

I HAVE only just arrived back from High Range Training Area to write this month's column.

While there, I was privileged to spend some time with the team from 4th Field Regiment on Exercise First Run.

I walked with them part of the way as they 'man-packed' their guns all night across part of the training area and conducted 'crash action' live-fire missions.

It was a fantastic effort to witness, and a true reflection of the type of smart, tough and adaptable soldiers working in our Brigade.

□ □ □

SPEAKING of smart, tough and adaptable soldiers, the Brigade RSM and I had dinner with one of our tribal elders during March.

BRIG (retired) George Mansford - the founder of our Jungle Training School at Tully and the author of *The Mad Galahs* - hosted us at his rainforest property just outside Cairns.

He remains impressed and interested in the achievements of all our Townsville-based Defence personnel.

We have invited him to Townsville to share his Australian Army Training Team (Vietnam) experiences with those 3 Brigade soldiers who are warned to serve with the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team in Afghanistan.

More details about his



From the Commander's desk

www.armyintownsville.net
www.3brigadeinsydney.net

visit will follow soon, and if you haven't read *The Mad Galahs*, then get a copy from the Defence Library because it is a true reflection of the Australian military spirit.

□ □ □

THE Holiday Expo coordinated by the gang at Geckos was simply brilliant. They deserve special congratulations from all of us in the Defence community for mustering such a wide range of travel and leisure operators in the one place.

I was especially pleased to see so many discounted deals for Defence families.

I have suggested that we conduct a similar Expo later this year, perhaps just prior to the September-October school holidays.

If you agree, then get the word across to the Geckos' staff next time you visit.

□ □ □

IT is now official! The crew from 3RAR will move to Townsville at the end of 2011.

This was confirmed last week when Federal Parliament agreed to fund the construction of 3RAR's new working accommodation at Lavarack Barracks.

This is great news, not only

from a Defence capability perspective, but also from a retention perspective.

More Army units in North Queensland means more opportunities for Army personnel to achieve back-to-back postings and therefore greater family stability.

□ □ □

THE Defence activity rate across North Queensland has sky-rocketed over the last two weeks as we have commenced gathering and training those various groups who are warned for operational deployments.

I know there are many Defence agencies working very hard to assist those who are training for deployment.

My special thanks to the team from the Joint Logistics Unit (North Queensland) who have been operating our Mounting Base 'Kitting Store'.

They have worked especially long hours to ensure our soldiers are issued the right combat clothing and equipment in the smoothest possible process.

I understand the shopping trolley system is a real hit with our younger soldiers.

YOU may have noticed all the Commanding Officers from across 3 Brigade conducting physical training together each day Thursday morning.

It is our way of keeping each other informed and setting the example.

Last week, we tested the proposed All Corps Standard fitness test - a sequence of battle sprints, load-carrying and lifting, dressed in patrol outfit with body armour and helmet.

The test has been designed by our Defence scientists to better prepare us for the types of physical activity encountered on the modern battlefield.

We are looking at introducing this fitness test throughout 3 Brigade - so keep alert for more details.

□ □ □

MANY of you will take a well-earned break with family and friends at Easter.

I look forward to seeing you again at our various commemorative services on ANZAC Day.

Townsville is a great place to spend this important day because the local community truly understands the sacrifice to nation made by our past and present soldiers, sailors and aircrew.

- COMD 3Bde
 BRIG Stuart Smith
 AM



COMMAND ... COS 11Bde LTCOL Mitch Mee, RSM 11Bde WO1 Wayne Hay, Navy LO 3Bde CDR Chris Kerr, COMD 11Bde BRIG Peter Jeffrey, CO 27 Sqn SQNLDR Damien Kroek, Neville Brown regional chairman DRSC and Tony Behm State chairman DRSC

11Bde hosts 'show and tell' for top employers

THE leadership of the city's Army Reserve Brigade hosted a tri-service "show and tell" for its major sponsors - Townsville employers - last weekend.

COMD 11Bde BRIG Peter Jeffrey formally welcomed about 40 high profile Townsville employers and community leaders at Lavarack Barracks.

The visitors had the opportunity to examine night-vision equipment, weapon systems and vehicles and fire rifles at the WTSS facility at Lavarack Barracks.

Some of Townsville's senior military personnel CDR Chris Kerr, SQNLDR Damien Kroek and BRIG Jeffrey gave the visitors an overview of each service and the challenges they faced.

BRIG Jeffrey thanked the visitors for supporting the ADF Reserves.

"Yes, there is an economic downturn and more recruits are joining the ADF, but we still ask for your support," he said.

The Reserves' junior leaders and officers would need to dedicate time to train the new recruits, so employer support continued to be vital.

He said there were four main benefits Reserve service returned to employers in their workforce: responsibility, initiative, discipline and leadership.

"The skills gained help mitigate the cost of releasing employees," BRIG Jeffrey said.

"The balance [between the Reservist, the employer and family] is not achieved by getting them equally every day."

The event was co-hosted by the Defence Reserves Support Council.

Regional chairman Neville Brown said the idea was to help employers understand what was happening in the Reserve, and what to expect for the future.

He said the people at the lunch employed, in total, about 25,000 workers in Townsville.

"All services are constantly changing to meet the current demands placed on them," he said.

"Reserves are being called on more than ever to assist."

He said there was a lot of "cross-pollination" of skills between the Reservist's workplace and their civilian workplace.

Mr Brown, a senior logistics officer at HQ 11Bde, said DRSC aimed to raise the profile of Townsville Reservists.

-RIANNA COUGHLAN

FOR MEN ONLY

GROOMMEN
 mensgroomingspecialists

ULTIMATE DEAL

THE GROOMEN CLUB CARD \$99

Includes 5 Groomen Essential Haircuts & 10% off all retail & a free neck shave in between haircuts for Defence personnel only

"...You're serving us...now let us serve you..."

Valid 12 months from purchase. Terms & conditions apply - see instore for details

The Precinct,
 Fairfield Waters (near McDonalds)
 12-18 Village Dr. Idalia 4811 Q
 BOOK NOW Ph 4729 0485

www.groomen.com.au

HAIR SKIN WAXING BODY SHAVE

GRAND OPENING