

BEFORE he "deployed" with the Army to Malaysia, O'Donnell Griffin Operations Manager, Jeff Twomey, only had a vague idea about Reserve service.

He was aware that his employee Steve Carrington met other reservists regularly on a Tuesday night, but the content of these meetings and the nature of the ongoing training that Sapper Carrington received were all a bit of a mystery.

After chowing down on "rat packs" (combat ration packs) in the jungle with the Reservist troops of Rifle Company Butterworth, watching a platoon ambush, listening to lectures and getting some range practice on a Steyr rifle, Mr Twomey now has a much better idea about the discipline, dedication and training that goes into making a finely honed professional soldier capable of fighting as an equal beside full-time counterparts.

Bosslift Malaysia 2006 is an initiative of the Directorate of Reserve Support (DRS), an organisation devoted to establishing flexible partnerships between Reservists and their civilian employers.

"Watching the guys training gave me a great insight into what they're taught and how it applies both to their work commitments and their everyday lives," said Mr Twomey.

"The intensive training that the Rifle Company receives is really testing. Steven gets taken to his limits and the team work, goal setting, problem solving, reliability and good communication skills he learns in the army are directly applicable to his effectiveness at work.

"Steven's a well-organised guy with a great work ethic. It's his army training that's made him who he is today."

As a guest of the DRS, Mr Twomey joined 18 employers from around Australia for the first-hand look at Reservists in action.

The busy Bosslift program allowed the employers to share experiences and meals with the soldiers - whether that entailed a barbecue and quiet drink or an improvised feast from the forest. The employers learned that soldiers on patrol in the jungle could keep fit with the resources the land provides.

"I learned some fascinating details about life in the infantry," said Mr Twomey.

"I recommend that all employers of reservists take the opportunity to see their people in action on Bosslift.

"It was a wonderful program that gave me a unique insight into what our troops do while they're on the ground."

For more details about Bosslift and the many programs run by Defence Reserves visit [www.defence.gov.au/reserves](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves) or call the toll free information hotline on 1800 803 485.