



NZDF MARITIME PATROL SUPPORT TO FIJI

- The New Zealand Defence Force has deployed a Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) Inshore Patrol Vessel – HMNZS TAUPO – to Fiji to conduct maritime patrols in support of the Republic of Fiji Navy.
- This is the second consecutive year that the NZDF is providing maritime patrol support to Fiji.
- New Zealand’s Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has two Fishery Officers embarked on TAUPO to assist with boarding and inspection of vessels.
- In 2017, the NZDF deployed HMNZS HAWEA to help patrol Fiji’s Exclusive Economic Zone.
- During its seven-month deployment to Fiji, HAWEA completed 13 combined fisheries and customs patrols. Each patrol lasted about a week. About 550 vessels were inspected and 110 alleged infringements were detected during these patrols.
- Around 60 per cent of the total infringements detected were considered major breaches by the Fiji authorities. These included fishing without a licence, dumping rubbish at sea, lack of work permits and safety infringements such as not holding master’s licences and life jackets.
- About 50 Fiji Navy sailors, 27 Customs Officers and 19 Fishery Officers also trained on HAWEA.
- Personnel from Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, and the Republic of Fiji Navy planned and led the patrols. New Zealand’s Ministry for Primary Industries had compliance officers on HAWEA providing support during the patrols.
- Combined training was achieved between the RNZN and the RFN as crewmembers of HAWEA learned about the Fijian waters, reef navigation and the local culture from the Fiji officers and sailors. Up to 4 RFN sailors joined the ship for training every time it went on patrols.

HMNZS TAUPO: Her Role And Capabilities

- HMNZS TAUPO is one of the Royal New Zealand Navy’s Lake-class IPVs.
- The IPVs’ primary mission is to ensure the security and prosperity of New Zealanders by undertaking maritime security patrols, surveillance, boarding operations and response to search and rescue call-outs.
- The IPVs have fully automated control and navigation systems, powerful engines, and modern communications and surveillance systems. Using their two Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBs), the IPVs can undertake boarding operations and surveillance, and transport personnel. The ships are highly manoeuvrable and capable of speeds of up to 25 knots (46 kilometres per hour).
- The ships regularly support the operations of other government agencies. They have a complement of 24 naval personnel and four Government agency officers. They can host additional personnel onboard for general naval training or other duties.
- Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Benjamin Flight, RNZN