

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS



DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT COUNCIL

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE RESERVISTS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS

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DEFENCE RESERVES
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW LEAVE POLICY

Employees of the Western Australian State Government will now receive four weeks paid leave per year to undertake Defence Reserve service.



From Left Major General Neil Wilson - Head Reserve Policy, Mr Jeff Radisich - Director Department of Consumer and Employment Protection and Mr Dan Smetana - Chairman DRSC-WA



From Left LCDR Rachel Randall - LO DRSC-WA and Capt Will McDade (ADC)

The new leave policy was officially launched in July by Jeff Radisich, Executive Director, Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, and Major General Neil Wilson, Assistant Chief of the Defence Force (Reserves) and Head Reserve Policy at a luncheon at the WA Club.

The policy also states that Reservists in their first year of Defence service will receive an additional two weeks paid leave to undertake initial training.

Furthermore, employees are entitled to use long service leave or annual leave credits in addition to the paid leave to undertake Reserve service.

The leave policy was prepared in conjunction with the Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC). The DRSC's WA State Chairman Mr Dan Smetana said he was pleased the WA Government was so committed to ensuring that it plays a strong role in contributing to Australia's national security and our security in the region.

"Our entire council congratulates the WA State Government on its outstanding support for Australia's Defence Force Reserves," said Mr Smetana.

"This significant new policy will ensure that employees undertaking important Reservist and peacekeeping duties are recognised."



From left Dr Brian Lloyd-Department of Health, SQNLDR Wally Gargano 25 SQN and Ms Liz Ducasse - Department of Consumer and Employment Protection



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Many reservists are employed by the State and Local Governments and formalisation of generous policies in line with the Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001 is a significant contribution to our Defence Force.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Feedback is very important to our State Committee because it reassures us that we remain responsive to community needs. In particular our responsibility lies in improving the understanding of employers and the community of the benefits of Reserve service. We are always looking for ways to have an impact on the bigger picture, through assisting reservists and employers to make military service compatible with the other demands on their time. Along with our ongoing activities throughout the State, we are instituting an initiative in the City of Albany, working with the local community and business leaders to highlight the benefits that a reservist can bring to the workplace. These benefits include formal trade and management skills, as well as the intangible skills developed through management and responsibility for people even at the very early stages of their military career. DRSC will be using this as a test case for other centres, to determine whether a focussed regional involvement can have a significant impact on the community support and health of local military units.

Our cover story highlights one of the many other activities of the DRSC. The launch of the Western Australian State Government Defence Leave Policy on 21 July. In addition, the adoption by all 144 Local Government Areas in Western

Australia of a Defence Reserve Leave Policy, through the efforts of the West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is a substantial milestone for the DRSC. This also makes WA the first state to achieve such broad, high level support for reservists from the public sector. Many reservists are employed by the State and Local Governments and formalisation of generous policies in line with the Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001 is a significant contribution to our Defence Force. They are both to be congratulated for their commitment to, and support for, our Defence Reserves.

I am pleased to highlight the combat readiness and capability of the Reserve Forces with personnel of the 13th Brigade training for the next rotation of OPERATION RELEX, following successful participation of 12 members of the 13th Brigade in OPERATION RELEX earlier this year. In addition, over 100 members of 13th Brigade deployed to Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland for EXERCISE TALISMAN SABRE for which they received high praise.

My committee and staff are available for consultation by reservists, employers and potential reservists. Just call 1800 803 485 as we're here to help.

EMPLOYERS THANKED FOR SUPPORT OF HIGH READINESS RESERVE

The DRSC co-hosted a cocktail function with 13th Brigade for the employers of the High Readiness Reserve (HRR) at the Duxton Hotel on 30 June. The purpose of the event was to thank the employers for their support of the HRR and advise the employers of the support they could expect from the Department of Defence if their reservists were deployed, and who would provide that support. It was a valuable opportunity to have questions answered by the 'experts' and make contacts for seeking further information or assistance. Attendees were also invited to attend the Army Live Capability Tour at Karrakatta, which gave an insight into the training and activities of 13th Brigade. A story about Army Live will appear in our next newsletter.

EMPLOYERS HAVE A BALL

In May the DRSC invited the employers of the newly commissioned Officers to the Graduation Ball of the Western Australian University Regiment. The event, held this year in the Golden Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel, welcomes the new Officers into their roles in 13th Brigade.

Mr Neil Goodman, Executive Manager - Engineering, Hismelt Corporation, and his wife Kate were hosted by 2LT Michael Breust and his wife Samantha (pictured). Neil is in charge of commissioning the \$400 million Hismelt project at Kwinana where Michael works as the consultant engineer.



Mr Neil Goodman, Executive Manager - Engineering, Hismelt Corporation, Mrs Kate Goodman, Mrs Samantha Breust and 2LT Michael Breust.

On the first weekend in April a group of 29 enthusiastic middle to senior managers replaced their civilian clothes with camouflage uniforms for Exercise Executive Stretch 2005. The exercise aims to bring Defence Force Reserves and members of the business community, who are employers or potential employers of ADF Reserves, closer together by inviting them to participate in a weekend of physical and intellectual challenge in an ADF environment.

At the Army's Bindoon Training Area on the Saturday the participants had the opportunity to test their skills firing the F88 Steyr on the firing range, complete the obstacle course, ride in an APC, eat from ration packs, see fire power displays and field scenarios and sleep under hutchies. On the Sunday the participants travelled to HMAS STIRLING where they were given an extensive, specially tailored tour of HMAS ADELAIDE and introduced to the practical aspects of ship survivability and safety, damage control, fire fighting, and survival at sea.



Ms Therese Asplin, Principal of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Donnybrook and Sergeant Brian Cowie, WA Police Service



Abandon Ship!



Mr Eric Van Der Staay, Managing Director of Phone Control Australia, and Mr Robin Heyworth, Lecturer at Challenger TAFE ride in an Armoured Personnel Carrier BELOW: Group training with a difference - survival at sea



Briefing on the bridge of HMAS ADELAIDE



Employers fighting fires

EMPLOYER SUPPORT PAYMENT CHANGES

Significant changes have been made to the Defence Reserves Employer Support Payment (ESP) Scheme.

The ESP scheme provides financial assistance to employers who release their employees for Reserve service. Payments are also available to self-employed Reservists after they meet additional eligibility criteria.

Director Employer Support Payment (ESP) Scheme Mr Doug Stedman said one of the main changes was that the annual qualifying period had been changed from 14 days to two weeks. "When service is undertaken in five-day blocks, generally from Monday to Friday, the qualifying period will be met after two periods of service," said Mr Stedman, who encouraged Reservists and their employers to read the new ESP brochure that will become available next month.

"Changes have also been made to the circumstances when part days of service can be counted for ESP payments. Part days can now only be counted if used for travel or for authorised rest or stand-down."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence recently authorised the changes that only apply to ESP claims for service commenced after 31 August 2005. Claims for service commenced before 1 September 2005 will continue to be assessed under the previous eligibility criteria. The ESP payment rate for the current financial year is \$991.20 per week. In certain cases, higher level payments may be made.

Several changes have also been made to ESP for self-employed Reservists. Eligibility criteria of self-employed Reservists, in particular with regard to principal source of income, have been amended. For example, the principal source of income must relate to a specified period of at least six months before the relevant Reserve service and evidence must be provided from a financial adviser or accountant that details amounts of income and meet other criteria.

Deputy Head Reserve Policy Captain Peter Quirke said ESP had provided real benefits to Australian Defence Force capability by supporting Reservists' service on operational deployments, training exercises and courses, and in undertaking other Defence duties.

New ESP claim forms will also be promulgated soon. Further information is available from ESP scheme staff on 1800 001 696 or by emailing esp@defence.gov.au

As Chris Jones put it:
 'The Gascoyne Development Commission fully supports the employment of Reservists for the benefit they can offer through their professional training and esprit de corps. They are a valuable asset to any employer.'

Planning is under way for the next Exercise Executive Stretch in March 2006, with an Army and Air Force focus. Expressions of interest from middle to senior managers can be registered by phoning 1800 803 485.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

JAKO INDUSTRIES PTY LTD

It has been Jako Industries pleasure to be involved in a very small way to support the Australian Defence Forces Reserves. For Australia to meet its increased Defence Forces demands in the region it is necessary for Defence Forces to have the wider Australian business and community support. This is the least that any business or community member can do to ensure that Australia can look after and protect its interests and people, but also not forgetting its neighbours who will require assistance such as the Indonesian people who were affected by the tsunami. Whilst Jako Industries only has one current employee who has been a member of the reserves for a number of years, we see such a program being of benefit to:

- The country, because it provides additional expertise in the Defence Forces to meet the ever increasing demands of the region.
- The employee, as training provides added personal skills and development, in particular giving regard to teamwork, communication and leadership.
- The organisation supporting the project, as they receive back in return a person that is well trained in areas of teamwork, communication and leadership, which is a crucial component to any successful organisation.

We are very pleased to be a supporter of the Australian Defence Forces Reserves and would highly recommend such support to the wider business community.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Western Australian Local Government Association acknowledges the special place the Defence Reserves play in the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) and recognises the important part that individual Local Governments can play in providing their employees with support to enable them to deliver this service. The Association also recognises that the ADF provides its employees with skills and training that enhances the individual and makes him or her a better employee for their civilian employer. It is acknowledged that the benefits to be gained by these employees include leadership, management and teamwork development skills.

The role of Local Government, to provide service to the community, is strongly aligned with that of the ADF. In continuing the tradition of volunteer military service, our Defence Reserves play an important part in the security of our Country and Member Councils are encouraged to provide a similar level of support to them.

CHALMERS & PARTNERS

From inception in 1981, Chalmers and Partners has encouraged and supported participation in the Australian Defence Force Reserves.

Since 1983, there has always been one, and for most of the time two of the firm's personnel serving in the active Naval Reserve.

Retired and current personnel of the firm have together served a total of just on 100 years of permanent and reserve service, the bulk being with the R.A.N.

In keeping with a generous policy of leave to undertake military service, a current part-time employee has been released from contract to perform a period of continuous full-time service.

Chalmers and Partners is pleased and proud of its association with the Australian Defence Force.

DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT COUNCIL WESTERN AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE

The Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC) is a group of industry, community and Defence representatives whose prime aim is to promote the benefits of Reserve Service to employers and the community.

2005 Western Australia Committee Members:

Mr Dan Smetana	Chairman
Mr Mal Wauchope	Employer, Government
Mr John Langoulant	CCI Representative
Mr Murray Lampard	Employer, Police Force
Mr Bradley Woods	Employer, Hotels & Tourism
Mr Duncan Warren	Employer
Ms Sharon Brown	Employer
Mr Lloyd Smith	Employer
Mr Brett Lane	Media Representative
Dr D. Gurumoorthy	Ethnic Communities Council
Mr Brian Handcock	Regional Representative
LCDR Rachel Randall RAN	Liaison Officer
Major Phil Sumner	Assistant Liaison Officer
WO2 Peter Burnes	Staff Officer
Mr Peter Burnes	Office Manager

Service Representatives:

Navy	Commander Ian McGuckin RANR
Army	Brigadier Geoff Hand
RAAF	Squadron Leader Wally Gargano

Regional Representatives:

Mr David Knox	Albany
Mr George Shaw	Karratha
Mr John Evans	Geraldton
Mr Ian Fletcher	Kalgoorlie
Mr Kim Rudd	Bunbury



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