

ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY MS QUENTIN BRYCE AC
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE
THE DOMAIN, SYDNEY
4 JULY 2010

I acknowledge the traditional keepers of this land, the Sydney Domain
and give thanks for the space it allows
for all of us here
to share in the appreciation and celebration of this very significant milestone in our nation's calendar.

As Patron-in-Chief of the Reserve Forces Day Council
and Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Defence Force,
I am thoroughly honoured and delighted to review this year's National Reserve Forces Day parade.

Your presentation is superb, and I want to assure you, on behalf of all Australians, of the genuine pride
and deep gratitude you inspire.

Your dedication, generosity, and courage are truly outstanding.

Today marks over a decade since the national parade was inaugurated, and over 60 years since the re-
raising of the Reserves in 1948.

It's an occasion for all Australians:

to observe and encourage you

to understand better how much you contribute to our safety and security

how valuable your experiences are in shaping and nurturing our civil society.

It's an opportunity to recognise and praise the men and women whose readiness, capability, and
commitment make our Reserve Forces one of our country's proudest traditions.

And this year, we give special acknowledgement to those Reservists decorated for their overseas service
during the period from the Korean War to the present.

For over a century, the Reserves have been a cornerstone of Australia's military progress.

Since World War II,

over 1.25 million volunteers have served alongside regular forces;

suspending their civilian lives indefinitely to provide swift, competent support wherever it is needed.

Representing around 45% of the Australian Defence Force, you are today an indispensable component
of our local and international profile.

In every major conflict that has engaged Australia, the Reserves have been there: steadfast and strong,

providing a link between mainstream civilian life and the military frontier.

Today we reflect on your contribution to peace-keeping, disaster relief and humanitarian aid.

In recent years, Australian Reservists have distinguished themselves through their willing and compassionate responses to human tragedy.

They have gone to the aid of our near neighbours - Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and the Solomon Islands.

They have also served further afield - in Iraq and Afghanistan, Rwanda and Somalia - helping to restore and rebuild communities.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to these gallant Reservists:

who regularly cross the line between private life and public duty,

whose sense of responsibility and citizenship leads them into peril, hardship, and sacrifice.

On behalf of all Australians, I congratulate each of you here today - together with Reservists, past and present, right across Australia.

And I sincerely thank and praise the families, employers, and communities who support you and believe in you.

You are the finest examples of wholehearted citizenship - leaders in volunteering and service, compassion and giving, diligence and stamina.

Indeed, "twice the citizen"!

Sir Winston Churchill declared.

Reservists, I salute you.