



Bosses check out reserves

MARTIN WATTERS

A PORTARLINGTON boss has returned from the Malaysian jungle after getting a better idea of Australia's "weekend warriors".

Geoff Fary went to last week's Operation Bosslift — a trip for employers to see what Army Reserve soldiers got up to while away from their workplace.

Mr Fary, the ACTU's assistant secretary, was recently appointed to the Defence Reserve Support Committee.

He said it was vital to see the troops in their other day jobs.

He joined 20 bosses visiting the company of troops on a three-month training deployment in the jungles of southern Malaysia.

"It was a vital fam-



WEEKEND WARRIOR: Geoff Fary back home from Bosslift.

iliarisation trip for me," Mr Fary said.

"I was surprised at the range of activities they were involved in.

"The other thing I noticed was the extraordinary range of diverse jobs that Reserves have in real life — and they don't switch that off when they put on their uniforms."

Mr Fary was Defence Minister Robert Ray's chief of staff 17 years ago during the first Gulf War, but he now has an updated idea of Diggers serving overseas.

"The survival training was fairly confronting for some people, including myself, but it shows the realistic nature of the exercises," he said.