

RSIPF-AFP POLICING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RAPPP) 2021-2026

RAPP
NEWSLETTER

5th
Edition



AFP RAPPP advisors, Kate Weaver and Vanessa Pardy, posed for a photo with the Supervising Director of the RSIPF's Strategic Policy and Planning, Alice Roteku, during the International Women's Day commemoration in Honiara in March. RAPPP, AFP and SIAF members joined women in Honiara, and the globe, in commemorating this event. More on page 4.

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	...and more!			



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As the first half of 2024 ends, I would like to extend my thanks to you and your families for your efforts during what has been another busy six months. The year to date has flown by, but the AFP, through the RSIPF and AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) and Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF), has continued to deliver on its commitments in partnership with the RSIPF. The year kicked off with the RAPPP Board of Management meeting in January to review the achievements of the program and identify the priorities going forward. At this meeting, there was agreement to extend the current RAPPP design until June 2026.

A primary focus, as you would expect, was providing support to RSIPF to deliver a safe and secure environment for the conduct of the National General Elections (NGE). The 2024 elections were historic for Solomon Islands being the first time National, Provincial and Honiara City Council elections occurred on the same day. AFP remained committed to support the RSIPF and was proud to have worked alongside them and other Pacific Partners to ensure the elections occurred without any major disruption.

AFP support to the NGE operations was broad ranging. Our members worked with RSIPF in the planning team and supported specialist training in Honiara and the provinces to ensure the RSIPF were well prepared. During the elections period our members conducted joint high visibility patrols within Honiara, focusing on critical infrastructure. We also deployed members to the provinces to provide advisory support in relation to security.

In addition to the major operation for the NGE, AFP continued to support local RSIPF operations including the sitting of parliament. Community engagement formed a critical part of the RSIPF strategy in the lead up to the NGE, and the AFP actively supported a range of events across Honiara.

These events fostered positive relationships and provided the opportunity for community members to interact with police through sporting activities.

In the lead up to the NGE, and beyond, the AFP through RAPPP and SIAF continued efforts to uplift the capability of RSIPF. This has included delivering infrastructure projects in Auki, providing equipment and uniforms, assisting with forensics and public order management training, and facilitating planning workshops and desktop exercises. There has been a strong emphasis on supporting RSIPF women over the past six months. With initiatives such as procuring uniforms for a Maternity Uniform trial, supporting the RSIPF Women's Advisory Network Annual General Meeting and participating in International Women's Day celebrations. The AFP is proud to work alongside the RSIPF who are leaders in recognising women in policing and promoting gender inclusion within Solomon Islands and across the Pacific.

While it is easy to concentrate on our operational successes, it is important to also take the time to acknowledge the broader support provided to our program here in Solomon Islands.

Firstly, our achievements would not have been possible without the support of our Locally Engaged Contractors (LEC). The support they provide is exceptional and I thank them for their dedication and support across every aspect of our business.

The spouses and dependents of our AFP members also form an important part of our community. I am excited to highlight in this newsletter some examples of the important contributions being made within the community by our family members during their time here in Solomon Islands.

Finally, thank you to you, the members. Without your dedication and hard work the program would not be the success it is. I am confident that together we will meet any challenges that arise and remain committed to supporting the RSIPF.

Tagio tumas!

Heath Davies

Commander
AFP Solomon Islands

Background

RAPPP

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)-Australian Federal Police (AFP) Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) is a collaborative policing initiative between the AFP and the RSIPF. The RAPPP was established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed in 2022 after it commenced in 2021.

This program marks a significant step in the RSIPF and AFP's ongoing efforts to enhance peace and security in the Solomon Islands and the region. Since 2021 to date, the RAPPP has delivered substantial support to the RSIPF in the area of technical assistance and capability development. This program has been extended from 2025 to mid-2026.

The RSIPF and AFP have worked in partnership since 2003, striving to ensure the safety and stability of the Solomon Islands and the surrounding region.

The RAPPP complements this ongoing collaboration, building on the two agencies' shared commitment to improving policing standards and practices.

The RAPPP works closely with the Solomon's International Assistance Force (SIAF) that made up of police and military personnel from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. SIAF members are in the country to support the RSIPF's security work on the request of the Solomon Islands government.

Media Desk Note

Welcome to the 5th edition of the RAPPP newsletter. This edition provides a brief snapshot to some of the activities and programs that have been delivered to the RSIPF, through the AFP RAPPP, during the first half of 2024. The main event during this period was the National General Elections which is highlighted in pictures at the center of this edition. As we look back, we want to say thank you to everyone who supported RAPPP. Your collaboration and support have made a positive impact on RAPPP's activities and programs. The next edition of this newsletter is scheduled for January 2025. We encourage you to share your thoughts, comments or any content you'd like us to include by sending an email to Mike.Puia@rsipf.gov.sb. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our future editions. Thank you for your continued support and interest in the RAPPP's endeavors.



AFP and RSIPF Discuss RAPPP's Future

In February, the AFP and RSIPF Commissioners met in Canberra, Australia, to set the agenda for the RAPPP for the year ahead. The former Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Anthony Veke, and representatives from the AFP's Pacific Asia Command also attended the meeting. Since commencing in 2021, RAPPP has boosted RSIPF capability through advisory and technical support across various areas including Frontline, Crime, Forensics, Intelligence and National Response Department.

AFP officers work closely with their RSIPF counterparts to support the delivery of policing services to the people of Solomon Islands.

At the meeting the attendees reflected on the successful delivery of the 2023 Pacific Games security operation and the contributions of RAPPP made possible by reviewing and re-prioritising projects to focus on boosting RSIPF's capability for the Games. This included:

- Delivery of a range of equipment and key infrastructure projects including the re-building of Kukum National Traffic Centre and upgrade to the RSIPF's Police Operations Centre (POC).
- Training and development opportunities and exchanges across a range of areas including investigations, intelligence, forensics, aviation, public order management and close personal protection.

The AFP also affirmed its commitment to supporting RSIPF with the security arrangements around the country's National General Elections in April, particularly by providing essential development and resources in the lead-up.

AFP Commander, Heath Davies, said the AFP is committed and ready to support the RSIPF throughout the important operation. "The AFP has shown it is a trusted and reliable partner to help deliver large-scale operations, as demonstrated through the safe and successful 2023 Pacific Games," Commander Davies said.

RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, said the RSIPF is thankful to the AFP for the continuous support provided to the RSIPF. He praised AFP for always supporting the RSIPF's journey every step of the way.



► Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Anthony Veke, and AFP Commissioner, Reece Kershaw, during their meeting in Canberra.



► RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, and AFP Assistant Commissioner Pacific Asia, Nigel Ryan.



RAPPP, AFP and SIAF members joining the International Women's Day commemoration in Honiara.



RAPPP, AFP and SIAF join International Women's Day Commemoration

On 8 March, members of the RAPPP, AFP and SIAF joined women in Honiara, and the globe, in commemorating this year's International Women's Day.

The commemoration kicked-off with a parade through the city which ended at the multi-purpose compound where the official program, and a number of activities, were held.

RAPPP, AFP and SIAF members not only joined the parade but supported the RSIPF Women's Advisory Network (WAN) participation in the events. These supports include the provision of t-shirts used by WAN members during their various performances. AFP Solomon Islands Commander, Heath Davies, thanked all the women RAPPP, AFP and SIAF for their contributions in supporting RAPPP to achieve its goals and for helping the RSIPF in keeping communities safe.

Nala Awarded IMOSC's Award of Excellence

As Solomon Islands joined countries around the world to mark the International Women's Day- celebrating the achievements of women, the RSIPF used this commemoration to present one of its female officers, Detective Inspector Eileen Rose Nala, with an award she had received at the International Management of Serious Crime (IMOSC) course held in Indonesia in 2023.



Detective Inspector Eileen Rose Nala receiving her award from AC Leta.

RSIPF Assistant Commissioner, Patricia Leta, delivered the IMOSC Award of Excellence to Detective Inspector Nala. Detective Inspector Nala represented the RSIPF at the IMOSC, which brought together senior investigators from 15 countries namely; Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Samoa, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Timor Leste, Nauru, Thailand, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Australia.

The IMOSC course is recognised as Australasian policing's premier training program for leaders of complex serious crime investigations.

It aims to develop the capability of senior crime leaders to contribute to and influence efforts to combat serious crime through strategy, policy and capability development both inside and outside of the organization.

The award acknowledged Detective Inspector Nala's efforts during the course; recognising that she embraced management of serious crime philosophies and demonstrated outstanding leadership, collaboration and strategic awareness.

Detective Inspector Nala is a highly regarded leader within the RSIPF and role model for her fellow female colleagues. As Officer in Charge of the RSIPF Sexual Assault Squad, Detective Inspector Nala leads a team of dedicated officers who investigate and prosecute sexual offences.

Detective Inspector Nala also takes a lead role in providing support to survivors of gender based and sexual violence.

Anthony Named 'LEC of the Month'

Another Locally Engaged Contractor (LEC) who is contracted under RAPPP has been awarded with the 'LEC of the Month' award. He is Anthony Hong. He was named the LEC for the month of February.

Anthony was recognised for his commitment to the RAPPP and SIAF, particularly for his dedication in ensuring that children of AFP members who are serving in Honiara are transported to school safely each day.

Anthony is one of over 30 LEC RAPPP engaged to perform different roles in support of the RAPPP. They help develop and deliver program that supported the RSIPF.

The 'LEC of the Month' Award is an initiative by the RAPPP executive to recognise LEC members who support the AFP's overall program in the country.

AFP Solomon Islands Commander, Heath Davies, says he is delighted with the great work and achievements of LECs and the award is to make sure their efforts do not go un-noticed.



PRD Conducts Training in Prep for NGE

The RSIPF's Police Response Department (PRD) conducted Public Order Management (POM) and operational Safety Training (OST) in Provinces and Honiara. Training commenced in February to March in preparation for the National General Elections.

PRD Supervising Director, Insp. David Quiro, says the training is part of the PRD's preparation for the NGE and ongoing police capability and capacity development.

"Training in provincial centres strategically aligns with national safety preparedness in ensuring a consistent and comprehensive approach across the RSIPF," Quiro says.

He says conducting training in provincial centres optimises operational efficiency by reaching all RSIPF police officers and response units which streamlining coordinate for an effective emergency response.

"The training directly aligns with the Commissioner's Order (CO) on use of force policy which reinforces legal use-of-force protocols.

It serves as a proactive measure to mitigate potential risks during the NGE24 and daily duties of a Police officer," Director PRD added

"Training in line with RSIPF-sanctioned governance safeguards the organisation's reputation and promote public trust. It reinforces a commitment to responsible and accountable policing practices." Quiro says.

He thanked the RSIPF and RAPPP for their continuous support toward making the training possible for the provincial centres and in Honiara.

RAPPP advisors with PRD Instructors have been to Malaita and Western Province to conduct training.



RAPPP and AFP advisors have been supporting the RSIPF instructors in delivering the POM training in the provinces.

POM Training to RSIPF Departments, Units & Stations

As the country prepared for the National General Elections in April, the RSIPF intensified its efforts to ensure a secure and orderly electoral process.



RSIPF members undergoing POM training in Honiara.

Part of these efforts included a comprehensive Public Order Management (POM) training program that was rolled out to various departments, units and stations of the RSIPF. The POM training program, delivered by RSIPF trainers, started in February with the support of the RAPPP. Under the program, officers from across the RSIPF were trained with required skills, tactics and knowledge to deal with any public disorder situation. The training provided participating officers the opportunity to know what they can expect when real public disorder situations arise.

Drawing from past experiences, the RSIPF brought officers from across the force to prepare, ensuring that when frontline resources are stretched, reinforcements from across the RSIPF can swiftly and effectively assist to strengthen security and maintain order.

RSIPF trainer, Henry Ureimae, spoke highly of the approach taken by RAPPP advisors in ensuring that officers from all departments, units and station are trained in POM. Henry said this approach will ensure officers are not only capable of maintaining law and order but are also well-prepared to handle any potential challenges.

Heroes Honoured on ANZAC Day

At dawn on 25 April, RSIPF officers, alongside SIAF and AFP personnel, gathered in Honiara to honour ANZAC Day at the Central Police Station Memorial. The ANZAC Day commemoration service remembers the courageous souls of war and all Australians and New Zealanders who sacrificed their lives in military operations. The ceremony featured moments of reverence, prayers, wreath-laying, the Last Post and a moving two-minute silence, followed by national anthems. Australian and New Zealand officials delivered inspiring addresses. Those members who are currently deployed to Solomon Islands under SIAF were also honoured during the ceremony. The ceremony is a reminder of the legacy of courage and sacrifice that unites regional nations.

RSIPF members who also joined the commemoration.



AFP, SIAF Join HCP in City Patrol

AFP and SIAF officers joined officers of the RSIPF's Honiara City Police (HCP) to carry out an operation targeting antisocial behaviour and emerging crimes in the Honiara Central Business District. PPC for Honiara City, Chief Superintendent Jimson Robo, thanked the HCP's City Operation Team, AFP and SIAF for rolling out the operation.

HCP's Operation Manager, Inspector Tex Tafoa, said such an operation is important as the country heads toward elections.

The operation was a response to public concerns over the growing trend of antisocial behaviour in the city. The primary goal of the operation was to disrupt and deter such behaviour with focus on issues like pickpocketing and vandalism.

During the operation, RSIPF, AFP and SIAF members conducted patrols in areas identified as hotspots including the Honiara Central Market, Town Council Bus Stop, White River Bus Stop, Point Cruz Street and Ports area.



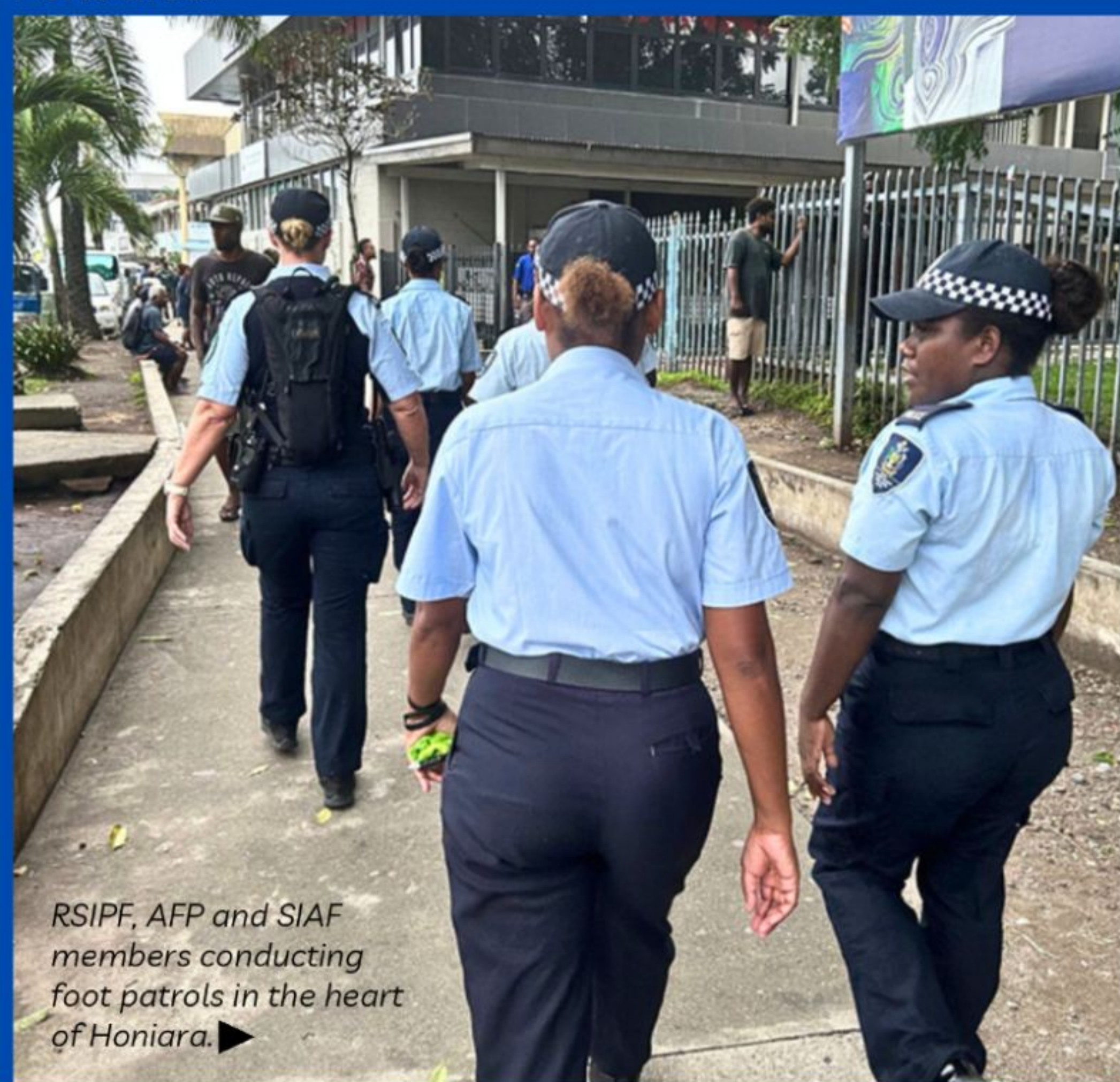
In the popular 'Yumi Toktok Forum' an administrator of the Forum, Benjamin Afuga, posted this 'Appreciation Post' together with photos of RSIPF and AFP officers on foot patrol in Honiara.

APPRECIATION POST

"Today, I witnessed what I would call exemplary policing. Here's what I observed in the city centre a few minutes ago on my way back from a meeting:

1. A group of police officers patrolling on foot.
2. The group included both RSIPF and AFP officers.
3. They interacted with people as they passed by.
4. They entered shops, browsed and left.
5. They conducted a search on a young man.
6. People showed appreciation for their presence.

This is the kind of policing the public expects and what we, as advocates for public safety and security, continue to support. Thank you to the officers involved and their superiors. Please continue these visible foot patrols and extend them to other areas".



RSIPF, AFP and SIAF members conducting foot patrols in the heart of Honiara. ▶

Traffic Officers participate in C3 training

National Traffic Department Officers of the RSIPF participated in Command, Control and Coordination (C3) training.

The training was provided by RSIPF Inspector Tex Tafoa, a qualified trainer and subject matter expert, at the request of Director of Traffic, Supt. William Fou'faka.

The training was facilitated by the RSIPF-AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP).

Director Fou'faka stated that the day long training was crucial in the lead up to the National General Elections.

"To accomplish our mission of providing a safe, secure and peaceful NGE I wanted my officers to receive the latest training in C3. This training will improve their leadership and decision-making abilities to the benefit of the community we serve," Director Fou'faka said.

During the training Inspector Tafoa provided realistic scenarios for the officers to discuss and to provide an effective policing response.

The participants provided strong, positive feedback on Inspector Tafoa's training and how it will help them in the NGE.

RSIPF, AFP & SIAF Team-up to Secure Futsalroos vs. Kurukuru Matches

RSIPF, AFP and SIAF members teamed up to successfully deliver security operations during a series of futsal matches between the Futsalroos of Australia and Kurukuru of Solomon Islands in Honiara in February. The three matches were part of the PacificAus Sports Futsal Series 2024.

A 26-member Futsalroos delegation made up of 11 staff and 15 players arrived in Honiara for the matches. To ensure the safety of spectators and players, RSIPF, AFP and SIAF members boosted their presence in all game venues. The visiting Futsalroos come out victorious after these matches.

The PacificAus Sports Program is an initiative of the Australian Government that creates new opportunities for Pacific and Australian athletes to play, grow and train together, and bring our countries closer together through sport.

RSIPF, AFP and SIAF members posed for a photo with captains of Futsalroos and Kurukuru at the Friendship Hall in East Honiara. ▶



AFP Advisors Support Joint Planning Team Desktop Exercise

AFP advisors were instrumental in a Joint Planning Team desktop exercise conducted for Provincial Police Commanders during the PPC and Directors Conference held in Honiara in February. The desktop exercise, involving members from the AFP and RSIPF, was part of preparations for the National General Elections in April. RSIPF's executive level officers including the Deputy Commissioner of Operations, various Assistant Commissioners, all nine PPCs and the 18 portfolio Directors attended the five-day conference. Some participants travelled from the provinces to attend. During the desktop exercise officers were divided into groups and were presented with three realistic election scenarios, prompting them to discuss different responses and notifications. Each group talked about and shared actions they would take at both the "Operational" and "Strategic" levels. A representative from each group then presented their decisions to the rest of the conference participants. This led to lively discussions within the larger group, where various ideas and suggestions were explored. Inputs collected from the desktop exercise participants helped the Joint Planning Team develop thorough plans, identify needed resources and acquire necessary equipment to ensure a safe and secure elections. After the desktop exercise, the joint planning team moved to "live" exercises, building on the insights gained from the desktop exercise.



► RSIPF's Joint Planning Team in session.

These live exercises explored the three scenarios from the desktop exercise more in-depth, covering tactical, operational and strategic aspects of a real operation. This enabled RSIPF executive members to test their command-and-control skills, and operational members to respond in real-time, assessing the interoperability of RSIPF with members of the AFP and SIAF. RSIPF's Supervising Deputy Commissioner (Operations), Evelyn Thugea, spoke highly of these exercises when speaking at the opening of the desktop exercise. "The exercise remind us of our leadership roles in remote locations and the importance of making good decisions, taking into account your resources and capabilities," Supervising Deputy Commissioner Thugea said.

AFP and RSIPF Innovative Leaf Hut Initiative Reaches

Auki



► RSIPF officers in Auki, Malaita Province, posed for a photo with RSIPF and RAPPP executive members in front of their new Leaf Hut.

In a significant step towards enhancing community-police relations, the AFP, through RAPPP, is supporting the RSIPF with the construction of culturally sensitive leaf huts in its police stations. This innovative project involves constructing leaf huts within police station premises, providing a dedicated space for public engagement, assistance and dispute resolution in a manner that respects local customs and traditions. Under this initiative, a number of huts were delivered to RSIPF stations in Honiara and Guadalcanal. The latest addition to this effort was the opening of a leaf hut in Auki in April. Malaita Provincial Policing Commander (PPC), Chief Supt Leslie Kili, expressed his gratitude for the AFP's support. Kili said the timely completion of the leaf hut and accompanying renovation works was particularly beneficial to their NGE operations as it provides a crucial facility for both officers and the community. This leaf hut initiative represents a meaningful advancement in the AFP and RSIPF collective goal of improving access to justice and fostering stronger relationships between the RSIPF and the communities they serve.

NGE & PM Election 2024: Security Operations in Pictures



► AFP and SIAF also support the RSIPF security operations during the elections.



► RSIPF, AFP and SIAF engaged in POM training in the lead up to the elections.



► AFP and SIAF members providing air support to the RSIPF security operations during the elections.



National General Elections and Prime Ministerial Election Re-cap

Leading up to the National General Elections in April, the RSIPF received vital support from the AFP and SIAF. This collaboration played a crucial role in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the elections. The assistance provided was comprehensive, encompassing everything from strategic planning for election security to the provision of personnel, training and resources to the RSIPF. AFP and SIAF members supported the RSIPF by providing ground and air support which bolstered security across the country during the election period. The strong police collaboration paid off with the NGE completed without incident. The collaboration continued beyond the NGE, as police continued their security operations into May when Members of Parliament who were elected during the NGE convened to form a government and the subsequent election of a new Prime Minister. This process was carried out peacefully. In recognition of the critical role played by the RSIPF and its security partners, the newly elected Prime Minister, Jeremiah Manele, and his Minister for Police, Jimson Tanangada, paid a courtesy visit to the RSIPF headquarters to personally expressed their gratitude to the police for maintaining stability during this pivotal time.

...go to page 10 for story of PM and Police Minister's visit



NGE & PM Election 2024: Security Operations in Pictures

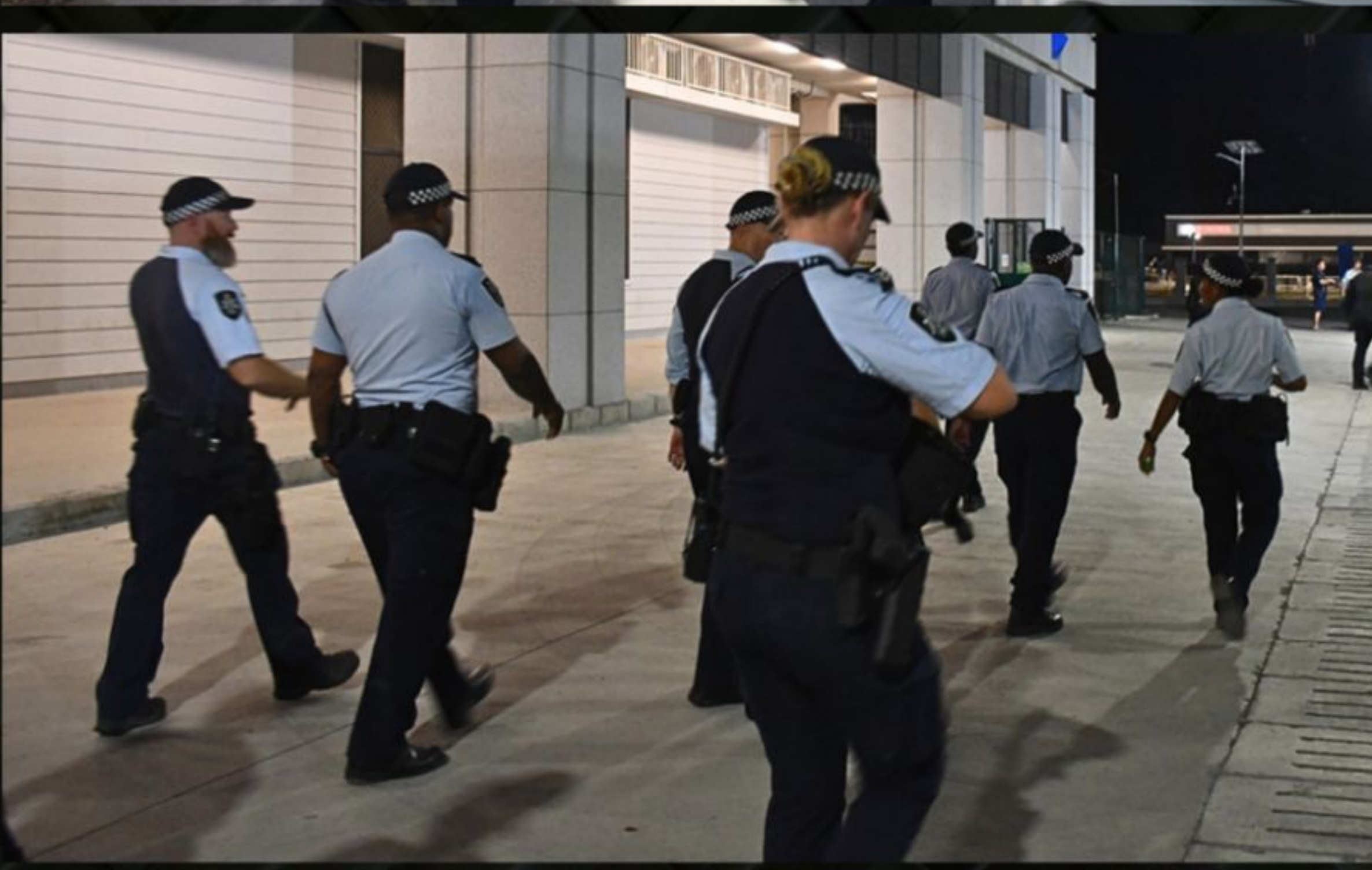
► AFP and SIAF members landing in Honiara to support the RSIPF with its security operations during the elections.



► RAPPP, AFP and SIAF members joined a service to commission the RSIPF-led election security operations.



► Check-points were set-up around the parliament building in Honiara during the election of the Prime Minister.



► RAPPP has help resource and train officers in the RSIPF Drone Unit to support the RSIPF's operations.



► RSIPF, AFP and SIAF also conducted joint foot patrols during the elections.

RSIPF and Security Partners Acknowledged For Election Operations Success

In a ceremonial parade held at the Rove police headquarters in May, Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele and the Minister of Police, National Security, and Correctional Services, Jimson Tanangada, extended their heartfelt thanks to the RSIPF and its security partners for their exemplary efforts during the National General Elections in April and the Election of the Prime Minister in May.

Speaking during the ceremony, Prime Minister Manele stated, "I am delighted to join you all this morning to recognise the sterling efforts and work of RSIPF as well as our Pacific Regional Partners in maintaining law and order during recent National General Elections and the election of the Prime Minister."

He commended the RSIPF for their dedication and commitment in ensuring the integrity of the elections and maintaining peace and safety for the general public. Prime Minister Manele acknowledged the significant support from regional friends and partners from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Solomon Islands, our deep appreciation to our regional friends and partners for their tremendous support demonstrated in keeping our nation safe and secure during these elections," he said.



► Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele

Highlighting the challenges of policing elections, Prime Minister Manele noted that the successful operations during both elections were the result of collective dedication and genuine partnership to uphold the rule of law and maintain peace.

He expressed his hope that such security partnerships and collaborative efforts would continue to be strengthened both nationally and regionally, contributing to a peaceful, safe and secure Blue Pacific region.

Minister Tanangada also paid tribute to the Commissioner of the RSIPF, his executive team, police partners and all supporting contingents who worked alongside the RSIPF.

He said the election operations had been smooth and successful, thanks to the unwavering support and contributions from development partners.

"You had responded positively to our call for assistance and the mission was executed successfully. I salute you and I also pledge my commitment to work closely with you in our future cooperation," Minister Tanangada said.

He affirmed his commitment to strengthening the partnership between the RSIPF and its security and policing development partners for the benefit of the nation's security.



► Minister of Police, Jimson Tanangada

RSIPF Commissioner Salutes AFP, SIAF for Security Support

The RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, recognised the contributions by police and military personnel from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji during major operations. In a ceremony held at the Rove police headquarters in June, Commissioner Mangau presented the Commissioner's Group Citations to members of the AFP, ADF and New Zealand Police in recognition of their contributions during security operations at the Pacific Games held in Honiara in 2023.

The RSIPF Commissioner's Group Citation serves as a testament to the collaborative spirit and shared commitment to excellence among all agencies involved. It recognises the sacrifices made and the exceptional contributions rendered to safeguarding the Pacific Games and its participants. Commissioner Mangau also presented certificates of appreciation to Contingent Commanders from the AFP, ADF, New Zealand Défense Force, Republic of Fiji Military Forces and Fiji Police for the support provided during the National General Elections April and the Prime Ministerial election in May.



Supt. Clinton Smith from the AFP and RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau.►

AFP Supports Training for RSIPF Media Team

In May, members of the RSIPF Media team attended a video training provided through a joint effort between the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Fiji Police Media team. Trainers from the ADF, conducted the training which focused on filming and creating video content. OIC of the RSIPF Media Unit, Sgt. Desmond Rave, thanked the AFP National Media Team, Fiji Police Media and ADF for providing the training opportunity. Sgt. Rave said such training is a bonus for his team as it will equip them with the needed knowledge and techniques to use in their media work. He said the knowledge gained will definitely boost the capacity of the RSIPF Media Unit in delivering its services to the people through the different mediums used, especially on video. RAPPP, in partnership with the AFP Media team, subsequently gifted the RSIPF Media team with upgraded iPhones which will allow them to apply the skills they learned during the training. Members of the RSIPF media team are keen to expand their engagement with the Solomon Islands community through posting short videos on the RSIPF Facebook page.

Staff of the RSIPF Media Unit during the video training. They were also provided with iPhones to put to use what they learned. ►



WAN Holds AGM, Elect New Committee

The RSIPF's Women's Advisory Network (WAN) held its Annual General Meeting and also elected a new committee in March.

The two-day AGM was part of activities held to coincide with the International Women's Day.

The meeting brought together female officers from across Honiara and the provinces to discuss and reflect on the RSIPF's steps in promoting gender equality within its ranks. The meeting was organised by the RSIPF WAN and is supported by the RAPPP.

The last WAN AGM was held in 2019 and was supposed to be held every two years. Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, internal unrest and operational priorities have prevented meetings being held in recent years.

RSIPF Supervising Commissioner, Ian Vaevaso, delivered the keynote address at the opening of the AGM where he used the opportunity to praise the resilience of RSIPF women leaders.

Supervising Commissioner Vaevaso encouraged female officers in attendance to serve as beacons for their peers, especially the younger recruits.

He highlighted that the RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, is the Executive Lead of the Pacific Island Chiefs of Police (PICP) WAN- a demonstration of his commitment to women's participation and gender equity within the RSIPF and the broader region.

Vaevaso said the presence of women in frontline and specialist roles within the RSIPF, crime scenes, firearms and tactical units, police maritime, criminal investigation, traffic and fire services demonstrates women's capability.

He thanked the RAPPP for supporting the RSIPF WAN. AFP Acting Commander Solomon Islands, Clinton Smith, also spoke at the opening, acknowledging RSIPF as a leader in promoting gender inclusion.

Smith said the importance and value of the conference cannot be underestimated as it brings the RSIPF women together to shape the future of the RSIPF and ensure it is an organisation where women can reach their full potential in a supportive environment.

At the closure of the AGM, a new WAN committee was elected to lead and drive initiatives aimed at empowering women within the RSIPF.

The newly elected committee members are poised to continue the impactful work done by their predecessors. Some of these achievements include the establishment of a Sexual Assault Unit, deployment of women across various RSIPF departments and units, training opportunities, promotions and the implementation of policies addressing pregnancy, sexual harassment and gender issues.

As the new committee takes the reins, the RSIPF WAN remains at the forefront of efforts to create opportunities, address challenges and champion the role of women in law enforcement.



► The new WAN Committee posed for a photo during the closure of the WAN AGM.

String of Community Engagement Events Held Across Honiara

The RAPPP, AFP and SIAF have been supporting the RSIPF to stage a series of community engagement events in communities and schools across Honiara over the first half of this year. The aim of these community engagement events has been to reinforce the spirit of strong partnership between the police and local communities. Director of the RSIPF's National Crime Prevention Department, Supt. John Matamaru, says such programs help to build civilian's confidence and trust in their police. Supt. Matamaru says these programs provide an opportunity for community members to bring forth issues and challenges they have faced and are not comfortable or have the time to report it at police stations. He says sport is one of the best ways to interact with young children, who are then informed of the duties and responsibilities of their police. The events, characterised by sports, barbeques and interactive activities, underscore the collaborative efforts of RSIPF, RAPPP, AFP and SIAF in fostering strong relationships between the police and communities they serve.

In February a community engagement event was held at Kukum drawing over 400 residents from nearby areas such as Fishery village, Woodford, Mbua Valley, Bahai and Saint Nicholas.



► RSIPF, RAPPP, AFP and SIAF members during the community engagement event held at the Kukum field.

In March an event was held at the White River school field which saw hundreds of community members and students participating in a day filled with games, entertainment and educational activities. The event also featured a performance by the RSIPF Band.



► An aerial photo of a community engagement event held at White River field.

During the same month, SIAF members also engaged with students of the University of South Pacific (USP) in Honiara at a sporting event held at the Multi-Purpose Hall and outdoor Dome.



In May the Naha community sport field came alive with another engagement event involving members of RAPPP, SIAF and AFP with RSIPF officers from the National Community Policing Department, Bomb Disposal Department and Fire Service Department.



A similar event was held at the Honiara Secondary High School field in June. Kids and officers were divided into groups and played against each other, had BBQ sausages and played some more before the program ended in the afternoon. The event was a success with a great turnout of kids and parents.



RAPPP FITNESS TRAINERS COMPLETE CERTIFICATE III IN FITNESS

Two local fitness trainers, contracted by the AFP through RAPPP to support the RSIPF with their fitness and health needs, have successfully earned their Certificate III in Fitness.

Hency Charles and Janet Gwai, who are part of the RAPPP's Health and Wellbeing Project, completed this certification, which will significantly enhance their roles in supporting RSIPF officers.

Hency and Janet currently provide fitness training, develop programs and conduct health checks to ensure RSIPF officers maintain peak health and fitness for their demanding duties.

The Certificate III in Fitness, accredited by both the Australian Skills and Qualifications Authority (ASQA) and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), includes 60 units covering a broad spectrum of fitness-related topics.

These include contextualised training, rehabilitation, functional and compound training, client fitness assessments, personal training, nutrition and health and safety.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and internet connectivity issues that disrupted their studies, Hency and Janet persevered to achieve this significant qualification.

Hency described the training as enriching and transformative.

"The training provided insights into physical fitness beyond mere exercise. I'm grateful to the AFP for equipping me with tools that will support my development within the fitness industry for the rest of my life," he said. Janet also expressed her appreciation, noting the substantial impact of her qualification on her career.

"This achievement is a huge milestone for me. The training was challenging, but completing it and earning the qualification is a great relief. I am deeply thankful to the AFP for their support," Janet said.

The success of Hency and Janet highlights the ongoing commitment of the AFP to enhancing the capabilities and wellbeing of RSIPF officers, reinforcing the importance of health and fitness in effective policing.

► Hency Charles and Janet Gwai receiving their certificate from AFP Solomon Islands Commander, Heath Davies.



Maternity Uniform Introduced to Female RSIPF Officers

In January, RAPPP supported the RSIPF with the delivery of a new uniform for RSIPF female officers.

The delivery of the maternity uniform fulfilled an important initiative of the RSIPF's Women Advisory Network (WAN).

WAN's chairperson and Supervising Director of the RSIPF's Strategic Policy and Planning, Alice Roteku, led the project to introduce the maternity uniform.

The maternity uniform is similar in appearance to the RSIPF standard uniform. It includes a long pant or skirt option along with an adjustable shirt that maintains a professional look. RSIPF aims to be an inclusive workplace that actively supports and value the contribution of all officers. Female officers make up more than 15 percent of the RSIPF workforce and many of these officers seek to continue to work in uniform roles during pregnancy.

The availability of this maternity uniform recognises the valuable role female officers play within the RSIPF. The uniform will support their ongoing engagement in operational duties. The introduction of a maternity uniform in the RSIPF marks a significant milestone in promoting a supportive and inclusive environment within the RSIPF, reflecting both the dedication of the AFP and RSIPF to advancing gender equity in policing.



RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, receiving the maternity uniform from the AFP SI Commander, Heath Davies. Looking on (and photo 2) are female officers of the RSIPF displaying the uniform.

RAPPP CONDUCT HEALTH CHECK ON RSIPF OFFICERS



In mid-February, local fitness trainers Hency Charles and Janet Gwai visited Henderson Police Station to conduct health checks on officers.

Hency and Janet are contracted by the AFP through RAPPP and are part of the RAPPP's Health & Wellbeing Project. During the visit they conducted checks on about 30 officers mostly from the Station's Provincial Response Unit (PRU).

Among other things, Hency and Janet assessed officers' blood pressure, sugar level, heart rate, weight, height and Body Mass Index (BMI).

The RAPPP team also provided officers with personalised diet plans, training programs and valuable health advice. Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of the Station, Sergeant. Olga Junior Toata, said RSIPF officers work in challenging environment and faces significant health risks, including obesity and heart disease.

Sergeant. Toata said proactive health checks will ensure officers live long and are fit for duty.

He thanked RAPPP for their support in checking the health status of their officers, adding this is a crucial step in maintaining the overall wellbeing of RSIPF officers.



Hency Charles (above) and Janet Gwai conducting the health check at Henderson Police Station.

AFP and SIAF Members Donate to Blood Bank

In February, AFP and SIAF members volunteered to donate blood to the National Referral Hospital (NRH) Blood Bank through the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) and NRH Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donation Program.

During the month, the voluntary blood donation drive was able to collect 21 bags of blood.

SIRCS's Acting Health Manager and Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donation Program Officer, Sam Wa'aria, said the bags of blood they collected was a great humanitarian help.

"Our patients who will need it at the hospital will be able to get the needed blood transfusion required for their recovery", Wa'aria said.

Providing blood to the NRH will ensure blood is always on standby at the blood bank for any emergency that may require urgency for blood transfusion. AFP and SIAF members are regular blood donors.

An AFP member donating blood during the drive. ▶





RSIPF and AFP RAPPP Hand Over Laptops to Boost PSII Efficiency

In May, RAPPP provided two portable laptops to the RSIPF's Professional Standard Internal Investigation (PSII) Department. AFP Advisors, Director PSII, Chief Superintendent. Barry Rush Saukiu, and PSII officers witnessed the event.

The laptops, along with carry cases, were acquired through a grant from the Pacific Community for Law Enforcement Cooperation (PCLEC).

This new equipment represents a crucial step in enhancing the operational capabilities of the PSII, particularly as investigators often travel to remote provincial islands to handle disciplinary and criminal complaints. Prior to receiving this equipment, PSII investigators faced challenges in preparing typed and signed statements suitable for court or tribunal presentations due to limited access to computers and printers in remote areas.

The new portable laptops will address these issues by enabling the production of timely and accurate documentation, improving access to electronic investigation notes and reducing travel costs associated with remote investigations.

Chief Supt. Saukiu successfully secured the PCLEC grant with the support of AFP RAPPP Advisor, William Tooth.

"The laptops will greatly assist in finalising numerous outstanding provincial disciplinary cases," Chief Supt. Saukiu said.



AFP RAPPP Advisor, William Tooth, delivering the laptops to Chief Supt. Barry Rush Saukiu

RSIPF Strengthens Efforts Against Illicit Drug Shipments



In June, four RSIPF investigators participated in a weeklong training program in Australia to enhance RSIPF's ability to combat illicit drug shipments. The training program was made possible by the AFP through the RAPPP.

During the program, participating RSIPF officers visited various AFP and Australian Government facilities to learn about drug-related crime investigations.

They observed airport detection dogs, toured forensic facilities, explored emerging technologies and met with investigators there. They also visited airport facilities, exhibit storage facilities and analytical laboratories.

RAPPP Forensics Advisor Merrilyn Hurst, said the program aims to improve the RSIPF's drug investigation skills to combat transnational drug shipments.

Hurst said international cooperation in addressing illicit drug shipments need relationships which was also something RSIPF and AFP officers built during the weeklong program.

Officer In-Charge (OIC) of the RSIPF Forensics, Insp. Garnette Kwanairara Jnr, said the program he attended has been an eye-opener.

Insp. Kwanairara said they gained valuable insights about operations and partnerships in combating drug-related crimes in the Pacific Islands.

"We have indeed learned a lot from the demonstration of different capabilities tailored to combating illicit drug related crimes in Australia. This is an area we Pacific Island countries must strive to achieve, with or without the support of our external partners," Insp. Kwanairara added.

The AFP has affirmed its commitment to working with international partners to stay ahead of illicit drug crimes.

AFP Families Support Charitable Initiatives to Give Back to Community

During their time in Solomon Islands, spouses and dependents of deployed AFP members have been making connections with the local community and contributing where they can.

In particular, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to support the Red Cross Special Development Centre in Honiara.

The Red Cross Special Development Centre in Honiara is the country's sole special needs school, catering to 80 students annually with diverse disabilities. Historically, disability exclusion from education was prevalent in the Solomon Islands, but an inclusive education bill was recently ratified.

Some of the support provided has included:

A fundraiser and bake sale hosted by the AFP kids to raise much needed funds to purchase educational resources. Facilitating a donation of four wheelchairs to provide mobility for children with Cerebral Palsy from Wheelchairs for Kids. DHL, Rotary Brisbane and AFP all contributed to efforts to transport the wheelchairs to Honiara which were customised for the children.



Arranging the transportation of parts to repair broken or ill-fitting wheelchairs, a phone for a visually impaired teacher, additional mobility equipment, such as a walker for the physiotherapist and educational resources donated by teachers in Australia.

Obtaining a grant from The Commonwealth Fund which has been used to establish an educational initiative called "Taep for Laef." (Type for life). This initiative, which is also supported by Woodford International School and DFAT spouses, aims to train blind individuals in using technology and computers, empowering them to enter the workforce and pursue further education.

Helping the school to acquire a computer which will significantly improve teaching and learning within the school. This was made possible through a donation of parts from Woodford International School.

One of the AFP spouses said that engaging with and contributing to the community gives her great pleasure. The AFP's assistance with logistics and transport has been crucial in bringing about meaningful changes in the lives of children.

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