



**THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence**

**THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY AM MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support**

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE THE HIGH READINESS
RESERVES**

As part of the Defence White Paper, the Government has today directed that Defence grow its High Readiness Reserve capability.

“By January 2010, six company-sized Army combat teams, made up of High Readiness Reserve members are planned to be available for operational tasking, such as protecting ports, airfields, and guarding headquarters and vital national assets,” said the Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP.

Reserves provide an important contribution to achieving the missions of Defence. High Readiness Reserve is a category of part-time service that allows some Army and Air Force Reserve members to be held at much higher readiness for deployment. Because almost all Navy Reserve members are former full-time members and generally have a high readiness to deploy, the Navy Reserve does not employ the same model.

“Additionally, the Army’s Reserve Response Forces provide six company-size teams for the purpose of Defence Assistance to the Civil Community and, in the case of natural disasters, to support Defence Force Assistance to the Civil Authority tasks,” said Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP.

Defence will also investigate the potential for a new form of Reserve service based on workforce sponsorship, with the current High Readiness Reserve scheme possibly being adapted to support such an initiative.

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

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The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region.

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