



26th February 2024

Exercise Coastwatchers kicks off as part of the preparation for the joint NGE24

The Exercise Coastwatchers (ECs) kicks off as part of the preparation for the joint National General Election 2024 (NGE24) and ongoing Solomon Island (SI)-Papua New Guinea (PNG) Border Operations, a statement highlighted by Superintendent Lionel Kapisa, Director Police Response Department (PRD) at the Rove Police Headquarters in Honiara on 26 February 2024 during the official opening of the ECs program.

A separate opening address at the RSIPF Maritime base at Aola was delivered by Inspector Kornelius Choney, Deputy Maritime Director and Inspector David Quiro, PRD to open the Small Boat Maintenance and Operator course.

ECs will run over the next three weeks and includes a number of courses aimed at developing the RSIPF's ability to conduct border operations, water mobility and public safety. Courses include Small Boats Maintenance and Handling, Low Risk Search, Border Surveillance, and a culminating activity.

In his opening address, Superintendent Kapisa reflected on the importance of ECs in building and maintaining RSIPF maritime and border surveillance capability as an island nation.

Colonel Bywater, Australian Defence Adviser for the Solomon Islands, said the series of courses delivered under ECs had been jointly designed and demonstrated the strong continued collaboration between the ADF and RSIPF.

ECs is Australia and Solomon Islands' premier bilateral exercise and is named after the Coastwatchers of World War II who worked with the heroic Solomon Scouts. The Exercise will run in Honiara from 26 February to 15 March 2024.

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Media inquiries

RSIPF Media Unit:
24016 or 23800 Ext 239

Email:
rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. Its mission is 'To provide a safe and peaceful Solomon Islands by strengthening relationships with the community'. The RSIPF strive to provide efficient and effective policing services for the Solomon Islands and expect RSIPF officers to adhere to the RSIPF values.

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