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## **DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **DEFENCE HONOURS RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA**

The Reserve Bank of Australia has been awarded a Defence Reserves Support Council Certificate of Recognition for its support of the Australian Defence Force Reserves.

Senator Sandy Macdonald, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, attended the ceremony held at Parliament House, Sydney, in late May.

The Reserve Bank located in Sydney was nominated by Warrant Officer John Balfour from Headquarters 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Dundas.

The Reserve Bank employs more than 30 Reservists. It has actively supported Warrant Officer Balfour's Reserve service for the past 39 years. WO John Balfour is the Manager of the Reserve Bank Training Centre at Kirribilli and really appreciates the support given to him by his employer to allow him to perform his important role as the Formation Recruiting Liaison Officer for the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

"The NSW Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council, through the Employer Support Awards, acknowledges employers who have adopted a supportive and positive role for their Reserve employees through leave arrangements and other special considerations to enable them to fulfill their Defence obligations," Senator Macdonald said.

To be eligible for Employer Support Awards, companies need to have a supportive leave policy and must have released their employees for an extended period of Reserve service. Awards are presented in the categories of Government and Large Business, Private Enterprise - Medium Business and Private Enterprise - Small Business.

"It is important to recognise the support that employers give to our Reservists, who in turn play an important role in assisting the Australian Defence Force in all roles, but particularly in peace-keeping and humanitarian aid operations," Senator Macdonald said.

"By providing their staff with Defence service leave, Reservists have been able to complete their training, attend courses to enhance their abilities and participate in Defence exercises. They have also had the opportunity to deploy to countries such as Malaysia, Pakistan and the Solomon Islands, assisting in peacekeeping missions and natural disaster relief."

"The Australian Government appreciates employers' efforts and one of the ways we thank them is through the Employer Support Payment Scheme, which sees eligible employers receive \$991.20 per week in order for them to employ a temporary replacement while their employee is performing Defence duties," Senator Macdonald said.

The Employer Support Payment will increase to \$1035.90 on 1 July.

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**PHOTO CAPTION** (DSC\_9351)

Major General Ian Flawith - Commander of the 2nd Division presents a DRSC Certificate of Recognition to Mr Frank Campbell - Assistant Governor of Corporate Services for the Reserve Bank of Australia, accompanied by their employee Warrant Officer Class One John Balfour - Headquarters 8th Brigade.