



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

NATIONAL LAUNCH OF RESERVE FORCES DAY 2011

In the decades since a part-time reserve was re-formed in 1948, Australian Defence Force Reservists have served our nation with courage and distinction.

Some indeed have made the supreme sacrifice and we honour their memory with reverence and respect.

Reserve Forces Day highlights the vital role Reservists have played in Australia's defence, and provides a valuable opportunity for the community to express its gratitude and admiration.

Reservists have contributed to every major military operation since Federation and today serve in the Solomon Islands, East Timor and Afghanistan. As ever, they remain an indispensable part of the Australian Defence Force.

Reservists embody citizenship in its finest form, devoting their time and their skills to the cause of our nation's security. For this, Australia is deeply grateful.

We also acknowledge that this contribution would be impossible without the support of families and employers, and they too deserve our thanks.

Finally, we owe a special debt to the Reserve Forces Day Council for organising this important event and keeping the work of our Reservists high in public esteem.

On behalf of the Government and people of Australia, I wish every success for Reserve Forces Day 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julia Gillard'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

The Honourable Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister of Australia