

NORTH QUEENSLAND NEWS



DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT COUNCIL

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE RESERVISTS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS

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EMPLOYERS REAP
FINANCIAL AND OTHER
REWARDS THROUGH
DEFENCE

MORE INFORMATION

www.defence.gov.au/reserves
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INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGH READINESS RESERVE

The Australian Government has committed additional funding for the next four years to establish a High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and to enhance the pay and conditions of the active Reserve Force.

There are a number of incentives for active Reservists to be part of the HRR, including a completion bonus of up to \$5000 per year payable after completion of the two year commitment. There will also be an annual health support allowance of \$2500 to assist in maintaining the individual's health status to a high standard. Brigadier Bruce Scott the Commander of 11th Brigade North Queensland said, "There will be a high level of commitment required for individual's to achieve and maintain the standard of the HRR." To be part of the HRR Reservists will be required to achieve similar levels of training expected of the permanent Defence Force. The level of readiness required will be closely aligned to the degree of notice required to deploy. He also added, "Being part of the HRR

will place greater emphasis on Reservists to maintain open communications with their employers and to ensure Defence commitments are balanced with their employment requirements.



Brigadier Bruce Scott

We as the Defence Force need to ensure employers are aware of the assistance available to support them, including the financial assistance under the Employers Support Payment Scheme."

Brigadier Bruce Scott also stated that all active Reservists will receive an annual health support allowance of \$600 per annum to assist them in meeting the required minimum health standards.

EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH - MAY 2006

Exercise Executive Stretch gives senior to middle level managers and other employers the opportunity to experience the training and activities their Reservists undertake whilst on Defence service.



Warming up before tackling the obstacle course

The exercise takes place over two days and this year combined a range of activities, including leadership, confidence and initiative tests, team-building exercises, field craft, weapons handling and abseiling.

All this at absolutely no cost other than the time given up by the participants.

The exercise was conducted on 19-21 May 06 at Lavarack Barracks Townsville. There were 11 participants from a wide range of organisations and locations, including, Corfields Electrical Services from Gladstone, Rockhampton City Council, MIGATE and Redearth Hotel from Mt Isa and Boots at Work from Townsville.

All participants walk away from the experience with a good understanding of what benefits Reserve service has to offer.

Mr Ian Holden from Rockhampton City Council stated, "The entire weekend was a very worthwhile experience and I would recommend it to any manager, so that they could understand how the Army Reserves would improve their employees."



Marc Hermann (Apprentice Mechanic) alias PTE Hermann (Rifleman) 42nd BN.



CUMMINS TOWNSVILLE

Cummins is a great supporter of Defence in North Queensland.

The continuing partnership between Cummins and the Defence Force is one of benefit to both parties. For instance Cummins provides host for the majority of Defence trainee technicians and provides assistance with the engine training modules for their trade training.



Left to Right: Mr Neville Brown, Mr Daniel Halliday, Mr David Joseph, Mr Paul Price.

Cummins Townsville has also conducted several open house sessions for Defence personnel to visit and gain a better perspective of the work Cummins does with the general community and with Defence.

The Townsville branch has four members who are currently serving in the

Army Reserve which represents 10% of the total branch workforce.

The members are Mr Neville Brown (Cummins Branch Manager and Major), Mr Daniel Halliday (Cummins Technician and Corporal), Mr David Joseph (Cummins Technician and Craftsman), Mr Paul Price (Cummins Warehouse Supervisor and Sergeant).

NO 27 SQUADRON (CITY OF TOWNSVILLE) - RAAF

No 27 Squadron is no different to all Defence Force units and has experienced a 'racing' start to the year.

Training and support to operations, plus operational backfill being the main focus of activities. No 27 Squadron would have to be unusual for a single service reserve unit in that support is being provided to RAAF, Army and Navy via aviation specialisations. There is certainly a purple flavour there!



The Anzac Day march in Townsville

Another significant event was the ANZAC Day commemoration and the march through the streets of Townsville, this was enjoyed by members and was well received by the public.

Under a restructure of the Air Force Reserve, No 27 Squadron will cease to exist in its current guise and will be replaced with a leaner training focused squadron. No 27 Squadron achieved a significant milestone with the 25-year anniversary on the 1st July 2006. The Squadron has a number of celebrations planned including a dinner that will bring together all unit members, their partners, civilian employers of Reserve members and the Defence customers of the RAAF Reserves. The CO No 27 Squadron, Squadron Leader Geoff Kimmins said, "it is often difficult to reach the people who make it possible for the Reserves to function and this dinner aims to thank the employers and partners for their support they have provided throughout these 25 years to make the Reserves possible".



DEFENCE RESERVES

EMPLOYERS REAP FINANCIAL AND OTHER REWARDS THROUGH DEFENCE >>>

Reservist service in the Australian Defence Force offers Reservist members the opportunity to contribute to national security and humanitarian efforts overseas. It provides unparalleled experiences in unusual situations and training that increases workers' skills, effectiveness, and confidence in their civilian jobs.

Reservists played a supporting security role in the Melbourne Commonwealth Games and have also provided humanitarian relief to communities in Pakistan, Thailand, Rwanda and Somalia. They served alongside their full-time counterparts to increase security and stability in Timor - Leste and Bougainville. They have also been deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Federal Government recognises the vital roles played by Reservists and their employers and since 2001 has offered employers around \$1000 for each week that Reservists are absent from their civilian jobs on defence

duties, noting that it is necessary to complete an annual qualifying period before the payment begins.

The Employer Support Payment (ESP) Scheme provides this financial assistance to employers to help offset the costs of releasing employees for service.

The Employer Support Payments of \$1035.90, which are equivalent to the average adult weekly wage, have proved vital for small business that would otherwise struggle to replace personnel on extended leave.

ALL EMPLOYERS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR CAN REAP THE REWARDS OF HAVING RESERVISTS ON STAFF.

For more information on ESP and how it can benefit your business or government department contact **1800 803 485**, email esp@defence.gov.au or visit www.defence.gov.au/reserves on the web.

AUSTRALIA'S RESERVE FORCES



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