



THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

MR DAMIAN HALE MP
Member for Solomon

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NT employers stretch themselves with Defence

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, and the Member for Solomon, Mr Damian Hale MP, have thanked some of Australia's leading employers for volunteering to learn more about Australian Defence Force Reserves, through participation in an upcoming Exercise Executive Stretch (EES) in the Northern Territory.

Staff from Coffey International, MacDonnell Shire Council, Australian Industry Defence Network – NT, Cridlands MB Lawyers, Australia Post, and various NT and Commonwealth Government Departments are among those participating in the activity from 15 to 17 April 2010, held within the Darwin/Palmerston Military Area.

EES, coordinated by Defence Reserves Support, is aimed specifically at middle and senior management. It is designed to allow the employers an opportunity to experience a range of activities that show them the invaluable skills that can be gained through participation in the Australian Defence Force Reserves.

Dr Kelly said EES was an excellent opportunity for the Australian Defence Force to demonstrate the benefits of Reserve service to employers and supervisors of Reservists who have no prior experience of the military.

"Participants in Exercise Executive Stretch are genuinely surprised at the nature and extent of the skills taught in the Reserve," Dr Kelly said.

"Skills such as leadership, public speaking, self-confidence, initiative, discipline and motivation are critical to the Reserve and, of course, are equally relevant to the civilian workplace."

"All this comes as a bonus to employers of Reservists and Exercise Executive Stretch is the opportunity for employers to experience first hand how this is achieved in the Reserve."

Damian Hale MP applauded local businesses involved in the initiative.

"The exercise is a great opportunity for local industry to be a part of a challenging and rewarding program that will benefit their employees and the workplace as well" said Mr Hale.

"The Australian Defence Force Reserves is an important program in Australia and the Exercise Executive Stretch is a great approach to encourage businesses and individuals to get involved."

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