

## **Defence Reserves – Supporting Australia’s military capability**

Forget the “weekend warrior” - Reserves today are a finely honed and superbly trained professional force vital to Australia’s defence.

It is not just tax-free income and the opportunity to do their patriotic duty that has attracted thousands of Australians to part-time service. Military training and deployments here and overseas offer unparalleled opportunities for self-development. Defence service allows members to acquire valuable new skills as well as competence and confidence that are highly-prized in workplaces throughout the country.

The Directorate of Reserve Support (DRS) runs many activities designed to forge stronger links between Reservists, their employers and the community.

Recent Bosslifts to Malaysia, the Solomon Islands and East Timor have given employers first-hand experiences of reservists’ roles in overseas military deployments. Employers are taken to the “coal-face”, giving them the chance to see their employees in action. Bosslifts provide a unique insight into the benefits that Reserve service brings back to the civilian workplace.

Director of Reserve Support Steve Williams said the Bosslift program was extremely popular with employers.

“We recently took a group of employers to Malaysia and they saw our infantry training first-hand,” he said.

“Everyone involved said they learnt so much about the Reserve force and its purpose in the ADF.”

Exercise Executive Stretch (EES) is another activity run by the DRS for employers and potential employers of Reservists.

“EES gives bosses an insight into the rigors of military training,” said Mr Williams.

“Employers typically participate in a range of training activities from abseiling down cliff faces and firing weapons to team-building and initiative tests that help create a cohesive, disciplined military unit.”

Another major incentive is the Employer Support Payment Scheme, administered by the scheme’s director, Doug Stedman.

“The Employer Support Payment (ESP) Scheme helps offset the costs of releasing employees on defence service and is paid to employers at a set weekly rate of \$1035.90 regardless of their employee’s salary,” said Mr Stedman.

Details about eligibility and how to apply can be found on the Defence Reserves website at [www.defence.gov.au/reserves](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves).

For details of the many programs run by Defence Reserves visit [the website](#) or call the toll free information hotline on 1800 803 485,