embassy duty, Canberra and a few months later moved to OIC Exmouth, Western Region. He later served at Perth airport and is currently deployed in personnel and services section, RHQ.



• Senior Constable Ian Beard receives his National Medal from Superintendent Pimm.

- **P.S. Senior Constable Pat Brooks** carried out uniform duties at Pearce and Woodman Point then at RHQ on warrants process and vetting and assisting CIB inquiries before moving to the detention centre, Perth Airport.