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RAMSI Offers Condolences to Tsunami Affected Nations

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The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) today offered its condolences to the Governments and people of Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa following the tragic loss of life caused by the recent tsunami.

RAMSI Special Coordinator, Graeme Wilson, said the thoughts and prayers of all RAMSI personnel were with the two RAMSI participating nations, Samoa and Tonga as well as their pacific neighbour, American Samoa, at this time of terrible loss and devastation.

“Our hearts go out to all them, especially our past and present colleagues, at this difficult time,” Mr Wilson said in a statement issued to coincide with the day of national mourning being observed in Samoa today.

Both Samoa and Tonga make a very important contribution to RAMSI’s partnership with Solomon Islands through the police, defence and civilian personnel they provide he said.

Mr Wilson said the mission also extended their sympathies to those in Australia and New Zealand who had lost love ones and colleagues as a result of last month’s tsunami.

The Commander of RAMSI Participating Police Force, Wayne Buchhorn, said that all officers from Samoa and Tongan officers had been offered compassionate leave to allow them to return home.

Four members of the seven-strong Samoan contingent who are from areas directly affected by the tsunami left on Saturday he said.

“It is appropriate at this time of need in their own nations that out our members have the opportunity to return home and be where they are needed most,” Mr Buchhorn said.

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