



## **DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **RAAF AMBERLEY STRETCHES CIVILIAN EMPLOYERS**

Business owners and managers from south-east Queensland recently spent a day at RAAF Base Amberley near Brisbane discovering the benefits of their employee's Reserve service.

Exercise Executive Stretch is organised in conjunction with the Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC), and gives business executives the opportunity to observe and experience the personal, technical and professional skills training their employees receive as a member of the ADF.

Often this exercise is hosted by Army units, but this time the DRSC chose RAAF Amberley in recognition of the more than 300 RAAF Reservists who are posted to 23 Squadron, City of Brisbane.

About 20 people from a range of public sector and private organisations took part in the event that included a flight in a Caribou aircraft, an overview of aircraft maintenance, weapons handling at the weapons simulator, and participation in a ground combat exercise.

The organisations involved included: Braintree Communications, Westaff, Migas, ATO, EPA, Qld Police and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

Major David Thomson, the Liaison Officer for the Defence Reserves Support Council in Queensland, said the exercise allowed employers to see first hand how Reserve training activities can directly benefit their business.

"Exercise Executive Stretch demonstrates how the unique professional, leadership and career development skills taught in the ADF can be transferred in the day-to-day workplace environment," he said.

"Our aim is to highlight the skills Reservists gain from being in the ADF and how those skills can benefit civilian employers. Furthermore we want to encourage employers to use the resources and financial support available to them through programs like the Employer Support Payment Scheme.

Mr Brad Sands, CEO of Braintree Communications a small Brisbane-based IT firm said: " I am very supportive of the ADF Reserve Forces."

"I have found that the knowledge skills and attitudes that ADF Reservists acquire through their reserve service make them flexible and technically competent employees with a 'can-do' attitude.

"The skills reservists gain from their military service are just as important in the business world as they are in the ADF."

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