



Home from Cambodia

Members of both AFP contingents to Cambodia march in the Sydney 'Welcome Home' parade for Australian defence, police and civilian personnel on October 9.

By Constable Paul Cartwright
Contingent member

THE 'Welcome Home' parade held in Sydney on October 9 for those Australians who had returned from United Nations service in Cambodia contained two contingents of AFP personnel.

A large crowd of people lined the route of the march along George Street in hot, humid conditions as the parade passed the official guests gathered at the Sydney Town Hall. About 350 soldiers who had returned to Australia on the previous day, marched along with civilian electoral supervisors and AFP officers.

All groups marched together in mutual respect for the role each

organisation had played in the success of the peace process.

The AFP contingents were invited to attend the march by the Australian Army, in recognition of the close working and personal relationships formed while stationed in north-west Cambodia.

Official guests at the march included the Cambodian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Norodom Sirivudh, Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Gareth Evans and Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Ray. The AFP was represented at the march by Assistant Commissioner Phil Baer, officer-in-charge of Eastern Region.

After the march the AFP officers and their families joined their military colleagues at a reception at Sydney Town Hall. The gathering was addressed by the official guests and the AFP officers were praised for their professional approach and their success in training the factional police forces in northern Cambodia.

The march was a further indication of the close working relationship which was established between the AFP and the Australian Army while in joint service in Cambodia with the United Nations.