

# MEDIA RELEASE



**Peter Lindsay**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence

PARLSEC 060/2007

Monday, 25 June 2007

## **VISIT TO TALISMAN-SABER 07 MILITARY HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR MORE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN DEFENCE RESERVE**

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Mr Peter Lindsay MP, has announced a Defence initiative to encourage doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to consider part-time careers in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Mr Lindsay made the announcement during a visit to the military hospital deployed in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area near Rockhampton for the joint Australian-United States Exercise, Talisman Saber 07.

Accompanying a group of senior health practitioners and administrators to the major exercise, Mr Lindsay said that he wanted the visitors to have the first hand experience of ADF health professionals at work.

Mr Lindsay told the visiting group and the deployed medical personnel that health professionals were greatly needed in the ADF and the initiative to attract medical professionals was aimed at helping satisfy that need through the Reserve.

Mr Lindsay emphasised that there is a need to provide the surge capacity the ADF requires when faced with either operational or humanitarian relief tasks.

“The ADF, as a responsible corporate citizen, is interested in working with the wider medical and health community to ensure needs become complementary and not competitive. We need to be able to share the scarce health resources with the wider community,” Mr Lindsay said.

Mr Lindsay also stressed that a career in the Reserves for health professionals could provide a variety of medical experience unparalleled in a purely civilian practise.

“A Defence Reserves health and medical career can offer more variety, consistently, than any other employer.

“Reserve service further develops skills that are then returned to the civilian workplace. Employees return from deployments with more focus, flexibility and adaptability that contribute to making them more rounded health and medical practitioners,” he said.

“In a strategic sense, Defence service can offer another dimension to a health and medical career that may well be an incentive for people to choose to study medicine. Reserve service

can become part of an overall package that makes medicine the career of choice for school-leavers.

“The health and medical world and the ADF share a great deal in common. We both want to create and maintain a safe and secure environment for the people of Australia and lending assistance to other people in our region who are doing it tough,” Mr Lindsay said.

\*\* A breakfast function will be held at the Sofitel Brisbane Hotel tomorrow morning for members of the medical profession interested in learning more about the contribution they could make to the Defence Force Reserve. Further information is available from Deanna Nott on the number below.

Images will be available at the following link: <http://www.defence.gov.au/media/download>

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