



Bosses get first-hand look at staff in action

Army Reserve takes employers into field

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KATE Ames usually stands behind a lectern. When she's not lecturing at CQUniversity, the Rockhampton woman is standing in camouflage behind a gun. Major Kate Ames is a member of the Australian Army Reserves and recently returned from a four-month training activity in Malaysia.

Her trip was part of

Operation Bosslift, where employers travel with their reserve employees to see them in action.

"It is amazing to see an army reservist in a totally different environment doing totally different skills," Kate said.

Someone cooking full time at a pizza franchise might be an infantry soldier with the reserve, she said.

"The level of responsibility in the army reserve is greater than their civilian life."

Kate said she had been part of the army reserves for about 12 years.

They have done four trips each year since 2002 to different areas including Malaysia and the Solomon Islands, she said.

Skills learned, such as teamwork and time management, were easy to incorporate into her workplace.

"We went into a jungle training area in Malaysia doing survival training ... employers were impressed with

that, their eyes were very much opened.

"They were impressed with the attitude (because) it's very easy in that kind of situation to get grumpy and cranky."

Former Rockhampton businesswoman Margaret Goody has also been involved in the overseas operation.

Part of the Defence Reserve Support Council Queensland, Ms Goody said Operation Bosslift was not only about managing and

firepower.

"It's also around teamwork and leadership, self confidence ... they do a lot of training around those aspects," she said.

Ms Goody said there was a lot of depth and complexity to what the reservists learned.

"If an employer of a reservist gets the opportunity to go, take it because it's only about a week out of your working life but what you will learn about what happens is pretty mind-blowing."





FIRE POWER: Former Rockhampton businesswoman Margaret Goody takes part in Operation Bosslift in Malaysia.

ON TASK: CQUniversity lecturer Major Kate Ames training with the army reserves in Malaysia and (insert) with Brigadier Peter Jeffrey, Brigade Commander of the 11th Brigade.

PHOTO: KASUN UBAYASIRI