

## Enjoying balance between work, reserves

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The Examiner's Mark Baker and Will Swan travelled to Malaysia with the Army Reserve. In the last in a series of stories, they catch up with a Launceston soldier about his experiences.

THE first year of any job can be hard but not many involve sleeping in the jungle without food for three days or marching up to 10 hours in torrential rain with little rest.

But Pte Sam Henry, 25, joined up with the Army Reserve this year to experience just that.

In fact, he completed his final qualifications just a week before the cut-off for deployment to Malaysia as part of Rifle Company Butterworth 83.

"I just wanted to get a heads up because I had thoughts of joining the full-time army before the reserves but now that I'm here I enjoy the balance between work and reserves," he said.

"It's really good to have a normal, everyday job plus you get the opportunity to jump out of that ordinary, everyday job for a couple of weeks or months to come here."

Pte Henry, an information technology support worker, is one of more than 100 soldiers in the last month of a three-month training tour of Malaysia and other parts of South- East Asia.

"I found the start of the trip pretty hard but just like all the training I've done it's about settling into a routine and then it starts to get a bit easier."

Pte Henry was amazed by the size of the Thai Army when they completed a joint exercise that culminated with a full attack involving tanks, artillery, armoured vehicles and live rifle and machine gun fire.

"They have hundreds of thousands of soldiers where we have only tens of thousands" he said. So we have to work towards having really multi-skilled soldiers whereas they have people specific for each role."

Pte Henry is one of many soldiers with loved ones back home but he said facilities at their base in northern Malaysia allowed him to stay in contact with his partner Hannah Klekociuk.