

PPF Commander Will Jamieson farewelled in Honiara

By Mandi Meldrum, PPF Marketing and Media

After two years at the helm of RAMSI's Participating Police Force (PPF) and as Deputy Commissioner of the Solomon Island Police Force (SIPF), Will Jamieson has handed over his sword at a formal ceremony at the Rove Police parade ground in Honiara.

Arriving to the tune of 'Simply the Best' played by the SIPF band, the Commander gave his final address. "This tune is not a statement about me, but a goal and aspiration for all – this is what we aim for – let this be your goal and achievement," Commander Jamieson said.

"I would remind each one of you of your oath of office that requires you to execute the powers and duties of your office honestly, faithfully and diligently without fear or favour to any person and with malice or ill-will towards none."

Commander Jamieson was honoured by recently appointed SIPF Commissioner Jahir Kahn for his commitment and dedication to improving the capacity of the SIPF during his tenure. Commissioner Kahn noted a number of significant achievements implemented under Commander Jamieson's leadership, including:

- The introduction of project plans for work areas, SIPF business plans and gap analysis processes
- The establishment of a disciplined reporting regime along with evaluation and quality assurance
- The establishment of the SIPF Capacity Development Management Team to address identified gaps in SIPF capacity
- A review of the region's policing structure
- Modernising and standardising the recruitment selection process
- Increasing the number of female police officers
- The training of more than 350 new police
- The introduction of a Use of Force model, a National Response Unit and a Police Response Team
- Police leadership training for all ranks
- The introduction of specialist courses dealing with sex crime investigations, CID core skills, close personal protection, operational safety training, explosive ordnance and domestic violence
- The provision of 20 vessels to the SIPF Maritime Unit, and further support from the Australian Government with the provision of three new Tier II boats
- The provision of 31 policing vehicles
- The creation of community policing programs and improved mobile patrols

Commander Jamieson said he was very proud of the achievements of the PPF and SIPF over the past two years.

"I have seen very positive results. The work and training that the PPF has provided has developed and strengthened the SIPF," he said.

"We are here in partnership; the relationship between the SIPF and the PPF strives to ensure the SIPF can deliver an efficient, effective and accountable police service to the Solomon Islands community".

Commander Jamieson performed a final inspection of the Guard of Honour before handing the ceremonial sword to his successor, Commander Denis McDermott.

RAMSI Special Coordinator Tim George also thanked Commander Jamieson for his strong leadership of the multinational PPF contingent which draws personnel from 15 Pacific nations.

"Through close partnership with the SIPF, the PPF have worked hard to rebuild the capacity of the Solomon Island Police Force. Since 2003, 350 new recruits have been trained, senior positions in the SIPF have been filled by local officers, and strong management and accountability systems have been established. This is a record to which Solomon Islanders and the PPF can be proud of."

On reflection, Commander Jamieson hailed the PPF as an incredible police force.

"its amazing - the efforts of every individual from 15 countries in the pacific - this is unique in the world, and it's a remarkable achievement from every perspective."

Commander Jamieson will return to Australia to commence the position of Manager Learning and Development.

Wednesday 18 July 2007