



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

RSIPF MEMBERS JOIN OPERATION RENDER SAFE

2 JULY 2026

Two Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) specialists have bolstered a multi-national operation to safely remove the danger posed by World War II-era Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in Pacific Island countries.

They embarked on Pacific Support Vessel, Australian Defence Vessel Reliant in Honiara on 25 June, bound for Tuvalu to assist with the technical reconnaissance of Nanumea Lagoon.

Under Operation RENDER SAFE, Sergeant Patterson Filiga and Police Constable Barnabas Talo are assisting Royal Australian Navy Clearance Divers with an underwater survey to inform the Government of Tuvalu of the extent of UXO within the lagoon.

This operation expands on previous survey efforts from 2022.

"This mission is important because it helps protect the people and the environment," Sergeant Filiga said.

"We have experienced situations where people have been injured and lives have been lost; it's a good thing to be a part of RENDER SAFE so we can contribute to the safety of the Pacific and take care of the same problems back home."

Sergeant Filiga and Police Constable Talo have disposed of tens-of-thousands of munitions over their decades'-long careers.

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force department technicians respond to requests to dispose of UXO 24-hours a day, including planing operations in remote communities.

The team will safely dispose of three to four thousand items a year.

Royal Australian Navy Chief Petty Officer Thomas Buchanan is the ADF EOD Advisor embedded with the RSIPF EOD department.

"They get at least three callouts to dispose of UXO a week. When they are not responding to requests they are planning remote missions to the outer provinces," Chief Petty Officer Buchanan said.

“It’s a day in and day out operation for these guys and we’re very fortunate to have them along sharing their breadth of experience with the team.”

The ADF has been working with Pacific partners to build regional collective EOD capability through Operation RENDER SAFE for more than 20 years.

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PHOTOS:

Photo 1:



Caption1: Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Explosive Ordinance Disposal
Department Sergeant Patterson Filiga onboard ADV Reliant during Operation
Render Safe 26-2.

Photo 2:



Caption 2: Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Explosive Ordinance Disposal Department Police Constable Barnabas Talo onboard ADV Reliant during Operation Render Safe 26-2.

Photo 3:



Caption 3: (L-R) Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Explosive Ordinance Disposal Department Sergeant Patterson Filiga, Royal Australian Navy sailor, Chief Petty Officer Clearance Diver Thomas Buchanan and Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Explosive Ordinance Disposal Department Police Constable Barnabas Talo onboard ADV Reliant during Operation Render Safe 26-2.