

Media Release



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AFP celebrates RAMSI Anniversary

Australian Federal Police (AFP) Deputy Commissioner John Lawler is travelling to the Solomon Islands today to personally acknowledge the efforts of Australian police and protective services officers involved with the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) during the celebrations of the Mission's second anniversary.

Deputy Commissioner Lawler will join with other senior police representatives from Australia and the Pacific to participate in a range of community based events organised to celebrate their successful partnership to undertake accountable and sustainable law enforcement operations.

The AFP lead law enforcement operation commenced in the Solomon Islands on 24 July 2003. Two years on, AFP Federal Agent Will Jamieson will be deputised as the third (AFP) Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Solomon Islands Police and Commander of the Participating Police Force.

The second anniversary also sees the Participating Police Force (PPF) in its third phase with emphasis on training and capacity development of the Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP).

The PPF involves officers from Australia (294) and ten other Pacific nations – New Zealand (31), Cook Islands (2), Samoa (9), Fiji (13), Tonga (12), Kiribati (5), Vanuatu (5), Nauru (4), Papua New Guinea (10) and Tuvalu (2).

Deputy Commissioner Lawler said the results of RAMSI speak for themselves with thousands of firearms and rounds of ammunition removed from the streets, and 6646 people arrested and charged with 9726 offences.

“It has been a very challenging but rewarding experience for Australian and Pacific police who are working alongside their RSIP counterparts as they maintain law and order and build a strong community policing presence,” said Deputy Commissioner Lawler.

“We have seen the restoration of basic law, order and security, removal of illegal weapons from the streets and the establishment of 17 outposts in the provinces in a concerted effort to prevent crime across Solomon Islands, prosecute criminal activities and develop the policing skills of RSIP members based in those areas.”

“As we move into the longer term phase of the operation our focus is on ongoing mentoring and formal training for RSIP members as they continue to develop into a strong police service in the region.”

“I am proud to see our members working alongside the RSIP to undertake capacity development to ensure sustainable law enforcement operations and helping to build a strong rapport between the local police and the community they serve,” said Deputy Commissioner Lawler.

Media Enquiries

AFP Media Team Canberra - 0408 270 408