



His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

24 June 2008

**A Message
from
His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
for
Reserve Forces Day
1 July 2008**

Marlena and I send our best wishes to everyone participating in Reserve Forces Day.

On this occasion, we commemorate the exemplary service given to the nation by National Servicemen and Citizen Forces of the Defence Reserves. We also remember friends and colleagues with whom they served.

This year is also a special occasion in marking the sixtieth anniversary since part time forces were reformed after the Second World War.

Since their inception, our Reserve Forces have provided an important component of Australia's defence capability.

Who will ever forget the valour of the 39th Militia Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Honner in its magnificent contribution to the defeat of the Japanese on the Kokoda Track.

Today, the young men and women of our Reserves are engaged in operations around the globe, continuing to serve with distinction alongside our full-time service men and women.

I also thank the families and employers who have supported, or continue to support, our reservists in their service to our nation. Without their flexibility, commitment and understanding our reserve forces would not be as capable and proficient as they are today.

Well done to you all and keep up the good work.

(Michael Jeffery)