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12<sup>th</sup> February 2007

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **GAIN A TRADE AND BE PART OF THE ARMY RESERVE**

Training and Recruitment Specialists, Alliance People Solutions, Army Reserve, New England North West Group Training and New England TAFE have come together to offer a unique opportunity for people living in the New England area, wishing to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Alliance People Solutions and The Army Reserve are currently running a fully funded pre-apprenticeship course for 4 weeks full time as part of the selection process for 2007 traineeship and apprenticeship intake.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people who are serious about gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship, as well as being part of the Australian Defence Forces Army Reserve" said Steven Adams, Director of Alliance People Solutions.

"The advantages in employing one of the Australian Apprenticeship Access Programme (ACCESS) graduates is quite significant to any prospective employer" said Mr Adams.

"The initial four weeks that the students are completing is equivalent to the first six months of the actual apprenticeship training with an employer and TAFE, therefore the apprentice will complete their studies sooner being a huge benefit to the employer."

Previous course participants for 2006 have begun apprenticeships in aircraft maintenance, diesel mechanic and joinery. Other participants have gained fulltime employment or have moved onto further study.

Warrant Officer Class Two Shane Green, Regimental Recruiting Officer, 12<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Hunter River Lancers said "We are undertaking this initiative to enable us to increase our recruiting throughput to meet the regiments recruiting targets which have been in a decline due to the low unemployment in the region".

W.O. II Shane Green said "This will also enhance the retention of the Army Reservists within the regiment by providing them full time employment and training whilst gaining job skills in the civilian field of their choice".

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Senator Sandy Macdonald has welcomed the joint Army Reserve and Alliance People Solutions proposal, which he says has the potential to boost employment levels within the region, while also boosting recruitment of the Army Reserves.

For further information regarding the Australian Apprenticeship Access Programmes, contact Director Steven Adams 0427 755 383.

**"The Australian Apprenticeship Access Programme is an Australian Government Initiative"**