



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

Friday, 14 May 2010

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Cairns employers experience life with Defence Reserves

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, today commended the commitment of a select group of Cairns employers as they prepare for a weekend on land and sea experiencing the New Generation Navy.

The employers, from a wide range of businesses, will have the opportunity to gain a unique insight into the skill and professionalism of Defence Reservists when they board an Armidale class Patrol Boat for some hands-on experience in surveillance and border protection.

The voyage is one of many activities that will be hosted by HMAS Cairns from 14 to 16 May as part of Exercise Executive Stretch, an event coordinated by Defence Reserves Support to help educate employers about the roles played by their Reservist staff.

“Executive Stretch offers hands-on experiences of military life and illustrates the range of roles played by Reservists in the Australian Defence Force,” said Dr Kelly.

“These experiences and the opportunity to meet the men and women defending our country give employers a valuable insight into the roles played by their Reservist employees.

“Reservists bring valuable life skills back to their civilian workplaces. They’re highly disciplined team players with a ‘can-do’ work ethic and the confidence to accept responsibilities. They add the expertise and efficiency they gain from their Defence service directly to their civilian jobs.”

“It is a unique opportunity for employers to gain an understanding of the benefits their employees can bring back to the civilian workplace by being able to observe the training philosophy and methods used by the Defence Reserve,” said Dr Kelly.

MEDIA NOTE: Exercise Executive Stretch 2010 will be conducted at HMAS Cairns from 5pm Friday 14 May until 5pm Sunday 16 May 2010. Contact Deanna Nott 0438 013548 or HMAS Cairns Public Relations Officer Bernard O’Connor on 07 4042 0787 to visit the Exercise.

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