



Message from His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

for Reserve Forces Day 2014

Reservists are a vital part of Australia's long and distinguished military history. From the Boer War right through to our current commitments around the globe, our Reserve Forces have used their skill, professional expertise and wide-ranging experience to defend our nation and our national interests.

I have been privileged to meet our Reservists in Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq, Indonesia and here at home following natural disasters. They serve in our nation's military uniform, and they do so in addition to their civilian work. They are also often asked to deploy at short notice when their skill and experience are needed. I have great admiration for their ability, courage and diligence.

This year we mark the centenary of the start of World War One. Just 11 days after war was declared, hundreds of Reservist sailors and soldiers were the first to enlist to form the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. Deployed to destroy wireless stations in German New Guinea, they suffered our first combat casualties of the war. These Reservists led from the front when Australia faced its first great national trial.

Reserve Forces Day is an important day in our national calendar, an opportunity for all Australians to give thanks for the outstanding service of our Reservists. I commend the work of the Reserve Forces Day Council in ensuring the service and sacrifice of our Reservists continues to be recognised and honoured.

Peter Cosgrove
6th June 2014