



DEFENCE MEDIA ALERT

CPA-NT 008/07

Friday, 2 February 2007

NT RESERVISTS AND EMPLOYERS TO STRENGTHEN TIES

WHAT: A gala function to strengthen ties between Australian Defence Force Reservists and their employers.

WHEN: 5:00pm, Monday, 5 February 2007.

WHERE: Officer's Mess, Larrakeyah Barracks, Darwin.

Media note: Please call to confirm your attendance prior to 12:00pm on Monday. Media are to assemble at the front gate no later than 4:45pm. Photo ID is required.

Bonds between Australian Defence Force Reservists and their employers are set to strengthen at a gala function on 5 February.

The welcoming night will give new officers marching into Norforce and other units within the Northern region the opportunity to network with distinguished guests including major employers, members of parliament, local councillors and media representatives.

Defence's Directorate of Reserve Support and the Larrakeyah Officers' Mess in Darwin are coordinating the function, with more than 100 people expected to attend.

Defence Reserves Support Council NT committee Chairman, Mr Daryl Manzie, said the event was an opportunity to gain recognition from the broader community for reservists and their roles within the ADF and in their civilian professions.

"Giving the officers a chance to meet the people who employ their troops is the first step in establishing a sound working relationship," said Mr Manzie.

"It gets the officers off to a good start and makes employers more aware of reservists and what they do in the Defence Force.

"The more people are aware of the support offered to employers by the DRSC and Directorate of Reserve Support (DRS) and the role their employees play in maintaining the capacity of the ADF, the more supportive employers are likely to be when their staff are called away on duty."

DRS NT Liaison Officer Major Trevor Smith said the function was also a chance to make employers aware of changes in the Reserves.

“The welcoming function will not only highlight reserve forces’ input into the Territory community but also allow us to inform employers about the new apprentice scheme and arrangements for the High Readiness Reserve,” said Major Smith.

“Employers at the function will be made aware of the unique skills that apprentices learn from working with the Defence Reserve. Upgrading apprentices’ skills all year round – even in the wet season – adds to their value as employees in their civilian careers.”

Media contact: Dan Wheelahan – Defence Regional Manager Public Affairs mb: 0411 885 994