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FBI Chief in S.F. Switched To D.C. Post

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Washington

Charles W. Bates, a high ranking FBI official in Washington, has been transferred back to his old job as chief of the FBI director L. Patrick Gray and the man he is replacing there will return to take over Bates' command, it was announced yesterday.

The shift was part of a major personnel policy change announced by acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III.

Bates, 52, replaces Robert E. Gebhardt in the capacity of special agent-in-charge in San Francisco. Gebhardt goes to Washington and takes over Bates' title as assistant director of the FBI's general investigative division.

Gray said in an announcement that the exchange of positions by the two men represents a new policy instituted by him, which will result in the interchange of field commanders with Washington officials.

He said the policy will allow "field commanders to have tours of duty in the headquarters and top-ranking bureau officials to have tours of duty on the field."

Both positions involved in the Washington-San Francisco exchange carry a top salary of \$36,000 annually.

Bates headed the San Francisco office between June, 1967, and April, 1970, when he was transferred to become special agent-in-charge of the Chicago office. The late J. Edgar Hoover promoted him to assistant director in September, 1971.

During their San Francisco tours, Bates and Gebhardt displayed in separate incidents their toughness in tight situations.

In 1968, Bates confronted a kidnaper who was holding a family hostage in their home near Aptos, Santa Cruz county, and fatally wounded the man with one, snap shot.

Gebhardt was in charge of the local FBI forces in July of this year when agents boarded a Pacific Southwest Airlines jet being held by two hijackers at San Francisco International Airport and shot them dead.

Acting director Gray also announced that assistant director Leonard M. Walters was being transferred from the identification division to the inspection division, succeeding assistant director Joseph K. Ponder who retired.

Our Correspondent