

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS



DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT COUNCIL

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE RESERVISTS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS

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MORE INFORMATION

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN MR PETER SUMMERS OAM

Feed-back suggests that DRSC in SA is better known, is recognised by a far wider group of people and is viewed as a valuable resource by both Reserves and their employers - we intend to continue to improve.

We recently conducted a review of the DRSC SA Business Plan to make sure we are on the right track and the National Council workshopped the organisation and membership of the National Council. Many of the goals and targets were considered to be valid and were retained with some additional aspects added and these will be discussed at the next National Council meeting.

We believe our business model has been quite successful but after our review we think that we may make some modifications - perhaps an increase of participation in unit activities or mini Executive Stretches could be the way to go.

The National Council has seen a new Chair appointed, The Hon Shane Stone AC, PGDK, QC, Shane also received his AC in the recent Queens Birthday Honours, he has been a Vice Chair on the National Council for a number of years and is a serving Naval Reservist himself. We welcome you Shane and we look forward to having you assist us with the vital work that DRSC has in front of us.

If early indications are a guide, we can look forward to a most interesting and productive few years.

I would like to turn to a few SA achievements. As you are also aware we have been working on establishing Reserve Friendly Leave Policies in private enterprise, Mitsubishi was the first, followed by the Commonwealth Bank and by the time this is published, I expect we will have completed our negotiation with QANTAS with three more significant organisations in the pipeline. My thanks to the committee for all their support and assistance with the leave policies, we now have teams whose focus is to liaise with employer groups and develop leave policies. We have targeted some of the "flagship" companies to establish a base to work from to encourage other businesses to follow on. So far with the leave policies in place we have covered some 80,000 employees and 100,000 is not far off. Certainly a base to build from. Have you asked your company to join us?

My thanks to the Team, we are looking forward to the rest of the year with the Employer Awards and other functions into the future.



Mr Peter Summers OAM - DRSC SA Chairman

MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER 9TH BRIGADE BRIGADIER TIM HANNA ADC, RFD

The current operational tempo for regular Army units has resulted in a flow on of opportunities for Reservists across the country.

Wherever the Australian Defence Force is then you can be sure that Army Reservists are operating. Reservists from South Australia have made a substantial commitment to Defence activities during 2006. These activities have varied from our doctors and nurses supporting the post-earthquake relief operations in Pakistan to patrolling with Navy and Customs off the northern waters of the continent. Of course, our Reservists were a very significant and conspicuous part of security for the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

Our people in the Active Reserve category remain ready to be called upon at short notice to support our Government and Police as part of the state's Reserve Response Force. The Reserve Response Force may be tasked to establish security cordons, provide static protection, vehicle and facility searches and conduct traffic control.

In addition, under the Army's *Hardened and Networked Army* initiative, High Readiness Reservists will be contracted for two years to support full-time Army units.

These High Readiness Reservists will train with the full-time unit for a minimum of two weeks per year and will seek to attain a higher level of skill than an Active Reservist through additional training. Members may also go on operations with that supported unit. This presents an exciting opportunity for Reservists who wish to make an increased commitment to the Defence Force and their level of professional competence.

Reservists and their employers were acknowledged for their ongoing commitment during Reserve Forces Day on 2 July. A function was held at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, with the Hon. Alexander Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs as guest speaker. The function welcomed new Reservists, thanked employers for supporting the Reserves, and recognised the contribution made by Reservists in peace-keeping and disaster relief operations. Reservists have continued to successfully serve alongside their full-time counterparts and have made valuable contributions to the community. Reservists would not be able to serve their community and their country without the support provided by their employers. This support is necessary, important and appreciated as Reservists seek to balance their work, study, family and Reserve commitments.



Brigadier Tim Hanna ADC, RFD

24 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYERS ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

Exercise Executive Stretch 2006 (EES 06) was conducted in Mar 2006, at RAAF Base Edinburgh and it was a resounding success.

24 SA employers from a variety of businesses accepted the challenge to stretch themselves. EES is a two day activity with a stimulating range of hands on exercises to show case the skills that Defence Reservists gain and especially those which are directly transferable and applicable to civilian industry - like leadership, communication and teamwork.

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE EES 06 PARTICIPANTS:

I attended; I participated; I survived.

What does this short statement actually mean? As an employer representative, I expected to be pushed out of some comfort zones physically and mentally. The EES Defence Force Reserve personnel team gave me a brief insight into what experiences and attributes our employees may develop when they become Reservists in any of the arms of the Defence Force.

I must say that the EES 2006 program exceeded my expectations in terms of fun, challenge and personal achievement ('confidence course' – yeah sure!) I found each of the activities to be well prepared and facilitated by dedicated defence personnel (reservists and regular). I greatly enjoyed it all, including the first class hospitality. Well done team.

Stephen Moir, Employee Relations Specialist
Human Resources Division, Mitsubishi Motors Australia Ltd.

EES was a terrific experience which certainly took me out of my comfort zone. I thought the program was really well thought through and gave us an opportunity to experience some of what the Defence Reserves get involved in (although I also know you went easy on us, thanks for that). It was also a fantastic opportunity to mix with managers from a variety of backgrounds and organisations, and in a very short time we managed to develop some great friendships. Most of all I loved the opportunity to experience a different kind of teamwork and in our navy team, the strengths and weaknesses of all was valued. This meant that we all felt we had contributed to the overall success of the team. I would recommend it highly - a rare opportunity to experience something quite different from the day to day office work.

Lucy Schulz, Director
Student and Academic Services, University of South Australia



NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2006 saw 6 Defence nominations being considered for the prestigious Nursing Excellence Award. The calibre of all nominees was excellent and the selection panel certainly had their work cut out for them.

Three finalists were selected and invited to the presentation dinner on 12 May 2006. DRSC is proud to say that the winner of the 2006 Nursing Excellence Award was a Reservist, Captain Connie Jongeneel. A short summary for each of the three finalists:

Captain Connie Jongeneel is an Army Officer employed as the Second-In-Charge of the Training Cell at the Adelaide Universities Regiment (Army Officer Training Establishment) and has undertaken five overseas operational deployments and has also been instrumental in developing ADF nursing practice / protocol / policies. As a civilian, she is a Senior Project Officer in the Division of Surgery at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The runners up:

Flight Lieutenant Andrew MacWilliams is in the Royal Australian Air Force. He has seen much of the world in the past twelve months; from our near neighbours in Indonesia that were affected by natural disaster, to the Middle East and the war in Iraq. As a Defence Reservist his experience and knowledge, gained locally, has been able to serve him in the harshest of environments and in the direst of circumstances. He also works as a Clinical Nurse in the Emergency Department at the Lyell McEwin Health Service and credits much of his experience and abilities to the broad exposure that he receives as a Defence Reservist.

Commander David West is a Commander in the Royal Australian Navy and has over 20 years experience as a Registered Nurse, 17 of these have been as an Officer of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. His postings have generally been in Permanent Navy support roles, both ashore and afloat. His service experience covers ward nursing, nursing leadership and management and specialist mental health nursing. He has service specific qualifications in Critical Incident Mental Health Support (CMS), Traumatic Stress Syndromes, Alcohol and Drug Awareness and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. In his civilian role he works as a Community Mental Health Nurse and provides case management for those in the community who live with mental illness. Commander West's current role with the ADF is as the Suicide Prevention Programme Co-ordinator for the Regional Mental Health Team - South Australia.



THANKYOU TO THE EMPLOYERS FOR RELEASING CONNIE, ANDREW AND DAVID TO UNDERTAKE THEIR IMPORTANT RESERVE WORK. IT REALLY DOES CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE CAPABILITY.

CULTANA BOSSES DAY OUT



The 'BosSES Day Out' concept is working extremely well at present.

Many units have asked for our support to get their Reservist's employers along to one of their own unit conducted activities. The employers get a first hand experience of the ADF training philosophy and they also see their own Defence Reservist in action.

All employers gain a greater appreciation for how Reserve training can benefit their business outcomes. It's a win win all round.

A recent 'BosSES Day Out' was a combined effort conducted at the military field firing range near Whyalla. This activity saw 3rd/9th Light Horse (South Australia Mounted Rifles), 3rd Field Squadron Engineers and 48th Field Battery Artillery all operating together to purge the local area of the marauding Musorian Armed Forces.

About 24 employers enjoyed the experience of cruising around a military range in Armoured Personnel Carriers and viewing lots of things that really went 'BANG'. The employers also got to live fire their own heavy machine guns as part of the exercise - the withdrawing enemy never had a chance! We all then headed back to camp for a 'cool' overnight stay under canvas.

WELL FED AND WELL RESTED ALL EMPLOYERS WERE DELIVERED BACK HOME IN ADELAIDE, BY THE DRSC CREW, THE FOLLOWING DAY.

RESERVE FORCES DAY / NEW RESERVIST COCKTAIL PARTY



DRSC combined with the Reserves Forces Day celebrations to host a special function at the Stamford Grand in Glenelg recently. This was the first time that these two organisations have combined and the event was an excellent opportunity to show off the Reserves.

In a function designed to welcome all new Defence Reservists and their employers to our organisation, all new Reservists met a significant number of other supportive employers and senior Defence personnel. It allowed DRSC to also take the opportunity to welcome the employers of these new Reservists and to publicly thank them for their support.

RESERVE FORCES DAY IS DESIGNED TO RECOGNISE THE SERVICE OF DEFENCE RESERVISTS, AND THIS YEAR THE FOCUS WAS ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF DEFENCE RESERVISTS BOTH ON OPERATIONAL AND PEACE KEEPING DEPLOYMENTS.



The Honourable Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade was the Guest speaker at the venue. Three Defence Reservists, Commander Steve Dunning RANR, Corporal Cristian Birzer and Group Captain Bill Griggs AM, were engaged in a Question and Answer interview and they all provided a valuable insight into the balancing act of work, family and Reserve commitments.

STOP PRESS!!

AND NOW A MESSAGE FROM OUR LIAISON OFFICER

MAJOR MARK PRIDEAUX

DRS-SA is keen to gain your thoughts on those issues that most directly impact on you as a Reservist or as an Employer of a Reservist.



In addition to speaking with the command groups and unit liaison officers, we also visit regional ADF units that have Reservists on staff and we arrive prepared to meet with anyone who has a view on Reserve service. We are particularly interested in how Reservists communicate their service to their employers and how they balance their other commitments - family and multiple employers. Gaining a collective focus on the real issues that are affecting service to the Reserves will allow DRS to represent and support Reservists on the things that are most important to them. This relevant information is advantageous when we are meeting with the executive level of the Employer Group and the upper echelons of the Defence Organisation.

The Defence Reserves Support Council is the link and advisory body between Reservists and the Employer Group and the Defence Organisation.

At present there is much effort being placed into gaining the support of Employers to adopt an official and generous leave policy for their Reservist employees. Many small and large employers are coming on board which is a demonstration of widespread support for what Reserve Service means to them and the nation. With or without the support of everyone around us we should all be able to feel proud of our contribution to national security in this time of uncertainty. A Reservists ability to be available to contribute to ADF capability is the key and family and employer support is essential to make it work.

The DRS-SA staff contact details are easily located on our intuitive website. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

2006 EMPLOYER AWARDS CEREMONY



Nominations are now being sought for the DRSC Employer Support Awards.

This function will be held on 23 November 2006 at Ayers House.

All Reservists are strongly encouraged to nominate their employer for an award to thank them for their support.

Nominations close 25 October 2006

EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH 2007

Challenge and S-t-r-e-t-c-h Yourself

8-10 March 2007

Spaces are limited. Nominate now so you don't miss out!

Nominations close 7 February 2007



DEFENCE RESERVES

CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYER SUPPORT PAYMENT SCHEME >>>

As from 1 July 2006 the **Employer Support Payment is \$1035.90** for every week employee Reservists are away from their civilian jobs, once the qualifying period of two weeks and other eligibility criteria are satisfied.

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

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