

## Indo-Pacific Endeavour

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The ADF has an ongoing focus to ensure that the key Women, Peace and Security thematic pillars; Protection, Participation, Prevention, Empowerment and Perspective are actively incorporated into all exercises and operations with ADF participation. This focus was prevalent during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017, which involved ADF Joint Task Group participation in a series of exercises with some of Australia's key regional partners including Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Brunei, Timor-Leste, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Enhanced military cooperation and empowering local women were important aspects of the ADF's contribution. A number of HMAS Parramatta's female sailors and officers attended a Women's Leadership Forum in the Federated States of Micronesia in Sep 17, which was the first time a forum of this nature had been held in Yap. The leadership forum was facilitated by the Gender Advisor to Yap; and attended by Yap women in key leadership roles, and emerging women leaders.

The aim of the forum was women's empowerment, which was achieved by enabling participants to exchange leadership experiences at all levels and across different cultures. The forum provided an opportunity for ADF women to share their own experiences, and discuss how the Royal Australian Navy is actively promoting WPS and women in leadership through targeted strategy, policy and initiatives. This exchange of ideas and experiences created important bonds between attendees which will be beneficial to future ADF engagements and activities in the Indo-Pacific region.



Maritime Logistics Officer HMAS Parramatta, Lieutenant Commander Natasha Connew, meets with Linda Teteth and June Sue at the Women's Leadership Forum held in Yap, Micronesia.



Maritime Logistics Officer HMAS Parramatta, Lieutenant Commander Natasha Connew, Deputy Weapons Electrical Engineer, Lieutenant Monica Tabulo and Petty Officer Maritime Logistics - Support Operations Belinda Bourke meet with Linda Teteth at the Women's Leadership forum held in Yap, Micronesia