



Ministry  
of Defence

# Reserves Day Narrative and Key Messages

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## The Reserve Forces

The Reserves have always played an essential role in our Armed Forces and, through their dedication and professionalism, they make a vital contribution to protecting the nation's security at home and overseas. Reservists give up their spare time to serve in the Reserve Forces, balancing their civilian life with a military career.

Reservists play a central role alongside Regulars to meet Defence requirements, particularly providing capability in specialist areas such as medical and cyber. Reserve units are increasingly paired with and train alongside Regular units and, when required, work alongside them.

Reservists are currently supporting operations worldwide including in Afghanistan, Northern Iraq, Bahrain and Cyprus, and for counter-piracy and maritime security operations at sea. In addition, Reservists have deployed to help combat the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and are also involved in training Government forces in the Ukraine.

## Reserves Day

Reserves Day is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the important part that Reservists play in supporting the UK's defence capability. Reservists have always played - and will continue to play - a key role in our Armed Forces and make a valuable contribution to the nation over and above their day jobs.

Reserves Day will take place on Wednesday 24 June 2015 as one of a series of events in the run up to Armed Forces Day and celebrates all of those who make up the Reserve Forces. This is an opportunity to recognise the valuable contribution Reservists make to our Armed Forces. Formerly known as 'Uniform to Work Day', Reserves Day provides an opportunity for the whole of the UK to celebrate our Reserve Forces and for Reservists to show pride in their service.

## Showing your support for Reserves Day

Reserves Day is an opportunity for employers to recognise their Reservist employees and celebrate the contribution they make. Employers are encouraged to invite their employees who are Reservists to wear their uniform (where possible) in the work place. Employers can also show their support by holding events and seminars to promote the work of their employees who are also Reservists.

## Key Messages

### What do Reservists do?

The Armed Forces consist of both Regulars and Reservists. Whereas Regulars have a full-time career in the Armed Forces, Reservists give up their spare time to serve in the Reserve Forces, balancing their civilian life with a Service career. The Reserves have always played an essential role in our Armed Forces and, through their dedication and professionalism, they make a vital contribution to protecting the nation's security at home and overseas. Reservists are currently supporting operations worldwide including in Afghanistan, Northern Iraq, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina and as part of the UK's effort to counter Ebola in Sierra Leone. Reservists are also involved in helping to train Government forces in the Ukraine.

## What are the benefits of employing Reservists?

Reservist employees learn new skills such as leadership, project management and communications which will be of benefit to their employers back in the workplace.

## What support is available to employers of Reservists?

A package of financial and other support is available to all employers to help them accommodate absences and minimise the impact on their business. Additional financial help is available for SMEs recognising the greater impact that absences can have on smaller companies. Further information on the support for employers can be found at:

<http://www.sabre.mod.uk/Employers/The-Mobilisation-process/Financial-assistance>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-relationship-management>

## What are the benefits of Reserve service to Reservists?

Joining the Reserves Forces gives you the opportunity to enjoy some extraordinary and exciting new experiences that you wouldn't get in your day-to-day life or work. You'll also have the opportunity both to develop new skills and enhance existing skills such as leadership, working under pressure, teamwork and communications.

You'll get great quality, exhilarating training including adventurous training like kayaking, abseiling and scuba diving. The training and qualifications you receive will be recognised and respected back in the workplace.

There are all sorts of different and exciting roles in the Reserves that you will find both challenging and rewarding. So you can use some of your existing skills or do something completely different from your day-to-day life or work. You'll also receive an attractive pay package as a Reservist.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### As a Reservist, what can I do to support Reserves Day?

If you are a serving Reservist, you are invited to wear your uniform at work on Reserves Day to show pride in your Reserve service. You could also speak about your experiences in the Reserve Forces at a work-place talk.

### As a Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers, what can I do to support Reserves Day?

Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers are also invited to wear their uniform on Reserves Day where appropriate. Specific direction and guidance will be provided by their respective Cadet Force organisation.

### As an employer, what can I do to support Reserves Day?

If you are an employer of Reservists, you can support Reserves Day firstly by encouraging your employees who are Reservists to wear their uniform at work. You could also display posters, post an intranet article or write a press release showing your support for the Reserve Forces or host a work-place talk featuring your Reservist employees.

### I cannot wear my uniform at work. What can I do to support Reserves Day instead?

For some professions it may not be appropriate for uniform to be worn at work. In these cases Reservists and their employers can show their support for Reserves Day by putting up posters, writing articles and hosting events to recognise and celebrate Reserve service.

### Can I wear my uniform in public?

Whilst there is no ban on the wearing of uniform in public, your Commanding Officer or Head of Establishment will guide you on what is appropriate in your local circumstances. This could include not wearing uniform outside the place of work; covering uniform and military insignia when commuting to and from work; or continuing existing practice. In all cases you should continue to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious immediately.