

MEDIA RELEASE



Peter Lindsay

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence

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NEW SOUTH WALES EMPLOYERS OF ADF RESERVES RECOGNISED

The New South Wales Fire Brigade has been recognised for its contribution to the Australian Defence Force Reserves.

The NSW Fire Brigade has been presented with the State Employer of the Year Award at a ceremony onboard HMAS Melbourne, at Garden Island.

The event organised by the NSW Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council recognises employers who have supported their Reservist employees with workplace policies that allow them to render Defence service.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Mr Peter Lindsay MP, presented awards. He was joined by the Chairman of the NSW Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council, The Hon. John Jobling, OAM.

A record number of thirty five New South Wales employers were recognised for their support of the Australian Defence Force Reserves at the ceremony.

In order to be eligible and Employer Support Award, organisations need to have a supportive leave policy in place and have released their employees for an extended period of Reserve Service. Awards are presented in the categories of Government, Large Private Enterprise, Medium Private Enterprise and Small Private Enterprise.

“In an environment of heightened operational tempo, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reserves are being called upon to play an increasingly vital part in the fulfillment of Defence objectives,” Mr Lindsay said.

“These Awards are our way of publicly saying thank you to employers of Reservists for their contribution to ADF capability. Without their support, our ability to meet the current operational and training needs of the ADF would be significantly affected.”

For more information about the Awards and the support available for ADF Reserves and their employers, go to www.defence.gov.au/reserves

ATTACHMENT: List of Award winners

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EMPLOYERS RECEIVING AWARDS:

NSW Fire Brigade	State Award
The NSWFB provides exemplary support for Reservists in the form of military leave on full pay and without pay. Snr Officers readily process and allow military leave with an attitude of support rather than inconvenience. SMNDVR Daniel Morgan was injured during deployment in 2006 and the NSWFB has been there providing administrative, financial, spiritual and emotional support. Daniel's return to work and rehabilitation has been commendable in how an organisation can capture the hearts and minds of their employees.	
Linfox Armaguard	Award
This employer has supported the Active Reserves without question. They have accepted both military skill via regular or Reserves employment as qualification for promotion. Linfox Armaguard have been an extremely strong supporter for the past 12 yrs.	
NSW Police Force – Waratah Police Station	Award
The NSW Police maintain a commitment and understanding to the Reserves. This was exemplified recently where on very short notice members of the NSW Police were released on military leave to assist in personnel and asset security at the Avalon Air Show. This ongoing dedication to the Military Reserves by the NSW Police facilitates ongoing development of personnel in both fields. Gives leave other than annual or LSL whenever possible	
Pfizer Australia	Award
Pfizer Australia has been extremely flexible in granting military leave, often at short notice, to enable Reservists carry out military public affairs officer duties for NSW-based Army Reservists from the 5th and 8th Brigade for Rotation 12 to the Solomon Islands. Pfizer Australia has benefited from the leadership and media management skills gained from working on this project with the Army Reserve. PA also has a supportive Defence Force leave policy, allowing staff members 10 paid military leave days per year.	
Rail Corp NSW	Award
RailCorp recognises the importance and the commitment of Defence Reserves service as evidenced through its Military Leave and Secondary Employment Policies which provides up to 28 days paid leave per year in addition to employee's normal leave activities. This military leave enables RailCorp employees to participate in a wide range of Reserve activities including Parade nights, weekend activities and individual/collective training activities. RailCorp has also supported the Defence Reserves by releasing staff to participate in Exercise Executive Stretch, overseas military exercises and peace keeping activities.	
Telstra Corporation	Award
Demands on some Reservist employees are considerable at times. MAJ Tim Hanna has heavy demands upon him for time and wide ranging activities, needing to be available 24/7. Leave is always approved without question and MAJ Hanna is provided the flexibility to deliver on both civilian and Army responsibilities. The support has been of the highest order and unwavering.	
Western Sydney Area Health Service	Award
Gives leave other than annual or LSL whenever possible. Is a strong supporter of Reserve Leave Policy. Has granted extended leave for o/s deployment. On many occasions they release staff on short notice. They have a MOU with 3 Combat Support Hosp at RAAF Richmond with Nepean and West Mead hospitals. This has provided valuable training activities for medical and Nursing Officers pre deployment on o/s operations. There is also a comprehensive training program for Med Assists who gain and refresh clinical skills and knowledge.	
ADI Ltd	Cert of Appreciation
Australian Meat Holdings - Tabitta Feed Lot	Cert of Appreciation
Bluewater Communications	Cert of Appreciation
Bowdens Group Australia	Cert of Appreciation
Coffs Harbour Health Campus	Cert of Appreciation
Correctional Services Dept Bathurst	Cert of Appreciation
EDS Australia	Cert of Appreciation

Hitachi Construction Machinery (Aust) Pty Ltd	Cert of Appreciation
IT&E Limited	Cert of Appreciation
Local Gov't & Shires Assoc of NSW	Cert of Appreciation
Mt Arthur Coal PTY LTD	Cert of Appreciation
Newcrest Mining Ltd	Cert of Appreciation
NSW Ambulance Service, Dubbo	Cert of Appreciation
NSW Police Katoomba	Cert of Appreciation
NSW Police SE Asian Crime Squad	Cert of Appreciation
Oberon High	Cert of Appreciation
QANTAS Airlines	Cert of Appreciation
Sony DADC	Cert of Appreciation
Sutherland Leisure Centre	Cert of Appreciation
TAFE NSW, Chullora Campus	Cert of Appreciation
Wollondilly Shire Council	Cert of Appreciation
Woolworths LTD Bathurst	Cert of Appreciation
Condon Associates	Recognition
Continental Ace Pty Ltd	Recognition
Denison College - Bathurst High Campus	Recognition
Force Fire Safety	Recognition
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Recognition
NSW Ministry of Transport	Recognition
Tony Lehey Motor Group	Recognition
Wyong Shire Council	Recognition