





RSIPF-AFP POLICING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RAPPP) 2021-2025

NEWSLETTER





INSIDE >

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

page 2

RSIPF Officers Enhance Drone Capability Through RAPPP Training *page 5* AFP Commissioner tours RSIPF HQ and witness achievements of RAPPP

page 10

RSIPF, AFP and RPNGC Unite Against Cybercrime

page 13

1 RAPPP Newsletter



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Hapi New Year! I hope you and your families have had a restful Christmas after a very busy and rewarding 2023. As we head into 2024, it is timely we reflect on the significant achievements by both RAPPP and SIAF during the second half of 2023. We have been heavily focused on the Pacific Games for the past 6 months and as the primary security partner of RSIPF the AFP was always ready to provide support across many facets of the operation

This has included working alongside RSIPF in the planning team, the provision of specialist training and equipment, and patrolling side by side with RSIPF during the event, we were there every step of the way to ensure RSIPF delivered a safe and secure environment.

The event itself was a huge success. More than 100 additional AFP members was also addressed with the ongoing joined our existing members already here in Solomon Islands to execute the operation. These members proudly took their place beside RSIPF, patrolling venues and engaging with the community.

In addition to the frontline support, we had members supporting the command opportunity to provide Commissioner and control elements of the police operation, and working in the background to provide extensive logistical support.

While the focus was quite rightly on the by our successes to date and overall Pacific Games, this did not stop RAPPP from delivering on our commitments. The highlight was the opening of the Kukum Traffic Centre in September which RAPPP committed to rebuild following the destruction of the existing of this would be possible without your building during the 2021 unrest. Additional to this we also undertook enhancement of the Police Operations Centre and constructed and refurbished leaf huts at a number of police stations across Honiara. All these facilities are fit for purposes to to support the RSIPF operations and meet the needs of the RSIPF and designed to strengthen community police relations. Health and wellbeing of RSIPF offices continues to be an important focus for RAPPP. The AFP supported RSIPF with a range of fitness AFP Solomon Islands Commander initiatives including ongoing support to the RSIPF gym and sponsoring participation of members and their families in the Solomon Airlines Peace Marathon.

Support for officers' spiritual wellbeing support of the RSIPF Chaplain to members, including new recruits. The 20th anniversary of RAMSI in July saw AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw and members of his Senior Executive visit Solomon Islands for the first time since COVID. This was also an Kershaw with an insight into the progress of the RAPPP and how it was supporting the RSIPF on a daily basis. Commissioner Kershaw was impressed efforts in working with the RSIPF to enhance their capabilities and their operational readiness.

This newsletter highlights some of achievements over this period but none dedication and professionalism and the support we receive from you and your families.

2024 will bring a new focus, with the National General Election scheduled in April. The AFP will once again be there meet any challenges that arise.

Tagio tumas

Heath Davies

Things to know about RAPPP

- ← Police-to-Police partnership program between the RSIPF and AFP.
- ◆ Program commenced in mid-2021 and is expected to end in 2025.
- ★ The AFP, through RAPPP, supported the RSIPF in a wide range of areas including; infrastructure; mobility enhancements; specialist, technical and advisory support; learning development; training; community engagement, health and wellbeing programs.
- ← Successor of the Solomon Islands Policing Development Program (SIPDP) 2018-2021.
- ← Has a specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Project Plan.
- ← Works closely with the Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF) to provide ongoing support to RSIPF operations.

Media Desk Note

Welcome to the 4th edition of the RAPPP Newsletter! In this edition, we're delighted to bring you a brief recap to some of the noteworthy events & achievements that have shaped RAPPP from July to December 2023. As we look back, we want to say thank you to everyone who supported RAPPP. Your collaboration & support have make a positive impact within our program. The next edition of this newsletter is scheduled for July. We encourage you to share your thoughts, comments or any content you'd like us to include to Mike.Puia@rsipf.gov.sb. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our future editions. We look forward to hearing from you! Enjoy the read, and here's to continued success and collaboration in the coming months!

AFP SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO RSIPF OFFICERS

In a heart-warming gesture, Australian Federal Police (AFP) members serving in Honiara made the 2023 Christmas morning extra special for their counterparts in the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) by delivering festive hampers to stations across Honiara on Christmas Day. The hampers were filled with an array of food and drink items, ensuring that RSIPF members on duty on Christmas Day were able to partake in the festivities and savour some delightful Christmas treats. This act of kindness reflects the camaraderie between AFP and RSIPF, serving as a touching expression of solidarity during the holiday season.



Jul-Dec 2023 2 RAPPP Newsletter



The 17Th Pacific Games was the focal point of RSIPF operations in the second half of 2023. The two-week sporting event held in November 2023 attracted over 5,000 athletes and sporting officials from across the Pacific region to Honiara. The success of the event was contingent on the security operation executed by RSIPF and its policing and security partners. The Australian Federal Police (AFP), as

RSIPF's primary security partner for the Pacific Games, was joined by members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), New Zealand Police (NZP), New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and the Royal Papua New Guinea Police Constabulary (RPNGPC) to support the delivery of the security operation.

Prime Minister Sogavare stated that the peace observed throughout the games proves the partnership between RSIPF and SIAF is one capable of aiding the delivery of important unifying events in the region. AFP members across both SIAF and the RSIPF and AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) provided significant support to RSIPF throughout the planning and execution phases of the operation.

The AFP's support to the RSIPF Pacific Games Security Planning Team (PGSPT) was recognised on 11 December 2023.

RSIPF Assistant Commissioner for National Operations Evelyn Thugea conveyed the RSIPF's

acknowledgement for the range of support provided by AFP and SIAF officers to the PGSPT to make the games one of the best in history.







RAPPP Supports School Sport Day

In August 2023, RAPPP delivered a timely support to the White River Community High School (WRCHS) as it held its Sport Day in Honiara.

The sport day involved futsal, volleyball, basketball and netball.

RAPPP and SIAF members attended the opening of the program and presented balls that were used on the day. RAPPP also provided headphones, t-shirts and speakers as prizes for the event.

The support to the school sporting event is an initiative of the RAPPP's Health, Wellbeing, Gender, Community, Youth and Engagement (HWGCYE) project. Speaking at the opening of the

RAPPP Advisor, Mark Weber, stated that RAPPP and SIAF have been working in line with the RSIPF Crime Prevention Strategy: engaging with schools to support students in staying away from problems such as drugs and criminal activity.

One of the highlights during the opening of the sport day was a tug-o-war between staff of WRCHS and RAPPP and SIAF members. For the record, RAPPP and SIAF team won.

RAPPP Fitness Advisor and Swim Team Captain Earns Cheers & Pride at PG



Hency Charles is a local from Malaita Province who is contracted by the AFP as a Locally Engaged Contractor (LEC) under the RAPPP.

Hency is one of RAPPP's fitness advisors. In this role he delivers prescribed fitness training programs, health tips and checks aimed at keeping RSIPF officers fit and healthy to do their policing duties.

During the Pacific Games, Hency was selected to represent Solomon Islands as part of the swim team. In addition to competing as an athlete he also took on the role as the swim team captain.



To show their support RSIPF Commissioner Mostyn Mangau and AFP did not make the podium but the day Solomon Islands Commander Heath Davies, accompanied by RSIPF and AFP members, attended the PG Aquatics Centre on 23 November to cheer for Hency who competed in the 4 X 50 freestyle mixed relay.

The Solomon Islands Swimming Team was a proud moment for the policing family as they watched and cheered for Hency - their colleague.

Hency thanked the AFP and RSIPF for supporting his sporting goals.

RSIPF TRAFFIC DIRECTOR'S AFP EXCHANGE BOOSTS ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES

The Director of the RSIPF National Traffic Department (NTD), Superintendent William Foufaka completed an exchange program with the AFP in Canberra, Australia in July 2023.

The program was organised through RAPPP to give Superintendent Foufaka an opportunity to visit and observe how Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Road Policing conducts operations and how such capabilities may assist the RSIPF planning for the Pacific Games in November.

During the two-week exchange Superintendent Foufaka joined ACT Road Policing on operational duties including proactive patrolling, breath and drug testing, scene management, priority driving, collision management and investigation, operational planning and execution of major sporting events. He also received an informative briefing from the AFP media and digital engagement team on the development and implementation of a traffic communication and media strategy, which will assist with planning for RSIPF Traffic leading up to and continuing after the pacific games.



During the exchange program the Director not only formed strong relationships with his hosts, but also renewed some old acquaintances, catching up with AFP members who previously worked alongside the RSIPF in Solomon Islands.

At a time when road safety is an emerging issue in the Pacific region, the exchange provided an opportunity for enhanced cooperation and shared learning between the RSIPF and ACT Road Policing as part of the Pacific policing family.

On his return to Honiara, the Director has implemented several new traffic policing initiatives and strategies that aim to assist safe traffic practices across Solomon Islands.



Director of the RSIPF National Traffic Department (NTD), Supt. William Foufaka during the exchange program with the AFP in Canberra, Australia, in July 2023.

AFP and RSIPF unite to support health & harmony at Solomon Airlines Peace Marathon

On 23 September 2023, AFP and RSIPF members with members of their families participated in the Solomon Airlines Peace Marathon in Honiara.

Hundreds of people including overseas visitors joined this fun community event. AFP sponsored the participation of the RSIPF officers and their families in the 2, 5, and 10-kilometre distances.

The participation of law enforcement officers reinforces the importance of health and wellbeing of RSIPF members and engagement in community events. AFP Solomon Islands Commander, Heath Davies, stated the marathon is a great way for AFP members to get out and show their support to the RSIPF and the community by joining the fun run as a policing family.



"Community engagement is a significant element in maintaining peace and security and we thank the Solomon Islands community for their ongoing support," Commander Davies said.

RSIPF Assistant Commissioner, Simpson Pogeava, who joined the fun run, thanked the AFP for its ongoing support to the RSIPF in ensuring that RSIPF members are healthy and fit.

RSIPF officers enhance drone capability through RAPPP training





In July, RSIPF officers completed a weeklong Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle (UAV) Training program. The training was facilitated by instructors from Adventure Helicopters, a New Zealand-based organisation contracted by RAPPP.

The training, aimed at expanding RSIPF's drone capabilities, involved officers from the Close Personnel Protection unit, Police Response Department (PRD), and Maritime unit.

RSIPF's Director of the National Response Department, Chief Superintendent Francis Ramoni, emphasised the importance of this capability, particularly in preparation for major events like the Pacific Games and the National General Elections.

RAPPP advisor, Craig Bell, highlighted the technical nature of the course, emphasizing the critical need for compliance with aviation regulations to ensure safe drone operation.

The course, endorsed as the first accredited aviation drone training for RSIPF officers, is part of RAPPP's broader support to enhance the RSIPF's drone capability.

The training aims to establish four full-time pilots and eight part-time pilots, providing RSIPF with a tactical advantage from the air. The enhanced drone capability will contribute to various operations, including land and sea search and rescue, close protection, frontline operations, and public order incidents. Live feed capability of the drones allows real-time monitoring at the Police Operation Centre, aiding tactical decision-making and offender identification.

RAPPP ENSURES TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR HONIARA SCHOOLCHILDREN

In September 2023, the RAPPP's Health, Wellbeing, Gender, Community, Youth and Engagement (HWCGYE) team commenced a Traffic Safety Awareness program in selected schools in Honiara.

The program was supported by RSIPF and SIAF members. The awareness program was delivered at Coronation, St. Nicholas, Mbua Valley, Florence Young, Kukum SDA and Perch school.

HWCGYE Team Leader, Kristina Sau'eha, said the Traffic Safety Awareness program focused on children aged five to eight who are attending schools located near busy roads.

The program was developed as the RSIPF National Traffic Centre and AFP anticipated an increase to vehicle speeds due to improvements on Honiara roads. The awareness program complements the RSIPF's National Traffic Centre mandate to protect vulnerable members of the travelling community. During the program, RAPPP members demonstrated how to safely travel on a bus, how to exit a bus on busy roads, safe places to stand while waiting to cross the road, safely crossing the road, how to use seatbelts, introduction to RSIPF National Traffic Centre's vehicles and police officers and providing general traffic safety tips. A number of fun activities were also staged to help children increase their knowledge and provide strategies to increase their safety when travelling to and from school.



5 RAPPP Newsletter

RAPPP, AFP and SIAF joins RSIPF 'Open-Day'

The RSIPF staged its annual 'Open Day' event in Honiara on 27 July 2023 with hundreds of members of the public attending.

The theme of the event was 'police and communities working in partnership to promote peace, safe and green society', reinforcing the RSIPF's desire to work with the community as they prepared for the Pacific Games in November. The open day provided RSIPF the opportunity to educate the public about the capabilities of the police and other emergency services provided to keep the community safe.

The event kicked off with a parade led by the RSIPF band and dignitaries. The Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services (MPNSCS) Anthony Veke and RSIPF Commissioner Mangau were joined by visiting AFP Assistant Commissioner, Nigel Ryan in the parade and official opening of the event. SIAF contingents, school students and the Pacific Games Mascot, Solo also participated.

Police and emergency services agencies displayed a range of capabilities, including forensics, public order management and unexploded ordinances retrieval. Police prosecutors were also present to explain court processes. RSIPF members entertained visitors throughout the day by performing cultural dances and singing.

Visitors eagerly watched on as police, maritime and fire officers conducted a live demonstration involving their responses to an explosion, fire and

Visiting AFP Assistant Commissioner, Nigel Ryan, and AFP Solomon Islands Commander, Heath Davies, led the AFP contingent in the parade. They expressed their full support for the event.

"The capabilities of the RSIPF and other emergency service agencies which were on display should inspire the confidence of the community about their abilities to keep everyone safe," Assistant Commissioner Ryan said.

emergency service agencies which were on display should inspire the confidence of the community about their abilities to keep everyone safe," Assistant Commissioner Ryan said. He says AFP is proud to support the RSIPF through RAPPP and SIAF to keep the Pacific family secure.

"The capabilities of the RSIPF and other "We have an enduring partnership and the RSIPF Open Day highlighted some of the projects we are working on together to maintain peace and stability in the region and support the Solomon Islands to deliver a safe and green Pacific Games," Assistant Commissioner Ryan said.















A number of AFP members who are in the Solomon Islands as part of policing partnership programs have also used their time off duty to help train local athletes preparing for the Pacific Games. The commitment of these members to build sporting capability within Solomon Islands reflects the broader impact members have within the community while deployed. RAPPP Advisor Kevin Shaw utilised his 40 years of experience in judo to offer training to the Solomon Islands judo team for the 17th Pacific Games. Kevin coached local judo athletes to reach competition standards, introducing them to new skills and helped them mentally prepare for a major tournament.

"There has been a huge improvement in the skills of these judo athletes. It has been so rewarding to be a part of the story and journey of these athletes," Kevin said.

RAPPP Advisor Nathan Weaver supported the Solomon Islands Golf team. A professional golfer prior to joining the AFP, Nathan dedicated his time to improving players' technical and mental ability for tournaments. In collaboration with the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport (SINIS), he was instrumental in ensuring the team was resourced with new clubs, balls, shoes and gloves.

He also helped to organise a trip to Australia where the team had the opportunity to play world-class golf courses as part of their preparation for the Pacific Games.

Nathan said it had been extraordinary to be able to give the players an opportunity to represent their country in this regional event.



RAPPP Advisor, Nathan Weaver, providing guidance to a Solomon Islands golfer as the Solomon Islands Golf team polish up its preparations for the games.

AFP members help local athletes ready for PG23



"Golf has been a big part of my life and it has been so special to be able to give back to a country that means so much to me," he said.

Local golf athlete, Ravatu Tabe, said it was a privilege to have the guidance of Nathan ahead of the games.

"We are so blessed to have the opportunity to train under Nathan who has taught us new skills and given us a lot of confidence in preparation for the Pacific Games," Ms Tabe said.

AFP members also provided coaching support to the SINIS track sprint and rugby teams.

FIRE SERVICES BOOSTED WITH **EQUIPMENT AHEAD OF PG**

In November 2023, AFP delivered additional firefighting equipment to the RSIPF's Fire and Rescue Department to bolster its capability.

The gift from Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW) was made possible under a secondment arrangement with the AFP.

The RSIPF has been benefiting from this arrangement through technical support, training, equipment and advisory support.

In early November, Insp. Matt Goldman of FRNSW, joined the RSIPF's Fire and Rescue Department as the new advisor under this arrangement.

Insp. Goldman has hit the ground running, providing support to RSIPF firefighters during the Pacific Games. He says training and resources provided by the AFP and FRNSW have boosted the readiness of the RSIPF for the Pacific Games and other incidents.

AFP Commander Solomon Islands. Heath Davies, emphasised the AFP's commitment to closely working with the RSIPF, particularly in preparation for the upcoming Pacific Games.

"The AFP is proud to have once again worked closely with Fire and Rescue New South Wales to procure vital knowledge through the secondment program to help the RSIPF Fire and Rescue as they serve the local community," Commander Davies says. He added the AFP is committed to ensuring that RSIPF officers are equipped with the tools and experience they need to respond and protect the community under challenging conditions.





On 8 November 2023, a contingent of AFP members landed in Honiara ahead of the official opening of the 17th Pacific Games on 19 November.

The AFP members were greeted on the tarmac at Henderson International Airport by the Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands Rod Hilton, AFP Commander Solomon Islands Heath Davies, and RSIPF Commissioner Mostyn Mangau.

More than 100 additional AFP members joined their RAPPP and SIAF colleagues, who were already in the country, to support the RSIPF in the planning, coordination and execution of a safe and secure event.

During their stay in Honiara, about 85 AFP members were accommodated on the HMAS Choules, which was docked at Point Cruz harbor. The ADF deployed the HMAS Choules to Solomon Islands in support of the RSIPF and AFP's security efforts. Living on the ship was a unique and interesting experience for these members.

At the request of the Solomon Islands Government, AFP assisted the RSIPF in various capacities across Honiara and the games venues in support of the RSIPF Pacific Games operation.



8 RAPPP Newsletter

RSIPF and SIAF Bring Joy to National Referral Hospital with Spectacular Performance and Gifts

The National Referral Hospital (NRH) came alive on 15 November 2023 when members of RSIPF and SIAF visited the hospital and provided entertainment and gifts to patients.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) brass band joined the RSIPF band to put on a spectacular performance at the NRH, which helped lift the spirits and cheer-up a crowd of NRH staff, patients and visitors.

AFP and ADF members used the opportunity to interact with NRH staff, patients and visitors and deliver small gifts to sick children. These little gifts brought smiles to the children's faces.

NRH's Chief Executive Officer, Dr George Malefoasi, was delighted with the RSIPF and SIAF visit saying the staff and patients really enjoyed it.

"It was a very enjoyable program. Patients and relatives really enjoyed it more so the children who were presented with gifts.

Our staff were out there and few danced with the band. We would like to thank the RSIPF, SIAF and AFP for organising the visit," Dr. Malefoasi said.

AFP Solomon Islands Commander, Heath Davies, said the visit to the NRH underscores the mission of the AFP and SIAF in supporting the RSIPF and communities.

"The AFP and SIAF members are in the country not only to assist with the security operations for the Pacific Games but to support the local communities," Commander Davies said.

He added SIAF is pleased to continue to support the RSIPF and people of Solomon Islands and putting smiles to the faces of sick children at the NRH through performance and outreach complement SIAF mission.

AFP and AFD members, part of SIAF, who visited the national Referral Hospital in Honiara to provide entertainment and gifts to sick children.







AFP HOSTS RSIPF MEMBERS FOR PACIFIC GAMES SECURITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In August, members of the RSIPF's Pacific Games Security Planning Team visited and spent time in Queensland as part of an exchange program hosted by the AFP. The weeklong exchange program highlighted the AFP's ongoing support to the RSIPF as it ramped up its operational readiness for the 17th Pacific Games in Honiara.



The program was made possible through the RSIPF & AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP). RAPPP supported two RSIPF Aviation members to travel to Queensland's Gold Coast and Brisbane airports. RAPPP Advisor, Leading Senior Constable Will Varga, led the RSIPF members on a tour through the Gold Coast and Brisbane airports, where they were introduced to various teams across the AFP.

At Brisbane Airport, they met the AFP team responsible for managing athletes travelling through the airport for the FIFA Women's World Cup. This included learning how the AFP worked with FIFA volunteers and the special processes implemented at the airport to ensure seamless transits for the athletes.

The program provided the RSIPF members with examples of practices that could be applied during the Pacific Games at Honiara Airport. RSIPF members were also introduced to the various areas within the AFP airport offices including the Emergency Operations Centre, airport operations area, Protection Operations Response Team (PORT) operations area, canine facilities and the rapid appraisal officer

AFP Commissioner tours RSIPF HQ and witness achievements of RAPPP

In July 2023, AFP Commissioner, Reece Kershaw, along with members of his executive team, toured RSIPF headquarters at Rove. The visit aimed to further strengthen ties and recognise the impactful work achieved under RAPPP.

During the tour, Commissioner Kershaw was able to visit various departments of the RSIPF to witness firsthand the positive outcomes resulting from RAPPP initiatives and the tangible impact of collaborative efforts in enhancing the RSIPF's capabilities.

Commissioner Kershaw was impressed by the resources and technical knowledge delivered to the various Departments and Units in the RSIPF including the National Response Department (NRD), Forensics Unit, Drone Unit, Gym, the Police Operation Centre (POC) delivered by the AFP via RAPPP.

Having the privilege to hear about the positive results stemming from diverse training programs conducted under RAPPP, Commissioner Kershaw gained insights into the program's contribution to the professional development of RSIPF officers.









Commissioner Kershaw was given an update on the support AFP provided to the RSIPF's Pacific Games Security Planning Team.

As the visit concluded, Commissioner Kershaw and his team were bid farewell by RSIPF executive members. The tour not only reinforced the strong partnership between the AFP and RSIPF but also highlighted the positive impact of collaborative efforts under RAPPP in fostering a safer and more secure Solomon Islands.



AFP Commissioner, Reece Kershaw, visiting Honiara in mid-2023 and see first hand some of the things delivered to the RSIPF under RAPPP.

Enhancing Community-Police Relations with Leaf Huts

Over the past six months RAPPP has supported the construction of new leaf huts at Naha, Tetere, Henderson and White River Police Stations. These new huts will provide a neutral space at the stations where community members can safely meet and resolve issues. The huts also provide a space where officers can have meetings with members of the communities in an informal location.

The huts were built by local contractors using local materials.

On 22 September, Naha Police Station and Naha communities in East Honiara welcomed the opening of their Leaf Hut (O.K Haus).



The building was an initiative of chiefs from the Naha community.

In early October, two more leaf huts were opened at Tetere Police Station on the Guadalcanal plains and Henderson Police Station in East Honiara in early October.





This was followed on 18 October with the opening of the leaf hut at White River Police. RAPPP Superintendent, Adam McCormack, who attended the openings said the leaf huts are another result of the ongoing RSIPF and AFP partnership.



RSIPF'S POLICE OPERATION CENTRE BOOSTED AHEAD OF PACIFIC GAMES

In October, the AFP and ADF completed enhancements to the RSIPF Police Operation Centre (POC), boosting capabilities in the important centre for RSIPF security operations.

The project, valued at about SBD\$900,000, was a commitment by the AFP and ADF to help RSIPF prepare to host significant events including the 2023 Pacific Games and National General Election in 2024. The POC Enhancement Project will improve RSIPF command and coordination capability and the monitoring of police operational activities. The first part of the project involved major renovation and modification work to the existing building space and included reconfiguration of the

building space and included reconfiguration of the POC floor plan, improvements to entrance security and construction of a briefing room.

The second phase involved the provision of new desktops and monitors; and installation of an Audio Visual (AV) system which enables all security information during an operation to go live on screen. The ADF also gifted a Very High Frequency (VHF) Motorola communication system and equipment to the RSIPF that will also give the RSIPF the ability to track radios.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services (MPNSCS), Karen Galokale, was impressed with the capabilities now being added to the RSIPF. Galokale said many challenging experiences have put RSIPF's capabilities to the test including the lack of sustainable communication equipment. Australian High Commissioner Rod Hilton said the AV capability delivered to the RSIPF is a "state of the art".

"The level of these capabilities meets or in some cases exceeds what is used in Australia. ...and it should. We want the very best for our partners," High Commissioner Hilton said.

The POC enhancements were fully operational during the Pacific Games held in Honiara in November 2023, contributing to the successful delivery of a secure and safe event.



"These huts are more than just leaf huts; they support a connection to the community. These leaf huts will promote the partnership between police and communities," Superintendent McCormack said. Guadalcanal's Provincial Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Rodney Kuma, praised RAPPP for supporting this initiative.

Chief Superintendent Kuma said these huts belong to members of the community and should be a neutral place where community members can bring their

issues to in efforts to find solutions.

STATE-OF-THE-ART KUKUM TRAFFIC CENTRE OPENS





In a significant milestone for law enforcement in Solomon Islands, the AFP officially handed over the newly constructed Kukum Traffic Centre to RSIPF on 11 September 2023 to the RSIPF.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Anthony Veke, Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Rod Hilton, RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, RPNGC Commissioner, David Manning, and visiting AFP Assistant Commissioner, Nigel Ryan.

The state-of-the-art two-storey building, with an estimated value of over SBD\$8 million, replaced the old traffic centre which fell victim to vandalism and arson during the unrest in Honiara in November 2021.



RAPPP LOCALLY ENGAGED CONTRACTORS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

On 22 December 2023, Australian Federal Police (AFP) locally engaged contractors (LECs) working under RAPPP came together for a festive gathering.

The event, attended by the AFP Commander Solomon Islands, Heath Davies, featured a small BBQ.

Commander Davies took the opportunity to personally extend his gratitude to the LECs for their dedicated efforts in supporting the RAPPP throughout the year and expressed his appreciation for the vital role played by the LECs in contributing to the success of the program.

Adding to the joy of the season, Christmas gifts were generously distributed to the children of local staff members. Over 30 locals are engaged under RAPPP, supporting various components of the program. The festive gathering not only celebrated the holiday season but also strengthened the sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the dedicated individuals contributing to the success of the partnership.



visiting AFP Assistant Commissioner, Nigel Ryan, and RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, unveiling the plaque to mark the opening of the new Kukum Traffic Centre in East Honiara. Minister of Police, Anthony Veke, and Australian High Commissioner, Rod Hilton, were among disgnitaries who witness the event.

Constructed by local company, Bako Construction Ltd, the secure reinforced structure not only meets environmental conditions but also prioritises the safety and well-being of RSIPF officers. The modern facility provides a conducive work environment, fully equipped workstations and accommodates up to 70 traffic officers simultaneously.

Integral to the new centre's design is its inclusivity, exemplified by an entrance designed to ensure easy access for everyone, including individuals with special needs. The facility boasts a variety of spaces essential for police operations, including interview rooms, operational hubs, meeting and training rooms, and general amenities. Commissioner Mostyn Mangau expressed gratitude for the partnership with the AFP, highlighting the significant positive impact the Kukum Traffic Centre will have on RSIPF's capabilities. Beyond its primary role in managing traffic operations, the facility is poised to enhance the delivery of highquality police operations and services to communities across Solomon Islands. The collaboration between the AFP and RSIPF, exemplified by the construction and handover of the Kukum Traffic Centre, underscores the commitment to strengthening law enforcement capabilities and ensuring the safety and security of Solomon Islands citizens.

AFP and Pacific Nations Commemorate 20th Anniversary of RAMSI

On Sunday 23 July 2023, AFP joined with RSIPF executives and dignitaries from Solomon Islands and other Pacific nations, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in a church service held at the Saint Barnabas Cathedral in Honiara. Formed in 2003 in response to a plea for assistance from the Solomon Islands Government during a turbulent period of conflict, RAMSI, led by Australia, united 15 Pacific countries. The mission played a pivotal role in restoring peace and establishing the groundwork for long-term stability and prosperity in the Solomon Islands.

Notably, over 2000 AFP members deployed during RAMSI.

At the commemoration church service, AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw took the opportunity to emphasise the success of Pacific-led peace initiatives and underscored the enduring partnerships between the nations involved.

"RAMSI highlighted just how much can be achieved when our Pacific family works together. The partnership between the AFP and the RSIPF remains strong, built on more than two decades of trust, friendship, and support. The AFP and the entire Pacific family will always stand with the RSIPF," Commissioner Kershaw said.

This commemorative event not only honoured the accomplishments of RAMSI but also served as a testament to the ongoing collaboration and solidarity among Pacific nations, reinforcing the commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Today, the AFP continues its commitment to supporting the RSIPF through RAPPP

and SIAF.



RSIPF, AFP and RPNGC Unite Against Cybercrime

In a collaborative effort, the RSIPF, AFP and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) came together to combat cybercrime and safeguard citizens from online threats during a training course in Honiara

Deputy Commissioner responsible for National Security and Operation Support, Ian Vaevaso, highlighted that the training conducted as part of RAPPP aimed to equip officers from Solomon Islands and PNG with essential cyber skills. The course focused on high-tech online intelligence methodologies and techniques to detect and intervene in criminal and security threats to the country.

This collaborative training initiative not only enhances the capabilities of Solomon Islands and PNG officers but also establishes a regional response capability to address transnational criminal groups and security threats.



Deputy Commissioner Vaevaso emphasised the significance of the course in identifying cyber-based threats globally, contributing to the protection of Solomon Islands and its visitors, especially with the upcoming Pacific Games in November.

AFP ENHANCES RSIPF FITNESS CENTRE WITH NEW GYM EQUIPMENT

In August, the AFP donated new gym equipment to the RSIPF Facilitated through RAPPP, this gift augmented the RSIPF's Health and Wellness Fitness Centre, providing RSIPF officers with improved access to a high-quality gym setup.

The RSIPF Health and Wellness Fitness Centre, initially established with funding from the AFP's Solomon Islands Police Development Program (SIPDP), continues to receive support from

RAPPP.

This ongoing commitment includes the provision of equipment and dedicated funding for health and fitness trainers to operate the gym.

The gifted equipment, valued at over SBD\$56,000, encompassed a variety of strength, functional and

cardio equipment.

This includes lifting platforms, spin bikes, resistance power bands, exercise recovery and mobility equipment, pin-loaded and plate-loaded machines, lower body strength machines, reusable ice packs, First Aid equipment, a grip strength dynamometer, Bluetooth gym speaker and storage boxes.



RAPPP Advisor, Pete Bamber, expressed pride in contributing to the RSIPF's health and fitness. Advisor Bamber emphasised the significance of maintaining physical and mental health, especially for police officers, and commended RAPPP's locally engaged fitness advisor and staff for their excellent work in running health and fitness programs.

RSIPF Assistant Commissioner, Simpson Pogeava, signed a gifting certificate with RAPPP on behalf of the RSIPF.

Assistant Commissioner Pogeava encouraged RSIPF officers to utilise and care for the equipment provided.

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR RSIPF RECRUITS

The RSIPF 'Titus Rore' recruits graduated on 11 August 2023 and received not only their recruitment training certificates but also bibles gifted by RAPPP.

The gift was delivered under the RAPPP Health & Wellbeing Program which aims to support the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of

RSIPF members.

Part of the Health & Wellbeing Program has been the engagement of RSIPF Chaplain, Melden Hall, to provide spiritual and pastoral support to RSIPF members and their families as they continue to deliver frontline services.

Chaplain Hall said the bibles gifted are intended to help build the spiritual capacity and capability of the 65 new RSIPF recruits to be able to uphold discipline in the

RSIPF to a high level.

Chaplain Hall supported the recruits through bible studies during the course of the 18-weeks training. He said the gifting complements the spiritual and pastoral care service he has been delivering to RSIPF members as these bibles will help mould and shape them.

"I preach and teach the word of God to RSIPF officers. I think it's even better to give each new recruit a bible so they possess the word of God," the RSIPF Chaplain

Chaplain Hall added the RSIPF always strives to become a highly disciplined force and it is only fitting that those starting their police career are set on the right path on day one.



RSIPF Chaplain, Melden Hall, who is an AFP locally engaged contractor delivering bibles to newly graduated officers to the RSIPF

FP DELIVERS OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PACKAGE TO RSIPF



In July, the AFP delivered a comprehensive SBD\$7.5 million support package to the RSIPF to support its preparations for the Pacific Games and beyond.

Among other things, the support package includes public order management equipment, police uniforms, laptop computers and traffic and road safety equipment.

Commissioner Mangau said the support was yet another result of the strong partnership and cooperation between the AFP and RSIPF

"Security is the important role of the RSIPF and the gifts from the AFP will support the RSIPF in boosting its ability in carrying our security operations during the PG23, providing safe and green games and thereafter," Commissioner Mangau said. In September, the AFP also delivered a tEODor Remote Positioning Vehicle (RPV) and its customise trailer to the RSIPF to help manage explosive device risks. AFP Assistant Commissioner, Nigel Ryan, delivered both support, reaffirming the AFP's ongoing commitment to enhancing RSIPF capabilities for the safety of communities and officers.

The tEODor RPV, a remote-controlled robot designed for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams globally, is a crucial asset in managing the risk associated with explosive devices. This technology empowers RSIPF's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) officers to examine and handle suspicious devices from a safe distance, minimizing the risk of harm to both officers and the community.

RAPPP recognised

In a nod to the invaluable support provided by Locally Engaged Contractors (LECs), the RAPPP executive presented the 'LEC of the Month' award to outstanding LEC each month.

The last LEC to be awarded was Alice Poni. Alice was the LEC for the month of September 2023. The LEC for the month of July and August respectively were Charity Oromae and Pristus Forau.



Pristus Forau, LEC of the Month of August received the award from Clinton Smith.

Welsome & Farewell

From July to December of 2023, RAPPP welcomed four LECs. They are;

- · Sarah Iduto'o
- Redley HouAnneth Teamani
- Brent Gesi

[These new LECs joined RAPPP on short term contracts]

During the same period, two LECs left RAPPP; They are;

- Dean Barley
- Rex Galo

EMPOWERING RSIPF LEADERSHIP: NEW VEHICLES FOR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



In a significant development on July 2023, the RSIPF received a noteworthy gift from the AFP – seven brand-new X-trail vehicles, valued at around SBD\$2m. Facilitated by the collaborative efforts of RAPPP, these vehicles are specifically dedicated to supporting the RSIPF Executive, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. The strategic allocation of these vehicles aims to bolster the efficiency and effectiveness of executive members in carrying out their crucial responsibilities.

During the official handover, RSIPF Commissioner Mostyn Mangau, alongside visiting AFP Assistant Commissioner, Nigel Ryan, highlighted the instrumental role these vehicles will play in advancing

the work of the RSIPF Executive.

Commissioner Mangau expressed sincere appreciation for the generous support from the people and

government of Australia. This gift underscores the ongoing partnership between RSIPF and AFP through RAPPP, reinforcing the dedication to a stronger and more efficient RSIPF for the benefit of the entire community.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN RSIPF: WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

The RSIPF Gender Coordinator Staff Sergeant Alice Roteku conducted a gender workshop for National Traffic Department (NTD) female officers at the Kukum National Traffic Centre.

NTD Director, Supt. William Foufaka, and RAPPP advisor Kevin Shaw, initiated the workshop.

In line with the RSIPF's gender strategy, Staff Sergeant Roteku discussed the importance of promoting the role of women in Pacific policing.

The officers agreed that creating a workplace that actively values and supports women in all aspects of policing contributes to a strong and professional force for all RSIPF officers.

Superintendent Foufaka was incredibly supportive of the workshop and actively encouraged all his female officers to attend, seeing it as an opportunity to display the NTD and RSIPF's commitment to gender equality.



He also requested that a future gender workshop be attended by his executive members to ensure that they strategically promote gender equality within the NTD response.

AFP Digital Forensics expert, Chris Andrews, with RSIPF digital forensic operators within the Forensic Services Unit (FSU).

AFP DIGITAL FORENSICS EXPERT SHARES EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WITH RSIPF

AFP Digital Forensics expert, Chris Andrews, visited Honiara in September 2023 and shares his wealth of experience and knowledge in digital forensics with RSIPF digital forensic operators within the Forensic Services Unit

Digital Forensics is a new capability being developed within the FSU and will enable the RSIPF to identify, acquire, process, analyse and report on data stored electronically.

Chris was able to share his technical skills and knowledge on a wide range of areas relating to digital forensics including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidelines, hands-on training, workflow including digital exhibit handling and software updates.

The visit and support rendered by Chris was made possible through RAPPP

The AFP, through RAPPP, has been a firm supporter of the RSIPF Forensics since the program commenced in mid-2021 through the provision of training, equipment and technical advice across a number of forensic disciplines.

Contact Us

RAPPP Project Office RSIPF Headquarters, Rove Honiara, Solomon Islands



7495393 / 7135163



Pristus.Forau@rsipf.gov.sb Mike.Puia@rsipf.gov.sb



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