

Media Release

## 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **RSIPF** officers better equipped to combat transnational crime

Four officers of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) have boosted their skills in drug and digital forensics after completing the Forensic Phase Two Instrument Training, delivered by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) through the RSIPF-AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP).

Over four days, the participants furthered their skills in drug intelligence gathering and sharing. The training included drug sampling using the newly gifted Raman spectrometer and Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) drug testing instruments. Attendees learnt how to use the new instruments to test and identify drugs, precursors, alcohol and explosives.

The training will help the RSIPF combat transnational crime. RSIPF can now detect drugs imported into Solomon Islands, record drug package information, identify drugs and share this with RSIPF intelligence. These skills will enhance investigations in Solomon Islands and the Pacific region.

RAPPP Forensic Advisor and course instructor, Mr. Ashley Williams, said the participants did well to complete the highly technical course.

"The RSIPF officers were enthusiastic and committed throughout the course and I am excited to see how they use these new skills," Mr Williams said.

RSIPF Supervising Assistant Commissioner for Crime and Intelligence, Rodney Wheatney, said the expertise provided in the training was vital to the RSIPF.

"I encourage the RSIPF officers to use the training as a stepping stone to improving their capability and to help raise the standard of policing services delivered by the RSIPF," Assistant Commissioner Wheatney said.

He added "this type of training is rare and first of its kind within the RSIPF, and I thank the RAPPP for its role in creating this capability".

The RAPPP will continue to assist RSIPF build its forensics capabilities to enhance investigations outcomes.

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