



THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY MP Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

Saturday, 7 March 2009

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VISIT TO SOLOMON ISLANDS SHOWS EMPLOYERS THE BENEFITS OF RESERVE SERVICE

Twenty-four employers of Defence Reservists will travel to Solomon Islands today as part of Boss Lift – a Defence program designed to encourage employer support for the Reserves.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP, announced that the employers will visit soldiers from the Adelaide-based 9 Brigade, who are currently on a four-month deployment to the Solomon Islands.

While in the capital Honiara and surrounds, the employers will have the opportunity to see their Reservists on Operation ANODE, the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

Reserve and Employer Support Division (RESO), which is responsible for employer support for Australia's Defence Reservists, has ensured the three-day Boss Lift program will highlight the important role the Reserves play in the Australian Defence Force and will allow employers to experience directly the essential roles played by their employees.

Dr Kelly said the employers will gain a valuable insight into the benefits their employees can bring back to the civilian workplace by being able to observe those skills that Reserve service has developed.

“We aim to highlight the skills Reservists gain from being in the ADF and how those skills can benefit civilian employers,” Dr Kelly said.

“As the ADF's commitments grow, Reserves are bringing increased levels of capability to Australia's Defence Force and this experience can flow directly to the civilian workplace.”

For details about the many programs run by RESO visit www.defence.gov.au/reserves or call 1800 803 485.

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