

## ***AWARD WIN BENEFITS RESERVIST AND EMPLOYER***

BY FLGOFF Stephen McClelland

John Willy is proof of how the Prince of Wales Award (POWA) scheme is benefiting Defence Reservists and their civilian employers.

National Operations Manager with shipping company OOCL, Lieutenant Commander Willy has recently completed his month-long posting to the United States. He was able to make the trip abroad after winning a Prince of Wales Award in late 2005.

LCDR Willy spent the first two weeks of his award trip with the United States Coast Guard in Miami, Florida, studying border protection methods and taking part in several operations.

“The Coast Guard has statutory responsibility for cargo and port security in the United States,” he said.

“I participated in a range of activities and operations, including the inspection of shipping containers, the boarding of suspect ships and patrolling the border looking for illegal immigrants.”

LCDR Willy said the United States is at the forefront of strategy and policy development and that he has learnt a lot to bring back to his Navy colleagues in Australia.

LCDR Willy’s civilian award placement allowed him to visit many container ports in the US.

“I went to Miami in Florida, Charleston (North Carolina), Norfolk (Virginia) and Long Beach in California to look at the latest security, detection and inspection methods employed in those ports,” he said.

“Comprehensive sensing and tracking techniques are in place, including radiation, x-ray and neutron radiation detectors.

“These programs came together for me at a C-TPAT, - Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism - conference in New Orleans, where Government and shipping lines from around the world were able to come together to discuss security.”

Describing the POWA as providing him with ‘the trip of a lifetime’, LCDR Willy said his Defence and civilian careers will both benefit from his experiences in the United States.

On another note, LCDR Willy is set to ‘star’ in an up-coming print advertising campaign designed to highlight the benefits of Reserve service to civilian employers.

LCDR Willy is one of six outstanding Reservists to be selected for the advertising campaign. The advertisements will be published in a wide range of trade and specialty publications across Australia.