

International Council of Police Representative Associations (ICPRA)
Conference, 19 – 21 October 2008, Wellington, New Zealand

The extent of current/recent international deployments

The Cook Islands has deployed police officers to the Solomon Islands since 2001 in partnership with the Royal New Zealand Police Contingent initially under the International Police Monitoring Team (IPMT). Currently, Cook Islands Police officers are deployed under the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) with Australia and Pacific Islands countries.

Expected future demands/trends in demand

The Cook Islands Police will continue to assist with regional missions in the Pacific. A number of officers are in their second tour of duty to the Solomon Islands. The future demand by Cook Island police officers is for its members to expand their role into United Nations Peacekeeping missions. The mechanics of undertaking this role is very difficult and almost impossible. As New Zealand passport holders and in free association with New Zealand, there is a need to collaborate with possibly the New Zealand Police and further develop the capacity to make this a reality and not based on false hopes. Security is a global issue and law enforcement agencies must take a leading role in a more safer and secure environment.

Civilian/Non-sworn or sworn

The Cook Islands Police deploys sworn officers on regional deployment. Previous missions have a 50/50 male/female complement. There is no demand to expand to utilize non-sworn or civilian staff.

Any key issues from association/jurisdiction perspective

- Cook Islands not a member of the United Nations
- Cook Islands reliant on New Zealand for External Affairs and Defence, however the Cook Islands has been taking hold of its own security
- Reciprocal agreement between NZ Police and Cook Islands Police for international deployment
- Cook Islands Police Association (CIPA) support its members on overseas deployment
- Move towards UN Peacekeeping training, what is demand? Type of Training? Standardizing all peacekeeping training.

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