

RESERVES DAY NARRATIVE AND KEY MESSAGES

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, may deploy on operations with them. Reservists now have access to the same equipment and technology as Regulars and receive high-quality, challenging training, including more opportunities to train overseas.

Reservists are currently supporting operations worldwide including in Afghanistan, countering the threat of Daesh in Iraq, UN peacekeeping in Cyprus, as well as global counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations and defence engagement tasks worldwide.

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, making a valuable contribution to the nation over and above their day jobs.

Reserves Day will take place on Wednesday 21 June 2017 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 Reservist employees to wear their uniform (where possible) in the workplace. Employers can also show their support by holding events and seminars to promote the work of their employees who are also Reservists.

KEY MESSAGES

- This is a national occasion to recognise the Reserve Forces for their outstanding contribution to this country;
- Reservists are deployed in operational theatres worldwide, undertaking different, diverse and, sometimes, dangerous roles.

- The Reservist community is diverse. Reservists come from all parts of the community and all walks of life.
- Businesses are recognising the skills Reservists can bring to civilian employment and are supporting them through measures promised as part of their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Joining the Reserves gives you an opportunity to enjoy a range of extraordinary new experiences and to develop new skills you would not get in your day-to-day life.

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 share your experiences in the Reserve Forces at a work-place talk, through internal comms channels or by writing a blog.

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. Employers are encouraged to get involved in digital campaigns including the #SaluteOurForces campaign where organisations share pictures on social media of them Saluting the Armed Forces. Employers can also take part in our new 'Who's your office hero' campaign where employers take to Twitter to celebrate one of their employees from the Armed Forces community.

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 displaying Reserves Day 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 wearing 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.

As a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer, what can I do to support Reserves Day?

To reflect their historic participation in 'Uniform to Work Day', Cadet Force Adult Volunteers will be able to wear their uniform on Reserves Day if they so wish.

Specific direction and guidance will be provided by the respective Cadet Force organisations.

Click [here](#) to download the Reserves Day toolkit.