



20th October 2026

RSIPF Drone Support Unit Receives Four New Thermal Imaging Drones

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Drone Support Unit (DSU) has strengthened its operational capability with four new thermal imaging drones for policing operations across Solomon Islands.

The DJI Matrice 4 Thermal Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), provided through the RSIPF and Australian Federal Police (AFP) Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP), will support search and rescue operations, help locate missing people and assist police responding to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Equipped with advanced cameras and thermal imaging technology, the drones help officers locate people, assess emergencies and provide real-time information to officers and commanders during day and night operations.

Thermal imaging detects heat signatures that may not be visible through standard cameras, making it particularly valuable during searches and emergency responses in low-light conditions or areas with limited visibility.

Their compact design allows easier transport and faster deployment, giving the RSIPF greater flexibility to provide aerial support in different locations.

The new aircraft complement the DSU's existing training, skills and operational experience, supporting operational tasks and informed police decision-making.

The additional aircraft strengthen the DSU's ability to respond to emergencies, assist frontline officers and support safer communities across Solomon Islands. The RSIPF acknowledges the AFP's continued support through RAPPP, including the provision of the four new drones.

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Photo 1: RSIPF Assistant Commissioner Lionel Kapisa, RAPPP National Operations Superintendent Dave Williams, RAPPP Advisor Phill Anderson and DSU officers.



Photo 2: RSIPF Assistant Commissioner Lionel Kapisa poses with Drone Support Unit officers following the drone handover.

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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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