



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

EXERCISE COASTWATCHERS TRAINING HITS THE WATER

12 MARCH 2026

Exercise Coastwatchers continues this week, with the RSIPF and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) demonstrating their skills on the water.

As part of the exercise, RSIPF and ADF members are undertaking courses on small boat maintenance and operations. This will see members sharpening their skills, ensuring these vital assets are ready to be used, as well as learning how to plan and execute operations involving them.

From today, members from both Solomon Islands and Australia will depart Honiara and head out to Guadalcanal, Central, and Malaita Provinces to test these skills. This will see the members working through planned operations that were developed in Week One of the exercise.

These small boat operations allow the RSIPF to practice how they might respond to a range of scenario, such as border patrols, search and rescue, or responses to natural disaster.

Small boat skills are essential for both Solomon Islands and Australia, two nations that rely on the ocean for trade and economic development. They help both the RSIPF and the ADF to protect their country's security, resources, and economies.

Exercise Coastwatchers runs from 6 March to 1 April.

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PHOTOS & CAPTIONS



Photo 1: RSIPF and ADF members work to maintain engines on ADF gifted boats.



Photo 2: RSIPF and ADF members exercising boat operations, as part of Exercise Coastwatchers.



Photo 3: RSIPF members practicing skills in boat maintenance.



Photo 4: RSIPF members learning skills in boat maintenance.