



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

RSIPF MEMBERS UNDERTAKE MARITIME TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA

18 JUNE 2026

Police Constables Melville Manetoea and Justin Apa have recently been undertaking training alongside the Australian Defence Force in Australia taking part in courses to help deal with emergencies at sea.

The two RSIPF members took part in Survivability and Damage Control courses with their ADF colleagues, to build their skills in working in the RSIPF Maritime Department.

This training is part of the ADF's Defence Cooperation Program with the Solomon Islands, which has been operating since 1982. The RSIPF and ADF have a long history of cooperation in the Maritime space, since the donation of the first Pacific Patrol Boat *RSIPV Lata* to the Solomon Islands 44 years ago.

Since then, RSIPF members have been training together with the ADF to build skills and knowledge as partners in the Pacific.

PCs Manetoea and Apa built skills in firefighting at sea, how to undertake repairs and damage control activities while at sea, learning alongside their Australia Navy colleagues.

Captain Emma Griffiths, Defence Adviser to Solomon Islands said, 'the ADF and RSIPF have a long and proud history of working together as partners in Maritime. We regularly have RSIPF members training alongside ADF members building and sharing skills, especially from the RSIPF Maritime Department.'

'These courses focussed on the practical skills you need at sea to keep yourself and your shipmates safe, and are a vital part of taking a ship to sea. As a Navy officer, I understand how vital these skillsets are when on a ship, and are pleased that the ADF and RSIPF are working together to share their knowledge and skills.'

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PHOTOS & CAPTIONS

Photo 1:



Caption: Police Constables Justin Apa and Melville Manetoea after completing a firefighting training at the School of Ships Safety and Survivability.

Photo 2:



Caption: Police Constable Justin Apa conducts a pipe repair during the leak stop training stand at the School of Ships Safety and Survivability.

Photo 3:



Caption: Police Constables Melville Manetoea and Justin Apa conduct a door entry to fight a simulated fire at the School of Ships Safety and Survivability

Photo 4:



Caption: Police Constable Melville Manetoea manoeuvres a piece of shoring into place during a Damage Control training stand at the School of Ships Safety and Survivability.

Photo 5:



Caption: Police Constables Melville Manetoea and Justin Apa fight a simulated fire at the School of Ships Safety and Survivability.

Photo 6:



Caption: Police Constables Melville Manetoea and Justin Apa fight a simulated fire at the School of Ships Safety and Survivability.