



Australian Government
Department of Defence

International Policy Division

GEN Angus J. Campbell, AO, DSC

Chief of the Defence Force

Visit to Pacific Region

22-28 January 2022

Briefing Pack

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS PACK TO THE DEFENCE
MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL VISITS TEAM**

ATTN: MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL VISITS OFFICER

LOCATION: s47E(d)

RUSSELL OFFICES

s47E(d)

16/01/2023 18:34

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Fiji

Common Messages

TALKING POINTS

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BACKGROUND

Reciprocal Personnel Exchanges

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As of 2023, we will host two embedded officers in the ADF, one in 7th Brigade s22



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Senior RFMF embeds in the ADF

Defence is currently scoping the embed locations for two senior RFMF officers in 2024. At the CDF-CRFMF meeting on the sidelines of JHOPS on 9 November, it was agreed that the two RFMF officers attending DSSC in 2023 would be the appropriate inaugural senior officer embeds.

The two officers are Colonel Ben Naliva and s22 s33(a)(iii)



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Defence is currently considering the mechanics of embedding COL Naliva as a 'deputy commander' in 7th Brigade. DA Fiji is working with DCA's staff to formalise this arrangement.

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**Chief of Army Talking Points For Tri-lateral Meetings with
Commander Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), Land Forces
Commander and Chief of the New Zealand Army – 19 April 2023**

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Personnel Exchanges

- People-to-people links continue to be an important part of our defence relationship.
 - We have worked with your staff to identify courses that will assist in rebuilding specialist infantry, engineer and logistic skillsets.
- Defence is formalising an ongoing arrangement for two RFMF members at the 0-4 level to embed into the ADF on an annual basis.
- We also value the reciprocal exchange of embed officers in senior appointments across the ADF.
 - We are looking forward to Colonel Ben Naliva's secondment next year into our 7th Brigade as the Deputy Commander.

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BACKGROUND

Readiness and Interoperability

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Following the DMM in Oct 22, Defence is scoping embed locations for 2 senior RFMF officers (O-6) in 2024. At the CDF-CRFMF meeting on 9 November, it was agreed the 2 RFMF officers attending DSSC in 2023 would be the appropriate inaugural senior officer embeds.

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Key Issues

3. The DCP Seconded Officers Program (the Program) is a long standing investment s33(a)(iii) establishing enduring people-to-people links, enhancing interoperability and supporting joint capability development initiatives. The Program currently supports secondments across the Pacific at lower levels (O-4 and below) at tactical or operational levels.

4. Expanding the Program to include officers at the command level (O-4 to O-6) will elevate bilateral cooperation, enhance interoperability between our forces and provide additional professional development pathways for our Pacific family.

5. We require your formal direction to the Chief of Army s22 to make these positions permanent. The secondments will be for a period of one year for Fiji s22 and will be designed based on current strategic and relationship priorities. The proposed positions are as follows:

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b. **RFMF:** Deputy Commander or equivalent position (O-6).

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6. The host units were selected based on their potential to provide relevant on-the-job experience to the officers, and to consolidate their training with practical opportunities in units where they have habitual relationships.

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8. International Policy Division will facilitate administrative arrangements in consultation with the relevant host units. All costs will be funded and managed by International Policy Division. Any requests for supplementary funding will be made through the Budget process.

9. Defence does not currently have a Security of Information Agreement or Arrangement with s22 Fiji s22 for the exchange or reciprocal protection of classified information. The security risks will be managed in accordance with the Defence Security Principles Framework (DSPF).

10. s33(a)(iii) the secondment arrangements require International Policy Division to complete a Security Risk Assessment (SRA) for consideration and approval by the Chief Security Officer. The SRA for each seconded officer will support their Baseline clearance, foreign release, and IT system access approval from Defence Security Division and CIOG respectively. International Policy Division will prepare the SRA, sponsor the clearances, and

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engage the DSPF Control Owners to prioritise requests for necessary access to Defence facilities and IT systems.

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Consultation

12. The following people were consulted on this brief:

- a. Mr Simon Buckley, Assistant Secretary Security Policy and Services, Defence Security Division.
- b. s22 Director Strategic and International Security Policy, Defence Security Division.
- c. s22 Deputy Defence Chief Information Security Officer, ICT Security Branch.
- d. s22 Director International Engagement, Army. Army is providing a noting brief to Chief of Army at the same time as this brief, which aligns with the recommendations of this submission.
- e. s22, Director International Engagement, Navy.
- f. s22 Defence Adviser to Papua New Guinea.
- g. s22 Defence Adviser to Fiji.
- h. s22 Defence Adviser South Pacific.

Attachments:

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B. Letter to COM RFMF

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CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

EC23-000696

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Republic of Fiji Military Forces
RFMF Headquarters
Suva City Central
FIJI

Dear

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I write to formally offer the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) two O-6 level secondment positions within the Australian Defence Force (ADF), as agreed to at the 2022 Australia-Fiji Defence Ministers' Meeting.

Your officers would undertake their secondments as Deputy Commander of the Australian Army's 7th Brigade, s22. I propose these positions are offered as two-year secondments, commencing in 2024. However, I understand the RFMF may prefer one-year secondments for both positions on this occasion, and can confirm that the ADF is happy to accommodate this.

The secondments would be established under the existing Defence Cooperation Seconded Officer Program, and would include ADF funded allowances and support for the seconded members. Under this program, seconded officers would build enduring relationships, and acquire knowledge and experience that they will take forward in their military careers.

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My point of contact for this matter is s22, Australia's Defence Adviser to Fiji. s22 is available to liaise with you and your staff to finalise the details of the proposed secondments, and can be contacted by email at s22 or by telephone on s22.

Yours sincerely

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Angus J Campbell, AO, DSC
General
Chief of the Defence Force

13 April 2023