



Jungle mission a day at the office

IPSWICH and Gatton lawyer Kerian McNamara spent last week in the jungles of southern Malaysia with his Army Reservist employee Josh Brown and it reinforced everything he had ever thought about Army Reserves.

After Mr McNamara's jungle experience, the senior partner's advice on Reserves was loud and clear: "If you can get one, look after them".

Mr McNamara's trip was all part of the army's Operation Bosslift, where 20 bosses, mostly from south-east Queensland, were flown out to see their employees while they were on a three-month deployment to Malaysia.

"I was particularly interested in the jungle survival school," Mr McNamara said.

"In seeing all the food and drink that was around you if only you knew where to look.

"These days it's hard to keep people so, if they want to go away for three months, I let them.

"They get self-discipline, they have a work ethic, even basic grooming. They look smart and have a different level of people skills. They think for themselves and use initiative."

He said seeing things for himself in Malaysia had a big impact.

"Now I'm back, I've been telling my partners that if we are ever lucky enough to get Reserves like Josh we should look after them," he said.

"More lawyers should get involved in supporting Reserves and we should definitely offer them a career path if they want one."

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ON TARGET: Kerian McNamara tries his marksmanship with an Austeyr F88 rifle at the Johor rifle range during Operation Bosslift.

Photo: Kasun Ubayasiri



Lawyers in Army Reserves operation

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THIS is all music to the ears of Mr McNamara's employee Josh Brown, who normally works as his assistant, gaining experience before he graduates as a lawyer from the University of Southern Queensland.

"Three months in Malaysia meant I missed Christmas at home and my mum and sister's birthdays but I'm training for promotion and it's also been my first trip overseas," he said.

"We've also been working with the Malaysian Rangers in Exercise Haringaroo. We learnt good jungle skills and they are a very friendly bunch.

"In our time here we are mostly based near Penang. There are a couple of regular bars there where we hang out but I'm saving



IN THE FIELD: Private Josh Brown shows his civilian boss Kerian McNamara his rifle at Camp Burma, Malaysia. Photo: Kasun Ubayasiri

most of my money for when university starts up again."

Soldiers like Private Brown have to volunteer to be in the

Reserve and then volunteer again to serve overseas. Of the 100,000 Australians in uniform, 45,000 are in the Reserve.