
Sent: Monday, 11 August 2008 16:15
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 7. Reserves [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: In my view it is a waste of resources to scuttle a de-commissioned warship to create a dive location for diving enthusiasts. Surely some money could be spent refurbishing a ship at the end of its service life and converting it into a training facility for Navy reservists.

I'm sure experienced Reserve trainers would attest to the enthusiasm of cadets and trainees when confronted by a training tool which is a de-commissioned ship or patrol boat, a retired C130 a Leopard tank or a truck or artillery piece.

I believe the Reserve system is a way to train trade technicians and equipment operators from forklift trucks to communications equipment. Reservists are in my view the only infantry that should be deployed to low risk peacekeeping duties. Highly trained, warfighting Infantry, Artillery, Engineering and other specialists should not be 'wasted' in low level peacekeeping operations.

Prior to the cancellation of the Cadet program in the 1970's the ADF had a ready supply of recruits, and even University students would join the Reserve Regiments because it was a recognised aspect of personal development for teenagers and others. The popularity of the 'gap year' program illustrates the point.

The US Air National Guard where airline pilots and other civilian pilots spend a month a year flying multi-engined air force aircraft provides a ready reserve of pilots who can provide backup resources for airlift operations. These Reservists also fly specially equipped C130 fire fighting aircraft at the behest of the US Forest Service and State authorities when required.

More attention and resources needs to be allocated to Reserve units to help create a culture of military service to the nation. We are now in an era when the leading politicians in the country do not include Vietnam veterans nor do they include military Reservists.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report