

## President's Message June 2010

### Exercise Executive Stretch 2010

In April 2010, I participated in Exercise Executive Stretch 2010 (EES). EES was coordinated and hosted by Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade (located at Robertson Barracks) and the Defence Reserve Support Northern Territory (DRS-NT/K). Along with 15 others, I participated in activities conducted by Navy, Army and RAAF units in Darwin.

The aim of EES is to give participants (employers and prospective employers of Defence Reservists) direct experience of some of the activities Defence Reserves undertake; and provide insight regarding the skills, knowledge and attitudes that are acquired during Defence Reserve Service and how this can benefit employers of Reservists.

We commenced the exercise on Thursday evening, and this comprised of participants meeting each other and our supervisors for the exercise, participating in a drill and attending briefings from a number of Defence Reservists in senior positions.

On Friday, we took a tour of HMAS Bathurst, including travelling with the Patrol Boat for some exercises in the harbour, one of which involved a man overboard practice. Later, we visited the RAAF base for briefings by the No. 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit (RAAF radar unit) and we inspected a Lockheed AP-3C Orion surveillance aircraft. We also toured the air traffic control tower.

We were given a guided tour of Robertson Barracks. After setting up our camp, we were shown through and used simulators for the F88 Austeyr assault rifle; M1 Abrams tank; and ASLAV's. We were shown how night vision training is conducted in a purpose built facility setting out a jungle and urban environment. We were also entertained by the Army Band.

On Saturday, we undertook an obstacle course and participated in rock climbing and abseiling at the first class facilities at Robertson Barracks.

A short distance from the Barracks is the target practice area we were given the chance to test our aiming skills learned the previous day at the simulator through live firing of rounds of the Austeyr rifle. Separately, we were taught about camouflage techniques. The exercise concluded at the Norforce facility at Larrakeyah Barracks.

The program was professionally organised and implemented. The behind the scenes exposure was an eye-opener and every participant would have been impressed with the high standard of training and the state of the art technology and facilities. Not only was the program high in educational content it significantly extended my understanding of Defence Reserves and the benefits of employing Defence Reservists.

I would encourage all our members to carefully examine the significant benefits of the Defence Reserves Scheme (see [www.defencereserves.com](http://www.defencereserves.com)) and support the employment of Defence Reservists.

Sincerely,

George Roussos  
President, Chamber of Commerce, Northern Territory

