

## Unreserved action at Reserves camp

**Public sector bosses** were among those who got a taste of army life at a recent weekend event designed to show employers what their Defence Force Reservist employees go through.

Representatives of the Valuer General's Office, Victoria Police and three municipal shire councils were among a group of 40 Victorian employers put through their paces in *Exercise Executive Stretch (EES)* at Royal Australian Air Force Base Williams.

The Defence program was designed to allow employers to directly experience the type of training that their employees undertake as Reservists.

Reserves Communication Director, Deanna Nott said all survived the ordeal, which included physical challenges such as abseiling and marksmanship.

"They were all in good health and high spirits when they left. It went extraordinarily well," Ms Nott said.

"*Exercise Executive Stretch* is a great opportunity for all employers to experience first-hand the invaluable skills that can be gained in the military and transferred to the civilian workplace."



Reserves and their bosses ready for action.

The event included training on leadership and military strategy.

EES is coordinated by No 21 (City of Melbourne) RAAF Squadron.

"This squadron has a reputation for quality training outcomes and has a long and profitable relationship with the local and greater Melbourne community," Ms Nott said.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, praised the program.

"This is a unique opportunity for employers to experience the military training and lifestyle of a Reservist and directly see the benefits that Reserve Service can have on the civilian workforce," Dr Kelly said.

"We want to encourage employers to make use of support measures available through Defence, including the Employer Support Payment Scheme or the ESP."

"The ESP can provide up to \$1,123.30 per week to qualified employers who release their employees for Reserve service."

For information about Australian Defence Force Reserves visit [www.defence.gov.au/reserves](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves) or call 1800 803 485.