

Peace Support Operations

V2

NZP, n.d.[d]

peacekeeping

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New Zealand P

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Solomon Islands

In 2003, the New Zealand police joined a programme (RAMSI) to restore law and order.

The Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands government called on international police from its public institutions and help re-build infrastructure.

At this time, the Royal Solomon Islands Police had removed corrupt police members, so called 'special forces' from cabinet ministers with the use of high-tech police armoury.

New Zealand police were deployed under RAMSI to act as part of an international police force to help in the conviction and arrest of several corrupt police members in top levels of police management.

Since then, they have worked in an operational policing capacity alongside the RSIP.

Prior to the establishment of RAMSI, the New Zealand and Australian police were involved in the Solomon Islands Policing Project (SIPP)

SIPP was created after a short civil war in 2001 that was triggered by an ethnic conflict. It is estimated that approximately 1000 people died in the armed conflict.

General tasks

The agreement made between the Solomon Islands government and fifteen contributing countries involved in RAMSI, established the following goals -

- Repair and reform the machinery of government, improve government accountability and improve the delivery of services in urban and provincial areas
- Improve economic governance and strengthen the government's financial systems
- Help rebuild the economy and encourage sustainable broad-based growth
- Build strong and peaceful communities
- New Zealand police working under the RAMSI agreement helped to eliminate corruption in the top levels of police management. In January 2005, RAMSI entered the next phase of 'capacity building' which involves working to re-build the police infrastructure.

Project Description

RAMSI is a long-term partnership to ensure that the general infrastructure of the country is in good working order. Improving the overall transport infrastructure in aviation, shipping and roading is a key priority as well as building integral government services, such as policing.

Timeline

- **2000** - Both the Australian and New Zealand Defense Forces enter into the Solomon Islands to restore after armed conflict erupts.
- **Nov 2000** - An unarmed Australia/New Zealand International Peace Monitoring Team is established following a peace settlement between the combatants. The team, which consists of Police and Defence staff, commences the restoration of peace and public confidence in the Solomon Islands.
- **2001** - The New Zealand Police enters the region under the Solomon Island Policing Project.
- **2003** - Operation Galaxy is launched. The first significant police contingent is deployed to the Solomon Islands under the RAMSI agreement.
- **Jan 2005** - RAMSI moves into policing capacity development role.

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- Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)
- Solomon Islands - CIA World Fact Book
- Solomon Islands - New Zealand Defence Force

Further reading

- Solomon's service comes to an end - Community Edition