



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

**MESSAGE: NATIONAL LAUNCH OF RESERVE FORCES DAY 2010**

Australian Defence Force Reservists have served their country valiantly since Federation, formerly as the Citizens Forces and then as the Reserves. They continue to play an important role in the Australian Defence Force, maintaining the proud legacy established by those who served before them. Reserve Forces Day is an occasion to reflect on their distinguished work.

In 2010, it will be a little over sixty years since part-time forces were re-formed following World War Two. On 1 July, we will pause to give special recognition to those Reservists who have volunteered and served abroad in operations and humanitarian missions, ranging from Korea and the early United Nations missions through to the current effort in Afghanistan.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all Reservists, past and present, and express the gratitude of the Australian people for your great sacrifice. I thank your families, friends and employers, whose support is vital to the efforts of our Reserve Forces. And I applaud the hard work of the Reserve Forces Day Council to ensure that the community celebrates the contribution of these brave Australians through this special day.

Reservists have volunteered to serve their country for more than one hundred years. We remain indebted to all the men and women who selflessly continue to answer their nation's call.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Rudd'.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister of Australia