



21st March 2024

Exercise Coastwatchers wraps up, providing crucial training ahead of the National General Election

Over the past three weeks over 100 Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Officers participated in training delivered by the Australian Defence Force as part of Exercise Coastwatchers 24-1.

The jointly-designed courses included Orders Preparation, Low Risk Search, Small Boats Maintenance, Small Boats Handling and Border Surveillance.

The Exercise concluded with a culminating activity where RSIPF teams conducted a training mission involving illegal smuggling activities. During the activity, teams set up observation points to detect illegal activity and collect evidence for police investigators. They then coordinated the arrest of the smugglers utilising support from the RSIPF Drone Support Unit.

Speaking at the end of Exercise function at the Rove Police Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner National Operations, Evelyn Thugea, said this year's Exercise Coastwatchers formed a crucial part of the RSIPF's preparation ahead of the National General Election and ongoing Solomon Islands - Papua New Guinea Border Operations.

"The RSIPF greatly values the training provided under Exercise Coastwatchers. Participants have come away with increased capability in border operations, water mobility and public safety. These are crucial skills for our everyday work, but are also vital ahead of the RSIPF National General Election operation," Assistant Commissioner Thugea said.

Director National Respond Department (NRD) Superintendent Lionel Kapisa said that while it was a busy time for the RSIPF, the training under Exercise Coastwatchers was prioritised as it provided crucial capability.

Superintendent Kapisa said RSIPF officers were already implementing the skills learned during the Exercise on the front-line.

Colonel Bywater, Australian Defence Adviser for the Solomon Islands, said Exercise Coastwatchers was Australia and the Solomon Islands' premier bilateral exercise.

"It is fantastic to see the continued partnership between the RSIPF and Australian Defence Force. The Exercise is truly a two-way learning opportunity where participants from both countries can work together, learn new skills, and develop an increased understanding of each other's cultural and operational environments," Colonel Bywater said.

Assistant Commissioner Thugea congratulated a number of RSIPF officers for receiving high achievement awards during the Exercise.

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For any media inquiries

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The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. Its mission is 'To provide a safe, secure and peaceful Solomon Islands'. The RSIPF strive to provide efficient, capable and responsive policing service and expect RSIPF officers to adhere to the RSIPF values.

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The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. It's 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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