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PNG and Australia keep building Defence intelligence relationship

Papua New Guinea Defence Force Chief of Defence Intelligence, Colonel Dominic Bulungol, and his Australian counterpart, Director Defence Intelligence Organisation Air Vice Marshal John McGarry, held the annual Defence Intelligence Exchange on 12 August at Defence Headquarters, Murray Barracks.

The intelligence exchange promotes intelligence cooperation through sharing of perspectives on matters of shared regional interest. Presentations covered regional security matters, with a particular focus on maritime security. Participants at the intelligence exchange noted the strong action taken by PNG to combat human trafficking through the recent operation in Daru, which was underpinned by strong interagency information-sharing in PNG and collaboration and information-sharing with counterpart Australian agencies.

Colonel Bulungol and Air Vice Marshal McGarry also discussed ways to continue to strengthen the intelligence relationship, including conducting more exchanges, visits, collaboration and capacity building activities. This includes short-term exchange attachments of analysts to PNG and Australia, as well as sharing information on topics of mutual interest. All of these activities are aimed at maintaining and enhancing the joint and individual security of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Colonel Bulungol said: “The intelligence exchange was fruitful and I in particular welcomed the focus on maritime security. Maritime security is a very significant challenge for PNG, and for our region, and sharing perspectives on these matters with our partners is essential to protect our regional security. I look forward to the increased cooperation between our two organisations, particularly as PNG prepares for major events such as APEC 2018.”

Air Vice Marshal McGarry said: “We value greatly our longstanding intelligence relationship with the PNGDF and are always glad to meet up with our friends. I am particularly happy with the increased analyst exchanges between our two organisations, which will build the skills of PNG and Australian staff and help us broaden our perspectives on regional security matters.”

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