



Australian Government
Department of Defence



Government
of South Australia
South Australian
Fire and Emergency
Services Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

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Police and Emergency Services Join Forces with Defence

Memorandums of Understanding to support Defence Reservists who are employed with South Australia's Police and emergency services were signed with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) today.

South Australia Police, represented by Commissioner Mal Hyde, the Country Fire Service, represented by Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, Metropolitan Fire Service Chief Officer Grant Lupton AFSM and State Emergency Services, represented by Acting Chief Officer Matt Maywald joined with Head Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division Major General Greg Melick to sign the MOUs.

Major General Melick said the MOUs will allow each organisation and the ADF to develop a mutual understanding and agreed terms for the deployment of staff who are members of both organisations.

The aim is for the MOUs is to create a more transparent approach and better management of a shared workforce.

“Reservists bring valuable life and work skills back to their civilian workplaces and that includes our nation’s emergency services,” said Major General Melick.

SAPOL has around 160 staff who are also reservists. Commissioner Mal Hyde said Reservists and police officers share similar skill requirements, including high-level decision-making and team-work.

“Enabling SAPOL members to participate in Reservist activities and deployments strengthens their ability to carry out police work back home. There is no doubt Defence training provided to SAPOL members is beneficial to the South Australian community,” Commissioner Hyde said.

David Place the Chief Executive of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission's (SAFECOM) says the CFS, SES and MFS also have a number of staff and volunteers who are active reservists.

"We find that there are great synergies between the emergency services and the ADF Reserves," Mr Place said.

As police and emergency services employ a large number of ADF Reservists, it provides challenges in balancing the needs of the employer and the ADF.

While there may be less inherent flexibility in working arrangements within some workplaces, an agreed and appropriate approach in dealing with a 'shared workforce' can mitigate most issues in an equitable and mutually beneficial manner.

The South Australian police and emergency services follow Tasmania in signing up to MOUs with Defence.

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