



Reservists share experiences

WHEN Dominos Pizza area manager Katrina Gooda needs to talk to her delivery driver Owen Bambrick, she normally just walks outside.

But last week she travelled 8000 kilometres to meet up with him in the Malaysian jungle.

It was all part of the army's Operation Bosslift. As well as being a pizza delivery driver for Westridge's Dominos, Owen volunteers for the Australian army.

Twenty bosses, mostly from South East Queensland, visited their employees during their three-month deployment to Malaysia.

"I've known Owen four years and he's been to the Solomons as well as Malaysia," Ms Gooda said.

"I miss him when he's gone, but the army does pay us compensation while he's away.

"He's always been a cheerful person; always willing to have a chat. Even while he's away he keeps in contact with all of us via Facebook.

"My big memories of our trip are firing the army's machine gun and spending time at the jungle survival school, seeing how they survive in the jungle. It was very different from always having food in the cupboard.

"Every time Owen comes back from overseas he has lost weight and now I know why!

"Whenever Owen comes back I'm always glad to see him because of his strong work ethic. He will always respond to extra work shifts, but I think you can say that about all reserves now I've seen them."

Soldiers like Owen have to volunteer to be in the reserve and then have to volunteer again to serve overseas.

Of the 100,000 Australians in uniform some 45,000 are in the reserve.

As well as choosing to serve overseas they can also volunteer for major events within Australia such as security duties at the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics.



Dominos Pizza area manager Katrina Gooda tests her marksmanship with an Australian army Austeyr F88 rifle while in Malaysia. Pictures: KASUN UBAYASIRI



Dominos Pizzas area manager Katrina Gooda (right) shares a few minutes with her employee and reservist Owen Bambrick after a four-hour night firing exercise in Johor Bahru, southern Malaysia.