

AFP/FBI PARTNERSHIP



THE AFP and the FBI recently swapped officers under a new Faculty Exchange Programme. If the exercise is anything to go by, future exchanges are sure to be a success.

"The overriding impression of policing in New York is one of a sense of pressure, of the need to do so much because so much is happening," Detective Chief Inspector John Valentin (Intelligence and Drugs Operation Division) told *Platypus*.

"While I was there the Department of Investigations, which works to the mayor's office, was looking into thefts of money from parking meters by city employees.

"That might not seem a big deal — except for the fact that in this case the money taken was at least \$2 million. That's crime on the New York scale!"

Detective Chief Inspector Valentin was on exchange from March 18 to June 18 at the FBI Academy at Quantico in Virginia where he was assigned to the Management Science Unit of the Training Division. The AFP/FBI Faculty Exchange Programme was set up this year following a visit to the AFP by Deputy Assistant Director James O'Connor of the FBI and the AFP's Acting Chief Superintendent John Dau (Commander Training Division) to the US. Mr Dau's impressions of his visit were carried in *Platypus* No. 19, November, 1987)

The first Australian participant in the scheme says Australian police training methods can bear any comparison with those in the US.

"Australia and the AFP can be proud. The type of training given to AFP officers in the areas of problem solving, operational orders and operational orders groups is almost unheard of in US police training, although a few officers at Quantico with military backgrounds know of it.

"The FBI instructors were keen to learn about the Australian systems," he said.

Computers, Communications and Training

"I was very impressed with the use of personal computers by the Department of Investigations in New York which is staffed largely by people from the New York Police Department. A computer programmer on staff there is able to write investigation management packages onto computer to suit the various inquiries.

"On the issue of communications, the system used by the local police forces in the US could be considered for use in Australia. The number 911 is the standard one throughout the country for emergency services. The police have a system called "enhanced 911". It works this way: the calls come to a communications room manned by

civilians with police supervision. The call is linked to the telephone company's data base and the call's origin located. A computer supplies details of any similar calls which have emanated from that address — calls involving domestic violence or use of firearms, for example. In that way police answering calls can be forewarned of any likely danger. The system is particularly valuable when it is borne in mind that many state and county police forces operate one-man patrols at night.

"Outside the FBI, the New York and Los Angeles police departments are the only forces with significant in-house training programmes. At the county and local police force level people are often trained at evening colleges staffed by lecturers from other police forces or the FBI. In Mississippi, for example, there is a state-run police training school for all the various police forces in the state."

Guns and Crime

John said the crime situation in the US meant that firearms training was given a particularly high priority by the FBI.

"They use more than 700,000 rounds each month at Quantico and the Academy's ammunition budget is \$US2.2 million annually.

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DETEKTIVE Chief Inspector John Valentin (NCIB) was the first AFP officer to attend Quantico under the faculty exchange programme — and for a while he had the G-men worried.

As Jim Kelly tells it, the incident was all the result of strine:

"I hadn't met John until he arrived in the US," Jim said, "and when he walked off the 'plane I asked him about his trip over: 'OK,' " he said, "except for the last leg when I had to sit next to this big black' "

"I grew somewhat perturbed at this remark, thinking I would have to explain to my superiors we were saddled with a prejudiced Aussie for three months.

"I diplomatically explained at great length how Quantico had people from all over — blacks, Asians, hispanics etc., as well as whites, as John listened politely, and then I asked him what had been wrong with the 'black' he'd sat next to on the flight over — hadn't he showered or something?

"'But he wasn't a BLACK' " was the reply: " 'he was a big BLOKE and he took up all the seat!"

"Against that has to be set the level of police deaths. In 1987 alone, 150 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in the US."

John said the enormity of the crime task faced by US police because of the sheer size of the population was what struck him.

"At the moment Jamaicans are moving in a big way into the drug scene on the eastern seaboard. The Jamaican criminals are notorious for using machine-guns and an audio tape of one of them opening up with a machine-gun in a disco is used to warn new recruits in New York of the dangers they can face on the streets.

"The FBI is very much involved in the task force approach to fighting drugs and other crime. In the larger centres in particular FBI resources are being combined with local police knowledge to make the fight against crime as effective as it can be.

"The FBI is trying to establish a common data base for all agencies to handle drug intelligence and it's working hard to overcome inter-agency jealousy."

John said he was particularly intrigued by the US police use of fixed wing aircraft for surveillance. "The aircraft — mainly Cessna 182's — are especially favoured by the FBI over helicopters. They find fixed wing aircraft much cheaper to operate, more reliable and much quieter. The aircraft are used up to 5,500 feet and also for night surveillance. The situation is one police forces in Australia could look at."

John said there was one handicap he was pleased the AFP did not face.

"We don't suffer from the tremendous jurisdictional overlap that the FBI has to cope with in the US system. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the FBI has sole responsibility for handling some offences — bank robberies for example — whereas FBI operatives physically may be the last people able to respond to such offences."

Public Relations US Style

There was one area where the FBI was ahead of the AFP — the high public profile and identity of the force. "The Bureau's headquarters in Washington are advertised in all the tourist literature as one of the sights of the city," he said.

"The building is designed to accommodate conducted tours and up to 2,000 people pass through per day at the height of the US holiday season in April and May.

"The public is able to look through viewing areas at the Bureau at work.

"The tours conclude with a weapons demonstration on an indoor range. The public relations value is enormous and apart from that vital aspect there is also the opportunity to influence young people to look at the FBI as a career."

FBI Role

John said the size of the Quantico complex in Virginia reflected the importance of the FBI in US policing.



Det. Ch. Insp. John Valentin

There was a constant student population of 900; 106 faculty members and 350 support staff. There were up to 50 students per class and 15 to 18 classes were held at once.

FBI training included classes for new agents, specialist functions such as counter foreign intelligence and special weapons and tactics, and management and executive levels. FBI support personnel (public servants) also get supervisory and management training, particularly within forensics, for state and municipal police forces and also for civilians employed within State-run crime laboratories. employed within State-run crime laboratories.

Under its "National Academy" system the FBI ran four sessions a year for 200 students a session. Those courses were for students from other law enforcement agencies and the Bureau devoted a large proportion of its training resources to them.

"The National Academy programme, which has been operating continuously since the 1930's, offers advanced training and it is held to be, within US law enforcement circles, the most prestigious course of training to attend," John said. "One in seven attending the National Academy rise to senior positions within their own organisations."

He added there was one aspect of FBI training life that was not likely to be able to be introduced into the AFP.

"The FBI is very strong on higher education and there are men at Quantico who have been there for 16 years ending up with doctorates ; it becomes part of the culture to stay at the Academy. In my view, the AFP system — circulating people through as trainers and back into the operational areas — is preferable because it allows officers to keep closely in touch with that it's like to be an operational police officer," John said.

SPECIAL TENTH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION (1979-89)

A Call for Assistance

Work has begun on producing a commemorative publication to mark the Tenth Anniversary of the Australian Federal Police. This booklet will highlight the main activities and significant achievements of the AFP since its formation in October 1979. The Office of Information is keen to hear from anyone interested in contributing suggestions towards this project — and in particular is keen to hear from people holding photographs or other information of an "historic" nature from 1979 onwards. Those who may be able to assist are welcome to contact the AFP Office of Information, HQ, Canberra.