



But what about me? ... James Charlton runs towards his father, Captain David Charlton, as he lines up with Sergeant Michael Johnstone, far left, Julie Brogan, Major John Gallagher, Major Howard Bell, Commander Duncan Wallace, Squadron Leader John Smith and Major Paul Byleveld. They have all been awarded for their work overseas. Photo: Jacky Ghossein

#### Malcolm Brown

THE sound of bombs exploding nearby might have had them wishing they were back in their civilian jobs, but for the reservists deployed in Iraq the passing fear always gave way to the buzz.

Squadron Leader John Smith, a border control officer with the Department of Immigration,

served in Baghdad as an intelligence officer last year and early this year. He heard the bombs.

So did Captain David Charlton, in civilian life a sales manager, who was standing on a balcony in Baghdad's Camp Victory in October last year when five bombs went off simultaneously.

Movement of materials and

personnel into and out of Australian zones of operation in the Middle East - which he was administering - was a vital job given the complexity of today's overseas deployments.

The service of some 220 Australian civilian volunteers in the reserve forces was recognised by the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal

Angus Houston, on Saturday. Speaking at Victoria Barracks at the start of preparations for next year's Reserve Forces Day, he said reservists were being called on to do far more.

Commander Duncan Wallace, 49, a psychiatrist at Wyong Hospital and consultant in psychiatry with the navy, worked from HMAS Kanimbla after an

earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Nias in March this year. He had to call on his general medical knowledge as his team provided life-saving surgery. The deaths of nine crew in a helicopter crash underlined the fact that no operation was free of danger.

Major Howard Bell swapped his job as a solicitor with

WorkCover NSW to serve as a military policeman for the UN transitional authority in East Timor in 2002.

Others honoured included Major John Gallagher, who worked for Patrick Stevedoring at Botany. He served in East Timor in 2001 near a cousin, Julie Brogan, who worked as a nursing sister with a benevolent foundation.