



Operation CIVIL ASSIST 2025 Student Reserve members and call out exercises

What you need to know:

Operation Civil Assist is conducted annually to exercise Defence preparedness through rehearsal of a call out of the Reserves. This means it's not an official call out, but it is exercised like one.

Operation Civil Assist 2025 will be conducted between **17 and 22 October 2025**.

Reserve members will be notified by their unit if they are required for Operation Civil Assist 2025 and all identified Reserve members are required to render defence unless an *exemption* applies.

Does my educational institution need to release me?

Yes. Your Australian educational institution must release you from your studies to undertake defence service on Operation Civil Assist 2025.

Defence service is protected under the *Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001* (DRSP Act). The DRSP Act has a number of protections in place for students who are ADF Reserve members, in particular, Part 7.

Can my educational institution seek an exemption?

No, your educational institution cannot seek an *exemption*.

Can I seek an exemption?

Reserve members who have a need to be excused from Operation Civil Assist 2025 due to irreconcilable circumstances are to submit an *Individual exemption* request, with a written statement of reasons, to their Commanding Officer. Commanding Officers are to assess each request on a case-by-case basis and submit their recommendation, through the chain of command, to the relevant delegate for consideration.

What happens if my *Individual exemption* is not approved and I have assignments or exams due?

You should talk to your educational institution as early as possible.

Educational institutions must make reasonable adjustments for Reserve members who undertake defence service, including on Operation Civil Assist 2025.

A *reasonable adjustment* might include:

- Not failing a Reserve member
- Recognising assessment or practical work undertaken by a Reserve member before starting to render defence service
- Allowing a Reserve member to defer undertaking or completing assessment or practical work
- Refunding or crediting fees paid by or for the Reserve member.

Who can I contact if I need more assistance?

Units

Your unit is always a good place to start. You know your unit and its people and they may be able to point you in the right direction.

Defence Service Centre (DSC)

If you're not sure who to contact or how to go about getting assistance, the DSC is a great resource. Staff at the DSC can put you in contact with relevant Defence support services, including ADF Reserves and Employer Support.

The DSC is able to assist you with all general enquiries, personal administration services, human resources, payroll group certificates, service records and honours and awards.

Phone: 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362)

Email: yourCustomer.Service@defence.gov.au

Australian Defence Force Reserves and Employer Support

ADF Reserves and Employer Support (ADFRES) provides support to the ADF Reserves, employers and the community. The ADFRES mission is to enhance reservist contribution to Defence capability through mutually beneficial relationships, promoting the benefits of Reserve service and informing policy related to reservists.

Further information about ADFRES services may be found on our website, www.reserveemployersupport.gov.au.

Where can I get more information?