



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

BE UPFRONT WITH YOUR BOSS

Building positive working relationships with an employer helps with managing your Defence commitments. As a Reservist, there are a few things you'll need to talk to your employer about to help them understand your military service. It's essential to be open and honest with your boss, so they know what your commitments are, and can plan how to manage them with you.

DEFENCE EMPLOYER SUPPORT COUNCIL (DESC)

The DESC is appointed by the Minister of Defence and is independent of the New Zealand Defence Force.

The DESC provides:

- Strategic guidance and advice on Reserve employment matters
- Information for both employers and Reservist employees on their rights and obligations
- Recognition for supportive employers through the annual Tohu Awards.

DESC WEBSITE

The DESC website offers information and support for employers and Reservists, including:

- Legislation, your rights and your employers rights,
- News and awards,
- Practical, downloadable resources.

CONTACT US

WEB: www.desc.govt.nz

EMAIL: enquiries@desc.govt.nz

EMAIL: reserves@nzdf.mil.nz

THE TOHU AWARDS

Reservist of the Year (ROTY)

Each year, HQ DRYS (Defence Reserves, Youth and Sport) plans and coordinates the selection of the Reservist of the Year with single Services and Reserve Unit Commanders.

These Awards aim to recognise Reserve Force personnel's outstanding service and support to the NZDF, in their civilian employment and within the community.

Nominations are forwarded to DRYS via Reserve Force Unit Chain of Command and require command approval.

The winner is announced at the annual **Tohu Awards** and at the **NZDF Person of the Year** awards ceremonies.

Contact your Unit Chain of Command for Nomination information.

Reservist Employer of the Year (REOTY)

The selection of the Reservist Employer of the Year is coordinated by the Defence Employer Support Council and any Reservist can nominate their employer for this.

The winner is announced at the annual **Tohu Awards** ceremony.



2024 Tohu Awards winners, depicted with Associate Minister of Defence, Chris Penk, Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Tony Davies, Vice Chief of Defence Force, Rear Admiral Mathew Williams, Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Garin Golding, Chief of Army, Major General Rose King and Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Darryn Webb.



RESERVE FORCES

Opportunities and support available for New Zealand Defence Force Reservists.

RESERVE FORCE SERVICE IS VITAL

The NZDF Community, Nation and World framework recognises the important role that Defence plays, and will continue to play, in promoting the overall wellbeing and resilience of New Zealand, its communities and environment.

The Reserve Forces provide the NZDF with a force generation method where it would be impractical to do so through Regular Forces.

As a Reservist, you may also bring specialist skills and offer Community engagement opportunities through your employers, networks and communities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESERVISTS

Each year, Defence Reserves, Youth and Sport (DRYS), plans, coordinates and funds initiatives for Defence Reserve Force personnel which aim to:

- Encourage Reserve Force service
- Promote Reserve Force Interoperability with the ADF
- Introduce Reservists to working in HQNZDF Branches and Units
- Reward and Acknowledge the achievement and commitment of Reserve Force personnel

RESERVE INTERNSHIP SCHEME (RIS)

The Reserve Internship Scheme offers members of the Reserve Forces the opportunity to work for NZDF over the University Summer holidays (November to February).

This offers the NZDF the opportunity to use the academic skills of selected Reservists in projects and work streams where their academic skills could suit permanent employment with NZDF or add to their commitment and engagement for further Reserve service.

Am I eligible?

You should be:

- A Reserve Force member serving in the RNZN, NZ Army, or RNZAF.
- Have completed more than two years undergraduate studies or be undertaking postgraduate studies.
- Not be in paid civilian employment.
- Be available from mid-November to mid-February.

How do I apply?

Nominations are forwarded to HQ DRYS via your Reserve Force Unit Chain of Command. They require Command Endorsement.



THE TASMAN SCHEME

The Tasman Scheme is a bilateral annual exchange programme between the NZDF and the ADF. The scheme is designed to promote interoperability between the NZDF and the ADF.

The Tasman Scheme sees the NZDF and the ADF host Reserve Force junior ranks and officers from across the three services, between April to June, for a period of two weeks.

How do I apply?

Nominations are forwarded to DRYS via your Reserve Force Unit Chain of Command. They require Command Endorsement.

When do I apply?

DRYS Call for Nominations: October

Cut-off Date for Applications: February

