

The  
Royal Australian Artillery  
**LIAISON LETTER**

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Spring 2014



The Official Journal of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery  
Incorporating the Australian Gunner Magazine

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First Published in 1948



# RAA LIAISON LETTER

## Spring Edition 2014

Incorporating the  
Australian Gunner Magazine

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### NEXT EDITION CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

Contributions for the Liaison Letter 2015 – Autumn Edition should be forwarded to the Editor by no later than **Friday 27th February 2015**.

### LIAISON LETTER ON-LINE

The Liaison Letter is on the Regimental DRN web-site – <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/RRAA/>. Content managers are requested to add this to their links.

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Contributors are urged to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in their articles. The Royal Australian Artillery, Deputy Head of Regiment and the RAA Liaison Letter editor accept no responsibility for errors of fact.

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# RAA Gunners' Fund

## What is it?

The RAA Gunners' Fund is designed to provide a source of funds that can be used to benefit all Gunners.

One of the important uses for the fund is to support requests from RAA units to assist in the preservation and promotion of the Regimental heritage.

The fund has been operating for over 50 years and has drawn its monies from Benefactors mainly officers, warrant officers and senior NCO.

The fund is supervised by the Regimental Committee.

## What does it do?

The fund will support:

- Extra Regimental activities
- Awards to individuals
- Activities to benefit RAA members not funded by public money
- Safe guard, maintain and purchase items of Regimental property
- Preserve RAA history and heritage
- Record unit histories

## How do I join?

See the 'Gunners' Fund' subscription advertisement located in the Associations & Organisations Section of the RAA Liaison Letter.

**Individually Numbered Key Ring and Members Only Raffle**



**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

Brigadier A. G. Warner, AM, LVO,  
Representative Colonel Commandant,  
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery for their message of loyalty, sent on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery Day, on which one hundred and forty-three years of dedicated service to Australia is commemorated.

As your Captain-General, I was pleased to learn of the end of your operation in Afghanistan. I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, I send my best wishes to all concerned as well as for the safe return of all troops from overseas.

ELIZABETH R.

1st August, 2014.



**Australian Army**  
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

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**Representative Colonel Commandant**  
**Colonels Commandant**  
**Commanding Officers**  
**Battery Commanders**  
**All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery**  
**Associations and affiliated friends of the Regiment**

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN  
ARTILLERY – 1 AUGUST 2014**

This year marks the 143rd Anniversary of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery's service to the Army and our nation. On 1 August we will be celebrating our glorious past and recent illustrious history, our lineage and customs of the Regiment through various events.

This year also marks the start of celebrations of the ANZAC Centenary and the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. I would like to thank the efforts of those who are involved in celebratory events such as the First Shot Commemorative Ceremony at Portsea on 5 August and the Australian Artillery Association's 2014 National Gunner Dinner on 23 August in Caloundra. The Regiment have been invited to participate in the Royal Regiment of Artillery's Tercentenary Commemorative Events commencing in late 2014 to which I am sure we'll be providing a presence.

With most major elements now returned from Afghanistan, the Army is now focussing on the learning that accompanies our experiences from more than a decade of active service in various overseas operations and reinvest in foundation war fighting skills. This strategic pause will now allow the Regiment to hone in on effectively harnessing advancements in all of its capabilities and new organisations. We are indeed at the forefront of modern warfare and we have barely scratched the surface in terms of the application of these capabilities.

Regardless of the remarkable equipment we possess, we should not forget that it is our people we must invest in as a Regiment. The ongoing training and education in technical and tactical matters are an important aspect of the Regiment. The investment in our intellectual capabilities is at least equal to what we place in our mastery of the instruments of war that we serve with.

Amidst our celebrations let us continue to think about our Gunners who are still deployed in various parts of the globe. Let us not forget their families who bear the same sacrifices as the Gunners themselves. I also take the opportunity to remember those long serving members of the Regiment who have passed over the last year. Their service and mateship was a valuable contribution to Army and the nation and they will be missed.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonels Commandant, I congratulate all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and former, for their service.

Ubique



**PC Gates, CSM**  
Brigadier  
Head of Regiment

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22 July 2014

## Special Incentive Award

BARRALLIER BOOKS have offered a one off incentive prize in appreciation for a book review being done on the book *'White Sherpas - Reaching the top with the Australian Bicentennial Everest Expedition'* written by Patrick Cullinan SC, OAM. The book review can be found in the Professional Papers Section.

I am pleased to announce that Barrallier Books incentive prize is awarded to Major Simon Hompas for his Professional Paper entitled *'Lessons Learnt from Afghanistan: A Junior Officers Perspective'*.

Major Hompas will receive a copy of *'White Sherpas - Reaching the top with the Australian Bicentennial Everest Expedition'* by Patrick Cullinan SC, OAM published by Barrallier Books in 2013.

Congratulations to Major Simon Hompas I strongly encourage everyone to make the time to read his paper.

# Editor's Comment



Welcome to the Liaison Letter 2014 – Spring Edition. I am grateful and pleased to report that this edition has been well supported from across the Regiment and as a consequence it contains a wide range of

intellectually stimulating papers and informative articles. I trust you enjoy reading most if not all of them.

I would like to thank the Regimental Master Gunner Warrant Officer Class One Matthew Sullivan for agreeing to take part in the 'Five Minutes With ...' section. It is great to have one of our most senior serving soldiers offer his thoughts and views on a range of topics. As editor, I welcome any suggestions for individuals that readers would like me to include in this section of future editions.

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*In the Professional Paper Section  
I am extremely impressed with  
the subject matter and quality of  
the submissions.*

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There is an article on the Proof and Experimental Establishment - Port Wakefield to mark the 85th anniversary since it was raised. The front cover, designed by our graphic artist Felicity Smith, is in recognition of this important milestone. As Gunners we have few units and sub-units on the current order of battle who have a lineage which extends continuously from prior to the Second World War.

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*The 'letters to the editor' for this  
edition has been undersubscribed  
which is disappointing.*

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In the Professional Paper Section I am extremely impressed with the subject matter and quality of the submissions. The two papers are timely and on relevant subjects: Lessons from Afghanistan and the ARTEP. The paper on Afghanistan by Major Simon Hompas is a thoughtful and honest review of artillery in the campaign based on his personal experiences gained from extensive operational service over the last decade. The ARTEP paper by Warrant Officer Class One D. Lindsay is timely as the

Regiment post-Afghanistan concentrates its focus on traditional war fighting and the associated training challenges. My one observation is the ARTEP is only one aspect of training and consequently it is paramount the Regiment has its entire suite of training targeted correctly to ensure we are prepared and flexible for any challenge the future may present. I commend the papers to everyone.

The 'letters to the editor' for this edition has been undersubscribed which is disappointing. I would like to highlight this is an important forum where individuals are encouraged to openly express their ideas and points of view. I urge everyone to take the opportunity to have their say on any artillery related matter. You would be surprised to whom and where the Liaison Letter is distributed - you never know someone may agree with you and act upon your idea.

By all accounts the RAA National Dinner held in August was a major success and enjoyed by the 400 plus people who attended. I congratulate the Australian Artillery Association and especially Kim McGrath and Graham Hampton for their drive in organising such a successful event. Colonel Ian Ahearn (Retd) has produced a report on the dinner for this edition. I thank him for agreeing to undertake the task. I was most disappointed not to be in a position to attend the dinner myself.

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*Finally to those individuals who  
actually wrote the papers and  
articles I especially thank you for  
making the effort to express your  
thoughts and put your views  
forward.*

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There are contributions from all three full-time gun Regiments on a range of activities and events. In terms of operations the 1st Regiment has provide a comprehensive article on the Artillery Mobile Training Team - Kabul. Major Michael Chapman from the Defence Material Organisation has provided a detailed overview of artillery capability development from a Combat Support Systems Program perspective. I would like to thank him for taking the time as it has been a number of editions since an overview has been published.

On top of everything I have highlighted there is the usual wide selection of informative articles and comments from the regular contributors including the Representative Colonel Commandant, Head of Regiment and Regimental Master Gunner.

I would like to acknowledge the strong support I have received from the Deputy Head of Regiment and Commanding Officers in encouraging and mentoring people to take the time to contribute to the Liaison Letter. Finally to those individuals who actually wrote the papers and articles I especially thank you for making the effort to express your thoughts and put your views forward.

I cannot emphasise enough that the Liaison Letter is your professional journal so please support it how and wherever you can. If you have something on your mind I encourage you to express it - there are probably others who are thinking along the same lines. I look forward to receiving your submissions for the Liaison Letter 2015 - Autumn Edition.



DT (Terry) BRENNAN  
Major  
Editor

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# Letters to the Editor

## Positive Feedback

Once again, congratulations are due for an excellent Liaison Letter. As you said in your Editorial '*the publication has continued to improve in content and presentation*'. The Autumn Edition is one of the best, if not the best edition.

The Liaison Letter is a source of information for us '*old gunners*'. Without the first-hand articles, we would not be aware of how our fellow artillerymen are performing in the field. The dearth of other '*official*' reporting is a sorry reflection on the restriction which the Defence Department inflicts on itself.

In passing you my congratulations for the effort which you must devote to the Liaison Letter, I must add those to Steve Nicholls, the Editor of Cannonball, a publication which I have been privileged to receive for the last 15 years. Steve maintains a high standard, which was set by his predecessor and my good friend, Alan Smith.

Whilst passing bouquets, I must make comment on the marvellous contribution which Chris Jobson gives to '*gunner affairs*'. Chris's input is everywhere; to the Liaison Letter; to Cannonball; to the editor of the Canberra Times; to advising me where I've gone wrong or omitted an important fact in my epistles. Well done, Chris.

I hope, Terry, that your excellent contributions as Editor of the RAA Liaison Letter continue for many years to come. I am still amazed that you can produce such a publication, whilst running a 32,500 acre cattle property in Queensland!

With Kindest Regards

Brigadier Garth Hughes AM (Retd)

Received a copy of the Liaison Letter and Cannonball with the White Sherpas advertisement. (Editor: There is a book review in this Edition.) Thanks very much. Both the magazine and the advertisement are great. Much appreciated. Thanks again.

Regards

Lieutenant Colonel Pat Cullinan SC OAM



Thank you for the current Liaison Letter issue. It is greatly appreciated and will make for great reading tomorrow!

Regards

Captain PJ Tarling  
Headquarters 3rd Brigade

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Once again, my thanks for your most informative Journal. I look forward to your seasonal updates of events and developments in the Corps.

Kind Regards

Major General Gordon J Fitzgerald AO (Retd)

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Thanks. I do appreciate receiving the Liaison Letter.

Regards

Major Steve Silver

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Be assured your efforts as Editor are greatly appreciated.

Regards

Colonel John C Kirkwood (Retd)

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Editor: Many thanks for all the positive feedback above. Please remember all suggestions on how to improve the Liaison Letter and make it more relevant are always most welcome and appreciated.

**DATE CLAIMER**

**LIAISON LETTER**

Next Edition Contribution Deadline

**Friday 27th February 2015**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Future Liaison Letter Mailing List Requests**

The combining of the Liaison Letter and Cannonball journals has meant the rationale behind adding names to the Liaison Letter Mailing list had to be reviewed.

To date, the Liaison Letter has been distributed to serving and retired Gunners at no charge. In the case of retired Gunners you have only had to request that your name be added to the list and it was without any requirement to contribute to the 'Gunners Fund'.

*The editor of the Liaison Letter will no longer be able to accept requests from retired Gunners to have their name added to the Liaison Letter mailing list at no cost.*

*In future for retired Gunners to secure a copy of the combined Liaison Letter and Cannonball journals it is requested that you become a financial member of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company. Whilst not mandatory, you are also encouraged to become a life subscriber of the 'Gunners Fund'.*

Whilst the Liaison Letter will continue to be provided to serving Gunners and Gunner units at no cost, individuals are encouraged to either become a Life subscriber to the 'Gunners Fund' and/or join the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company. The editor strongly encourages that everyone consider contributing financially to both.

Information on becoming a life subscriber to the 'Gunners Fund' is in the Associations and Organisations Section of the Liaison Letter. A membership form for the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company is located in Cannonball.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

# 2014

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY REGIMENTAL CONFERENCE AND FAREWELLS SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

### REGIMENTAL CONFERENCE FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER TO SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

Regimental Committee Meeting – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014  
Capstone Day – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014  
Open Forum and Back Briefing Day – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014

*Conference Agenda*

Lieutenant Colonel David Edwards – mobile: 0419 494 105 and/or email: david.edwards@defence.gov.au

*Conference Administration*

Major John Batayola – mobile: 0400 854 323 and/or email: john.batayola@defence.gov.au

*Regimental Committee Meeting Agenda*

Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan – mobile: 0419 179 974 and/or email: terry.brennan@defence.gov.au

### OFFICER FAREWELLS DINNER FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014

Regimental Officers Mess  
Dress – Mess kit or Dinner suit with Miniatures  
All serving and retired members welcome

*Contact*

Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan  
mobile: 0419 179 974 and/or email: terry.brennan@defence.gov.au  
Major Greg Metcalf  
mobile: 0432 366 698 or email: greg.metcalf@defence.gov.au

### WARRANT OFFICER AND SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER FAREWELLS SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

Regimental Sergeants Mess  
Dress – Coat and tie  
All serving and retired members welcome

*Contact*

WO2 Toby Organ – telephone: 03 5735 6382 and/or email: toby.organ1@defence.gov.au  
WO2 Dean Smith – telephone: 03 5735 6417 and/or email: dean.smith5@defence.gov.au  
WO2 Neil Bertram – telephone: 03 5735 6407 and/or email: neil.bertram@defence.gov.au

### RAA COMMAND POST EXERCISE MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014

School of Artillery

October 2014 Release

# ANZAC SONS

THE STORY OF FIVE BROTHERS IN THE WAR TO END ALL WARS.

*...Well dear Jim it breaks my heart to write this letter. Our dear [brother] was killed yesterday morning at 5.30. The bullet killed him instantly and he never spoke a word. I had just left him and gone down the trench to see the other lads when I was called back. Oh Jim it is awful... Oh I do hope he is the last...*

It is April 27, 1918, Jim's brother writes from the battlefields of France. Of five brothers serving on the Western Front, three have given their lives; another has been hospitalised. Six agonising months of brutal warfare were yet to be endured...

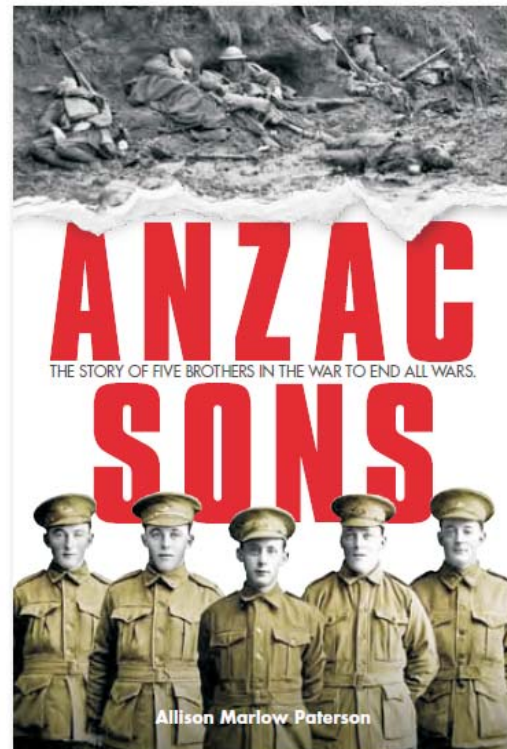
The Great War was a senseless tragedy. Its long shadow darkened the four corners of the world. In Mologa, Victoria, once a bustling community, stands a lonely stone memorial. Etched within the granite are the names of the Marlow brothers and their mates; a testament to ordinary people who became heroes.

*Anzac Sons* is composed from a collection of over five hundred letters and postcards written by the brothers who served. From the training grounds of Victoria, Egypt and England, to the Western Front battlefields - Pozieres, Bullecourt, Messines, Menin Road, Passchendaele, Villers-Bretonneux and the village battles of 1918 - this compelling true story was compiled by the granddaughter of a surviving brother. She takes us on her journey as she walks in the footsteps of her ancestors.

This is a story of mateship, bravery and sacrifice; it is a heartbreaking account of a family torn apart by war. It is a pledge to never forget.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Allison Marlow Paterson is a teacher/librarian. She decided to write this book to honour her family after the collection of over 500 letters came close to being destroyed, but through fate were recovered. She began researching and transcribing the letters 12 years ago and after visiting the Western Front in 2011 was finally able to complete this moving and historically important book.



### Key Selling Points

- This work is unique – the story of FIVE brothers all serving in WWI, three of these young men were killed serving their country.
- Based on extensive research and contains never-before published letters, photos and postcards from the five brothers.
- It tells of the generational impact of war on the family, tragically upon their mother who “died of a broken heart” and the family’s stoic recovery in the post-WWI years.
- A story of national significance; particularly with the 2015 centenary of WWI.
- Will hold appeal to researchers, military enthusiasts and a broad general readership.

### Specs

Author:	Allison Paterson
ISBN:	978-1-922132-79-6
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Release date:	October 2014
Format:	Paperback
Price (incl. GST):	\$34.99
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# Regimental

## Representative Colonel Commandant

*Brigadier A. G. (Gerry) Warner AM LVO (Retd)*



Dear Fellow Gunners

As you read this Spring Edition of the Liaison Letter/Cannonball many gunners will be in the closing stages of RAA appointments. I thank them for their contributions and wish them well in future

appointments or endeavours.

Elsewhere in this edition the Chairman of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) advises the progress of the Anzac Centenary 18 Pounder Gun Project. The project was launched at the Australian Artillery Association dinner at Caloundra in July, the 18-pounder Gun has been restored and training of the detachment and its horses is underway. The RAAHC is optimistic that the 18-pounder will feature in a number of Centenary events including the Canberra Anzac Day march.

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*The Association found that  
Gunner Mangini epitomised the  
qualities of a Gunner.*

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In July I attended a combined 3rd Light Battery Birthday and Artillery Mixed Regimental Dinner at Hobbs Artillery Park, Karrakatta. In an atmosphere of camaraderie and conviviality, those present shared in our past exploits and contemplated the future following the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The Royal Australian Artillery Association WA (Inc.) used the occasion to present the 'Most Outstanding

Soldier 2014' award to a member of 3rd Light Battery, now part of 28 RWAR Battle Group.

Gunner Mangini was the very worthy recipient of the award. Gunner Mangini joined the Army Reserve in 2006 as a driver and was posted to the then 7th Field Battery, and with the recent restructuring and establishment changes indicated the desire to corps transfer and remain in 3rd Light Battery. Gunner Mangini completed the basic Mortar Course in late 2013 and is now an enthusiastic Light Artillery Gunner who attends all activities and is highly regarded and respected by peers and superiors. The Association found that Gunner Mangini epitomised the qualities of a Gunner.

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*She is the first female to receive  
the award ...*

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In being named 'Most Outstanding Soldier 2014' Gunner Carina Mangini established a number of 'firsts'. She is the first female to receive the award, she was the first female to complete the Basic Mortar Course, and was the first female Light Gunner in the 2nd Division. Good Shooting, Gunner Mangini!

While the 18-pounder provides a splendid and emotive symbol of our origins, service and proud history, Gunner Mangini's award surely demonstrates the flexibility, commitment to excellence and adaptability to change so valued throughout the history of the RAA and so necessary in our future .

I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Terry Brennan and Steve Nicholls and those associated with the production of the Liaison Letter/Cannonball for this superb publication which now plays a very important and valued role in the Gunner Community.

*Ubique*

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# Head of Regiment

Brigadier Peter Gates CSM



It has been another exciting and busy year across the RAA for both serving and retired members and associations. I think it remains important to remember the Regimental family extends beyond the bounds of Army and those who are currently serving. A

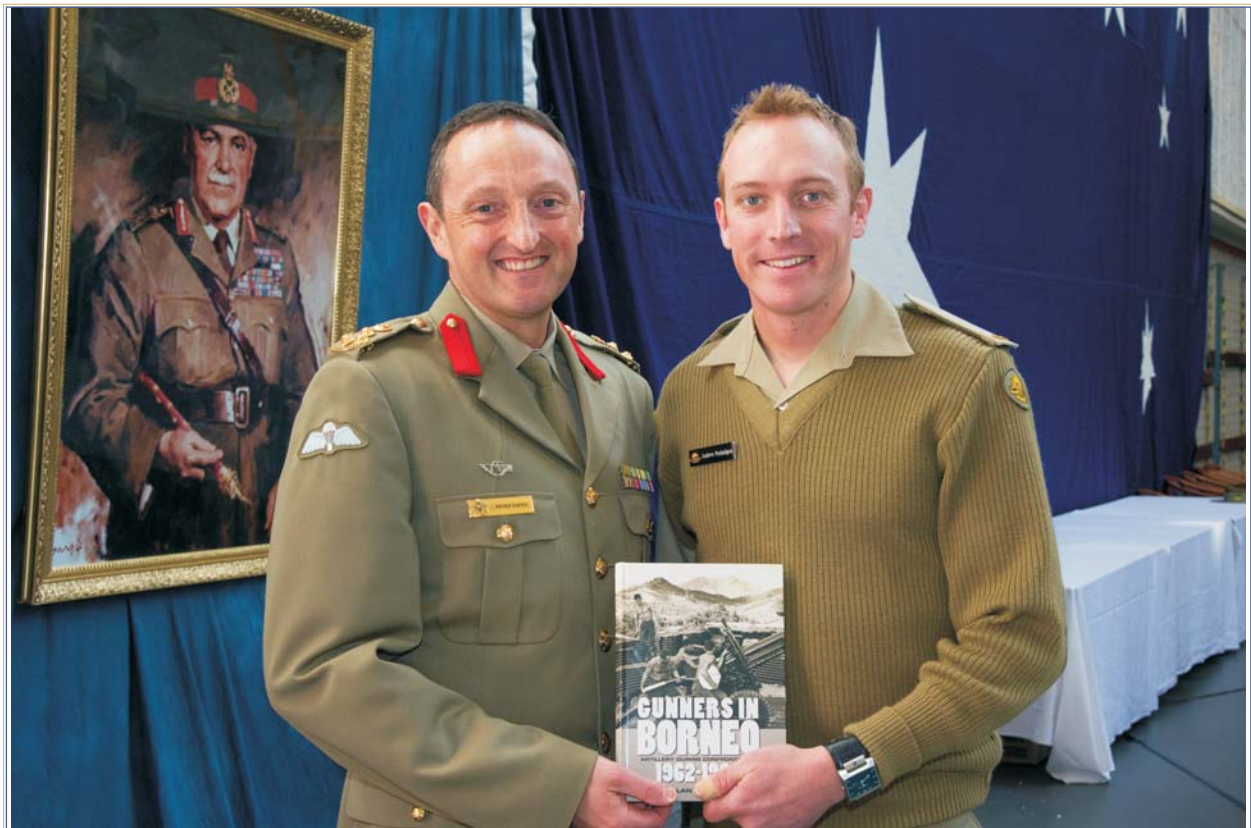
strong and faithful group of retired members and the associations they form are not only a link to proud and rich heritage or service, but a source of knowledge about what had learned before and how we can apply it to a rapidly changing future.

As we find ourselves within the period marking the centenary of World War I and fast approaching the centenary of the Gallipoli landings, I think it is important to remember the great work being done by all Gunners over time. There have been remarkable achievements of bravery, mateship and sacrifice by Australian Gunners. Some of these acts have been marked by the award of a medal worn a

few times a year; but most only recalled by those who were there over a drink when they meet.

*I think it is important to remember the great work being done by all Gunners over time.*

I would highlight some of the work already achieved by the Gunner community in the early days of the centenary celebrations. We opened the official centenary with the 'First Shot' event held at Fort Nepean on the Mornington Peninsula on 5th August 2014. 100 years ago at approximately 1245h, a coastal gun engaged the German merchant ship the *SS Platz* as it attempted to flee Port Phillip. The ship surrendered and returned to port. The RAA Historical Company continues to make great progress on the 18-pounder project. The gun, limber and horses are shaping up well, but this great venture still needs some financial assistance to ensure it makes the Anzac Day celebrations in good order. This is a remarkable restoration that the RAA should be proud of. I hope units and associations consider assisting where they can. I have heard nothing but praise for the national Gunner Dinner held at Caloundra on 23rd August 2014. A fantastic night was had by all and my thanks to the Australian Artillery Association for



The Head of Regiment Brigadier Peter Gates CSM presenting the Artillery prize to Lieutenant Andrew Penhaligon from the Royal Military College, Duntroon 2014 mid year graduation class.

organising the event. Finally, the temporary exhibit for the Artillery Museum will be officially opened during the Regimental Conference on Saturday 1st November 2014. The story of the Museum and the exodus from North Head has been challenging for the Regiment but it is good to see that some of our history will be on display to support the instruction at the School and those interested in the history and technical aspects of the RAA.

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*I encourage current units and associations to make a greater effort to reinforce the linkages between the present and the past during this period of remembrance.*

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I encourage current units and associations to make a greater effort to reinforce the linkages between the present and the past during this period of remembrance. It may be beneficial in more ways than you may imagine.

I also look forward to the Regimental Conference and the farewells to be held at the end of October and early November. The conference is now only held once every two years. It is important with those with an interest in what is happening with the RAA to be there to listen and participate in the discussion of the future. We will also be farewelling some of our most senior Gunner officers and senior non commissioned officers and warrant officers. These always make for great evenings.

To the Regiment past and present, I wish you all good and safe travels for the end of the year. Thank you for your efforts, for those on promotion and posting congratulations and good luck.

*Ubique*

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## Deputy Head of Regiment

*Lieutenant Colonel Dave Edwards*



It is near the back end of another busy year for the Regiment and the Artillery Associations. There is only more to come as we have moved into the centenary of commemoration for World War I. The level of uncertainty around the world has not reduced and a number of very different

and dangerous security threats also remind us to be prepared and vigilant.

I would like to recognise the outstanding work of some of the associations about the country for their work this year. The 'First Shot' ceremony held in August in Victoria was a well executed and carefully planned event that proved to be a very appropriate way of starting the commemoration of the Great War.

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*I think their real battle remains in ensuring their Gunner identity and what their role is firmly in the minds of the Infantry Battalions.*

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I was very fortunate to be able to represent Head of Regiment and the School at the National Gunner Dinner in Caloundra. This was a magnificent night and a real credit to the Australian Artillery Association for taking the lead and bringing it all together. I was impressed at the effort that associations and many past and present members made to get to the dinner. With an audience of around 400 people it was a resounding success. I think it would be wonderful to see this type of dinner again, possibly every two years and maybe with additional support from one of the RAA units. 1st Regiment was very kind to support this one and provide the Regimental Band as well.

The RAA Historical Company continues to impress with its 18-pounder project. The project is nearing some critical phases in development and I know they would appreciate any assistance or support in reaching their goal of having the gun, limber parade at the national Anzac day service in 2015.

Much of the RAA was on display at Exercise Hamel this year in one form or another and most Regiments had opportunities to test their new and developing capabilities in their brigade Combined Arms Training activities as well. 2nd Division continues to bring a real sense of professionalism to the Mortar Capability within the Reserve Infantry Battalions. I think their real battle remains in ensuring their Gunner identity and what their role is firmly in the minds of the Infantry Battalions.

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*With my Chief Instructors hat on I would like to remind those serving gunners that if you have been away from the Regiment for a while it is a very different place.*

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I am looking forward to the second annual Regimental Command Post Exercise (CPX) to be held in late October just prior to the Regimental Conference and Farewells weekend. In the first year it was simply the School and the three Gun Regiments testing fire mission profiles and organisation options. This year we have expanded to include all the regular RAA units and 2nd Division involvement as we work through the organisation, procedures and responsibilities of the Joint Fires Effects and Coordination Centres (JFECC) at Brigade and Battle Group level. Joining us for this event will be Army Headquarters, Headquarters Forces Command, Special Operations Command elements and Royal New Zealand Artillery from 16th Regiment and their School. Over the period 31st October to 2nd November we are holding the RAA Regimental Conference and Farewells. This is an important forum to receive updates on key personnel, equipment and capability issues, discuss options for future development and re-affirm some of those important networks we have across the Regiment. The officers will be holding a farewell dinner on the evening of 31st October with a number of our senior and long-serving officers taking the opportunity to be recognised by their peers. The following evening on 1st November the Sergeants Mess will farewell our long serving senior soldiers. Both evenings promise to be great events.

I welcome RAA members to the School of Artillery for the Regimental Conference and the farewells. I would note that those who are thinking of being early I will be holding a combined Officer and Sergeants mess buffet on the evening of Thursday 30th October that will also mark the end of the RAA CPX. For those being farewelled I have also organised a 'last day on the gun park' display on the

afternoon of Friday 31st October where we can show you and you can work with the latest equipment for guns, observers, command post, radars, air defence, surveillance and target acquisition and communications.

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*Investing in your own training is a key element to professional mastery.*

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With my Chief Instructors hat on I would like to remind those serving gunners that if you have been away from the Regiment for a while it is a very different place. Your experience is an invaluable part of what you bring to the team, but you will see that very few items of equipment and the procedures employed are what you knew a few years ago. You need to take the responsibility to get training before you end up back at the Regiment. I do not believe I will be able to maintain the seven week introduction to AFATDS course for those in a command post background. Without the AFATDS course you are not useful. If you have not completed a conversion to M777A2, or tried to get yourself familiar with the Digital Terminal Control System for observers you will be struggling. While many of the ECN 271 personnel have now switched and undergone training for Shadow 200, I have seen few officers aspiring to command an Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery seek opportunity to get on an OPUAS flying course.

Investing in your own training is a key element to professional mastery. It should be a continual process in developing your technical and tactical knowledge. As you go through your career it falls more on your own initiative and motivation. I regret that the School stops formally training people as a sergeant and as a junior-mid level captain. I also get resistance from various quarters about too many courses and course fatigue. I hope that in the next few months I can develop a professional development package to support ongoing learning for our senior soldiers and those officers about to undertake command or senior staff appointments. Ultimately our professional excellence is a function of our own dedication to self development and RAA specific skills are also not the only thing we need to learn in the modern military. They are however, great fun and our technical knowledge is one of the aspects the RAA is best known for.

Stay safe and I hope to see you in November at the Farewells and Regimental Conference.

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# Regimental Master Gunner

Warrant Officer Class One Matthew Sullivan CSM  
Regimental Master Gunner



Sadly, as another edition of the Liaison Letter is published our thoughts and prayers are with the families of two highly regarded Gunner's, Warrant Officer Class Two Paul 'Filthy' Filtness (Retd)

and Major Clifford Coggins who both passed away on 5th August 2014. Their passing has certainly left our Gunner community deeply saddened and our thoughts and prayers are with their families during this time. I know for many, the past month or six weeks has been a time of much reflection.

*This evolution is far from over with many hard questions and challenges still to be asked of us...*

As with recent years, 2014 has developed into a busy year with many involved in the continuing evolution of introduction-into-service of new RAA capabilities, supporting unit structures, developing doctrine, redefining and refining training management packages and understanding the implications of these changes on the current RAA Officer and Other Ranks employment specifications and supporting trade models.

This evolution is far from over with many hard questions and challenges still to be asked of us as individuals, as units and collectively as the Royal Regiment. Established last year the RAA Command Post Exercise (RAA CPX) is one initiative that has been developed by the RAA to assist in answering some of these questions and challenges. The RAA CPX vision is to inform internally the 'common' way ahead on doctrinal and procedural matters as we collectively grapple with the complexities of new technology, network-centric warfare, digitisation and digital joint fires. Building on the successes of 2013, this year's CPX theme '*confirming Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre (JFECC) procedures at both Battle Group and Brigade level*' indicates a subtle change in the RAA focus. The 2014 RAA CPX is a significant milestone in the RAA future development path as it will be the first time in many

years that all five ARA RAA Regiments and the School of Artillery will be active participants in defining our future environment.

The RAA CPX will also lever off Army and the RAA's advances in technology with the CPX utilising end-to-end simulation from sensor-to-shooter in order to inform outcomes. Like last year, it is hoped that the outcomes provide a common, uniformed and agreed set of tactics, techniques and procedures that will in the longer-term inform doctrine and future RAA policy.

Whilst the RAA CPX will provide the Royal Regiment with the opportunity to inform internal procedures, the Head of Modernisation and Strategic Planning - Army (HMSP-A) has also invited the RAA to utilise the Regimental Conference to provide recommendations or statements for consideration in modernisation planning. The key topic posed for discussion at the Conference is:

- Plan Beersheba has changed Army's force structures to enable it to provide the widest range of sustained and effective Land Power capability possible within strategic guidance and funding parameters. HMSP-A requested that the conference primarily discuss '*Options for a future RAA approach that positions the RAA as agile and responsive throughout the force generation cycle. Consider individual capabilities and their current establishments, i.e. retention of UAV, future of GBAD and integrated effects Regiments*'.

Further, HMSP-A requested the RAA consider the following:

- **Human dimension** – In developing war-fighting capabilities there is a tendency to focus on the tactile elements of war at the expense of less tangible human performance capacity. However, warfare remains a fundamentally human endeavour and Army has identified, through Modernisation Lines of Effort, that human performance is a critical driver in preparing our future force. RAA career advancement courses are generally unique to domain and do not provide the practitioner with a broader RAA tactical aptitude to provide accurate advice in the combined, joint and coalition environments. **Discuss options that will assist the RAA in leveraging a tactical advantage through enhanced human performance.**
- **Distributed manoeuvre** – Army's capstone and foundation documents describe a future war-fighting environment that is congested and significantly more connected. Adversaries are



disaggregated whilst maintaining lethality, or in some cases increased lethality, due to improved technologies. Land power, through distributed manoeuvre, the tactical methodology that seeks to understand the friction and chaos of the battlefield and overwhelm the enemy force, destroys the enemy's cohesion by the coordinated use of speed, shock action and lethal and non-lethal force. **Considering this, is the RAA sufficiently postured for distributed manoeuvre? Does sufficient coordination exist above brigade level?**

- **Exploiting networking and digitisation** – A significant challenge facing the joint fires system as it transitions to the future operating environment will be the requirement to maintain system assurity. Systems assurity extends beyond a platform's terminal capabilities and seeks the seamless integration of sensor to shooter networks that are precise in computation and temporally valid to support disaggregated joint fires within a distributed manoeuvre framework. Holistically, a joint fires system appears simple; however, it is a complex organism that exists through interagency and dependencies that provide the sense, warn, locate, effect and assess functions. Systems assurity is integrity from the interagency and dependencies by the coexistence of like frameworks to process and disseminate joint fires information relevant to all domains. **Describe a network architecture that seeks to harmonise the digitisation of the joint fires network and maintains systems assurity whilst capitalising on technology.**
- **Information dominance and influence (information actions)** – Information actions underpin every element of adaptive campaigning and are an essential prerequisite for success. The RAA has routinely accepted responsibility at the Battle group level and above for understanding and planning IA in support of operations. **Cognisant of our primary functions within the three RAA domains, does coherent narrative exist?**
- **Simulation** – Army is required to manage the link between its finite resources and preparedness outputs, control Army's impact on training areas and measure the tactical performance of its units. To do this Army will deliver a significant increase in simulation training. **How can the RAA increase the use of simulation to support RAA certified training outcomes? Does the need to 'live fire' during individual foundation training still exist?**

These topics will be presented at the 2014 RAA Regimental Conference and will no doubt generate much discussion and opinion. It is hoped that this unique opportunity for 'grass-roots' engagement will assist HMSA and his staff with informed opinion and recommendations to aid Army's modernisation planners in defining the future RAA environment. I, for one look forward to seeing the outcomes of these discussions.

Continuing the theme of looking forward, 2015 will be a defining year for the RAA. ECN 161 Artillery Light Gunner, ECN 162 Artillery Gunner, ECN 254 Artillery Command Systems Operator, ECN 255 Artillery Observer, ECN 357 Manager Offensive Support and ECN 237 Operator Ground Based Air Defence will all be presented for Employment Category Review. The Artillery Trade and Training Cell, CATC will spend most of 2015 preparing, defining and refining the future trade models and employment categories in order to inform the review process. At this stage the review is scheduled for October 2015, with outcomes being briefed to units in late 2015 early 2016.

As most would know ECN 250 Operator Unmanned Aerial System was submitted for employment category review in November 2013; however given the complexities and uncertainties associated with an evolving capability that has not yet matured it was determined that the employment category was to be re-submitted for review in late 2014 once further work could inform a number of critical areas.

Before we get into the challenges of 2015 however, it is that time of year again with many families preparing to move on posting around the country and overseas. The Artillery Trade and Training Cell farewells the SO3, Captain Darren Brilliant, the TM STA Warrant Officer Class Two Jason Skewes and of particular note, Sergeant Derek Mason who has been the GBAD TD since the cells inception in 1999. Derek has been posted to RMC in 2015 and this will sadly mark the end of an era in Artillery training development. Derek's significant corporate conscience and knowledge of RAA and wider CATC TD matters will be surely missed. Derek, your significant contribution to RAA training development and management over many years is much appreciated.

Finally, travel safe during the Christmas and New Year periods enjoy a well-earned break with family and friends, best of luck and good soldiering for the challenges that lay ahead in 2015.

*Ubique*

# Joint Fires Cell

## 2nd Divisional Light Artillery

*Major Stu Seabrook  
Staff Officer Grade Two Joint Fires*

After a lot of hard work the Army Reserve (ARes) Gunners have achieved an important milestone in their capability development. A light battery (Lt Bty) was deployed as part of the ARes re-enforcing Battle Group (BG) during Exercise Hamel 14. The Lt Bty, commanded by Major Rob Coales (3 Lt Bty) comprised of officers and soldiers from 3 (Perth) and 5/11 (Southeast Queensland) Lt Btys using the paired Brigade concept. During the exercise the Lt Bty achieved its aim of providing the Joint Fires effect to Battle Group Cannan. The deployment of the mortar line and the joint fire teams (JFT) in support of the combat teams and the successful integration of the JFECC into the BG HQ provided the effective joint fires advice to the BG Commander. This proved the ARes joint fires concept works.

The JFECC Main equipped with AFATDS was manned by ARA operators provided by 4 Regt RAA (thanks to the CO 4). This detachment provided excellent support to the ARes battery commander and became a focal point within the BG HQ demonstrating the importance of having AFATDS within the ARes JFECC. Not only did it achieve the higher fires net link but most of the SITREPS and INTREPs were received on the Brigade Fires net by free texted messages before the information had been transmitted on the command nets. This level of support from the ARA Regiments is yet to be confirmed for future major exercises.

The concept for future major exercises is that the JFECC Main within the ARes BG HQ will be manned and operated by an ARes fire support officer and his team, supported by an AFATDS detachment from the ARA RAA Regiment who will operate the higher fires link IAW the Lt Bty battery commanders plan via AFATDS. The Headquarters 2nd Division Joint Fires Cell will be requesting support of an AFATDS detachment from 1 and 8/12 Regt to support the Lt Btys for the major exercise in 2015 and 2016.

Although Exercise Hamel was our focal point the other Lt Btys were not idle. 2/10 Lt Bty have been busy conducting Exercise Somme, a deployment

exercise at the Puckapunyal Military Area. The objectives of the exercise were to conduct man-pack Mortar Line deployments, JFT occupations of the OP and observation of the zone by day and night. The exercise proved to be physically demanding with the mortar detachments moving across country wearing marching order and carrying their mortars and stores. This activity was successful in all respects and proved the Lt Bty has ability to provide 'Fires' on the move.

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*This proved the ARes joint fires concept works.*

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In addition 2/10 Lt Bty commemorated Anzac Day with a Dawn Service at Sargood Barracks (Chapel Street Depot). It was greatly appreciated that Brigadier Peter Alkemade (Colonel Commandant Eastern Region) was able to support the service as principal guest along with the Mayor of Port Phillip Councillor Amanda Stevens. The Lt Bty main body subsequently participated in the 4th Brigade march through the streets of Melbourne.

Of note Gunner Tim De La Zilwa of 2/10 Lt Bty was a member of the winning 5th/6th RVR Battalion shooting team at the 2014 Australian Army Skills at Arms Meeting, and currently 2/10 Lt Bty has nine members deployed on TSE74.

7 and 23 Lt Btys are building to Exercise Diamond Strike, the 7th Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity in June 2015. In May the Lt Btys deployed on Exercise Polygon Wood at Singleton Range Training area in support of BG Waratah. The Lt Bty supported the BG during the FTX which was followed by a LFX using a variety of ammunition. During this exercise members of the Lt Bty were assessed and qualified in safety appointments for OIC and OP Safety. Exercise Polygon Wood was covered in detail in Army News June 5th edition.



# Five Minutes with WO1 Matthew Sullivan CSM

- Congratulations on your appointment as Regiment Master Gunner. During your tenure from a Regimental perspective what are your key goals?

*I am not sure I necessarily considered goals when I marched-in as the Regimental Master Gunner, nor have I necessarily identified areas of focus over the past four months.*

*That said I am mindful that the Royal Regiment has spent significant periods of time in recent years, on operations both in and out of role, as individual rotations and as formed unit rotations. In line with this, it is important that we capture all those experiences in order to write the next chapters of our proud history. We cannot rely on other organisations, to do that for us, we must help our selves in this matter. So I think one of the focuses will be to re-invigorate discussion and focus on our history to ensure the significant achievements of the past 19 years since Dr Horner released 'The Gunners' is not lost to time and failing memories.*

*I commented to someone in 2010 that based on my experiences as the Artillery Advisor to the Land 17 (Artillery Replacement) Programme we should prepare to throw everything we know (doctrine, SOPs, drills and procedure) out the window, prepare for fundamental change to everything we do and if we believe we cannot evolve that far we should take a non-corps posting and not come back. Toward the end of 2011 during a conversation with the same person, he commented, 'you warned me change was required, I thought I understood the magnitude required; now I am not so sure'. I think my second area of focus is to promote, educate and communicate that digitised, network-centric Artillery is not a 'dirty statement'. If we do not promote, educate and communicate our digitised capability, at risk is our ability to offer Army operationally decisive intelligence, battle-space management and effects that shape deep and close operations in support of the manoeuvre arms commander plan.*

*Finally irrespective of the changes and the advancement in technology our most valuable asset remains the men and women of the Royal Regiment. Therefore my final focus is seeking and presenting*

*opportunities to have our personnel's individual and collective achievements' more widely recognised in order to reinforce the point that the Royal Regiment is bigger than a troop, battery or regiment. We the Gunners are a family invested in the future of our personnel, ready to acknowledge their successes and achievements.*

- What is the single most pressing trade or training issue or proposed change that you have identified and would like to see resolved and / or implemented?

*The single most pressing trade and training issue for the Royal Regiment in 2014 / 2015 is the employment category review of all RAA employment categories. An employment category review of Operator Unmanned Aerial System (ECN 250) was conducted 21st November 2013. The submission sought to restructure the Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) employment categories. Though some proposals were endorsed, further proposed changes to the STA employment categories have seen the 21st November 2013 employment category review endorsement meeting (ECREM) submission withdrawn and new proposals will be re-tabled and submitted to another ECREM in late 2014.*

*Similar to the challenges currently facing STA all offensive support employment categories and the operator ground based air defence employment category are scheduled for employment category review in late 2015. As most will appreciate, this is a large package of work across 2014 / 2015 to refine the RAA employment categories in order to align them with Army's contemporary operating environment.*

- How will 'digitisation' and the related new indirect fire capabilities affect the 'traditional' command post and gunline including the qualities and skills required of the 'new' gunners?

*For the 'purist' out there, I would argue that the traditional aim of fire discipline we grew up with 'the aim of fire discipline is to ensure that, in response to fire orders, the appropriate action is taken at the guns, strictly in accordance with the intention of the originator and with the minimum of delay' has not changed. How we achieve this foundation principle with digitised, network-centric joint fires systems however has fundamentally changed field artillery forever.*

*In order to meet Army's vision for a digitised, network-centric joint fires capability, capable of timely delivery of effects through the fusion and management of battle-space information, is requiring us to change within our culture (i.e. our philosophy, values, behaviour and thought processes). Rest*

assured this evolution is not change for change sake, but necessary in order to re-achieve professional mastery of the joint fires domain.

The advent of digitisation has changed the mission flow and responsibilities in the call for fire, the brigade and battle group joint fires and effects coordination centres (Bde JFECC and BG JFECC - once known as OC and the BC Party, respectively) are significantly larger organisations than they once were and their responsibilities for battle-space de-confliction, coordination and mission processing today resemble little from past eras.

The regimental command post (RCP or O) still has the pivotal role in commanding, controlling and coordinating the regiment's gunline. Again the way in which the RCP fights the regiment's gunline on behalf of the CO, utilising the battle management system - fires, command and control (BMS-F (C2)) system, has evolved significantly in recent years. No longer is it a manual process of calculations and directions delivered by the ADJT but rather a set of considerations and automated processes to direct the massing of the regiment's guns onto a particular target. Given today's technology and redundancy afforded through the BMS-F C2, the battery command post (BCP) is no longer the fire prediction centre it was once required to be and these days the BCPs focus is more on fire direction than fire prediction as we once knew it.

Like the regimental C2 structure described above, the gunline bears limited resemblance to previous years. Given the level of digitisation on the M777A2 Howitzer, the transmission of gun and mission data to the BCP, automated pointing systems, mission control computers and the fire control system have set an environment where you will rarely see directors, collimators, dial sights or tannoy on the gun position or platforms, less for reversionary / degraded modes should there be a catastrophic failure of the gun's systems. The new gun position environment is very quiet and often somewhat eerie for those that are expecting the next round of angles to be yelled across the position or for the GPOs voice to boom across the tannoy system.

To address the issue of attributes and qualities required of 'new' gunners. For all the changes, advances in technology and capability of recent years the attributes and qualities desired of 'new' gunners has, in my opinion remained the same. We want and need well trained, confident and job competed men and women who have a good sense of humour that are proud to call the Artillery their home.

- Since 1999 until recently elements from across the Regiment have been constantly on

operations often 'out of role'. Does this recent experiences have implications for the Regiment in retaining technical artillery skills into the future?

I do not believe recent experiences on operations can be attributed to the 'perceived loss of technical artillery skills'. We should not lose sight of what has been asked of the RAA in the past seven years. The Royal Regiment has adopted new employment category trade structures, new unit structures, and significant 'new, technologically advanced capabilities' that have revolutionised, not just changed the RAA and all of this to a backdrop of Army's highest operational-tempo for many decades. It will take some time for the Royal Regiment to again claim professional mastery of its domain and therefore espouse the levels of technical artillery skills that were once considered the norm. That said, on an almost daily basis I hear positive reports from the regiments and School of Artillery as the men and women of the Royal Regiment work hard to remaster their respective areas and re-establish technical artillery skill-sets.

- What will be the impact on the Royal Regiment of the post Afghanistan era from a soldiers perspective?

In a word, the impact is and will continue to be 'significant'. The Royal Regiment must refocus on mastering our considerable 'new capabilities' in a foundation warfighting environment. We were once renowned for leading the way in this area through such processes as the Army Training and Evaluation Programme (ARTEP) and other RAA collective training opportunities.

The ARTEP must be collectively agreed and reinstated as the evaluation tool to ensure we have a common standard to be measured against. In 2013 the RAA CPX was introduced to provide a forum for collectively forging a way ahead and in 2014 the RAA CPX will include, for the first time in recent history participation from all Regiments and the School of Artillery. The significance of this milestone should not be understated, and will hopefully build on the successes of 2013 and further refine the mastery of our environment.

Nothing however beats time spent in the field as a troop, a battery and a regiment, away from the distractions of competing priorities conducting dry fire and movement, command post exercises, working in close country, urban environments, open country and live firing. It is the one setting where continued reinforcement of foundation skill sets ensures professional mastery. For the Gunners to truly master our new capabilities, in a foundation warfighting environment we must revisit the not too distant past

when regiments were in the field, on exercise for significant portions of the training year.

- As your career has progressed in what way as your professional relationship with your various commanders evolved?

*The regimental command team relationship between a CO and RSM is unique, often complex and difficult to articulate or define. My wife tells the story of grabbing my service dress to put it in the dry cleaning and on conducting the obligatory pocket check found a dry cleaning stub for the CO. On arrival home that day she suggested that the CO and I were spending way too much time together.*

*I think the area of the relationship that I felt evolved most with COs I have served with is articulating when information is for the COs awareness only and I was not seeking his endorsement or action. Discussions between a CO and RSM are always exclusive, open and frank in nature, range from last weekend's football scores, to policy or up coming events, to an individual's performance or lack thereof, to pressing sub-unit or unit matters.*

- Are soldiers today better prepared for their first appointment than when you completed your recruit and initial employment training?

*As most senior officers and soldiers will attest, Army has evolved significantly from the Army we joined, the complexity, dynamic nature and pressures of regimental life bears little resemblance to the regiment I joined as a young IET. I am not sure today's IETs are necessarily better prepared to join their units post recruit and initial employment training than what I was, but they are certainly as prepared. Instructors at the Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC) and more poignantly the School of Artillery spend considerable time each training year analysing and redeveloping teaching packages to ensure that IET courses receive the most up to date information and training in their respective disciplines.*

- What single piece of advice would you offer young officers and soldiers commencing their career as a Gunner?

*The Army is not unique in demanding certain values or behaviours from its personnel; however our values and behaviours are Army's cultural and ethical foundation and therefore they are unique to Army. Just as senior Gunners must do, a young officer or soldier commencing a career in the RAA, you must strive on a daily basis to inculcate Army's four core values and nine core behaviours into your every action. You should reflect and learn from our proud history, customs and traditions and in doing so the Royal Regiment will assist Army in building a more inclusive*

*culture that enables the contribution of all Gunners to be fully realised, therefore ensuring that we are able to generate and sustain Army's Artillery capabilities into the future.*

- The Royal Regiment has only had one RSM Army in WO1 Peter Prewett. How can members of the Royal Regiment improve their competitiveness for this sought after appointment?

*I think the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major - Army has no correlation to Corps background other than the fact that all Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Army started somewhere. So I do not think Peter's appointment as the only Royal Regiment, Regimental Sergeant Major - Army reflects shortfalls in past or present RAA RSMs, rather I think it reflects Peter's significant personal and professional achievement during his career, which is now part of our proud history as the to date 'only Regimental Sergeant Major - Army'. Certainly we should all seek postings and appointments that will broaden our experience and career profiles, which challenge us personally and professionally. However I do think the key to achieving consideration for or appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major - Army is personal aspiration, belief in yourself and a lot of hard work.*

*Like any promotions in Army it is merit based, it starts with the individual aspiring to be that appointment, believing you have ability to do the job well, and a lot of hard work along the way to back up your aspiration and belief in other people's eyes.*

- Do you subscribe to the old adage 'Once a Gunner always Gunner'?

*Revisiting my first point about key goals, I believe Gunner officers and soldiers irrespective of appointment or position should proudly promote the Royal Regiment, our history, customs and traditions and capabilities. I often reflect on past and present Gunners, their achievements and contributions to our proud lineage, so 'absolutely yes' I very much subscribe to the adage 'Once a Gunner always a Gunner'. That said, much has changed in recent years across the RAA therefore we must remain engaged with the regiments and School of Artillery to ensure that we are abreast of the changes and therefore value add to the future RAA environment through considered analysis, advice and discussion. We should always look backward to look forward, but should never linger in the past to fully realise future capability.*

# Queens Birthday Honours

## MEMBER (AM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

**Brigadier Gregory Charles BILTON CSC**

For exceptional service in the fields of Army modernisation as Director General Development and Plans Army, and command as Commander 7th Brigade.

Brigadier Bilton has provided exceptional service to the Australian Army in the field of Army modernisation. With his systematic and methodical approach to capability he was instrumental in developing, educating and merging through all capability decision making in Army Headquarters and the wider Defence community. Brigadier Bilton's empathy and personal commitment when leading disaster relief efforts as well as the management of the welfare of his soldiers and their families have brought great credit upon himself and the Australian Army.

## The BAR to the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC and Bar)

**Major General Michael Peter CRANE DSC, AM**

For distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations as the Commander of Joint Task Force 633 on Operation SLIPPER from October 2012 to September 2013.

Major General Crane commanded Joint Task Force 633 during a critical juncture in the Middle East campaign as lead security authority transferred to Afghan National Security Forces in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. He oversaw task force operations conducted outside Afghanistan while working to advance Australia's national interests by vigorously engaging the senior leadership of the International Security Assistance Force, Coalition Forces, and the military organisations of regional nations. Under his distinguished leadership, Joint Task Force 633 has made a major contribution to the stability and security of the Middle East while enhancing Australia's reputation with our coalition allies and the nations of the region.

# 'Big Sky Publishing' Incentive Prize

**BIG SKY PUBLISHING** provides incentive prizes to encourage individuals to contribute to the Liaison Letter. The prizes are awarded by the Liaison Letter Editor.

I am pleased to announce that the incentive prizes for this edition are awarded to Lieutenant C. Watson from Proof & Experimental Establishment - Port Wakefield for his report on the background and history of the sub unit leading up to its 85th anniversary this year; and to Warrant Officer Class One D. Lindsay from 4th Regiment for his professional paper on the ARTEP.

**Lieutenant Watson will receive a copy of 'Snowy to the Somme – A Muddy and Bloody Campaign' by Tim Cook published by Big Sky Publishing in 2014.**

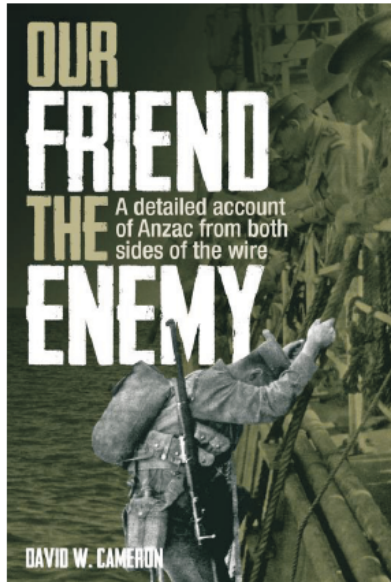
**Warrant Officer Class One D. Lindsay will receive a copy of 'One Shot Kills – A History of Australian Sniping' by Glenn Wahlert and Russell Linwood published by Big Sky Publishing in 2014.**

Congratulations to both individuals - I look forward to receiving even more quality contributions from across the Regiment for the Liaison Letter 2015 - Autumn Edition.

I encourage everyone and especially those interested in Australian military history to visit [www.bigskypublishing.com.au](http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au).



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Described in first-hand accounts Cameron provides a wide-ranging insight into events and the decisions made on either side of the wire.

**Our Friend the Enemy**  
David W. Cameron

Release Date: 26 October 2014

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Military History/WW1/Gallipoli

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## Media Information

### Our Friend the Enemy

A detailed account of Anzac from both sides of the wire

David W. Cameron

"Prudence here is entirely out of place. There will be and can be no reconnaissance, no half measures, no tentatives. Several cautious proposals have been set before me but this is neither the time nor the place for paddling about the shore putting one foot onto the beaches with the idea of drawing it back again if it happens to alight upon a landmine. No; we've got to take a good run at the Peninsula and jump plumb on — both feet together. At a given moment we must plunge and stake everything on the one hazard."

— General Sir Ian Hamilton

Canberra author David W. Cameron's new book *Our Friend the Enemy* (Big Sky Publishing, RRP \$34.99) is the first comprehensive history of the Anzac campaign since Charles Bean's *Official History*. Viewed from both sides and described in first-hand accounts it provides a wide-ranging insight into events and the decisions made on either side of the wire.

The Gallipoli campaign involved a mix of nationalities that went beyond the Anzacs and Turks to include German officers, and British and Indian troops. These are the people whose words tell this story — the courage and heroism, the monotony and often humour that accompanied the horrors of the bitter fight to claim the peninsula.

*Our Friend the Enemy* provides a wide-ranging insight into events at Gallipoli, Cameron's strong narrative and detailed history of the men at Anzac pays homage to the humour and sacrifice of these men and provides an unblemished perspective from both sides on a logistically and politically fraught event.

**About the Author:** David W. Cameron's fascination with Gallipoli began in 2003 and has only magnified over time. He completed his PhD in 1995 and was subsequently awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Post Doctoral Fellowship at the Australian National University, followed by an ARC QEII Fellowship at the University of Sydney. He has published a number of books on Australian military history and science and over sixty research papers in internationally peer reviewed journals.

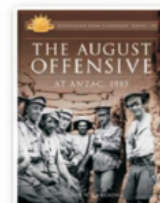
David's passion for recording the overarching history of Gallipoli has resulted in six books on the subject. He is also internationally known as an expert on primate and human evolution and has a degree in both archaeology and palaeoanthropology.

#### Available for extract

David is available for interviews, for more information, cover images

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# Operations

## Artillery Mobile Training Team – Kabul

*Compiled by AMTT-K Members  
Edited by Major Dan O'Brien &  
Captain Luke Seymour 1st Regt RAA*

### Introduction

Artillery Mobile Training Team - Kabul (AMTT-K) was formed by member of 1st Regiment RAA (1 Regt RAA) as a single rotation deployment during 2012 - 2013 for the purposes of providing Artillery Continuation Training to Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Artillery Elements deployed as part of 111th Capital Division within Regional Command - Capital. This Team operated as a self-contained Tactical and Training callsign working in conjunction with the RAA-Centric Artillery Training & Advisory Team (also from 1 Regt RAA) at Camp Alamo and basing themselves out of Camp Blackhorse in Kabul Province.

### Composition

Given the majority of 1 Regt personnel already deployed in support of Artillery Training Advisory Team (ATAT) and Mentoring Task Force (MTF) deployments, a number of senior appointments were deployed to fulfil the positions within the AMTT. The team was required to be relatively self-sufficient for protection, sustainment and mobility, as well as performing the primary mission of Gunnery Training. The team composed:

#### HQ Cell

- LTCOL Nick Bolton - OC (CO 1 Regt)
- MAJ Joe Kelly - OPSO (OPSO 1 Regt)
- WO1 Dean Sinclair - TSM (MG / Acting RSM 1 Regt)
- SGT Brendan Hope - Team Medic (PLSGT 11 CHC)
- CPL Mollie Gray - Team Clerk (BTY CLK, CSS Bty)

#### Basic Officer Training Course Cell (BOTC)

- CAPT Pete Allan - OIC (ADJT 1 Regt)
- LT Nick Barber - BRO Instructor / Team S2 (TPCOMD)
- LT Andrew Seymour - PLCOMD Instructor (TPCOMD)
- LT Luke Turley - FDC Instructor (TPCOMD)

#### Fire Support Cell (FSC)

- WO2 Kim Johansen - OIC FSC (TRGWO)
- SGT Scott Ashurst - FO Instructor (BC's ACK, 105 Bty)
- BDR Brad Marshall - JFO Instructor / Team S6 (JFO, 105 Bty)
- BDR Richard Robinson - JFO Instructor (JFO, 104 Bty)
- LBDR Lyle Kitchiner - JFO/Signals Instructor (JFO, Ops Spt Bty)

#### Fire Direction Cell (FDC)

- LT Kevin Pamenter - OIC FDC (CPO, 107 Bty 4 Regt RAA)
- BDR Matt Farrell - FDC Instructor (CP BDR, A Bty)
- BDR Justin Matangi - FDC Instructor (CP BDR, A Bty)
- GNR David Alexander - FDC Operator Instructor (ASCO, A Bty)

#### Gunnery Cell

- WO2 Matt Miller - OIC (OPSWO)
- BDR Shayne McCoombes - Gunline Instructor / Mobility Officer (DETCOMD A Bty)
- BDR Ryan Finning - Gunline Instructor (DETCOMD A Bty)
- BDR Beau McNamara - Gunline Instructor (DETCOMD A Bty)
- GNR Brendan Skinner - Detachment Instructor / Team CFA (Gun No. A Bty)
- GNR Bruce Braithwaite - Detachment Instructor (Gun No. 105 Bty)

#### CSS Cell

- CAPT Phil Symmans - OIC / Team S4 (QM)
- SGT Mick Garnham - EMESGT (GE SECTCOMD, CSS Bty)



- CPL Adam Whybourne - Team Quartermaster (Q PL, CSS Bty)
- CFN Ryan Hammond - Team VM (VM, 6 RAR)

### Deployment Reconnaissance - April 2012

The CO, OPSO and WO2 Matt Miller conducted an in-theatre reconnaissance over 20 days during April 2012. They were hosted by Regimental members of ATAT at the ANA School of Artillery and received good support for the passage of technical information and the structure of the task ahead. The Australian AMTT was to be in the final of twelve teams from a range of ISAF countries (and the first and only from Australia) formed to deliver training to already-operational ANA Artillery elements fielded prior to formal establishment of the ANA School of Artillery. The remaining ANA Gun elements to be trained would come from the 111th Capital Division and a Brigade from the 215th Corps, with AMTT planned to train the Artillery elements of the 2nd Brigade, 111th Capital Division.



The reconnaissance introduced the American/Albanian Mentoring Advisory Team currently working with the ANA Gunners that the AMTT would become responsible for training in the upcoming months. This team consisted of five officers and non commissioned officers advising the ANA Brigade's Artillery Tolay (Company or Battery). It was identified during this time that no certification standards had been established, the observation (fire support) and gun line elements were separate and not under a single battery commander and significant equipment shortages were apparent. Additionally, the ANA Artillery units involved had never live fired an indirect mission. A Force Communications Unit reconnaissance team also joined the AMTT reconnaissance, declaring that they deliver the required communications capability to AMTT when it arrived in-theatre. It was great to see all these pieces coming together on operations the way they should.

Some of the key information gained from the reconnaissance, in addition to that on the ANA, was that the logistics for being deployed with Protected Mobility Vehicles (PM) could be easily coordinated, recommendations for Australian communications systems for the team by an SME and a copy of a draft NATO Training Mission Order for our task that could be referred to for future justification for resources, including 12 interpreters and local logistical support; proving the old maxim of '*time in reconnaissance is rarely wasted*'.

### Pre-deployment Training

Concurrent with the reconnaissance, AMTT had concentrated and begun individual training for the deployment. Force Preparation, PM courses, and Observer and Mentor Liaison Team training was conducted, tailored as much as possible to suit the task of the AMTT. As this was the first task of this type to be mounted by the ADF, significant input from the Headquarters Cell was required to tailor a mission-specific force preparation program to ensure that the deployment needs would be met.

*It was great to see all these pieces coming together on operations the way they should.*

In addition to pre-deployment, the Regiment was also re-structuring in line with the other RAA Regiments, reverting to the more traditional structure of pre-2009. Every deployable artilleryman above the rank of lance bombardier was now committed to operations - the WOTPT became the OPSWO and the most senior officers not deploying were the RSO and the Padre. Those in key positions whom were deploying had to maintain their current job as well as prepare for the deployment, adding to the already heavy pre-deployment workload.

Upon return of the reconnaissance party, concurrent planning for many tasks was reinvigorated. Even though there was an additional deployment in progress, 1 Regt still had to conduct its own RTS functions, as well as supporting the training of the Reserve Mortar Batteries and their subsequent transfer to the 11th Brigade, on top of planning and resourcing requirements for the 2013 training year. The Regiment was being well and truly '*used*' during the '*ready*' phase of the Force Generation Cycle and there were stages when there were no personnel left to deploy even a single Gun Detachment or Joint Fires Team.

As April and May 2012 progressed, the training focus moved to the more individual training requirements. The instructor training was delivered internally, using the experiences of personnel who had been previously posted to various Schools and training institutions. This was a great source of mirth and launched the friendly rivalry between the team's non commissioned officers and officers; debating the effectiveness of lesson delivery on an audience such as the ANA. Dari language training was delivered by a combination of native Afghans and Farsi academics. The strengths of the academics provided structuring of the lessons and training plans where the native Afghans added both an example of snappy dress standards and up-to-date information on cultural aspects of the language. As it turned out, the Afghans were a much closer example of what the AMTT personnel would be working with once in Afghanistan.

*Many of the AMTT personnel had previously been exposed to this level of training and noticed that the trainers had gone to great effort to improve the practical aspect of confirmation activities.*

A purpose-designed All Corps Search training package was delivered by 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment from Townsville. These engineers had the most recent experience of enemy tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) in Afghanistan and the AMTT was very fortunate to have their expertise for pre-deployment training. Care of the Battlefield Casualty training involved a lot of practical reinforcement using meat products - huge legs of ham - to simulate the problems of dealing with a live medical problem. Many of the AMTT personnel had previously been exposed to this level of training and noticed that the trainers had gone to great effort to improve the practical aspect of confirmation activities. This training was finalised with a field activity to practice dealing with casualties whilst in contact with the enemy. The final stage of this training was synchronised as a round robin of weapons live fire training at Greenbank Range. Overall, this was some of the best practical training received by the AMTT and was used extensively once deployed into theatre.

### **The Mission Rehearsal Activity (MRA)**

The Mission Rehearsal Activity was designed to simulate the delivery of training at Camp Blackhorse, the Kabul Military Training Area, and

movement through the chaotic, congested and dangerous suburbs of Kabul. As well as delivering lessons through interpreters to an audience, each day had programmed activities to test the AMTT Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed during training. From the reconnaissance, the organising staff was able to simulate the Camp Blackhorse and Pol-e-Charki Garrison by using the unit compound and the remainder of Gallipoli Barracks respectively. Other Defence sites within the Brisbane area substituted for major locations around Kabul and the Brisbane traffic admirably stood in for Afghan rush hour!

Concurrently with the delivery of training, convoy activities were conducted to other notional Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) throughout the remainder of Brisbane City. Crew Commanders refined their Convoy SOPs through delivering their own orders for convoys and practicing After Action Reviews. The addition of a Sergeant Observer Trainer from 2nd/14th Light Horse (Queensland Mounted Infantry) with experience from Afghanistan and the Security Detachment in Baghdad accelerated the learning significantly for the crews of the Protected Mobility Vehicles.

Once a routine had been set for the conduct of a regular day of training delivery, curve balls were thrown in to test Team SOPs. A simulated riot/overreaction by ANA trainees tested reactions and rules of engagement. An indirect fire attack tested evacuation SOPs, including the use of helicopters from the School of Aviation to simulate aero medical evacuation, the use of the helicopters benefit both the School's pilots and added some unexpected (to the participants) realism to finalise the evacuation. A classic quote from one of the PM drivers was when he described expecting the usual evacuation followed by clearing a helicopter landing zone '*... I was driving along and I said, what's that noise? It's a helicopter! This never happens, especially at Enoggera. We stopped and secured and there it was, landing in the oval. They carried the casualty out to it and did everything but get on board!*' The following day, indirect fire was used again and the ability to identify and engage a point of origin using helicopter was practiced by the AMTT Joint Fires Observers and the trainee ARH pilots alike.

The AMTT lived in the simulated Camp Blackhorse for the duration of the Mission Rehearsal Activity, so even night routine was included. Evening briefs focused on a developing enemy and friendly situation, current activities as well as future operations. Points for sustain and improvement were also raised at these meetings for delivery of

training and SOPs. These practices set a good grounding for the establishment of routines in-theatre.

After the MRA had concluded, the AMTT Headquarters Cell completed the final requirements of deployment certification whilst the remainder concentrated on improving procedures and applying lessons learnt. During the week prior to pre-deployment leave, the AMTT was also advised that their deployment would be reduced from six months to five and three-quarter months. This removed a number of conditions for the deployment, including leave while in mission - in hindsight however, with what was to come for the team this may actually have been a good thing. Finally, the AMTT was involved in a welcome home parade for Mentoring Task Force 4 combined with their farewell parade. After leave had been completed, the team departed for the MEAO.



## Deployment into Theatre

The Advance Party left in early August and everyone breathed a sigh of relief; AMTT was finally in the execution phase. There were a few people stepping up into unfamiliar positions of authority in the main body, particularly Corporal Adam Whybourne substituting for the S4. The team had a real sense of achievement as everyone pitched in and helped these individuals to achieve and not to leave anyone lagging behind in their duties. There was a couple of weeks to get on with the final stages of preparation at Al Minhad Air Base, combined with Reception, Staging, Onwards Movement & Integration (RSO&I) course, allowing the team to get into a position where they would hit the ground running. Deep down, the main body knew that the advance party was off tanning themselves at the FOB, drinking chai and getting fat on US DFAC and 'Fat Alley' food. The advance party later claimed to

have done a lot more but it must be pointed out that our beds were not prepared when the main body eventually arrived at Camp Blackhorse; that little tradition must have gone out with berets.

*This orders group heralded the transition from preparation, where there was minimal risk to personnel, to the very-real execution of the mission in Afghanistan where there would be far more potential for risk.*

There were familiar faces from 7th Brigade among the personnel when AMTT arrived in Al Minhad Air Base. These guys and girls assisted the main body with their transition through the staging area. The OPSO and WO2 Miller both managed to skive out of RSO&I training in the Sun, having completed it during the reconnaissance, whilst the remainder sweated it out in the 50 plus degree heat, the majority of it being revision of what was completed during the MRA. Before we knew it, training programs had been finalised by the various cells for the delivery of courses to the ANA and we were on the plane to Kabul.

The first orders group was delivered in Al Minhad Air Base and saw Lieutenant Nick Barber give the first of many situational briefs as the AMTT S2, providing a very good summary of the enemy, ANSF and friendly forces in Kabul. This orders group heralded the transition from preparation, where there was minimal risk to personnel, to the very-real execution of the mission in Afghanistan where there would be far more potential for risk. The OPSO also surprised Bombardier Brad Marshall with an order for a time check to be completed, another first of many. It was collectively agreed that someone needed to get Bombardier Marshall a new watch!

The team had been warned out that timings would be very tight upon arrival in Kabul for AMTT's convoy to the ATAT's location in the outer eastern suburbs at Camp Alamo. The AMTT's first convoy was to be a night move through the streets of Kabul just prior to routes being closed due to a deteriorating situation in the city. The PMV crews worked hard to prepare the vehicles as they had not been prepared for movement prior to the team's arrival. The men pulled together well to achieve a challenging timeline that could not be moved, installing the required communications and defensive systems prior to moving out. The ATAT guided the AMTT's convoy through the city under

the control of unit & ATAT RSM, WO1 Matt Sullivan, who gave orders from under his brimless bush hat. The result was the CO looked genuinely pleased to see his team finally in theatre as the main body arrived at Camp Alamo.

### Phase One 'Brilliant at the Basics'

The key components of Phase 1 consisted of the delivery of literacy and numeracy training, individual Artillery training tailored to achieve basic battery operations and finally the conduct of the first Live Fire Exercise (LFX). The AMT. still had a lot of preparation to do after their arrival in Camp Blackhorse. These activities included the standard suite of administrative requirements whilst deployed: the establishment of computer accounts on a foreign network; settling into accommodation; confirming facilities for training; and importantly, meeting and establishing a relationship with ANA chain of command.

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*After a fast task-scoping session late into the evening, the CO was convinced that we could meet the expanded role (with a lot of hard work), and so the stage was set.*

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The ANA Gunners already had a Mentor Advisory Team consisting of American and Albanian personnel. These mentors had already conducted some minor training of the ANA in the months leading up to the arrival of AMT., primarily consisting of instructing key personnel on the D-30 122 mm Howitzer and basic Fire Direction. The AMTT's first task would be to have the ANA conduct indirect live fire using the resources that had already been organised by the US/Albanian Mentor Advisory Team.

The Mentor Advisory Team had conducted liaison with the ANA to get as many resources as possible ready for the delivery of training. As the BOTC Cell Commander, Captain Pete Allan liaised with the Artillery Tolay Commander to use the ANA officer network to secure teaching facilities and the attendance of students. The ANA still had to be pulled from their checkpoint security tasks and reportedly have two weeks of leave to accomplish this (even though that was not the plan!).

The next level of liaison was between the CO and OPSO and the Kandak (Bn) Commander, Brigade Commander and Division Headquarters staff. It was slow, measured work but the command group eventually secured an agreement for the students to have only one week of leave prior to training.

The S4 commenced the coordination of interpreters in the lead up to the commencement of training. He was able to get them access to the Pol-e-Charki Garrison in record time; the Canadians were surprised with what they saw. The interpreter manager's task was definitely one of those '*lots of work, very little thanks*' tasks that the remainder of the team thanked God as a part of their prayers.

Literacy and Numeracy training commenced after the ANA students' week of leave and during this period a Cypher (order) from the Afghan Ministry of Defence arrived. After a quick translation, the AMT. discovered they were now expected to train two brigades worth of Artillery instead of only one; this had been due to nuances very apparent within the ISAF Coalition, where an American AMT. had been turned around and sent home upon arrival in Afghanistan. Amusingly, when the CO enquired about the arrival time of the new students, he was told they were already there!

Some harried phone calls resulted in the advice from ISAF NTM-A Headquarters that '*we didn't know anything about it, but it would be great if you could train everyone*' and from the Australian chain of command that there would be no extra resources, so it was up to us. After a fast task-scoping session late into the evening, the CO was convinced that we could meet the expanded role (with a lot of hard work), and so the stage was set. The AMT. had also been short changed 20% of their allocated interpreters and now the number of students had been doubled. The biggest effect was on the FDC that was initially expecting 10 students and now would have about 40. Even Lieutenant Kevin Pamenter's much publicised Queensland charisma would be tested to achieve its objectives.

After the Cell commanders recovered from their initial shock of the new task (rumors were that one was heard to say '*impossible*' in a French style accent) and training commenced with a focus on the lead up to the first LFX. Once training commenced, the instructors were happy to report that some of the ANA soldiers already had a basic understanding of the D-30, calculating firing data in response to calls for fire and an understanding of the ANA comms equipment. The start point of the artillery capability within the two Brigades was more advanced than expected (although only slightly). Attitude throughout the ANA chain of command to their workload was also improved when, after some liaison by CO AMT., the ANA DIVCOMD visited on Day two of training, stating to all of his key commanders that the training provided by AMT. would be his priority for the next four months.



The ANA, with the assistance of the AMT., applied their newly learnt skills in preparation for the execution of the first LFX. The AMT. officers assisted the ANA to conduct all applicable steps in their doctrine for a deployment. These steps were similar to Australian doctrine and the Aussie lieutenants, fresh off ROBC, found it easy to conduct tactical and technical checks to what remained an ANA plan. It was heartening to see the ANA applied appropriate considerations for defence without prompting. The Tolay Commander of the 2nd Brigade gave orders for the deployment of a combined firing unit of six guns, two Fire Direction Cells and an Observation Post.

### Live Fire Exercise 1

The first live fire exercise (LFX) was a late addition to the training initially planned by AMT. and a good opportunity to see the baseline standard of the trainees after only a few weeks of instruction. As the first indirect live fire for the 111th Capital Division, there was a lot of attention from Coalition and ANA alike. The timing of the LFX coincided with the changeover of the Kandak's American/Albanian and the Division's Portuguese Mentoring Teams so it proved to be an opportunity for the new Coalition partners to see the fruits of their mentoring labors. Pretty much every Coalition artillery officer in the surrounds of Kabul Military Training Centre made the effort to come to the first LFX.

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*The civilians frequently ventured into the impact area to collect bomb fragments so they could sell the items as scrap metal.*

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Captain Pete Allan and Lieutenant Nick Barber were able to coordinate requirements to get UAV support to assist in determining the impact area was clear of civilians prior to opening the safe target area. This was another first and Captain Allan passed the procedure over to the ATAT at the ANA School of Artillery who have subsequently sourced aerial assets to support their activities. The importance of

securing the UAV was highlighted when it was able to detect individuals hiding in dead ground in the impact area. The AMT. was able to direct the ANA to send a vehicle to clear the Afghan civilians from the impact area so the artillery could eventually fire. The civilians frequently ventured into the impact area to collect bomb fragments so they could sell the items as scrap metal. The FS Cell attested that these civilians were quite fearless of the risk of their actions; these guys might well have made good soldiers.

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*On about the eighth attempt, and well after all photo opportunities had been spoiled, the gun fired to the cheering of all assembled ...*

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During the deployment of the Gunline, it was noted that senior ANA officers were interfering with the technical aspects of establishing orientation of the guns. Consistently, the senior officers would complete all technical aspects of deploying the guns due to a lack of trust in the ability of non commissioned officers (Bridmalls) and junior officers to achieve these tasks. This custom was later abolished through a combination of coercion, display and reinforcement of correct doctrinal procedures. Nevertheless, the process to building intra-battery trust was executed with the same degree of difficulty as taking cigarettes away from a smoker.

Once the Safe Target Area (STA) was open and information sent to the guns for the first round to be fired, a sense of anticipation crept over the area. Just prior to loading the first D-30 Howitzer, an American Artillery mentor stated that this was the exact moment that the previous live fire practice was cancelled. We had momentum, could it be stopped again? The gun was loaded and the order was given to fire. There was a significant delay; out of the six guns that deployed the adjusting gun happened to be one with a difficult firing lever. On about the eighth attempt, and well after all photo opportunities had been spoiled, the gun fired to the cheering of all assembled, the round was seen to successfully explode in the impact area eight kilometres away. The adjustment continued, with mentors ensuring the remaining D-30s followed the mission by applying the same information as the adjusting gun. Finally, the guns went to fire for effect and there was another cheer as all six guns were fired.

The remainder of the day saw more missions including multiple rounds of fire for effect to really

practice the gun line's procedures. During one mission, a charge detonated at a demolitions range approximately one kilometre away while the guns were executing a five-round fire for effect. If anything was going to make visitors nervous this was it - the fear of the 'Rogue Gun'. The word was spread that it was the demolitions range but it was noted that there were still a lot of saucer-eyed infantrymen in the area after the event.

*The ANA logistics system proved problematic and as difficult to budge as an APS finance officer.*

Once all rounds were expended, the ANA packed up and headed back to barracks like lightning. It was a Thursday, a day similar to a 'Westerner's Saturday', and they were keen to get out of there. Unfortunately, a projectile had been jammed in one of the guns and couldn't be dislodged. The D-30 was taken 'as is' back to the garrison and unloaded using an improvised tool. Sergeant Mick Garnham created the tool, the ANA used it to affect the removal of the round and the RSM owed the OPSO a carton of XXXX (he preferred quantity over quality) to be delivered at Brisbane Airport upon return to Australia.

The focus of Phase Two was the delivery of the remaining individual training; followed by the formation of dedicated Fire Support, Fire Direction and Gunline teams with the integration of the officers. The FS Cell enhanced their collective training through the use of computer simulation and practiced delivering fire orders to the FDC. Subsequently, the FDC calculated and issued the firing data to the D-30 Howitzers. This simulation proved valuable in improving individual skills and developing the small team dynamics required in an artillery battery.

The ANA logistics system proved problematic and as difficult to budge as an APS finance officer. The frustrations of the system were only rivalled by those resulting from the Australian logistics system, which continued to cause frustration to AMT. as an end user in non-standard conditions.

The new American/Albanian Mentor Advisory Team injected itself into the training with gusto - they wanted to be a part of the AMT. program with intent to augment this progress after the AMT. was gone. Some momentum was lost due to the change-over but this was balanced by the enthusiasm of the new group. Unfortunately, not all the new Coalition mentors were as effective as their predecessors,

resulting in the CO personally dealing with Divisional issues, such as resources for training.

The AMT. Cell leaders monitored the progress of the ANA students throughout the phase and confidence grew in how the artillery would perform during LFX 2. The C2 of each component had been synchronized by the combining of the officers with the soldiers on a permanent basis. The officers had seen some of the capability of their Bridmals during training and trust was developing between the officers and other ranks. The now-usual logistics issues presented themselves in the lead up to the exercise, especially with fuel and ammunition.

Training during Phase Two finished with the Gunline practicing deployments in the field in accordance with the best BOTC officer's plan. Additionally, the Fire Support Cell practiced tactical occupation of OPs and finally, more fire missions were simulated to improve the flow of information and orders from the Fire Support Teams to the Gunline. The AMT. anticipated that the ANA would be ready for advanced training after this LFX. The instructors now had a firm understanding of which soldiers were performing well and those that would require some further training to be considered competent. Out-of-Cycle Training Packages were developed and delivered for the more advanced ANA students by the Headquarters Cell, ammunition was scrounged by the S4, the EME Cell continue to perform minor miracles of maintenance; and (of course) humor was preserved in all areas.

## Live Fire Exercise 2

LFX 2 was a two-day exercise conducted on a Saturday and Sunday after the Afghan Friday-based weekend. On Saturday, the Tolays deployed to two separate gun positions, allowing the ANA Artillery Tolay Commanders to have autonomy at last to order and train their own troops without influence from outside their own chain of command. Both Tolays engaged targets as ordered by their own



FSTs, which reaffirmed the ownership each commander had over his respective sub-unit.

During the fire missions, it was apparent that the specialised radio training delivered during Phase Two had paid good dividends as the correct message was effectively being passed to the FDC. The AMT. was maintaining a parallel line of communications to ensure safety and a correct procedure were being followed and rarely was there a requirement to correct anything beyond regular teaching points that would be reinforced in Australia. The day ended with the BOTC Commander and CO AMT. providing feedback to the Tolay Commanders.

On day two of the LFX, both Tolays deployed with a competitive attitude, trying to out-perform each other. The gunlines routinely conducted dry training between missions and displayed pride in the execution of their tasks. The Commander 111th Capital Division visited the gunlines and oversaw the conduct of a mission by each Tolay. Technical information was passed between the Tolays after conducting a registration mission and the information was applied to missions from both fire units producing target rounds.

During the after action review, all the AMT. Cell Commanders agreed their students were ready for certification at the basic level and were now ready for advanced training. The AMT. was seeing the fruits of their labours.

### Phase Three: Advanced Training

Phase Three consisted of some brief remediation training followed by advanced training. Gunline, Fire Support and Fire Direction Cells conducted revision training to address some key issues from LFX 2 and then focused on advanced training. In particular, the recording and re-engagement of targets was practiced through computer simulation and finally, dry fire planning was conducted. To achieve an accurate and timely fire plan would be the primary milestone for Phase Three training.

In addition, in order to support a sustainable environment for the Artillery units the team was training, the AMT. developed a one week 'Brigade Offensive Support Seminar' (the BOSS) to train ANA Brigade and Divisional Headquarters Staff from across the Division in fires oriented planning outcomes (including surveillance and reconnaissance planning, logistics, and manoeuvre). The BOSS was sequentially delivered by the CO, XO, OIC BOTC and the S2 to senior ANA artillery officers and Division, Brigade and Kandak

staff officers at the home locations of the 1st and 2nd Brigades around Kabul.

*... rarely was there a requirement to correct anything beyond regular teaching points that would be reinforced in Australia.*

The impact of the extra training being delivered to staff during the BOSS drew a lot of resources away from the AMTT's primary training role, however this particular training needed to occur though if the AMT. was to ensure that the ANA maintained and employed the artillery capability after training was completed. A common question posed by the media is whether the results of training the ANA would be enduring after the Coalition left Afghanistan - this was our way of ensuring that question was answered.



A large part of the planning conducted during the BOSS was geared toward how to execute a combined arms operation between manoeuvre elements and their supporting artillery. The exercise construct was situated at the Kabul Military Training Centre Range and the planning conducted by ANA staff included a targeting process and control measures necessary to support the safe execution of a combined arms activity - A first for the ANA. Though the time frame was too short to execute a full-blown CATA during the AMTT's deployment, the Commander 111th Capital Division intended to execute the activity during the following spring, using the plans that the AMTT had trained and mentored them through.

Shortly after the completion of the BOSS, and with the other cells having maintained their high rate of effort, the training of the ANA was nearing culmination. Although the students had reached a high level of training in a short time, four months without leave combined with the onset of snow and cold weather was soon going to erode their attention and attitude. The final touches were put on practicing fire planning and after some

logistically-induced delays the ANA were ready for their final LFX on Boxing Day 2012.

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*... four months without leave combined with the onset of snow and cold weather was soon going to erode their attention and attitude.*

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### Live Fire Exercise 3

The final LFX saw the Artillery Tolays conduct a 200-round quick Fireplan. This was the course's graduation activity and got off to a rocky start, with D-30s having difficulty coming into action due to oil thinning in the cold conditions. With some quick (some would call dodgy) artificer magic involving equipment jacks, frozen breech blocks, firing pins and a PM winch; the Tolays were in action and ready. After the standard Fire planning preparations and adjustment missions over the ANA Fires nets; both Tolays engaged and expended their allocations within 20 minutes of the assigned H-Hour. Despite the short duration of the LFX, this was the true operational test of both Artillery Tolays, and the results well worth the previous five months of mentoring. The end-state achieved, the AMTT's After-Action Review confirmed the achievements and progress of the ANA gunners whilst under RAA tutelage, bringing them up to a good battery-level standard to close out the deployment.

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*Despite the short duration of the LFX, this was the true operational test of both Artillery Tolays, and the results well worth the previous five months of mentoring.*

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### Redeployment: The Journey Home

With the job completed, AMT. began to shift their focus on returning home to their loved ones. It had been an extraordinarily busy five and a half months; and the tempo wasn't about to wind down just yet. The ANA graduation ceremony took place where the instructors proudly issued their students with graduation certificates. The staff took particular enjoyment in seeing the ritual where each member would yell out their name, rank and serial number to the class whilst holding the certificate above their head. After saying goodbye to the students and the interpreters (who had become more friends than colleagues) the mad rush to pack and prepare for RTA began. Members madly stuffed their trunks with all of their kit including some newly acquired

items, unfortunately a nice red Persian rug doesn't fit and had to be 'gifted' to some American colleagues.

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*After saying goodbye to the students and the interpreters (who had become more friends than colleagues) the mad rush to pack and prepare for RTA began.*

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A farewell parade took place on the make-shift parade ground and the ANF was lowered over Camp Blackhorse. Nearly the entire camp came out to witness the parade, which stands as testament to the relationships built by the AMT. With a brief stint in Kabul International Airport, the team was on their way to Dubai and its beautiful temperature (it was currently January and temperatures in Kabul sat around 0 degrees Celsius as a high!).

A day trip into Dubai saw the members spending up big on gifts for their loved ones and a few little rewards for themselves. For example, Lieutenant Andrew Seymour wanted to purchase a TagHauer watch but on enquiry found that it was probably still a little too expensive even with his deployment pay. The team finally arrived in Brisbane on 24th January 2013, back into the arms of their family where many emotional reunions took place. A welcome home parade took place a few days later and the team disbanded to move back to their normal roles within the Regiment. Overall AMTT's success can only be attributed to the hard work every single member of the team put in not only during the 6 months in-country, but also in the lead up to the deployment. Thanks to the commitment and dedication of the members, the deployment was extremely rewarding and resulted in an extremely successful mission.





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AUSTRALIAN ARMY CAMPAIGNS SERIES – 14

# TO KOKODA

Nicholas Anderson

When the Japanese war machine swept through South-East Asia in early 1942, it was inevitable that conflict would reach Australian territory on the island of New Guinea. The ultimate Japanese target was Port Moresby. Conquering the capital would sever communication between Australia and her American ally and allow Japanese air power to threaten Australia's northern cities.

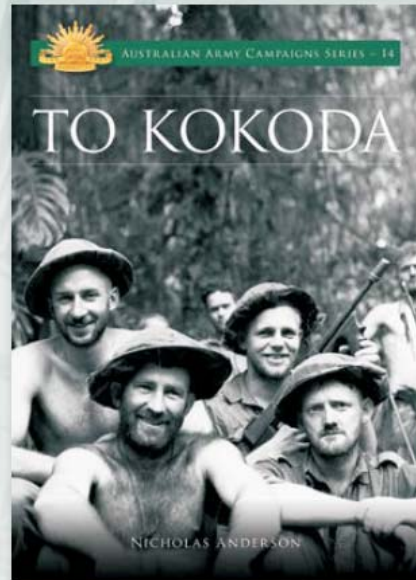
When a seaborne invasion was thwarted at the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Nankai Shitai landed in Papua on 21 July and launched an overland attack. Having captured the village of Kokoda with its vital airstrip, the Japanese headed for Port Moresby, traversing the treacherous Kokoda Trail that winds across the mighty Owen Stanley Range.

The Australian Army was ill prepared to confront the Japanese. Poorly equipped, undertrained, and unaccustomed to jungle warfare, the untested militia battalions were the first to face the battle-hardened invading forces. Later, when veteran AIF brigades were rushed forward to bolster the militia, they also fell in the path of the Japanese onslaught.

But the over-extension of supply lines and disaster on Guadalcanal eventually cruelled Japanese aspirations and the Kokoda campaign became a bloody and protracted struggle as the Australian troops fought to drive the Japanese off the Owen Stanleys and out of Papua.

While the front-line troops were engaged in a bitter fight for survival, a power struggle erupted at the top of the Allied command hierarchy resulting in a series of sackings, the competing ambitions of the Allied commanders clouding their judgement at a critical time.

It was under these conditions, against a determined enemy and on one of the harshest battlefields on earth, that the Australian forces began to learn the crucial lessons that would be needed to break the back of the Japanese Army in New Guinea.



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# Professional Papers

## Lessons Learnt from Afghanistan: A Junior Officers Perspective

*Major Simon Hompas*

The Australian Regular Army, and by extension the RAA, has been involved in over eight years of operations in Afghanistan since 2006. With recent announcements that the Regular Army contribution of formed units, with RAA elements, is likely to end no later than 2014, I believe it is important to capture, and incorporate, lessons learnt in order to avoid a 'post operations hangover' in an environment of limited resources, ill-defined outcomes and perhaps an institutional desire 'to get back to the way things were'. The RAA is on the cusp of generational and evolutionary change with the bedding in of a new fire control system (AFATDS), new common equipment (M777A2) in an environment of fresh Army emphasis (JP 2048 and the introduction of the amphibious platforms and combat brigades structures).

It would be disappointing to lose a generation of junior officer and soldier experience that transcends 'the War' and has relevance to 'whatever War' we fight in the future. I am offering insights and lessons learnt, not as the panacea but as a result of being extremely fortunate to have developed from Captain to Major, effectively either on operations in Afghanistan or in areas and units closely related to the readiness cycle and so I believe (hope) my offerings are taken in the spirit of being formed over the long term rather than

immediately post operation and therefore rather being situation specific.

By background, I deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 as the Forward Observer (FO) and Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) for the Security Task Group of Reconstruction Task Force 2. In 2009 I deployed as the Fire Support Officer for Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 2. In 2010 I was an Instructor-in-Gunnery at the School of Artillery before assuming command of 'A' Battery, 1st Regiment RAA, in 2011. At the time that was my first comprehensive introduction to AFATDS and the M777A2 as we conducted Introduction Into Service. In 2012 I deployed to Afghanistan for the final time as the Battery Commander (BC) of 105th Observation Post Bty as part of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group (3RAR TG).

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*... no future war is going to look exactly like the last one but there are themes, technologies and lessons that will form key elements of any future conflict ...*

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Firstly though; why bother learning the lessons from Afghanistan at all? Surely we will never get involved in something like that again and, Exercise Hamel, Talisman Sabre, et al., always emphasise the more conventional aspects? I would simply reply that of course no future war is going to look exactly like the last one but there are themes, technologies and lessons that will form key elements of any future conflict we are involved in. Primarily; the ubiquity of the media in all forms, 'war amongst the people', highly lethal technologies at the lowest level, intolerance for excessive collateral damage, increasingly networked enabled systems (and our reliance on them) and the enduring nature of warfare with its brutality and the requirement for physical and emotional endurance. All these elements were on display in the 2006 Israel /

Hezbollah conflict and Coalition operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 2006 Israel / Hezbollah conflict is a microcosm providing stark examples of Joint Fires gone wrong, over reliance on ISR platforms, convoluted C2, agrarian armed factions using available technology to defeat high tech armed forces and in general the constant flux of conventional tactics within contemporary scenarios. These are examples that RAA personnel operating in Afghanistan would be familiar with though obviously not to the same scale. In short, USMC General Krulak (of 'three block war' fame), would recognise the future quite easily. Perhaps most simply, Adaptive Campaigning - Army's Future Land Operating Concept, directs us to think in these terms for the future and prepare accordingly.

*Lesson 1: Joint-ery. There is no room for Corps parochialism or organisational stasis. You either integrate and adapt or die, or worse become irrelevant.*

I believe many a wry smile would agree that it seems like you cannot have an acronym, project, course or capability today without adding the ubiquitous letter 'J' to the front of it. JTACs, JFTs, JFOs, JSF, JDAMS, Joint Land Combat and Joint Fires are the language of today and tomorrow and I would posit an enduring lesson from operations in the MEAO. Our traditional training construct and institutional focus has been on mastering the 'dark art' of Artillery and indirect cannon launched fires. Our officer professional development courses are heavily artillery centric and the penultimate RAA career development course, the Regimental Officers gunnery Course (ROGC), emphasises the mastery of artillery technical and tactical skills.

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*The RAA is uniquely placed to reach across and influence not only the Army but the other Services too.*

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There is certainly a very good reason why our courses evolved that way but I believe they need to further evolve to encompass the irrevocably joint nature of the future. Skills such as Close Combat Attack, Naval Surface Fire Support and Offensive Air Support are self-evident but less obvious are skills in; ISR management (the largest part of my job as FSO in 2009 and Battery Commander in 2012 was ISR related), dynamic targeting and collateral damage estimations (a small but highly emotive, involved and intense set of experiences with involvement from multiple agencies and platforms),

Laws of Armed Conflict and interpretation of targeting directives, airspace and battlespace management and of course the ever expanding and important CIS links, infrastructure and programs that mesh it all together.

A subsequent joint lesson is the requirement for systems to be interoperable across Corps, Service and Coalition. The last thing the RAA wants is to be operating a digital orphan that cannot interface with other Army, RAN and RAAF platforms especially as one of our key, if unstated, functions is to be the interface between the arms and services.

The RAA is uniquely placed to reach across and influence not only the Army but the other Services too. No other Corps operates as routinely or as symbiotically as the RAA with the RAAF and RAN. This gives the RAA a window and a small amount of leverage to positively influence vital areas such as targeting (RAAF dominated at the moment because of confusion between the terms targeting and weaponeering), ISR development and management (platform centric at the moment), Joint Inter-service battlespace management processes that are evolving and all of which are tied to developments with communication bearers (radios) and Battlefield Management Systems. How to progress with this concept of 'RAA led' change is discussed later.

*Lesson 2: Training needs to be hard, realistic, developmental and measured against a standard.*

This evolution of education in Joint Fires needs to be backed up with a concomitant enhancement in the training realism in the execution of Joint Fires. By that I mean our exercises need to emphasise integrating Joint Fires skills, not de-confliction, with as much realism as can be crammed in. OAS and CCA assets are unfortunately rare and expensive, NGS is even rarer which usually means the most common answer is 'that greater use of simulation is required'. I agree that simulation is an essential and low cost part of the training continuum, especially in the ab-initio phases, but it cannot, and should not ever wholly replace, walking the ground with a radio on your back and a live asset on call. I have observed on multiple occasions (and done so myself) an 'IFOT warrior' go to pieces out on the ground when the elements of fatigue, hunger, thirst, task saturation, climate and simple soldier skills were added to the equation. Shooting 'cribs' and aide-memoires that are impressive feats of engineering and great for the simulation (and I even include static observation post shooting here) environment haven't survived rain, one-handed

ergonomics and shooting from your belly whilst under fire and on the move.

Here is a chance for the RAA to take an innovative and low cost lead. Whilst sounding laughable on face value, remotely controlled platforms (aka model aeroplanes), coupled with small calibre training aids offer the opportunity to replicate live assets, in real conditions and truly exercise the complete Joint Fires chain in all aspects of Joint Fires support from planning to execution. As an example, it is relatively common practice to utilise RAAF 4 Squadron PC-9s fitted with smoke grenades to practice CAS. 'Fire' can be bought as close as 100m for sorties of up to 2 hours duration without the high cost of a jet platform in terms of fuel, ordnance, range space and instructor support.

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*Here is a chance for the RAA to take an innovative and low cost lead.*

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As a result of the high cost and relatively limited duration of jet OAS platforms, I have noticed a trend developing over the years of participating in or organising JTAC practices (and even some artillery practices), that due to the limited windows and prescriptive JTAC currency requirements, training serials involving CAS platforms have tended to morph into static OP based serials with only the barest of tactical scenarios overlaid on the top. In short they are technical shoots ticking off qualifications as opposed to developing the competency of a JFO to '*fight the Joint Fires fight*' and developing professional mastery. Mastery can only be achieved through intensive repetition in an atmosphere conducive to making low risk mistakes rather than a '*zero defect*' mentality strictly seeking only to satisfy competencies.

Realism can extend to the command post (CP) as well. Here is where the true power of simulation can be bought to bear through the use of immersive simulators utilising the actual assets deployed out field. By '*plugging in*' a Bushmaster mounted CP (at the TCP, BG and Bde level) into a simulator that can provide the necessary electronic feedback, the complete Joint Fires chain can exercise without the artificiality of operating out of a simulation laboratory.

The fighting and patrolling that our soldiers undertook in Afghanistan was a test of endurance. The combat load for an average, several hour duration patrol would routinely exceed 25kgs and if of longer duration, 30-40kgs. The weights carried

by combat soldiers have been steadily increasing since the Roman legions and are reaching the culmination of the physically possible. Whilst technology and organisational discipline may rein in some of these ballooning burdens, our physical training standards need to accommodate this reality and the Physical Employment Specifications (PES) are an excellent place to start.

As an indication of how hard the gunline is working, the DSTO, whilst conducting PES trials, attached heart rate and oxygen monitors to 'A' Battery soldiers during a 10 round fire for effect. The data indicated that for those 10 minutes, the gunner responsible for carrying and ramming the ammunition had a physical output higher than an infantry soldier conducting a break contact. JFTs in the MEAO would routinely carry some of the heaviest loads on patrols. At the end of the 3 RAR TG rotation in 2012, a JFO, operating as a pair and quite frequently as a single person, would routinely be expected to carry seven mission essential electronic items and conceivably up to 10 items depending on the nature of the task. All of which took different size batteries and different chargers (that is a whole other lesson). As we look to the future and in an environment of cost cutting, fighting for equipment such as training body armour will be an important part of injury mitigation and endurance building and that does not include receiving mission essential items such as body armour '*just-in-time*'.

RAA technical shooting standards exist at the moment but are almost strictly focussed on the execution of Artillery technical missions. Our '*shooting tables*' and measures of performance need to be updated to include multiple asset scenarios, airspace and battlespace de-confliction problems and targeting dilemmas so that when we send a JFT (emphasis on JFT as opposed to a single JFO) overseas, they have passed more than just the execution of a technical mission and fired a danger close practice. I believe now is a good time to dust off and update the ARTEP (Artillery Technical Evaluation Program) and use it both as a measure of individual performance and unit effectiveness. This leads to my next point.

*Lesson 3: We need a new and empowered entity to perform external evaluation, provide direction and champion RAA issues. (Commander Forces Joint Fires? Colonel Artillery? Commander RAA?)*

Whilst this may seem an extremely strange lesson to learn from Afghanistan, I have observed the effects on different Corps that do and do not have

external assessment as part of their pre-deployment training. Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams, Engineer High Risk Search Teams and RAN ships via the Sea Training Group are extensively externally assessed as part of a pre-deployment certification regime. The current process for RAA units is that the function is performed by a mix of the unit CO (or delegate) and Observer Trainers (OTs) at the Combat Training Centre during Mission Rehearsal Exercises (far too late in the force generation cycle). It should be noted that the OTs are not Directing Staff and although they can make recommendations on the suitability of an individual, team or sub-unit to deploy, they do not perform a role of assessment, only observation. There are no formally codified standards to grade JFTs and achieve consistency across the Corp. The current Mission Essential Task Lists, whilst comprehensive, lacks focus and clarity and appears to have adopted a 'shotgun' approach to covering the skills required for a deployment and most importantly, does not articulate standards.

A return to the ARTEP, assessed by an external team either from the School of Artillery or within Forces Command would provide a robust way to grade and evaluate capability. Whilst final say should always rest with the unit CO on who deploys, external assessment or at the very least common standards would greatly assist this process. As we enter an era of reduced deployment opportunities but perhaps more importantly, reduced resources, these standards will become all the more important to ensure our teams are properly prepared and will also help to foster unit esprit-de-corp, raise collective training standards and become an excellent and logical baseline to justify resource expenditure linked to the Force Generation Cycle.

Married to standards is uniformity of doctrine and processes. Whilst certainly not advocating strict and blind obedience to prescriptive TTPS, I am sure that everyone drew organisational comfort from the certainty and clarity that the *'Duties In Action'* offered as a common language and culture. This certainty and clarity is currently missing, each and every single Regiment has its own way of employing *'digital fire discipline'* and AFATDS TTPs, and I would like to segue into an example of why we need a body to oversee, champion and enforce doctrine as the situation dictates.

The *'go to'* manual for JFT personnel operating in the MEAO was the *'JFIRES: Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for the application of Joint Fires'*, a US publication. Any and all ordnance that was expended or capability that was employed in the

MEAO, had at the very least, a paragraph or chapter devoted to it within JFIRES. It was used almost exclusively throughout all NATO nations as the baseline document to ensure uniformity of processes and procedures. This situation did pose a conundrum for the RAA despite the obvious benefits of utilising a common *'fires'* language.

During pre-deployment, and in all Australian documents whilst deployed overseas from 2006 to about 2010, it was specified in source documentation that Australian minimum safe distances, risk profiles and procedures for employment of Joint Fires were to be used. This situation was uncomfortably ignored during early rotations where JFIRE was used by deployed JFTs anyway and only officially rectified later when Australian doctrine formally acknowledged use of the JFIRE and effectively *'caught up'*. This formal recognition arrived after at least four years of RAA operations in Afghanistan. This, and other Australian use only Joint Fires related documents, had a direct impact on our ability to conduct targeting serials and at the very least, created an enormous headache when trying to construct a coherent SOP for targeting.

The JFIRE was only formally adopted by the RAA after the RAAF had achieved a memorandum of understanding with the USAF to allow ADF JTACs to graduate with recognised combat ready qualifications from FACDU (now part of 4 Squadron RAAF), a key part of this has been standardisation of Joint doctrine and use of the JFIRE. I am not suggesting slavish adherence to US doctrine but I am advocating involvement and direction from a senior subject matter expert body to ensure we stay abreast with our coalition partners and the latest practical developments.

As another example of where a senior institutional body can assist in ensuring safe doctrinal coherence, every single Task Force, RTF-1 onwards, deployed with a different All Arms Call For Fire (AACFF) proforma. A situation that is potentially dangerous. The current AACFF format is written strictly for indirect fire but the predominant asset used in Afghanistan was rotary wing Close Combat Attack (CCA). Most rotations adopted a variation on the CCA 5 line brief out of JFIRE which covered most contingencies but, the lack of uniformity and failure to adapt across the Corps is a gap that needs to be filled.

I would offer that CCA is the *'new'* AACFF asset and this is a trend that is unlikely to be reversed in the future. The US Army and USMC doctrine stresses

that use of CCA is an 'all-corps' skill, that is, does not require a JFO to be involved. I am not advocating we attempt to empire build and exclusively reserve that asset for us (Australian Army Aviation would not support that anyway) but we need to ensure we are seen as the subject matter experts of choice to turn to first for the planning, requesting, execution and assistance with the training function in barracks.

Married to the execution skills of CCA is the requirement to up-skill our JFO's in airspace de-confliction techniques and provide a commonly agreed doctrinal basis for units to use when planning and training. Any new AACFF proforma needs to be universal across all Joint Fires assets to ease the training burden.

A senior institutional body would also assist in ensuring coherency and coordination with the introduction into service of new capabilities and the capability development of future ones. Using the introduction into service of AFATDS and the M777A2 as a contemporary case study it was an unfortunate reality that details such as; range templates, safety data, approvals to fire and tow the gun, ULACs that didn't fit ammunition or charge systems, modifications to the gun tractor fleet and the sourcing of radios (and the list is longer) were essentially solved 'just-in-time' in 2011 rather than in the years preceding.

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*... there is a role for an  
organisation similar in concept,  
construct and authority for the  
now defunct Commander Land  
Command Artillery ...*

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This is not to denigrate the work done by all people involved in all facets of the project, quite the contrary, but as the Corps with everything to lose and with the benefit of hindsight, this is another gap that may have been filled by a senior body with the scope and authority to provide a coordination function. I fully acknowledge that my role and viewpoint was very much removed from the hard work that was expended by the dedicated people who actually did make it happen.

The lesson I would extract from the above three examples, JFIRES, AACFF and IIS, is that there is a role for an organisation similar in concept, construct and authority for the now defunct Commander Land Command Artillery and Joint Fires Branch within Forces Command. The RAA needs momentum and identity and a Forces

Command level or higher entity, similar to the Royal Australian Engineers Force Engineer Branch, with key input from the Regimental COs and Joint Fires SO1s (AHQ, SoARTY, LWDC, HQ 1 Div and JOC as a start) would be able to sponsor and oversee a re-invigoration of the ARTEP that would hold people to a common technical standard, encourage innovation, promote or enforce developments, champion RAA technical issues and play to our Corps reputation of rigorous attention to detail.

*Lesson 4: 'Equip the operator, not operate the equipment'. The RAA should remain a skills based, technology enhanced organisation but we need to equip our personnel properly.*

The RAA is developing an over reliance on technology and networked systems which represents a critical vulnerability. At the most basic level, elementary map reading and navigation skills unassisted by GPS have fallen. This extends further into areas such as target location, map reading, convoy navigation and perhaps in the not too distant future, gunnery prediction if we become lost in merely processing AFATDS requests rather than thinking through each engagement.

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One way to avoid this is to continue our focus on establishing baseline skills through what can be termed as 'manual methods' before enhancing those skills with technology. This obviously comes at a cost in terms of training time, dollars and other resources but I believe will best ensure we do not become slaves to technology and, as we did in Afghanistan, can operate with nothing but a radio, map and the barest of equipment. This would dovetail neatly into one of the requirements of the AC-FLOC which is to conduct Indigenous Capacity Building. The skills in cultural awareness, training and operating with less technically advanced gunnery systems are not easily gained and again would be a shame to lose. Given that the current generation of senior warrant officers are the last to have comprehensively utilised manual methods, a formalised component should be considered for introduction into our junior non commissioned officer and officer training continuum.

As an addendum to our reliance on technology; our communication systems and fire support systems are all dependent on GPS. The RAA should sponsor

an alternant means of maintaining common timing protocol (CTP) and precision location and orientation for target acquisition devices and Howitzers. Options include computer aided astronavigation and miniaturised inertial navigation systems. Both of which are capable of providing jam-proof precision location and Common Timing Protocol services.

The RAA needs to properly equip our JFO's and gun detachments with trade specific equipment. JFO's are now required to carry a large amount of electronic gadgetry in order to complete their role and it is the integration of that equipment that is sorely missing. As an example, most JFO's will be required to operate a minimum of two radios (three if the supported arms net is included) however there is no provided solution to integrating the various headsets and handsets so that they actually fit comfortably under a helmet (this also includes gunline personnel). There are products currently available that have an integrated helmet, headset, microphone, hearing protection and NVG mount but we do not provide them and the regular helmet is made to do. It is the equivalent of getting armoured crewman to wear a standard issue helmet.

The JFT, and often in Afghanistan single JFO, was required to carry; multiple communications means, position location equipment, target location equipment, electronic protection, optics, night vision equipment (passive and thermal), remote viewing terminals plus the same patrol paraphernalia as the supported arm. None of the above pieces of equipment (or their power sources and battery chargers) are integrated or options that exist to purchase specialised equipment are not taken. JFTs are included in the Basis of Provisioning for new Army field equipment but that equipment goes to the infantry battalions for subsequent issue to the JFTs. This sends a false message to our personnel.

Likewise the gun detachments are still operating with either issue equipment that does not suit the task or most just give up and buy their own. Whilst trying to fix the Army equipment procurement system would be a task of Gordian knot proportions, the roles and equipment that RAA personnel are now expected to undertake and carry are quite extensive and requires specialist attention.

*Lesson 5: If we are going to claim to do Joint Fires and Effects, then we should do it properly.*

On all deployments I have undertaken and particularly as the battery commander for the 3 RAR TG in 2012, the senior RAA representative would get the task of coordinating non-lethal effects. If we are going to claim the role of coordinating Effects and we are truly going to make ourselves useful when there are a limited amount of seats on the boat, then our standard of instruction in non-lethal effects and their integration needs to improve.

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*... we should not let our niche and dare I use the word out of context, 'special', capability decline.*

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A suggestion would be to make use of the courses offered by the Defence Command Support Training Centre (DCSTC), formerly the ADF Warfare College, and allocate each Lieutenant in the Regiment an area of focus (CIMIC, EW, Police Operations, NGOs, etc.) as a means to expand the knowledge base across the Corps.

*Lesson 6: Cannon Artillery still has considerable utility across the spectrum of conflict.*

Artillery, much like Armour, has traditionally suffered an image problem when it comes to Counter Insurgency operations, peace enforcement/ keeping and generally anything outside of a high intensity war. Without going into the details of reams of After Action Reviews stretching back to Operation Anaconda (2002), Operation Iraqi Freedom (particularly the battles in Fallujah and Al Faw Peninsula) and throughout the years and evolution of Operation Enduring Freedom, the utility of cannon artillery to offer all weather, cost effective, responsive, concurrent, wide geographic coverage, almost infinite endurance, intensity of effect, persistence, growing precision, presence, responsiveness and variety of effects from the one platform is evident.

This is not to advocate the primacy of artillery over OAS and CCA platforms but to emphasise we should not let our niche and dare I use the word out of context, 'special', capability decline. With the Army's emphasis moving towards expeditionary operations, the logical planning assumption is that the force will be out of range of aircraft provided, cost effective, 24 hour, all weather Fires. A capability that can only be provided by artillery.

*Lesson 7: Joint Fires and Effects Battle Groups, Battle Group UBIQUE and Multi-Role Artillery Regiments.*

Not necessarily a lesson but more of an observation, is the principle of battle grouping of

appropriate assets to create synergistic effects is well established. We are reasonably comfortable with battle grouping ourselves 'out', especially observers, to help create properly balanced forces with access to Offensive Support assets but how comfortable would we be battle grouping 'in'? By this I mean assuming command and control of a diversity of assets to create Offensive Support Groups or Joint Fires Groups.

During Operation TELIC, the UK 16th Air Assault Brigade created the Offensive Support Group incorporating a Light Electronic Warfare Team, Brigade Pathfinder Platoon, a Cavalry Squadron, three Weapon Locating Radar's, a UAV Battery, light observation helicopters and the Forward Observation parties from the 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. Together with attached liaison parties handling airspace management and CAS allocation, this grouping allowed the swift and effective prosecution of missions. Similarly in Afghanistan the UK created a Brigade Information Exploitation Battle Group (IX BG) with pathfinder platoons, Intelligence specialists and UAVs amongst other assets.

Most rotations of ARA units through Afghanistan (RTFs, MRTFs, MTFs and Unit TGs) have all operated slightly differently when it came to grouping of the attached mortar platoon. Some opted to create mini-Offensive Support Groups or Joint Effects Groups by grouping the mortars under their command whilst others opted to take a more hands off approach and leave them under command of their assigned sub-units and exercise control over their effects via the JFECC.

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*... I found it particularly useful and satisfying to establish a close working relationship with the Intelligence Cell ...*

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Both methods worked according to the situation each rotation found themselves in but to extend the example further what if a true Joint Fires and Effects Battle Group could be created? During the 3 RAR TG rotation I found it particularly useful and satisfying to establish a close working relationship with the Intelligence Cell in order to try and synchronise the 'Find, Fix, Track, Target, Engage and Assess' of our daily business and on a few occasions it yielded very good results. There is a fine line between command of an asset and coordination / control of assets to achieve the commanders intent and we should be careful of not over-reaching.

The power of battle grouping appropriately would also serve to rein in the explosion of semi-independent task units and task elements that report to two or three different commanders and impose a significant drag in terms of liaison and coordination. The size of headquarters is approaching the preposterous and it appears that every single capability brick demands a 'cell' headed up by a Major. In order to realise true efficiency and utility, the RAA should consider the creation of multi-role Artillery Regiments incorporating Howitzers, observers, UAVs, Sense and Warn radars and Air Liaison detachments into single Regiments based within the Combat Brigades.

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*The biggest restriction though was the inability to gain an accurate target location with our issued target location equipment ...*

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Whilst on face value it would look far too complicated to group together so many capabilities and trade streams, consider that an Infantry Battalion maintains seven core trades (Infantryman, Signals, Direct Fire Support Weapons, Mortars, Pioneers, Snipers, Reconnaissance and Surveillance) in addition to various vehicle competencies such as PMV driver and Crew Commanders.

*Lesson 8: We need an Observation Post Vehicle or at the very least, a means of mounted target location.*

Operations conducted in Iraq and initially in Uruzgan were predominantly vehicle mounted. Even after the transition to the mentoring operations, which were primarily foot mounted, there was still a large amount of vehicle operations conducted including; regular resupply operations, recovery operations, transits to new AOs and several multi-day road mounted transits across the length and breadth of Uruzgan.

The JFO was usually forced to haggle for a radio stack within the command PMV to achieve reliable vehicle powered communications in addition to / or strapping a manpack radio to the roof of the PMV to operate on another net. Besides looking unprofessional it was rather awkward to unstrap a radio from the roof of the vehicle (particularly if under fire or in a similar situation) and take it through the interior of the vehicle if the JFO was required to follow their MAC.

The biggest restriction though was the inability to gain an accurate target location with our issued



target location equipment due to the magnetic interference of the vehicle. Optics were limited to the binoculars the JFO was carrying with them at the time and if they wished to get an accurate location for a target of sufficient Target Location Error (TLE), then they would have to dismount, move at least 50m away from the vehicle, laser the target then remount. Having had to do this myself, whilst in the middle of a contact and a mass of manoeuvring armoured vehicles, I can strongly recommend having a means of mounted target location.

Even if L400 is not financially curtailed and an OP variant is purchased, a lightweight removable 'turret', capable of being easily moved from vehicle to vehicle with a non-magnetic digital compass target location capability should be developed, thus allowing the JFO to accurately obtain target information whilst still under armour and remaining mobile with reliable communications.

## Conclusion

As a means to pare down the above points into a coherent list, I would offer the following as a set of draft tasks for the RAA to undertake:

- Re-establish the capability for the RAA to conduct evaluation and assessment, similar to the ARTEP, and provide direction to the RAA on issues of doctrine and capability.
- Re-establish and re-design the ARTEP as a common means to measure technical proficiency across the Corp.
- Investigate the use of replication into the collective training continuum for JFO's.
- Enhance the use of immersive Joint Fires simulators to train all levels of command.
- Equip our soldiers with task specific equipment and ensure the Regiments have access to it.
- Investigate the development of alternative means of location, orientation and Common Timing Protocol other than GPS.
- Update our career courses, particularly the ROGC, to encompass the Joint nature of our trade.
- Broaden our education on non-lethal effects.
- At all opportunities and in all professional forums, promote the capability of artillery and enhance our ability to coordinate all forms of Joint Fires and Effects.

- Construct and re-issue a new universal AACFF proforma.
- Investigate the construction of a removable target location 'turret' to enable protected target location without the requirement to dismount.
- Explore the possibilities of battle grouping Joint Fires and Effects elements into RAA Battle Groups and creating Multi-role Artillery Regiments.

Whilst the tone of this article may appear to be overly critical I would hope it is not taken as a criticism of the work that has been achieved by everyone within the RAA community to get us to the place we are today. We have successfully conducted eight years of operations in a challenging environment based upon sound training, principles and leadership. Our people have used the training, equipment and resources provided to them and adapted it to the operational environment.

Our equipment, when deployed, is light years ahead of what we used to have and we are making great strides into digitising ourselves, ahead of the rest of the Army. What I do not believe we can afford to let happen though is forget and regress. We will not survive, physically on a future battlefield or organisationally within the halls of finance, if we do not draw out the deeper lessons of the time spent deployed. Future war, like the hoped near future of 'peace', will be more lethal, ambiguous and unforgiving of stasis. We should adapt and evolve now.

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Major Simon Hompas is a graduate of ADFA and RMC and has served postings at 'A' Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment, Headquarters 3rd Brigade, School of Artillery and as Battery Commanders of 'A' Battery and 105th Observation Post Battery in 1st Regt, RAA. He has been extremely fortunate to serve operationally with RAA Gunners as part of Reconstruction Task Force 2, the 2nd Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force and the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Task Group. He is currently posted as the Brigade Major of the 7th Brigade.

# Army Training Evaluation Program

*Warrant Officer Class One D Lindsay  
Master Gunner 4th Regiment, RAA*

*We find that the Romans owed the conquest of the world to no other cause than continual military training, exact observance of discipline in their camp, and unwearied cultivation of the other arts of war.*

Publius Flavius Vegetius Renuatus

There has been a significant amount of change in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) over the past 20 years. New guns, battle management systems, gunnery computers and even the way we train have all had major upgrades; further, adding to the immensity of these changes is the Artillery's evolution into the digital age. One thing that has not changed but has been largely forgotten since the disestablishment of the Commander Land Command Artillery (CLCA) position is the requirement for thorough evaluation of training conducted within the Regiments', primarily in the form of the RAA Army Training Evaluation Program (ARTEP).

*One thing that has not changed but has been largely forgotten since the disestablishment of the Commander Land Command Artillery (CLCA) position is the requirement for thorough evaluation of training conducted within the Regiments' ...*

The purpose of this paper is to examine the fundamentals of the RAA ARTEP in the current training continuum as well as passing on some of 4th Regiment, RAA experiences and observations from the two iterations completed thus far.

For those readers that have not had the privilege of living through an ARTEP, it was generally a 72-hour assessment period where numerous external evaluators were imbedded at the different levels of the Regiment to observe and report on the operational readiness of the unit. The assessors,

primarily from the School of Artillery (SOArty), were under command of the CLCA and the Regimental Master Gunner (RMG). On completion of the ARTEP, a report drafted for the Commanding Officer on the combat effectiveness of their unit (sustains), areas that need remediation (improve) and recommendations for specific training (fix).

## Why Evaluate Training?

There is a plethora of academic studies that support the requirement to evaluate training to ensure that 'performance is characterised, diagnosed and remediated' (Salas & Cannon-Bowers, 2000). Without effective evaluation it is difficult to understand the full impacts our training has had over a period of time. Therefore it is almost impossible to assess whether the training was sufficient in achieving the goals for which it was designed (Sottolare, et al., 2013). This is important to the RAA after recently transitioning through the largest changes in its history.

*The unit being evaluated will receive a non-biased, honest report ...*

We have successfully implemented the Land 17 project. We have trained and become competent with the M777A2; we have trained and become competent with the basic functions of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) and are starting to implement the technical battle management functions within it. We are currently building a thorough understanding of the Digital Terminal Control System (DTCS) and its capabilities and restrictions; however, how successful are we at employing Offensive Support (holistically) whilst being able to survive in a complex battle space?

It can be argued that the Regiment is successful at providing Offensive Support; however, with the caveat that there are areas that can be improved. How do we advance our skills, knowledge and attributes if formal evaluation is not conducted? In particular, how do we know the procedures and policies in place are the most effective if the only feedback we are receiving is from internal agencies to the Regiment (where the policies and procedures were developed in the first instance).

For the RAA to advance to the next level of professional and procedural competence external evaluation and reporting is required. This has several advantages to both the unit being evaluated and the units that provide the observers. The unit

being evaluated will receive a non-biased, honest report on what they are doing well, what areas of training need to be remediated, and an independent review of Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and policies. In return the units that supply observers should take away observations as lessons they can learn from to improve their current policies and procedures. They should also note common training deficiencies to better prepare their unit for subsequent ARTEP (or for operational deployments).

#### 4th Regiment, RAA ARTEP Experience

4th Regiment, RAA has conducted two ARTEPs in the past 12 months. The first was in October 2013 to certify 107 Battery, RAA for Ready Battle Group (RBG) responsibilities. The second was conducted in May 2014 to assist 109 Battery, RAA in its preparation for the RBG. Both ARTEPs were four to five day activities completed as part of Exercise Chau Pha, conducted at High Range Training Area (HRTA).

The Exercise was designed to replicate the activation and subsequent deployment of the RBG in a realistic type scenario. This required a large amount of planning and preparation in isolation from the participating Battery (months in advance) so the relevant situation and intelligence reports could be populated to build the scenario. The Exercise was then split in to three main phases:

- *Phase One - RSOI.* This consisted of a week long package, commencing with the RBG call out procedure. All relevant small arms practices, Unit Administrative Advisory Checks (UAAC), legal briefs, conditions of service briefs, and formal orders were given. It was commented in the After Action Review (AAR), that this was a very valuable training package that prepared the Battery well for the exercise and as an external audit on the Battery's progress in preparing for the RBG responsibilities.
- *Phase Two - Staging.* The Battery deployed to the training area and completed battle preparations and rehearsals for a 48 hours. This simulated moving into a staging area, in country, in preparation for offensive operations.
- *Phase Three - ARTEP.* The ARTEP assessment involved an Offensive Operation (Battle Group attack supported by a Battery Commanders Fire Plan), a hasty Defensive Operation (Danger Close practices) and deliberate Defensive Operations (live fire defence of Fire Support Base Barbara). The participating Battery was pushed well

outside the comfort zone with numerous scenarios, which included, Air Mobile Operations (AMO), constant enemy probing, Sneaker Ranges and live fire defence scenarios involving Final Protective Fire at Danger Close distances.

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*The Exercise was designed to replicate the activation and subsequent deployment of the RBG in a realistic type scenario.*

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It is important to note that the activity was designed not only to evaluate Gunnery training, battery level (SOPs) and battery administrative procedures but also on the employment of All Corps Soldier Skills, at all levels. As such it was discovered on both iterations that this was an area of training that had been neglected. Therefore it will require the most remediation to achieve and maintain the required standard.

#### What has 4th Regiment, RAA Learnt?

One of the main observations from the ARTEP is the junior leaders were missing the skills, knowledge and attributes (SKA) to allow them to effectively react to fluid and complex situations. It would seem that the RAA has become so busy supporting operations that it has not allocated sufficient time or resources into fully developing our junior leaders.

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*... the degradation of skills and knowledge was evident.*

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Some time ago it was a common theme for Regiments to conduct junior and senior non commissioned officer training. Training that was designed to assist our future leaders in developing and refining leadership skills. It was designed to place them under pressure so they learnt to make decisions and react with limited resources and time. It would assist them in building their confidence so they will react to the situation rather than wait for someone else to. This is something that 4th Regiment, RAA needs to re-commence as soon as possible and it is believed that this issue is not restricted to 4th Regiment, RAA alone. It is a Corps wide issue that should be addressed.

The second major observation from both ARTEPs and has already been mentioned in this paper, however, is fundamental to our survival on any battlefield so is worth more detailed comment - All Corps Soldier Skills.

From the very basic of tasks such as digging a pit to the more advance defensive procedures such as sighting of different weapon systems to maximise effects, the degradation of skills and knowledge was evident. It is hard to say if this is due to the wholesale changes made in training continuums over the years that have reduced the importance of training our junior and senior non commissioned officers in this area; or whether the internal training within the Regiment is insufficient to maintain these skills. Either way it is something that would not have been recognised if the ARTEP was not completed and a skill shortfall identified that must be rectified both within 4th Regiment, RAA and more widely across the Corps.

### Future Concepts

Although 4th Regiment, RAA was successful in the planning and conduct of the ARTEP using organic support and resources, there is an opportunity to elevate this to the next level. A Corps effort will be needed to evolve the ARTEP into an authorised evaluation tool for the Regiment in the 'Readying' phase in the Force Generation Cycle. Resources will need to be forecasted and the Regiment in 'Reset' (along with assistance form the SOArty) should be prepared to provide the support required to plan and coordinate the ARTEP in isolation from the Regiment being assessed. The Corps will need to determine the Mission Essential Task List (METLs) that the ARTEP will be based on, to ensure all essential tasking can be prepared for and evaluated against.

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*The end result of this process would be an evaluation at the Regimental level.*

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The end result of this process would be an evaluation at the Regimental level. In turn this would allow the units within the Corps to learn from each other, advance current policies and procedures and focus to better fit the requirements of the changing and challenging areas of operations.

### Conclusion

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is one of the largest spending organisations in terms of training. Yet we have forgotten one of the most important stages of the training evolution - the evaluation and subsequent remediation of training to ensure we are meeting the goals and standards required to effectively provide a capability to the ADF.

The conduct of an RAA ARTEP on an annual basis has numerous advantages that will allow us to learn from our mistakes, calibrate and adjust our drills procedures and policies and advance our SKA at a Corps level. In turn this will allow us to advance as a Corps in providing effective Offensive Support in the digital age.


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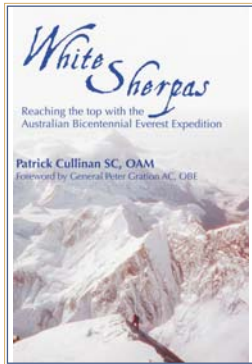
## White Sherpas

### *Reaching the top with the Australian Bicentennial Everest Expedition*

By Patrick Cullinan SC, OAM

*Reviewed by Major DT (Terry) Brennan  
Editor RAA Liaison Letter*

ISBN 9780987414281; PUBLISHED 2013;  
BARRALLIER BOOKS; HARD BACK; COLOUR &  
BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS & HAND DRAWN  
MAPS; 331 PAGES



This is an enthralling and inspirational story - let me tell you why. If you had asked me a year ago to read a book about climbing Mount Everest I would have quickly replied 'No thank you'. However, late last year a friend who has trekked in Nepal recommended I read 'Into Thin Air' by Jon Krakauer

which is his personal account of a disaster on Mount Everest in 1996 where eight climbers were killed including members from his expedition. I could not put it down and my interest in mountaineering and trekking in Nepal was stirred.

*The book has everything: human drama, death, near death experiences, bravery, leadership, survival against the odds, a wild and unforgiving environment, unbelievably freezing temperatures, shortages of food, physical and mental exhaustion, hallucinations due to lack of oxygen and the list just grows.*

Earlier this year I was approached to review 'White Sherpas' by Pat Cullinan. I agreed having been vaguely aware of the Australian Bicentennial Everest Expedition (ABEE) but knowing very little except that a gunner officer Terry McCullagh had been a member as well I had met another member whilst working in Canberra in the early 1990's. To put in perspective the timing and achievement of the 'White Sherpas', it took until October 1984

before that the first Australians ever stood on the summit of Mount Everest.

The reason I mention 'Into Thin Air' is that in my opinion 'White Sherpas' is an even better book than this international best seller. I believe it has wide appeal to the military as well as more general readers. I was engrossed from the start and found myself carrying it around to read at any opportunity. The book has everything: human drama, death, near death experiences, bravery, leadership, survival against the odds, a wild and unforgiving environment, unbelievably freezing temperatures, shortages of food, physical and mental exhaustion, hallucinations due to lack of oxygen, and the list just grows.

*The description by Pat Cullinan and Paul Bayne of the impact the 'death zone' had on them mentally and physically is riveting especially as you remind yourself that this was reality not fiction.*

The title 'White Sherpas' stirs your imagination as it conjures up the absence of 'Nepalese Sherpas' who are permanently linked with the high altitudes of Nepal, including Mount Everest, and have been so ever since climbers first attempted to conquer the mountain peaks of the Himalayas. The name 'White Sherpas' was given to the ABEE by a climbing Sherpa veteran, Sherpa Sungdare who had reached the summit of Mount Everest five times. The reason for this accolade was the ABEE decision not to employ 'Sherpas' above the Mount Everest Base Camp which at the time was controversial and debated as it had never been attempted. It is probably an understatement to say this approach increased the risk and challenge of reaching the summit 'ten-fold'.

A further unplanned first was Pat Cullinan and Paul Bayne spent eight and a half days above 8000 metres in what is known as the 'death zone' and set a record for the length of time anyone has survived at that altitude on Mount Everest. The reason for this was waiting for the weather to be suitable to permit their attempt on the summit.

The description by Pat Cullinan and Paul Bayne of the impact the 'death zone' had on them mentally and physically is riveting especially as you remind yourself that this was reality not fiction. I struggle to appreciate what it would be like to be so oxygen deprived and exhausted that it would take hours to carry out the simplest of tasks.

The authors honesty, especially his acknowledgment that he was often challenged and did not always immediately have the necessary answers given his professional military and mountaineering background, is extremely refreshing and adds to the reality and appeal of the story.

Early in the book he explains the genesis of the desire to challenge himself and his introduction into mountain climbing as a member of the Special Air Service Regiment where he was the Commander of Climbing Troop. In the book he describes his first major climbing foray when he takes a group from his troop to Nepal in 1980 for the Mount Gauri Shankar (Tseringma) Expedition. He openly admits this venture was no just simply an introduction to planning a major expedition and subsequently climbing in the Himalayas but rather it was an apprenticeship. In the words of Pat Cullinan *'The Tseringma venture had been a sobering experience for me. Personally it had cost me dearly - \$43,000 in 1980 money - enough money to buy a property in Sydney back then'*.

I have never travelled to Nepal but I have come to believe the country and its people have a spiritual effect on those who visit and dare to venture into the country side and embrace the culture whilst trekking in the mountains and even more so for those who choose to challenge themselves by climbing the highest mountains. In the words of Pat Cullinan after his first climb in the Himalaya's *'I realised the value of self-reliance and the need not only to believe in yourself but to always follow your own path'*.

The author's interest in Mount Everest was sparked by the long term aspiration of General Peter Gratton (former Chief of the Australian Defence Force) to see members of the Army Alpine Association climb Mount Everest as part of Australia's Bicentenary in 1988. The evolution of what was to become a joint military and civilian expedition known as ABEE is a long and detailed journey which is very well written and explained in the book and culminates with three members of the expedition standing on the summit of Mount Everest in May 1988. Along the way the *'White Sherpas'* both as a team and as individuals confronted and overcome every imaginable, and unimaginable, challenge that unfolded in front of them.

A key stepping stone to ultimate success on Mount Everest was the need to determine that everyone who was to attempt the climb was capable of going beyond 8000 metres. This requirement forms the third key part of the book which is the successful

assent of Broad Peak in the Himalayas in 1986. This was achieved and it is very worthy of note that at the time only 10 Australians had climbed to the summit of an 8000 metre mountain and eight of these were from this expedition.

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*On the final approach to the summit of Mount Everest he describes taking an hour to travel 50 metres*

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The personal physical and mental challenges faced by the members of ABEE due to the difficult environment are virtually impossible to fully appreciate or for that matter to understand for those of us who live at sea level. The effect on the human mind and body of not only the altitude but the environment is impossible to fully appreciate as a reader although the descriptions by Pat Cullinan and the diary extracts and recordings he has included from his fellow climbers give a small insight. On the final approach to the summit of Mount Everest he describes taking an hour to travel 50 metres - I cannot begin to imagine the mental, physical and harsh environmental conditions which created that circumstance.

Pat Cullinan explains that his motivation, apart from his personal desire to constantly confront himself with challenges, for becoming involved in climbing high mountains was via Army's Adventure Training and the Australian Army Alpine Association. In the shadow of the Vietnam War the Australian Army entered a lengthy period of peace-time soldiering. To assist with creating a challenging training environment which stimulated the qualities and skills individuals were required to have and hone in preparation for operations participation in adventure training was encouraged. Pat Cullinan exploited this concept as a vehicle to aspire to achieve the extraordinary and although it was not always plain sailing through his vision, determination, strength of character, personal qualities and leadership he was able to achieve this in spades and take a lot of people on the journey with him.

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*I also found reassuring his view on the importance of trust ...*

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Pat Cullinan goes to great lengths to emphasise that all his climbing activities were successful due to being part of a team. He is very free and generous in his acknowledgement and praise of those who he

climbed with and/or who supported his efforts in whatever manner.

I found it very refreshing that the leadership principles first taught to Pat Cullinan at the Royal Military College as a staff cadet were a ready reference for him when dealing with the range of stressful situations during his expeditions. During the Broad Peak Expedition he highlighted the importance of team work when conducting planning and briefing sessions *'I believed team involvement would result in better decisions and support. Once a day, being mindful that partial oxygen at this altitude would further reduce my mental alertness, I would scan the Army's nine principles of leadership to make sure I was fulfilling my leadership responsibilities'*.

I also found reassuring his view on the importance of trust when he was explaining a situation where Jim Truscott was in disagreement with his initial concept plan for the Mount Everest Expedition. In the authors words *'Trust is more important than agreement or disagreement. I trusted Jim and so welcomed disagreement since it made me think more carefully over issues as they arose. Trust is powerful'*.

Above all else this book is honest, and at times raw in describing the sights and smells including the bodies of frozen dead climbers who had died in the process of realising their individual dreams or attempting to return to safety after having done so. As a reader I found surreal the description during the Broad Peak Expedition of a dead Canadian climber, whose partly exposed body was a feature on the route members passed on a regular basis as they ferried supplies up the mountain to the various staging camps, that served as an unnerving warning of what could happen if they did not remain focused, mentally alert and self-disciplined.

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*Above all else this book is honest  
and at times raw ...*

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*'White Sherpas'* is an enthralling tale of personal vision and human endurance which I found impossible to put down from the first page. The book is well written and very easy to read and is filled with detailed descriptions of events as well as very personal stories. I was drawn from one event and expedition to the next as the vision to conquer Mount Everest slowly became a reality.

I believe this book has broad appeal and consequently strongly recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading. The overall hook for me is the adage that *'fact is often more interesting than fiction'*.

Another title for the book could have been *'Each Step was a Foot Higher'* as this describes the determination and grit displayed by not only Pat Cullinan but all those who climbed with him in the three expeditions. My overall opinion is it is a story of outstanding pioneering achievements and as a consequence is a great read - 9 out of 10.

In the words of Pat Cullinan *'I honestly believe that Everest has never been climbed in a harder way before or since than the way the Australian Bicentennial Everest Expedition did it in 1988'*.

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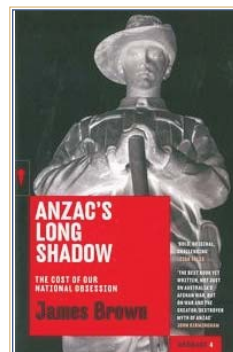
## Anzac's Long Shadow

*The cost of our national obsession*

By James Brown

*Reviewed by Major DT (Terry) Brennan  
Editor RAA Liaison Letter*

ISBN 9781863956390; PUBLISHED 2014; REDBACK; SCHWARTZ PUBLISHING PTY LTD; WWW.BLACKINCBOOKS.COM; PAPERBACK; 184 PAGES



James Brown is a former Australian Army cavalry officer who served on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands. This is a very contemporary and timely publication that makes a very positive contribution to not only how the community views the Anzac Centenary

commemorations but it also affords the reader an insight into how modern veterans think and feel and see their position within Australian society.

The author is a youthful strategic thinker who brings a refreshing focus and interpretation to the realities of being an Australian veteran in the modern era. The book is very well written in a style that ensures the author makes his points in an easily understood manner. As a reader you cannot help but be empathetic with his views.

The author addresses a range of inter-related topics from the war in Afghanistan; the gap between the Australian general population and its military; the influence of Anzac on current war fighting; the manner in which veterans are seen by the public; the relevance of traditional ex-service organisations

and the treatment of veterans; Anzac Day; the future and the lessons Australia has learnt from a century of war and conflict.

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*The author is a youthful strategic thinker who brings a refreshing focus and interpretation to the realities of being an Australian veteran in the modern era.*

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James Brown whilst stating that *'It is entirely fitting and proper to commemorate World War 1 and Australia's military campaigns'* pulls no punches in his views on the commercialisation of the Anzac Centenary. He describes the pending commemoration at Anzac Cove in 2015 as *'an all Australian jamboree'*. He predicts that by the conclusion of the Anzac commemorations a staggering two-thirds of a billion dollar will have been spent from a combination of federal, state and local government sources as well as from private donations.

Commenting on his experience on operations in Afghanistan the author describes life in Kabul as *'... a surreal circus, as if Fawlty Tower had gone to war. .... Amid all this, extraordinarily vital work was being done'*. He quotes an Australian officer describing *'Kandahar in 2009 as a place where aircraft were launched from a cross between the Hilton Hotel and a Westfield shopping complex'*. He notes this all changed when US general, General Stanley McChrystal assumed command.

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*A very timely note on which to end a book that I found at times challenged my own views.*

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An interesting yet somewhat disturbing fact the author highlights about our involvement in the Afghanistan War is that the Australian Government does not know *'exactly how many Australian's served in Afghanistan because no one ever thought to record the data'*. I can relate to this situation from my time serving with the Australian National Command Element in East Timor. When I arrived there in 2000, despite having standing operating procedures and daily situation reports back to Australia, there were no records of such basic information such as *'contact reports'* and the like.

The author discusses what influence the lack of combat deaths had on the Australian public perceptions to war highlighting that from 1999 for almost a decade on operations there had been no deaths directly linked to combat, that was, until

2007. He observes that *'The lucky decade had corrupted some of the thinking about death in war within the military .... the ADF had made no detailed plan for the return home of casualties'*. Again I can relate to this and would add that whilst in East Timor we discovered that we as a Army despite years of operational service in South Vietnam did not even have standing operating procedures for such critical aspects of war fighting as carriage of weapons and related states of weapon readiness in various scenarios and vehicles etc.

James Brown explains the knowledge gap between the Australian civilian population and military with clarity. He sums up the subject as simply *'Outside Anzac Day few Australians see the military'*. He makes a very timely observation that *'Service in the military before parliament is no guarantee of a sophisticated perspective'*. I could not agree more with him as the current federal parliament stands testament to this statement.

In regard modern veterans the author highlights the contradiction within the community and government whereby the nation is busily building memorials to past wars and conflicts whilst there is an apparent lack of services and meaningful support for veterans from ex-service and related charity organisations. He highlights the problem between the RSL and RSL Clubs and quotes the NSW RSL President *'The clubs don't contribute to us or the welfare of veterans. They are trading off the Anzac traditions and the Anzac Legend'*. The author is even critical of the actual RSL sub branches and the lack of support they afford modern veterans especially financial and he explains why this is the case.

The views of the author on Anzac Day are insightful and highlight the disparity of understanding and meaning that this day holds for everyone in the nation including the military. He observes that *'I'm glad that Anzac Day has been restored from the wilt of the 1970's, when military service was something Australians seemed ashamed of and we neglected to honour those who served on our behalf. .... I'm not convinced we need to make Anzac Day bigger, better or more significant. Let quiet contemplation be our offering'*.

James Brown concludes his views on the preparation of the military for what challenges the future may bring the Australian Defence Force as *'Has our obsession with the Anzac legend helped prepared us for what happens next?'* A very timely note on which to end a book that I found at times challenged my own views.



The book captures the feelings and frustrations of the veterans of today. The message that comes through loud and clear is that whilst being obsessed as a nation with Anzac and the coming centenary commemorations, as a country the real needs and issues confronting our current veterans have been overlooked.

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*The book captures the feelings and frustrations of the veterans of today.*

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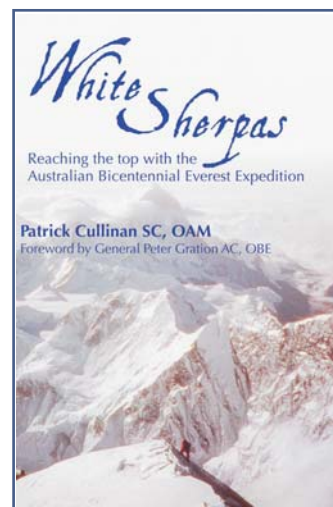
I found his clear and simple style of writing, along with the situations and scenes that he describes, refreshing and meaningful. A picture paints a thousand words and although the author is using words he creates very deliberate and thought provoking pictures in your mind. An example is the scenario he paints of an opening function for an exhibition of paintings by official Afghanistan war artist Ben Quilty was simple but perfect. He describes the eclectic mix of people in attendance and explains that the military members can be clearly identified by their dress style and their fastidiously clean shoes. The description was true and accurate perfect.

This is a very timely and relevant thought provoking book which I strongly recommend to anyone who is interested in how current veterans think and believe they are perceived and treated. Make the time and read the book you will find it intellectually stimulating and it may even give you cause to rethink your views on a range of military and related social themes. It will only take you an afternoon - 8 out of 10.



## 'A terrific account of a terrific adventure'

Major General Michael Crane DSC, AM  
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### *White Sherpas* **Beyond 'Into Thin Air' on Everest by Patrick Cullinan SC, OAM**

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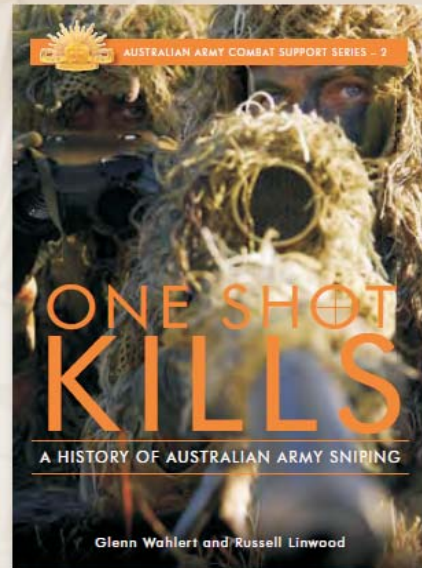
# ONE SHOT KILLS

A HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN ARMY SNIPING

Glenn Wahlert and Russell Linwood

A sniper is not just a good shot. While marksmanship is crucial, it is not this alone that defines the sniper. Snipers must also be superb bushmen, possess limitless patience, iron discipline, rat cunning, extraordinary stamina and attract more than their share of luck. The well-trained sniper will stalk his enemy or lie in wait for his target to appear. He will eliminate his target with just one shot and escape to repeat his mission time and again. The history of the Australian Army is replete with untold tales of brave men who built reputations as daring and skilful snipers. From the training grounds of the Boer War and First World War, Australian snipers honed their deadly skills and earned a fearsome reputation. In the Second World War they duelled with their German counterparts in the Western Desert and the hardy Japanese snipers of the Pacific War. The valuable lessons of two major wars had to be relearned for the Korean War where 'naïve young men who knew nothing of combat sniping' learned quickly or didn't survive.

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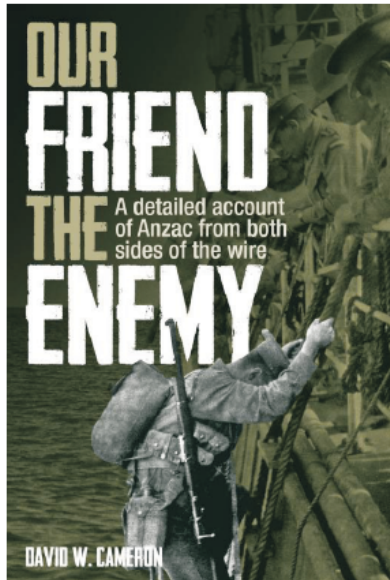
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Described in first-hand accounts Cameron provides a wide-ranging insight into events and the decisions made on either side of the wire.

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A detailed account of Anzac from both sides of the wire  
David W. Cameron

"Prudence here is entirely out of place. There will be and can be no reconnaissance, no half measures, no tentatives. Several cautious proposals have been set before me but this is neither the time nor the place for paddling about the shore putting one foot onto the beaches with the idea of drawing it back again if it happens to alight upon a landmine. No; we've got to take a good run at the Peninsula and jump plumb on — both feet together. At a given moment we must plunge and stake everything on the one hazard."

— General Sir Ian Hamilton

Canberra author David W. Cameron's new book *Our Friend the Enemy* (Big Sky Publishing, RRP \$34.99) is the first comprehensive history of the Anzac campaign since Charles Bean's *Official History*. Viewed from both sides and described in first-hand accounts it provides a wide-ranging insight into events and the decisions made on either side of the wire.

The Gallipoli campaign involved a mix of nationalities that went beyond the Anzacs and Turks to include German officers, and British and Indian troops. These are the people whose words tell this story — the courage and heroism, the monotony and often humour that accompanied the horrors of the bitter fight to claim the peninsula.

*Our Friend the Enemy* provides a wide-ranging insight into events at Gallipoli, Cameron's strong narrative and detailed history of the men at Anzac pays homage to the humour and sacrifice of these men and provides an unblemished perspective from both sides on a logistically and politically fraught event.

**About the Author:** David W. Cameron's fascination with Gallipoli began in 2003 and has only magnified over time. He completed his PhD in 1995 and was subsequently awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Post Doctoral Fellowship at the Australian National University, followed by an ARC QEII Fellowship at the University of Sydney. He has published a number of books on Australian military history and science and over sixty research papers in internationally peer reviewed journals.

David's passion for recording the overarching history of Gallipoli has resulted in six books on the subject. He is also internationally known as an expert on primate and human evolution and has a degree in both archaeology and palaeoanthropology.

#### Available for extract

David is available for interviews, for more information, cover images

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# Around the Regiment

## Celebrating 85 Years

*Lieutenant C Watson  
Technical Integrity Supervisor  
P&EE Port Wakefield - JPEU*

This year the Proof and Experimental Establishment - Port Wakefield (P&EE-PW) is celebrating its 85th anniversary. On the 5th of December 1929, the Proof Range conducted its first overwater recovery firing from an 18-pounder Mark IV Quick-firing Gun. Since then the Proof Range has tested Explosive Ordnance and weapon systems for the better part of a century.

In the early 20th century Australia possessed a limited ability to produce Defence materiel. Aside from small arms ammunition and weapons Australia was still reliant on Great Britain to supply arms. During World War I it was clear that this reliance was not sustainable.

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*The plan for the Proof Range was accepted and construction began in 1926.*

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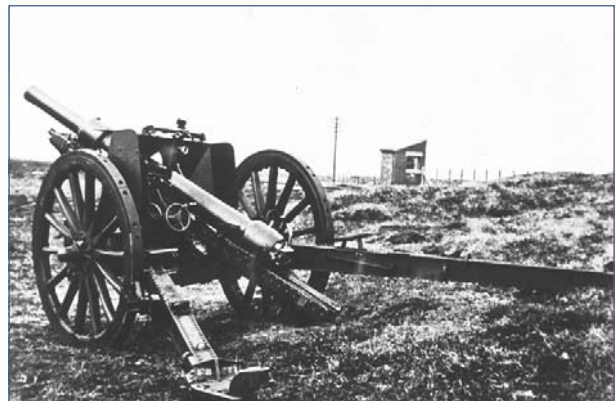
Australia needed to become more self-reliant by manufacturing munitions of all calibres. Establishing a Proof Range to conduct the final acceptance of ammunition and associated equipment is a requirement when manufacturing domestic munitions. This requirement has developed over time and now includes a multitude of different testing regimes under a variety of conditions.

A sovereign ability to manufacture war munitions of multiple calibres was established, consisting of the Explosive Ordnance Factory at Maribyrnong (1911) and the Small Arms Factory in Lithgow (1912). An

essential component in producing ammunition and approving weapons into service is the conduct of proofing activities. It was therefore necessary to establish the Proof Range to cater for these requirements.

A requirement of the day was to recover fired projectiles for inspection. A soft recovery technique that the Proof Range still employs involves firing a projectile at an angle that allows it to skip along the water, to be recovered later once the tide recedes. As a result of Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic surveys conducted across the country the area immediately south of Port Wakefield was considered the most suitable location for the Proof Range. It provided an area that is flat, coastal and has a large expanse of sand exposed at low tide.

The plan for the Proof Range was accepted and construction began in 1926. Originally, 240 hectares were purchased for proofing the Quick Fire 18-pounder gun-newly reconditioned from the Maribyrnong Explosive Ordnance Factory in Victoria. The Proof Range was originally going to be named 'recovery range' but this was considered too insipid to discourage trespassers and the suggestion was made to use a name which implies 'gun firing'. The name 'artillery proof range' was recommended but the official name adopted was Port Wakefield Proof Range.



For the next decade, firings were carried out every three months. In the years leading up to World War II the Proof Range conducted several proof firings of different calibres for Army and Navy, including the first 3-inch anti-aircraft guns manufactured in Australia. In 1940 the tempo increased due to the decentralisation of the manufacture of armaments and weapons and the increase in the number of production facilities. As a consequence the Proof Range had to expand, land area was increased and new facilities constructed, bringing new testing capabilities.

*On a historical note during this time the Proof Range also retired its last two recovery horses, thus earning the title of the last Australian Army unit to have horses as part of its establishment.*

Development of the new weapons precipitated the need to develop innovative test and evaluation methods. Advances in the attack on armour required the Proof Range to keep up to date with rapidly changing circumstances. This was seen through the development of the in-service anti-tank weapon; in 1940 the 2-pdr gun was deemed appropriate. To overcome the advances in enemy armour this was upgraded to the 6-pounder gun only to be obsolete and replaced by the 17-pounder gun within a year. This period also saw the introduction of anti-tank mines, aerial bombs and the Variable Time Proximity Fuse, all of which required proofing at Proof Range.

Prior to the end of the war the Australian manufacturing industry had generated such a surplus that the demand to proof had declined. The significant drop in tempo forced the Proof Range to reduce permanent staff and dispose of temporary buildings through selling or demolition. On a historical note during this time the Proof Range also retired its last two recovery horses, thus earning the title of the last Australian Army unit to have horses as part of its establishment.

In the subsequent years, the evolution of weapons and ammunition ensured the Proof Range continued to test and evaluate explosive ordnance systems. To keep up with the need to recover increasingly larger and longer ranging artillery systems the Proof Range boundaries expanded in 1986 to its current limits. A decade later as a result of urban crowding the Army Technology and Engineering Agencies Environmental Test Facility

relocated from Salisbury to the Proof Range. This amalgamation became known as the Proof and Experimental Establishment-Port Wakefield. The Environmental Test Facility provided unique capabilities; radiography, simulation of various natural environments and induced environments, as well as accelerated aging.

The reorganisation of the Army's test and evaluation services brought the Proof and Experimental Establishments in Port Wakefield and Graytown under the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit in May 2004. Since then, the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit has been involved with the introduction of the M777 Lightweight Howitzer, artillery concept proofs including the Digital Terminal Control System, as well as testing weapon and protection systems on the Black Hawk. Munitions ranging from 81mm mortar shell variants to the 155 mm Excalibur have been tested, whilst continuing to proof new ammunition and re-life existing ammunition.



The Joint Proof and Experimental Unit's ongoing support to major projects includes the Mulwala Redevelopment (JP2086), Land Combat Vehicle System (Land 400), Artillery Replacement (Land 17) and Land Force Mortar Replacement (Land 136). The Unit also provides continued support to the Attorney Generals Department, Federal and State police forces, the Australian Submarine Corporation, Defence Science and Technology Organisation and Land Engineering Agency, in what often prove to be interesting and technically challenging trials.

The Joint Proof and Experimental Unit's priority over the next three years is to become a robust and relevant Unit that can continue to fulfil Defence's Test and Evaluation requirements. It will provide ongoing support to major projects, external agencies, and the delivery of services under the new Strategic Munitions Interim Contract when it commences in 2015.

The 5th of December 2014 will mark the 85th Anniversary since the first proof firings were conducted at the Proof and Experimental Establishment - Port Wakefield. With the constant requirement for the capability that this establishment provides, the Proof and Experimental Establishment - Port Wakefield as a part of the Joint Proof Experimental Unit is set to continue to meet Defence's Test and Evaluation requirements well into the future.

## Progression of Air Defence Live Fire Practices

*Major MC Squire  
Battery Commander  
110th Air Defence Battery*

This piece is written to inform the wider Air Land community of the developments made by 110th Air Defence Battery in improving the standard of air defence live fire exercises. Hopefully, it will inform you that the standards are progressing well and that there are bigger and better goals for the future. The Air Defence capability is alive and well.

### Background to Developments

Firstly, it should be acknowledged that every battery commander that has ever been at the Regiment has wanted to take live fire exercises to new levels of realism and technical complexity. There have, however, been numerous reasons why this has not always been possible in the past. Specifically:

- *Range space has been largely limited to Woomera.* Given the environmental risks associated with towed targets, the DAT of a Bolide missile and the risk approval required for a live fire, RBS-70

firings have been largely confined to the Lake Hart trials impact area of Woomera. It is recognised that Rapier firings were conducted at Delamere, Shoalwater Bay, High Range, Beecroft and Port Wakefield. It is recognised that Mk1 firings were conducted at Shoalwater Bay, Beecroft, Port Wakefield and from RAN ships. Bolide firings, however, have been exclusively conducted at Woomera.

- *There have been limited quantities of missiles.* Through previous years ten missiles were split across multiple batteries per financial year. In 2005, a peak of 22 Rapier missiles were fired but that was for the expenditure of war stocks before the retirement of the system. Five missiles per battery doesn't leave much scope for creativity and barely qualifies safety staff.
- *Towed Targets have restricted the scope of practices.* Due to the safety traces and the risk of dropping tow lines into environmentally protected areas, it has been impossible to engage the in-service target at any location other than Woomera. Due to the gimballed light configuration of the TGX-2, firings have not been feasible in the middle of the day. Due to the safety flight profiling, exploiting multiple launch areas and employing maximised exposure times has not been feasible.
- *There has been long lead times required for planning.* Due to the competitive booking process for trials at Woomera, planning has been required to occur 12 months in advance of a practice commencing and the opportunity for firing has been restricted to two week-long firing windows per annum. So, for a new battery commander taking up command, planning for anything new at a live fire could only really occur during the second year in office.
- *There have been limited experience levels in safety staff.* Due to the restrictions outlined already, and the constraint of needing to firstly train and then qualify safety staff, there were never enough missiles or opportunities to progress past qualification / basic firings or rudimentary tactical firings.

Fortunately, the Regiment has had the good fortune to be able to move past previously realised levels of live fire practices. There are several key reasons as to why this has been feasible:

- *Availability of the Phoenix Jet Target.* 16 ALR was provided the opportunity to utilise four Phoenix Jet UAVs as a target type for the RBS-70. Rather than being restricted by the tow cables and safety



traces of towed targets, the Phoenix was able to operate freely within an operating box over an impact area. The Phoenix was programmable in 3D or positively controlled by an operator, allowing challenging manoeuvres to be incorporated into the practice.

- *Availability of Missiles.* 110th Air Defence Battery, as the sole air defence battery, gained all of the Regimental allocation of missiles. That quantity was also raised from 10 missiles per financial year to 25 missiles per financial year.
- *Pre-position of BC and key staff.* Through good fortune, I found myself knowing full well that I would be Battery Commander 110th in 2014, while still Adjutant in 2013. I also knew that my Battery Captain (Owain Griffiths) would maintain tenure and that he was proficient in planning live fire practices. This allowed us to commence the planning and to engage the key stakeholders early, confident in our own abilities and confident that we were ahead of all time lines.
- *Developed relationship with Woomera Test Range.* Through the above-mentioned early engagements, we were able to solidify a long-term arrangement with WTR, ensuring set firing camp timings and developing a set of standing templates for future live fire activities. We were also able to conduct early reconnaissance and conduct joint planning for some new and complex designs for firing.
- *Progression of the PMADV.* Through the excellent work of Major Hugh Smith and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Vagg, through 2013, the PMADV was trialled and proven as a safe and reliable storage, mobility and waiting area for live fire activities. This allowed a Firing Point to be utilised, without the requirement for digging numerous bunkers.

### Road to the April 2014 Firing

Due to the afore-mentioned good fortune and some battery initiatives, 110th Air Defence Battery was in

a solid position to be able to issue some clear direction for achieving live fire milestones. The live fire milestones, for 2014-2015, were:

- Conduct technical and tactical live fire activities, employing deployable troop equipment, including the PMADV.
- Prove that the Phoenix UAT can operate safely at live fire practices.
- Prove the use of tactical words of command to execute a safe and realistic practice.
- Qualify adequate safety staff to conduct dispersed tactical firings.
- Conduct centralised tactical live firing practices.
- Conduct de-centralised / dispersed tactical live firing practices.
- Prove that the pop-up helicopter target can operate safely at live fire practices.
- Conduct mobile live fire activities.
- Incorporate, safely, multiple sensors to the kill-chain at a live fire practice.
- Incorporate, safely, integrated fires and combined arms effects at a live fire practice.
- Conduct a tactical live fire practice at a range other than Woomera.

From these milestones, a two year campaign was developed, in order to reach the desired end-state of conducting a dispersed, tactical live fire, from up to five firing points, with multiple sensors, with layered fires, at a range other than Woomera. The campaign would see firings in April and November 2014, and April and July / August 2015.

The first firing for 110th Air Defence Battery was on 30th April 2014. The intended construct would be to fire 18 missiles at the Phoenix targets and then a further seven missiles at a towed target (to qualify Safety Supervisors) by night. The firing was originally planned to occur over 2-3 days with a spare day kept aside. Through the first several months of the year, the Battery Captain and I worked feverishly towards that goal, with the final permission to fly the Phoenix at the practice not coming from Air Force Headquarters and Army Headquarters until the day before the firing.

As Murphy would have it, however, Woomera received flash flooding and the first two days were written off with the range closed to all movement. This left the Battery with 25 missiles to fire in one evening against an untested target and in an untested format. Previously, the most number of

missiles successfully fired in an evening was 15 (Hugh Smith and I were the OICs). The last time the Battery had conducted a true tactical firing, it didn't involve anyone posted in the Battery and didn't involve the PMADV.

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*From these milestones, a two year campaign was developed, in order to reach the desired end-state of conducting a dispersed, tactical live fire, from up to five firing points, with multiple sensors, with layered fires ...*

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The day arrived. The firing was a complete success. The Phoenix performed magnificently and several were shot down. The firings occurred from two firing points, utilising tactical weapon control orders, issued from the Command Post. Everything occurred tactically and with technical proficiency. The employment of the system was conducted as per the deployment of the system in the field. The tracking and commands were first rate. All 25 missiles were fired away within the space of a few hours. Our Battery live fire milestones 1-5 were achieved. We were all very pleased.

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*A new pop-up helicopter target will also be trialled and a practice developed, whereby detachments can conduct crash-actions and engage the target, replicating mobile defence operations.*

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### **Achieving the Next Milestones**

Already, the Battery is developing and shaping towards achieving its live fire milestones 6-11. The Battery Captain and I have been engaging DDOTAM and the numerous range control officers, in order to identify where there are opportunities. A reconnaissance will be conducted post-Exercise Hamel 14 and the appropriate bookings will subsequently be made.

Safety Staff will be trained, qualified and developed at a November firing at Woomera, where seven missiles will be expended in a basic towed-target serial. This will leave us 18 missiles for a live fire at Woomera in April 2015, where we will qualify and prepare operators, firing from dispersed firing points in a tactical manner, employing All Arms Air Defence (AAAD) to layer an effect with their Bolides.

A new pop-up helicopter target will also be trialled and a practice developed, whereby detachments can conduct crash-actions and engage the target, replicating mobile defence operations. Template range orders, briefs, instructions, details and traces have been developed but still continue to be refined. The AADS will continue to be exploited to train both operators and safety staff in live fire procedures and engagements against the Phoenix UAT.

All going well, the Battery will participate on Exercise Talisman Sabre 15 and conduct a live fire shortly afterwards. This will see all five detachments of the on-line troop dispersed throughout a suitable range area, with warning coming from TADIL, GAMB and P-STAR-ER. The firing will be coordinated tactically with the Command Post issuing Weapon Control Orders. The Phoenix target will conduct flight profiles consistent with threat CAS tactics, and the pop-up target will appear throughout the impact area. AAAD will be employed by the detachments and, if possible, combined arms fires and / or manoeuvre will occur throughout the practice. There may be potential for dual targets to be launched, with conflicting IFF.

### **Conclusion**

While it's an ambitious end-state, we believe that it's achievable; however, the graduated milestones must be met at the November 2014 and April 2015 live fire activities. Meeting that end-state would realise a significant increase in the standard of live fire practices for the air defence community. So too would it demonstrate and outline a clear progression for live fire activities and a progression for live fire Safety Staff and firing design in the future.

The Phoenix UAT:

- Launched by rail, in a similar fashion to Scan Eagle.
- Self recovers for a belly landing or deploys a parachute on loss of guidance.
- Controlled by GPS waypoints, procedural operating boxes, positive uplink commands or a combination of all three methods.
- Payloads can include smoke, near miss indicators, lights, reflectors, IR strobes and IFF.
- Can fly at 330 m/s and can pull 3G banks and dives. Flight profiles can be created prior to launch or manipulated during flight.



- Exposure time is approx 1 hour, with 2 mins to transit from launch area to impact area, and 10 mins between recovery and the next launch.
- Air Targets Services operate from a small van with uplink antennas, alongside their launch rail and maintenance container. The OIC of practice liaises via a UAT LO mounted in PMADV. The LO also provides ATS with a feed of the local air picture.

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## Exercise Highside & Diamond Strike

*Members of 1st Regiment RAA  
Edited & Compiled by  
Lieutenant J A Oates, A Battery*

The end of June and beginning of July saw 1st Regiment RAA (1 Regt RAA) return to the familiar scenery of Shoalwater Bay to partake in two critical Exercises, Exercise Highside and Exercise Diamond Strike, the annual 7th Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity (7 Bde CATA). Exercise Highside 14 would test the resolve of the Joint Fire Teams (JFT's) and our digital equipment, while the CATA would demonstrate the awesome firepower of 1 Regt culminating in Danger Close serials.

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*The highlight for each Battery in this area of operations was the processing of a fire plan whilst conducting a life-fire defence of the gun position ...*

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Operations Support Battery (Ops Spt Bty), whom had worked tirelessly to ensure that our digital communication system was working efficiently and correctly, set the precedence for the upcoming Exercises. Under the guidance of our extremely knowledgeable RSO and MG, we successfully established a digital thread utilising EPLRS to its full extent. To the relief of the ACSOs, this resulted in minimal time spent in the communications workspace and more time spent processing missions at the rapid rate.

Exercise Highside's execution phase was six intense days and nights in which JFTs and FUs rotated through three distinct AOs, focusing on different

aspects of training under the direction of the respective battery commanders. Area of Operations Roadrunner tested each Battery's speed and utilisation of the fully digital system. JFT Teams were required to conduct fully digital fire missions and combined voice / digital fireplans using DTCS. Troop commanders and detachment commanders conducted aggressive local patrolling and quick attacks on unsuspecting JFTs in Surveillance OPs. Area of Operations Germ focused the JFT commanders and CPOs on the complexities of local airspace coordination and de-confliction.

This tested the ability of the JFT parties and the TCP's to operate with the specific considerations that CAS and UAV's require in the joint battlespace. The highlight of this area of operations was hearing Major Myers (Battery Commander 104) play three different call signs flawlessly. In addition to coordinating clear air and sending Fire Mission the JFT parties conducted counter ambush drills at zero-dark thirty which were initiated (with pleasure) by the supporting gunlines. Area of Operations Tiger tested the ability of the Battery's to conduct fire plans with increasing pressure. The highlight for each Battery in this area of operations was the processing of a fire plan whilst conducting a life-fire defence of the gun position, supported by the ASLAVs of 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment. This serial emphasised how demanding the physical and mental requirements are in the real-world setting of conducting fire missions whilst under direct fire engagement.

Exercise Highside concluded with a detachment and troop direct fire competition upon the notorious 'OP 7' into Mount Hummock itself. Using WB Charge 7 and near-zero elevations, it took a few rounds (and more than a few metres of spade shift) for the guns to bed in properly. The results of this competition are still pending, but will be finalised by the RSM, however the real winner of the day was Gunnery.

Exercise Highside was primarily designed to test the JFTs in all aspects, but evolved to much more than that. In total, JFTs marched over 80 kilometres (or 100 kms for those teams that were navigationally challenged), hundreds of fire missions were processed (with every FU firing an average of almost 100 rounds per day consistently) and achieved unit-level, fully tactical resupply / DP operations by night multiple times. In addition to the rough terrain, sleep deprivation, FFI inspections (conducted by our excellent medical treatment team, equipped with keen eyes and a-little-too-keen torches) and all-night movements,

at the conclusion of this phase. Our JFOs looked more like downed pilots who had been evading the SS instead of the well defined, 'not really Tier 1' operators they believe they are. The Gunlines resembled walking zombies and Ops Spt Bty looked well-rested.

The following 'refit' phase provided the Regiment with a much-deserved break at the tropical spectacles of Freshwater Beach. Here the Gunners were met by members of CSS Bty (one or two whom greeted us in thongs and Hawaiian boardies), who were responsible for creation of the temporary Gunner resort. In between showers, toilets with seats, beach volleyball, the RQ-CPO 104 fishing competition and a plethora of jack rations on sale, conducting refit for CATA was actually a significant challenge for all commanders. This provided us with a great rest before the Regiment proceeded into Exercise Diamond Strike (7 Bde CATA).

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*Thankfully, the Gunlines  
succeeded in stealing the show  
back in the end.*

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This phase saw the usual litany of challenges faced by gun Regiments in a brigade activity. Brigade Headquarters stealing the RSO because he was too good, the CO, OPSO and OC becoming DPRAC, half the Brigade trying to drive through sentry posts and the other half setting up sentry posts inside active impact areas. Even with the many attempts to thwart its success, the 7 Bde CATA turned into a stunning success with no incidents. The CATA involved 5 Combat Team attacks and 4 Battle Group Main Defensive position battles utilising elements of all the combat and combat support capabilities within 7 Bde, testing a true combined arms effect. The JFTs were required to develop the defensive position with their infantry brethren, achieving this quickly and professionally, unlike their grunt brothers who made more noise with their ETs than actual progress. The Combat Team attacks significantly tested the TCP and JFT's ability to conduct modifications to fire plans while operating with a Live MAC.

Each battle group conducted a day and night battle on the main defensive position, culminating with a Danger Close serial. Battle Group Warhorse (comprising of 2/14 LHR and 8/9 RAR) set a high standard from the beginning. Battle Group Heeler (6 RAR) had less initial success with comments such as 'What are they waiting for the targets to shoot back?' being voiced from MDP Safety staff. Despite the initial setbacks, 6 RAR provided an awesome display of fire power. Thankfully, the Gunlines

succeeded in stealing the show back in the end. The 4 Danger Close serials conducted at 10-15 Rounds FFE ranged into 175m mark from the forward pits, exactly as planned and rehearsed. The resulting frag casualties were a Port-A-Loo, multiple hootchies & tarps; and even the MDP Headquarter Bunker. Two safety supervisors in their pits got to experience the joys of dead shrapnel (much to their surprise) and upon seeing a piece of shrapnel hit his PMV (300m from the impact point) a certain infantry CO may have referred positively the Regiment as 'You murdering bastards!' with an accompanying evil smile. As always, the sounds and impact of danger close are ones that no one in attendance on the MDP will ever forget with the supported riflemen (whom had also been out bush for 8 weeks) stating it was the highlight of their trip as they scurried around trying to find shrapnel souvenirs.

In all of this the unsung heroes were (once again) the members of CSS Battery. They tirelessly transported ammunition and stores around Shoalwater Bay, 'feeding the beast' both day and night. The transport sergeant commented at one point that he was travelling approximately 200km a day, a regular occurrence throughout the exercises. CSS also conducted two Regimental-level DP Ops, with all callsigns under reduced lighting and tactical conditions, which tested everyone's abilities to the limit with very little rest. Regardless of the workload, they also ensured that each battery received its ever-so-precious nightly delivery of fresh rations. Somehow, CSS Bty also managed to create and manage the previously-mentioned Freshwater Beach Resort in their abundant spare time. Unfortunately, much to the dismay of the Regiment's vehicle mechanics, the Regiment's single FFR Landrover FFR (dubbed 'the little engine that couldn't' or C/S 39) was the Regiment's only serious casualty they could not save, resulting in a low-load trailer trip back to Brisbane, despite multiple and exhaustive attempts to revive it for 105 Battery's command group. With a very little manning and an excessive number of tasks, CSS Battery managed to complete everything assigned to them and (to their credit) performed to the-usual outstanding level.

Thus concludes the epic tale of 1 Regt's exploits and adventures within the regions of Shoalwater Bay for another year. With the tactical and technical achievements made during these exercise, 1 Regt is poised to continue the push to the new digital horizon, as well as being on-course to the full revival of more traditional unit-and combined-arms Gunnery.

# Exercise Thunder Run One

*Lieutenant Kyle Handreck &  
Lieutenant Jackson Proud  
8th/12th Regiment RAA*

Exercise Thunder Run One was the culmination of several months of individual and small team training, which saw the execution of fully digital fires. Six M777A2s from 101 and 103 Batteries, several joint fires teams (JFTs), three battle group joint fires and effects coordination cells (JFECCs), and a brigade JFECC from the Regimental Headquarters deployed to the Mt Bundy Training area to participate in the exercise.

Commanding Officer 8th/12th Regiment RAA Lieutenant Colonel Julian West said the aim of the exercise was to build upon soldiers understanding of digital communications and its impact on the provision of offensive support to 1st Brigade.

*'Long hours were spent in barracks rehearsing the digital transmission of technical information from JFTs to the gun lines.'* Lieutenant Colonel Julian West said. *'Exercise Thunder Run One was about testing the digital fires capability of 8/12 Regt RAA and refining individual and collective soldier skills. These qualities can only be tested in the field, in a tough and challenging environment.'*

The Exercise focussed on a series of Command Post Exercises through to the rapid digital prosecution of targets during the Live Fire phase. The Exercise then culminated with a hasty deployment and several successful direct fire serials, with the Gun Line receiving fire missions, coming into action and engaging the target in less than four minutes. Added to this was the high accuracy of detachments



as they directed fire onto a target 2 km across a valley as part of direct fire training.

101 Battery Commander Major David Silverstone said the exercises success was a testament to the continually developing skills of the advanced field artillery tactical data systems operators, Digital Terminal Control System operators (DTCS) and the gun detachments.

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*... the aim of the exercise was to build upon soldiers understanding of digital communications ...*

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*'The digital call for fire was a first for many JFTs and a first for the regiment using the DTCS'* Maj Silverstone said. *'The solid execution of all Fire Missions in rapid time has demonstrated the strength and speed of advantages of the digital system to the soldiers.'*

Lieutenant Nathan Small led a JFT conducting a number of complex Fire Planning tasks using the enhanced digital systems. The results of the exercise left a significant impression on him. *'This is my first time out here as a forward observer and its been epic'* Lt Small said.

The gunners finished the live fire phase with 40 mm, 66 mm and 84 mm training, giving many of the soldiers the opportunity to qualify on direct fire support weapon systems. Gunner Jacob Evans was excited to handle all the weapons in his first field exercise. *'I've had a lot of fun and learnt much more than I thought I would'* he said.

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## RIMPAC

*Lieutenant Jackson Proud  
103rd Battery, 8th/12th Regiment RAA*

The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as HMNZS Canterbury sailed effortlessly into Pearl Harbor on the 26th June 2014. On board was Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and attachments from 1st Combat Engineer Regiment and 8th/12th Regiment RAA who, after 16 days at sea sailing from Townsville to Hawaii, were more than ready to commence RIMPAC 2014.

The well known coalition exercise, held throughout the Hawaiian Islands chain comprises of thousands of personnel from many different countries from around the world. Naval ships of all different



shapes, sizes and capabilities began converging on Pearl Harbor in early June to ensure that the world's largest naval exercise would again, be a memorable event on the maritime training calendar.

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*The well known coalition exercise, held throughout the Hawaiian Islands chain comprises of thousands of personnel from many different countries ...*

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After a few days of mission specific training focused on SWET (Shallow Water Egress Training), fast roping and various range shoots the coalition forces were ready to commence the exercise. Operational staff were predominantly based on the USS Peleliu, an aircraft carrier comprising of rotary wing aircraft such as the CH-53 Sea Stallion, V22 Osprey and the Sea Hawk. The USS Rushmore accommodated many of the combat units known as CLTs (Combat Landing Teams) throughout the exercise and aggressively manoeuvred itself in order to set the preconditions for beach landing and raid orientated missions. Assets attached to the exercise included F-18



Hornets, Cobra attack helicopters, HIMARS rockets and a variety of other insatiable artillery elements ranging from 60 mm mortars to 105 mm and 155 mm Howitzers. RIMPAC 2014 climaxed in late July with an amphibious beach assault at Pyramid Rock just near Marine Corps base Hawaii. At approximately 0730 hours multiple AAVs (Amphibious Armoured Vehicles) filled with Australian Infantry soldiers departed from the rear of the USS Peleliu. The AAVs tactically manoeuvred through the surf using smoke screens (pictured) to position themselves for a fully fledged beach assault. Once on dry land the troops from within the AAVs dismounted and began to systematically clear the beach head. Moments later four F-18 Hornets began strafing runs, identifying and notionally destroying targets in and around the Pyramid Rock area. The show of force was awesome and the fluidity of the operation was flawless. Key military personnel from many nations and other civilian onlookers were very grateful to be able to witness such and outstanding display of combined arms warfare.

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## Joint Fires Perspective

*Bombardier Michael Krek  
Call Sign Golf 31, 103rd Battery*

22 nations, 49 surface ships, 6 submarines, over 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel participated in RIMPAC 2014. Call sign Golf 31's mission was to support Charlie Company and Combat Landing Team - 4 (CLT-4) by integrating Joint Fires for the duration of the exercise. CLT-4 was made up of Charlie Coy with attachments from 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, a Mexican Infantry Platoon, a USMC Weapons Platoon and an Artillery Joint Fires Team from 8th/12th Regiment RAA.

Before the commencement of RIMPAC 2014 a Fire Support Co-ordination Course run by 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines Weapons Company was held for key fires personnel. The aim of this course was to teach and develop Junior Fire Integration Support Teams (FiST) on how to employ and de-conflict their fires and the procedures of the Fire Support Co-ordination Centre (FSCC).

Overall the course was of a very high standard and was delivered very well. This was proven during the fire support co-ordination exercise where despite working with a coalition force the 8th/12th Regiment JFT maintained good situational awareness on the progress of the fire missions which provided a flawless integration with other assets.

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*The sheer magnitude of RIMPAC 2014 allowed all levels of command, from soldier to coalition commander, the opportunity to discover the friction points and constraints that are inherent to all aspects of amphibious operations.*

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Fast roping, urban clearances at both section a platoon level, AAV integration, Shallow Water Egress Training, Ground Air Integration Training and a live range package which included various attacks were all part of the initial RIMPAC training.

Weapons Company 3/3 then facilitated a FiST exercise to qualify their newly established FiST teams and began their certification shoots in preparation for their deployment to South Korea later that year. Other participants were US Marines from 5th ANGLICO in Japan, as well as Canadian and New Zealand JFTs.

Firing agencies include F/A -18C from VMF-122 'Wolverines', HMLA-367 'Scarface' consisting of AH-1W Cobras and UH-1Y Hueys, Charlie Battery 1/12 155 mm M777A2 Howitzers, US Army 105 mm Guns, USMC EEFS 120 mm Mortars as well as 81 mm Mortars.

The culminating activity was an offensive fire plan that saw the Golf 31 call sign engaging with three firing agencies in support of a manoeuvre scenario. 'RIMPAC is a once in a lifetime experience to train and exercise with so many other nations from around the world' said Golf 31s commander Lieutenant Nathan Small 'The FiST Ex was an excellent opportunity that we were very fortunate to be a part of. It has allowed all of our call sign to leave the exercise with a much higher level of proficiency in both surface and air fires'.

The sheer magnitude of RIMPAC 2014 allowed all levels of command, from soldier to coalition commander, the opportunity to discover the friction points and constraints that are inherent to all aspects of amphibious operations.

## 18 Pounder Anzac Centenary Project

The 18 Pounder Project has been gathering pace as the year progresses. It would appear that the word is getting around slowly although not too surely, at least amongst the Gunner community. For those who have not heard of the project here is a quick summary.

We, the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) have a vision; to make that vision come true we need all the help possible from Gunners past and present. The vision is:

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**To produce a living memorial to the Australian Artillery and the troops they supported by deploying a horse drawn 18-pounder and detachment for commemorative events starting in 2015 for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli.**

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The vision sees the complete gun, limber, horses and detachment leading the 2015 National Anzac Day march in Canberra. What a sight that would be!

Although we have submitted applications for grants and are reaching out to Defence industry this exciting venture will not be complete without the financial support of the Gunner Community, both serving and retired. Please make a tax deductible donation and help us make the vision a reality. See the RAAHC website for further details: [www.artilleryhistory.org](http://www.artilleryhistory.org)



# Take Post

## National Gunner Dinner

*Colonel Ian Ahearn (Retd)  
Colonel Command Eastern Region  
Deputy Chair of the RAAHC*



On the 23rd August 2014 the Events Centre at Caloundra in Queensland provided the venue for a spectacular National Gunner Dinner attended by over 400 Gunners and their wives and partners. Steam Gunners from days of yore mixed with today's digital Gunners in a celebration of the Royal Regiment. The Dinner was the brain child of the Australian Artillery Association (AAA) and the event was organised and run by its President, Kim McGrath and Secretary, Graham Hampton.



26 Transport Company Deliver the Gun



The Drill Hasn't Been Forgotten

The AAA was kind enough to include the launch of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company's (RAAHC) ANZAC Centenary 18 Pounder Gun Project in the program. At 7am on 23rd August with the arrival of the 18 Pounder Anzac Centenary Gun.



Up the Ramp

The display of the gun at Caloundra would not have been possible without the support of Army and the thanks of all present go to Army and specifically to Privates Chris Eichorn, Adam Konza and Paul O'Donnell of 85th Transport Troop, 26th Transport Squadron, 9th Force Support Battalion for their professional approach to the delivery and return of the gun.

The official festivities began with a Military Concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra conducted by Donna McMahon, who provided brilliant entertainment from 2 pm to 4 pm. Stirring marches were presented with the 1812 Overture



providing a memorable finale. The Orchestra was reinforced for the finale by the Sunshine Brass and assisted by an enthusiastic audience providing the sound of musket fire by bursting paper bags!

At 6 pm the guests gathered in the foyer of the Centre and Major General (Retd) Tim Ford, Chair of the RAAHC Board, launched the Anzac Centenary 18 Pounder Gun Project.

The dinner and associated events were an outstanding success.

Both outside and inside the Centre was decorated in an outstanding Gunner theme. Gunners came from every state and territory and the photographs below show both the decorations and the attendees who were too numerous to name individually.

The three course dinner was superbly prepared and expertly served. The Events Centre staff were on top of their game and deserved fulsome praise. The speeches were mercifully short but well received. Tim Ford announced free membership for any Gunner Association member and Ian Ahearn briefed the dinner on the 18 Pounder Project. There was a spontaneous outbreak of support for the project and a whip around with a 'hat' collected \$3,200; an effort much appreciated by the RAAHC. Just when all appeared complete the final act appeared; the Band of the 1st Regiment RAA.

The dinner and associated events were an outstanding success. It is fitting that the photographs below show the 'owners and trainers' in their working gear; on the left Kim McGrath and the right Graham Hampton. They deserve the thanks of the Gunner Community for a superb and memorable Military Concert and National Gunner Dinner.



The Top Table



Tim Ford Chair RAAHC Board Launches the 18 Pounder Anzac Centenary Project. Watched by Kim McGrath, President AAA



Brass Reinforced Sunshine Symphony Orchestra in Action

# Band of the 1st Regiment RAA

*Warrant Officer Class One Simon Renfrey  
Bandmaster 1st Regiment RAA Band*

Yet again another busy year has eventuated for the Band of the 1st Regiment. Despite all of the regular annual engagements such as Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and the full range of memorial services and mess dinners, the Band found time to also provide support to a whole range of requests including the official opening of Sanananda Lines at Greenbank in November 2013 in front of the Governor of Queensland and the Mates for Mates dinner hosted by the 7th Brigade Commander (at which Wally Lewis and Andrew Slats were amongst the many notable VIP guests).

September 2013 saw the annual 'band camp' – Exercise Bandit - for which we spent the first week in-barracks intensive training and then travelled to Bundaberg for to perform many school concerts and music workshops covering off on well over 4000 students and culminated in a public performance at the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre to a packed house.

As well as providing an educational experience to the students, we were also tasked with raising public awareness for the Regiment's Charity - Bush Kids Australia. Among the guests for the concert were Commander and Regimental Sergeant Major 7th Brigade, Deputy Commissioner for Queensland Police, Mayor of Bundaberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bushkids and (of course) the

Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major 1st Regiment RAA.

It is with a heavy heart to have to report for those that don't know that Musician Richard Gray passed away suddenly during the first week of Exercise Bandit. 'Richo' was a one of a kind character and a brilliant musician and will be sorely missed by the band and also by those that have known and worked with him over the years.

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*This was a spectacular event held at the Southbank Cultural Forecourt precinct and wowed the large crowd in attendance.*

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The Band continued on to celebrate its 60th Anniversary on 29th March 2014 and presented a Beat the Retreat and 1812 Overture, complete with accompanying Gun Salute from A Battery, to mark the occasion. This was a spectacular event held at the Southbank Cultural Forecourt precinct and wowed the large crowd in attendance.

A number of higher honours and awards and achievements were recognised throughout the year and congratulations go to the following members:

- Corporal Jeff Lee - 20 Years Service to the Unit recognised by indoctrination into the 20 year pictorial Hall of Fame.
- Musician Lenore Evans - Soldier of the Year.
- Musician Frank Hart - Musician of the Year.

The end of 2013 saw the Bandmaster, Warrant Officer Class One Steve Hooper, hung up his baton and retired from the ARA after 32 years service, handing over the reins to myself. All accounts suggest that besides taking a 'gap year' he will transfer to the Army Reserve and continue serving with the Artillery Band doing what he joined up to do all those years ago ... 'bashing the drums'.



Warrant Officer Class One Simon Renfrey and Warrant Officer Class One John Franklin led the Band in the 60th Anniversary 'Beat the Retreat' on Southbank, Brisbane.



Overall, the Band continues the tempo of performances, both individual and collective into the latter months of 2014 with much gusto. As always, the Band members continue to appreciate the support of the Regiment and its members, both past and present.

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## Reconstruction Task – Litchfield

*Captain Kris Gardiner  
1st Brigade Public Affairs Officer*

Gunners from the Darwin based 8th/12th Regiment have reached out to the people of Litchfield and helped to restore two significant sites in the community. Around the small town of Humpty Doo, about 40km south of Darwin, 40 gunners from 103rd Battery worked hard to restore the local war memorial and Strauss Airfield. The community has a long association with the military, with the RAAF and the US Army and Air Force stationed in the area during World War Two.

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*The community has a long association with the military, with the RAAF and the US Army and Air Force stationed in the area during World War Two.*

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Captain Michael York, of 103rd Battery, said the restoration projects were an opportunity for the Regiment to help Litchfield City Council and to introduce the gunners to the military history of the region. *'The restoration projects have given us a chance to foster relationships with the community,'* Captain York said. *'Equally important was the hands-on experience it gave the gunners.'* *'They were able to physically connect with the tangible relics of the war that still exist today, like the Strauss Airfield.'*

The gunners cleaned, tidied and improved the sites where possible, and helped protect them from the harsh Northern Territory weather. The results of their efforts not only improved the condition of the sites, but also gave the locals an opportunity to meet the soldiers and ask questions about the Battery, 8th/12th Regiment and the ADF. *'The people of Humpty Doo and the greater Litchfield community now have a better idea about who we are and what we do,'* Capt York said.

## New Commander of Joint Operations Appointed

Corporal Max Bree

There has been a changing of the guard at Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC) with VAdm David Johnston taking on the role of Chief of Joint Operations following the retirement of Lt-Gen Ash Power.

Military and Australian Public Service staff posted to HQJOC witnessed the handover ceremony on May 19, during which Lt-Gen Power received the pennant that had flown at the front of the building at Bungendore near Canberra since 2011. It was replaced by a new pennant representing the change of command.

HQJOC staff then lined the driveway to applaud Lt-Gen Power and his wife as they drove from the compound for the last time.

VAdm Johnston said he was delighted to accept his new role and the operational challenges it would bring. 'I am very excited about this command. I've worked here twice before and the chance to come back was a very special one,' he said. 'I want to make sure we continue the excellent work that has been done running our current operations and be ready for any mission that might be given to us at any notice.'

'I aim to use the experience I've gained and align it with all the experience of people that work with us in the command and across Defence to make sure our people can be successful and safe.'

VAdm Johnson said the well-being of all ADF members on all operations from across the ADF would be a primary focus.

Lt-Gen Power said he was proud to have served as Chief of Joint Operations. 'JOC is a really important organisation inside Defence that has done fantastic work over the last three years plus in assisting me to command operations,' he said. 'Nothing is more important than looking after our deployed men and women and we've done that very well. Of course, operations will continue and HQJOC is well positioned to meet any future challenge. Well done and thanks to all who served.'

There will be one major change at HQJOC VAdm Johnson told the farewell ceremony that the days of the ADF's operational headquarters barracking for the Sydney Swans are over. HQJOC is now firmly in the St Kilda camp.

Army June 5, 2014

# Capability

## Combat Support Systems Program Office - Defence Materiel Organisation

Major Michael Chapman

Combat Support Systems Program Office (CSSPO), within the Land Systems Division (LSD) of Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), is responsible for the acquisition and sustainment of the land-based Joint Offensive Support capability for Defence. This includes indirect fire support, radar and ground based air defence systems, but excludes UAVs which are managed by Aerospace Systems Division (ASD).

For the majority of Gunners, it is the most relevant SPO in terms of the capability it acquires and sustains on behalf of Army (the Capability Manager). The intent of this article is to introduce CSSPO, what it is and how it is relevant to RAA capabilities. It will briefly cover the various projects and their increasing complexity and interrelationships with other organisations.

### The Capability Development Lifecycle

To see where DMO fits into Defence, an abbreviated explanation of the Capability Development Lifecycle is useful. For most Defence projects, ADF and Government strategic guidance identifies the Needs. Capability Development Group (CDG) develops the overarching Requirements (how the Need is to be met), before taking the proposal to Government for approval. On approval, the project passes to DMO who conduct the Acquisition of a system that meets these Requirements, generally through open tender activities. Once acquired, DMO hands the equipment to the Capability

Manager (Army) for In-Service use. DMO still has a significant ongoing responsibility, as they sustain and often upgrade the capability during service. Finally once the equipment has reached its life of type, DMO is responsible for the Disposal of the equipment.

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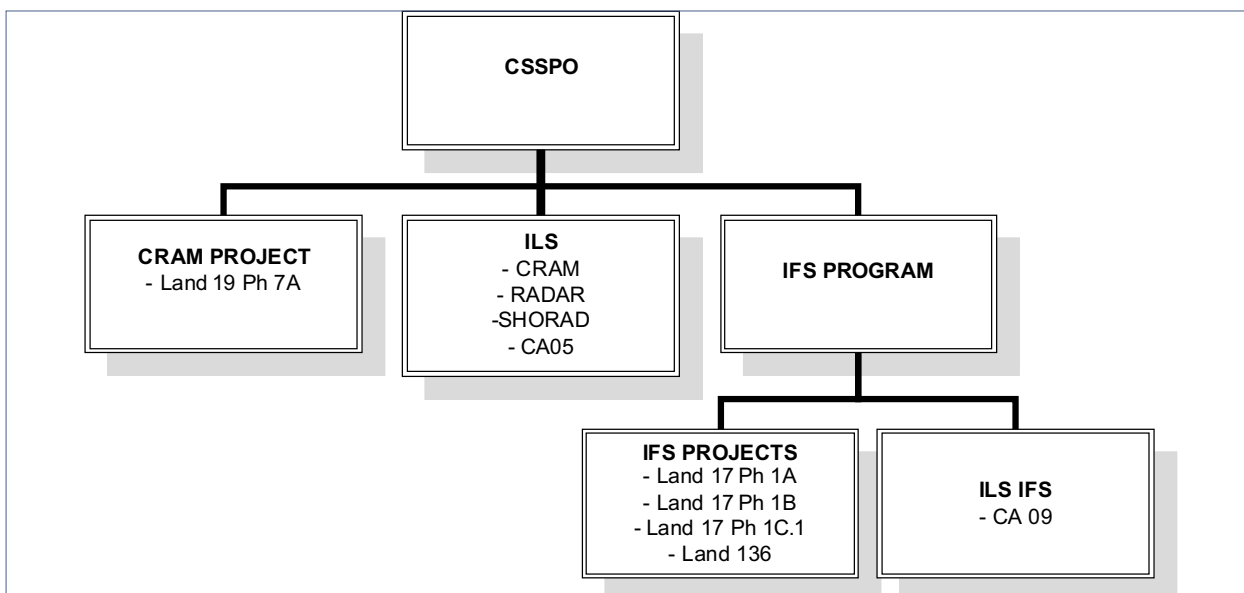
### CSSPO Structure and Projects

The workforce of CSSPO is around 80 people, and like the DMO in general they are overwhelmingly Defence Civilians, with about 10% military staff. The military staff work throughout the SPO as integral project team members; they also have the additional benefit of a different perspective on requirements. Military members range in rank from Warrant Officer Class Two up to the SPO Director, a Colonel. Most of the military members have post-graduate qualifications in Project or Capability Management, often obtained through Defence sponsored programs like the Capability and Technology Management College (CTMC replaced ATSOC).

To meet the challenges of increasingly complex capabilities, CSSPO is moving into a program structure (logically grouping like projects and their sustainment), as shown in this simplified organisational chart below, showing IFS adopting this first:

### LAND 17 PH1A – Artillery Replacement 155MM Howitzer & Battlefield Management System – Fires

This project delivered 35 M777A2 Lightweight Towed Howitzers, and a command and control battle management system based on the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System software. The project has introduced into service all howitzers and the final version of the battle management system. During 2013-14, the project achieved Final Material Release.



CSSPO Simplified Organisational Chart

### LAND 17 PH1B - Digital Terminal Control System

This project will deliver Digital Terminal Control Systems (DTCS). This capability allows artillery Forward Observers and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers to identify targets with greater accuracy through use of precision targeting software. It also provides the means to digitally request fire support from land, sea or airborne weapon systems. During 2013-14, this project achieved Initial Material Release with Final Material Release currently scheduled for 2015.

### LAND 17 PH1C.1 - Additional Lightweight Towed Howitzers

This project will deliver an additional 19 M777A2 Lightweight Towed Howitzers in 2015, in addition to the 35 guns delivered under LAND 17 Phase 1A. During 2013-14, this project delivered all additional M777A2 Lightweight Towed Howitzers to Australia. The Howitzers are currently being prepared for issue to Army, which is scheduled to occur in tranches from 2016.

### LAND 136 Phase 1 - Land Force Mortar Replacement

This project seeks to enhance Army's 81 mm mortar capability by procuring a lightweight mortar system, mortar ballistic computer and digital communication equipment, and the enabling of a digital communication interface with Army's Battle Management System - Fires Command and Control system to engage targets with enhanced precision. This project is currently awaiting final Government approval.

### CA09 - Indirect Fire Support Weapons Systems fleet

The IFSW fleet manages and sustains the Indirect Fire Support Systems, including artillery and mortar capabilities.

### LAND 19 Phase 7A - Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar

This project delivered C-RAM as a vital force protection capability. Both Final Materiel Release and Final Operational Capability - Australia were achieved in January 2013. During 2013-14, this project commenced remediating the capability post deployment in Afghanistan.

### CA05 - Radar/SHORAD

The Radar/SHORAD fleet manages and sustains the various radar and Short Range Air Defence capabilities for the Army.

### The Future of Artillery Capability – Increasing Complexity & Interrelationships

Without going into the specific future capabilities under consideration by CDG, there is a common overarching theme regarding RAA (and ADF) projects now and into the future, which is an increasing focus on digitisation and networking.

Consequently, there is increasing sophistication of systems and essential requirement for the integration of capabilities, whereas in the past the 'system of systems' always existed, the integration was largely conducted manually. A good example to follow through this concept is a pre-digital call for fire (CFF). During a CFF, the data is inputted into and

manipulated by the physical system at various points (gunnery computer and the gun), but the transfer of data in a usable form for the next stage was all conducted manually. This meant that as long as each item was functional in role, and was capable of having data inputted and producing a result (eg firing solutions or a round fired) then forwarding to the next system was not a requirement as it was done by an operator. This had the beauty of simplicity, but the obvious disadvantages of potential errors and the time taken to complete these actions.

Increasingly, and the RAA is leading the way here, systems are being highly integrated at the machine level, meaning that data is being transferred directly, with operators roles being to add value at each stage, not to perform data entry tasks. Continuing with the previous example of a CFF but via digital means, the DTCS sends data to AFATDS which then forwards data to the DFCS, with operator involvement adding tactical value at each stage. This has the advantage of reducing potential errors and allowing soldiers to focus on tactics not raw data.

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*Increasingly, and the RAA is leading the way here, systems are being highly integrated at the machine level, meaning that data is being transferred directly, with operators roles being to add value at each stage, not to perform data entry tasks.*

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However, despite the advantages to this digital approach there are some pitfalls, and configuration management becomes far more important. Past gunnery computers could be upgraded, but generally the gun itself did not need to be similarly examined and upgraded, as the interface remained tannoy. This no longer holds true for the digital CFF, where an upgrade of AFATDS has significant implications for both the DTCS and the DFCS, both needing to undergo examination, to remain interoperable.

This is critically important for projects in the future as this task becomes even more complex when it is considered that these three systems (AFATDS, DTCS & DFCS on the M777A2) are produced by Raytheon, Rockwell Collins and the US Government respectively. All of these organisations have different upgrade cycles and push their technology in different directions - making the Commonwealth the system integrator, an additional responsibility.

Overlaying all of this are the complexities that come with restrictions from companies potentially limiting access to their Intellectual Property, US International Traffic in Arms Regulations and other commercial considerations.

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*However, despite the advantages to this digital approach there are some pitfalls, and configuration management becomes far more important.*

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This task is made even more challenging with the relentless and frequent nature of software upgrades, required to maintain technological superiority and coalition interoperability, particularly compared with the more deliberate upgrade of physical items such as guns. It is also challenging the traditional Defence view of an acquisition project followed by a long period of steady state sustainment; increasingly sustainment will likely take on multiple upgrade projects, and technical obsolescence occurs in years not decades.

### **CSSPO In the Future**

While the example above is a simple one, it shows the problem that all projects across the SPO and the DMO are increasingly facing in digitising the battlefield. Projects are moving away from stove-piped models and integrating more closely with related projects, although there is still work to be done. It also reinforces the importance of purchasing the right system from an integration perspective. Anyone can buy the latest shiny gun, plane or ship; however the ability to integrate into a digital combined arms force is as important a consideration as the isolated technical specifications of that system - no different from the fact that combined arms teams are more than the sum of their parts. CSSPO, in cooperation with Army, are currently at the leading edge of this digitisation, providing the RAA capability of the future and concurrently sustaining the RAA of today.

#### **Biography**

Major Michael Chapman is currently posted to LAND 17 Phase 1B as a Project Manager. He completed CTMC in 2013, and has served at the School of Artillery and 8th/12th Medium Regiment among other non-regimental and operational postings.

# Remember War's Causes as Well as its Casualties

*Honour the fallen, but do not forget why they fell,*  
writes Warwick McFadyen

MORE than 45,000 Australians died on the Western Front in World War One. This weekend Prime Minister Tony Abbott was due to visit the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux and Pozieres in France.

The 99th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing was marked last April, but it was just a rehearsal for next year. The 100th anniversary of the start of the 'war to end all wars' is looming within weeks.

Mr Abbott also took part last week in an official commemoration in France to mark the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in World War Two.

The prime minister took several Australian D-Day veterans with him, of the more than 3000 Australians who had been involved in the invasion in 1944. There is, of course, no one left from World War One.

It is impossible, and unthinkable, not to have heads of government at such important events. They should be there. War commemorations are a mixture of symbolism, tribute to sacrifice, evocation and memory. The political leader, at such events, is the conduit for these streams.

But the spiritual health of a nation is only as strong as its fidelity to its past. Last week marked the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing. As *Asia Pacific* editor John Garnaut noted in a column in *The Age*, society might have changed in China, but the government's contempt for the historical truth remains.

In effect, history is merely a cog in the political machine. This is the way of despots and totalitarian regimes - power through manipulation and denial. In Australia, history in relation to indigenous affairs is at times hostage to ideology. It may be called war - fought in the press, on talkback, in universities, in Parliament and in the classroom - but it is mild compared to the force with which other countries reconstruct the past to suit an agenda of control.

No one would doubt the sincerity of those attending the anniversaries of conflicts. However, the marking of war, if it is to be profoundly meaningful, is more complicated than it looks.

Under the wreaths, beyond the flags, a question always remains: Why? It is the shadow in the

background. It may be lost on the day, but it needs to reside among the poppies, on the beaches and in our homes.

If it is not, we run the risk, with all its ramifications, that the terrible cost of sacrifice is lodged in the collective memory while the cause of that sacrifice is ignored.

In the past week, I've read two works - one new, one old - that are a piece. The former is *July 1914: Countdown to War* (2014) by Sean McMeekin. The latter is *The Road Back* (1931), Erich Maria Remarque's sequel to his classic, *All Quiet on the Western Front*. In their conjunction a more complete truth can be seen.

It is this: that there was a catastrophic disconnect between the utterance and the deed in the first war. The tragedy is that it happens to this day. Every nation is the sum of its parts. In the *Road Back*, Remarque saw this and knew it deeply. Those who send men and women to war owe them the truth. Yet it is an axiom of war that truth is the first casualty.

Those who returned from war, as did Remarque, returned changed men and the world to which they returned had changed as well. In a heartbeat a man moved from killer to school teacher. This was a life interrupted, never to be restored to the path it was on. For the millions who died or were injured, for their families and friends, their only time on earth was disfigured. And it was mere change in a poker game between the monarchies of Europe to retain their thrones. Even when warnings were given, when attempts at diplomacy were undertaken, it was not enough.

Helmuth von Moltke, Germany's army chief of staff, remarked in the days before war that the '*civilised states of Europe will tear each to pieces ... This is the way things will and must develop unless one might say a miracle takes place at the last hour to prevent a war that will annihilate the civilisation of almost all of Europe for decades to come.*'

Both Tsar Nicholas II and Kaiser Wilhelm II purred about peace to each other. The cousins ended their telegrams Nicky and Willy. The Tsar told an aide, writes McMeekin, that '*I will not be responsible for a monstrous slaughter.*'

And yet he was, not wholly, but enough. History is littered with what ifs. In the First World War, they include: if Ferdinand had not been killed by Serbian militants, if Austria had not got a blank cheque from Germany to attack Serbia, if Russia did not mobilise when it did, and so on. Perhaps if any had occurred, the lads in the country towns of Australia who went to serve the king and empire might have grown to men. Those towns would not have memorials to the fallen, and we would not attend services to remember them.

Yet we do. As the Prime Minister has done this weekend. But let us also not forget the reasons for remembrance, even when it means travelling into foreign, and sometimes dark, territory.

Sunday Age June 8, 2014 - OPINION

# Personnel & Training

## Senior Officer Appointments & Promotions

The Chief of the Defence Force is pleased to announce the following star-rank appointments and promotions:

- Head Joint Capability Coordination – Major General P. Symon from January 2015.
- Deputy Commanding General United States Army Pacific – Brigadier G. Bilton, on promotion to Major General, from December 2014.

The Chief of the Defence Force congratulates all officers on their appointments and welcome promotees to the Defence Senior Leadership Group.



## CO & RSM Appointments

The Chief of Army has selected and is pleased to announce the following CO and RSM appointments for 2015:

- Lieutenant Colonel R.J. Alsworth – CO 8th/12th Regiment RAA
- Lieutenant Colonel B.T. Galvin – CO 20th STA Regiment (Continue)
- Lieutenant Colonel D.J. Hill – CO 4th Regiment RAA (Continue)
- Warrant Officer Class One D.R. Lehr – RSM Headquarters 3rd Brigade
- Warrant Officer Class One B.A. Franklin – RSM Headquarters 13th Brigade
- Warrant Officer Class One M.I. Johnson – RSM Combined Arms Training Centre
- Warrant Officer Class One M.J. Sullivan – RMG Combined Arms Training Centre
- Warrant Officer Class One S.J. Schuman – RSM 4th Regiment RAA
- Warrant Officer Class One D.P. Lindsay – RSM Joint Proof and Experimental Unit

Chief of Army congratulates all officers and warrant officers on their selection.

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# Regimental Promotions

*Warrant Officer Class One Matt Sullivan CSM  
Regimental Master Gunner*

The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery congratulates the following full-time personnel on their promotion in the last 12 months:

## On promotion to Lance Bombardier:

LBDR	David Robert Elliot	20 STAR
LBDR	Christopher Gordon Gibb	20 STAR
LBDR	Benjamin David Hampson	20 STAR
LBDR	Joe Walter Hennessey	20 STAR
LBDR	Carl Vincent Holmes	20 STAR
LBDR	Justin Gary Serong	20 STAR
LBDR	Daniel James Stasev	20 STAR
LBDR	Ashley Victor Wilke	20 STAR
LBDR	Travis James Stewart	8/12 Regt RAA
LBDR	Bevan Read	8/12 Regt RAA
LBDR	Matthew James Alexander	8/12 Regt RAA
LBDR	Alexander Michael Carless	8/12 Regt RAA
LBDR	Matthew K. Attenborough	8/12 Regt RAA
LBDR	Joshua Frederick McCabe	SoArty
LBDR	Gavin J. K. Harrington	SoArty
LBDR	Daniel Brunner	16 ALR
LBDR	Nathan Crawford	16 ALR
LBDR	Cambell Denton	16 ALR
LBDR	Daniel Grayson	16 ALR
LBDR	Zachary Hammond	16 ALR
LBDR	Thomas Moloney	16 ALR
LBDR	Andrew Pates	16 ALR
LBDR	John Polley	16 ALR
LBDR	Nicholas Ryan-Collins	16 ALR
LBDR	Joshua Stevens	16 ALR
LBDR	Shaun Stevens	16 ALR
LBDR	Nicole Stewart	16 ALR
LBDR	Michael Vandoorn	16 ALR
LBDR	Jason Wyllie	16 ALR
LBDR	Larry Troy Aitcheson	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	David James Alexander	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	Mark Christopher Beattie	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	Bruce Edward Braithwaite	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	Joel Kenny Brennan	1 Regt RAA

LBDR	Dylan Robert Ferris	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	David Michael Fordham	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	Ashley Richard Kerr	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	Michael George Moon	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	Brendan A. J. Skinner	1 Regt RAA
LBDR	Joel Camilleri	4 Regt RAA
LBDR	Jonathan Dendle	4 Regt RAA
LBDR	Joshua Finlay	4 Regt RAA
LBDR	Christopher Gray	4 Regt RAA
LBDR	Luke Illes	4 Regt RAA
LBDR	Jonathan Jackson	4 Regt RAA
LBDR	Nicholas Latham	4 Regt RAA
LBDR	Jayden Walsh	4 Regt RAA

## On promotion to Bombardier:

BDR	Paul Raymond Matthews	20 STAR
BDR	Matthew John Wann	20 STAR
BDR	Troy Ryan Price	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Patrick Anthony Papas	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Benjamin Luke McCosker	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Rohan McCaig	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Glenn Littlechild	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Matthew John Lane	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Richard James Gould	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Lucas Brooke Elfverson	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Aaron Robert Costas	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Damien Kevin Chatterton	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Andrew James Billington	8/12 Regt RAA
BDR	Nicholas James Male	SoArty
BDR	Alexander Boike	16 ALR
BDR	Thomas Blucher-Hughes	16 ALR
BDR	Hamish Crowe	16 ALR
BDR	Damon Ferguson	16 ALR
BDR	Matthew Fleming	16 ALR
BDR	Scott Kenny	16 ALR
BDR	Jana Lewis	16 ALR
BDR	Mathew Maclean	16 ALR
BDR	Timothy Oke	16 ALR
BDR	David Solano	16 ALR
BDR	Nicole Stewart	16 ALR
BDR	Mitchell Watson	16 ALR
BDR	Daniel Watt	16 ALR
BDR	Scott Andrew Clunie	1 Regt RAA
BDR	David John Drane	1 Regt RAA
BDR	Sebastian James Hardie	1 Regt RAA
BDR	Paul Gregory McCartney	1 Regt RAA
BDR	Jeremy David Moses	1 Regt RAA

BDR	Robert Charles McGovern	1 Regt RAA
BDR	Matthew Adam Siddle	1 Regt RAA
BDR	Jarrold William Soderman	1 Regt RAA
BDR	Scott Attfield	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Nicholas Batho	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Kane Burgess	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Thomas Butler	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Michael Foster	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Jacob Garlick	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Christopher Larsen	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Tu'ungafasi Lolo	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Clinton Martin	4 Regt RAA
BDR	James Milton	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Scott Parks	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Brian Reid	4 Regt RAA
BDR	Aaron Spicer	4 Regt RAA

**On promotion to Sergeant:**

SGT	Michael John Anthony Boyes	20 STAR
SGT	Jason Paul Goss	20 STAR
SGT	Aaron Paul Hong	20 STAR
SGT	Tristan Alexander Strategos	8/12 Regt RAA
SGT	Matthew William Lethlean	8/12 Regt RAA
SGT	Scott James Fitzgibbons	8/12 Regt RAA
SGT	Antony Paul Carkagis	8/12 Regt RAA
SGT	Carly Box	SoArty
SGT	Daniel Rogers	SoArty
SGT	Jordon Haskins	16 ALR
SGT	Bradleigh Kevin Marshall	1 Regt RAA
SGT	Paul Andrew Rose	1 Regt RAA
SGT	David Cleary	4 Regt RAA
SGT	Corey Freckleton	4 Regt RAA
SGT	Justin Jones	4 Regt RAA
SGT	Herbert Larsen-Bayer	4 Regt RAA
SGT	Brendan Murray	4 Regt RAA
SGT	Rowan Temple	4 Regt RAA

**To Warrant Officer Class Two:**

WO2	Scott Anthony Regal	20 STAR
WO2	David Jeffrey Cleland	8/12 Regt RAA
WO2	Allan Henry	16 ALR
WO2	Graeme Parker	4 Regt RAA

**On promotion to Warrant Officer Class One:**

WO1	Stephen Donald Carmichael	20 STAR
WO1	Miles Matthew Humphrey	SoArty
WO1	Jason Jarvis	16 ALR

**On promotion to Lieutenant:**

LT	Matthew Anthony Jaensch	20 STAR
LT	Andrew James Penhaligon	20 STAR
LT	Matthew Armstrong	16 ALR
LT	Doyle Beaudequin	16 ALR
LT	James Haggerty	16 ALR
LT	Brent Paish	16 ALR
LT	Michael Thomas Barnett	1 Regt RAA
LT	Samuel Grantley O'Neil	1 Regt RAA
LT	Nicholas Jason Woodhams	1 Regt RAA

**On promotion to Captain:**

CAPT	Daniel Renato Evangelisti	20 STAR
CAPT	Desmond P. A. O'Brien	20 STAR
CAPT	Simon Matthew Sheridan	20 STAR
CAPT	Mark Bosse	16 ALR
CAPT	Owain Griffiths	16 ALR
CAPT	Brendan Hardman	16 ALR
CAPT	Nicholas Skinner	16 ALR
CAPT	Patrick John Benson	1 Regt RAA
CAPT	Ben William Hutchinson	1 Regt RAA
CAPT	Kevin Keith Pamenter	1 Regt RAA
CAPT	Luke Aaron Seymour	1 Regt RAA
CAPT	Robert Best	4 Regt RAA
CAPT	Nicholas Clarke	4 Regt RAA
CAPT	Cooper Dale	4 Regt RAA
CAPT	Benjamin White	4 Regt RAA

**On promotion to Major:**

MAJ	Casey Bep Guidolin	20 STAR
MAJ	Timothy John Walmsley	20 STAR
MAJ	Andrew Richard McDonell	8/12 Regt RAA
MAJ	Benjamin Magi	16 ALR
MAJ	Michael Squire	16 ALR
MAJ	Stuart Bryden	16 ALR
MAJ	Daniel Thomas O'Brien	1 Regt RAA
MAJ	Trevor Watson	1 Regt RAA



# Regimental Honours & Awards

*Warrant Officer Class One Matt Sullivan CSM  
Regimental Master Gunner*

The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery congratulates the following full-time personnel in recognition of the following honours and awards announcements in 2014:

## Operational Service Medal

GNR David George Timmons SoArty

## National Emergency Medal

CPL Craig Terence Clode SoArty

## Philippines Civic Action Medal

SGT Joseph Tampus 4 Regt RAA

## 3rd Clasp to the Defence Force Service Medal

BDR Richard Michael Farrell 1 Regt RAA

## 2nd Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal

SGT Geoffrey Neil Wallace 1 Regt RAA

WO2 Roy Harrison 16 ALR

WO1 Brendan Fox 16 ALR

MAJ Marc Plummer 16 ALR

## 1st Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal

BDR Geoffrey Michael Clark SoArty

SGT Mark Raymond Murray SoArty

WO2 Phillip Matthew Grieve 20 STAR

WO2 Rodger James Mackereth SoArty

WO2 Robert Malcolm Menadue SoArty

WO2 Matthew Castek 4 Regt RAA

WO2 Michael Kelly 4 Regt RAA

LTCOL Nicholas James Foxall 1 Regt RAA

LTCOL Bernard White 16 ALR

## Defence Long Service Medal

BDR Alexander Buzescu 16 ALR

BDR Christopher Maxwell Reeves 1 Regt RAA

WO2 Maurice Richard Hall SoArty

WO2 Peter Hesketh 16 ALR

MAJ Peter Andrew Allan 1 Regt RAA

MAJ Scott Calvert 4 Regt RAA

## 2014 Australia Day Medallion

GNR Colin Salt 16 ALR

BDR Matthew William Lethlean 8/12 Regt RAA

## Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service

GNR Stuart James Selwood 8/12 Regt RAA

GNR Andrew Weyland 16 ALR

LCPL Nathan Michael Ramsay 8/12 Regt RAA

CPL Steven John Ryan 8/12 Regt RAA

BDR James Howarth 16 ALR

BDR William Matthews 16 ALR

## Gunners have the Troops Covered on Exercise

Corporal Mark Doran

FIRE support for Exercise Polygon Wood was provided by a combined 81mm mortar line consisting of reservist gunners from 4/3 RNSWR 23 Lt Bty and 2/17 RNSWR 7 Lt Bty.

Highlights for soldiers included the live-fire missions conducted at the Singleton Training Area, which also provided training for joint fires teams attached to combat teams, and the joint fires control centre attached to the Battlegroup Waratah Headquarters.

Sgt Tim Youngman, 4/3 RNSWR 23 Lt Bty, was responsible for the deployment of a section of two mortars during Exercise Polygon Wood. He said it was exciting to be part of the largest Army Reserve contribution to the regular Army's deployable capability since World War Two.

'It's also making our role as gunners more relevant by being part of Battlegroup Waratah,' Sgt Youngman said. 'The pace of Exercise Polygon Wood was steady as we followed up the infantry combat teams in readiness to provide them with offensive support.'

As an RAA light gunner with 23 Lt Bty, Gnr David McLaughlan is part of the unit based at Kogarah, NSW. Responsible for setting up, siting and firing mortars in support of ground operations, his role requires physical and mental toughness combined with quick thinking and accuracy to ensure the team is always at the right spot, at right time, and on target.

Gnr McLaughlan said the exercise had demonstrated the capability of 81mm mortars after the artillery unit's transition from 105mm Howitzers at the beginnings of 2013. 'We have shown how gunners can take an infantry weapon and make it their own,' Gnr McLaughlan said. 'It wasn't easy at first because we had a lot of old habits from using the guns, both good and bad, which are obsolete. We are adapting well and ensuring artillery has a place in the reserves using the mortar system.'

Army June 5, 2014

# Associations & Organisations

## Contact List

### RAA Regimental Fund

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### RAA Historical Company

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[See Membership Form in Cannonball]

*Cannonball* (Official Journal)

### Australian Army Artillery Museum

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*Battery Guide* (Newsletter)

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*Take Post* (Quarterly Newsletter)

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### 10 Medium Regiment Association Inc

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*The Big Gun* (Newsletter)

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### **A Field Battery Association Inc**

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### ***Germ Journal***

### **105 Battery**

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### ***Tiger Rag* (Newsletter)**

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### ***The Journal With No Name* (Newsletter)**

### **RAA Association (QLD) Inc**

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### ***Gunline* (Newsletter)**

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*Gunners Gossip* (Newsletter)  
To Be Advised

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*Shot Over* (Newsletter)

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*LOCREP* (Newsletter)

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*Eyes & Ears* (Newsletter)  
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*13 Bty Assoc Inc SITREP* (Newsletter)

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*Gunner Ear* (Newsletter)

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*'The Custodian'* (Newsletter)

Editor: Harry Lynas

### **Fort Scratchley Historical Society**

Website: [www.fortscratchley.org.au](http://www.fortscratchley.org.au)

### **RA Association**

Website: [www.forums.theraa.co.uk.php](http://www.forums.theraa.co.uk.php)

### **RAA Unit Websites**

RAA and other unit websites maybe accessed via the Australian Army website.

<http://www.defence.gov.au/army/RRAA>

<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/RRAA>

#### *Important Websites*

#### **'Australian Artillery Association'**

*Website:*

[www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)

*Email:*

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*Correct as at 1st September 2014*

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COL B.M. Armstrong	COL B.A. Wood	LTCOL M. Shaday
COL B.J. Bailey	LTCOL S.D. Aldenton	LTCOL C. Taggart
COL J.F. Bertram	LTCOL C.W. Andersen	LTCOL R.A. Vagg
COL J.P.C. Black	LTCOL B.J. Armour	LTCOL W.R.C. Vickers
COL R.V. Brown	LTCOL J.D. Ashton	LTCOL D.H.R. Wilton
COL A.R. Burke (see note)	LTCOL R.M. Baguley	LTCOL B.J. Winsor
COL D.L. Byrne	LTCOL N.K. Bolton	
	LTCOL J.E. Box (see note)	

MAJ A.J. Balsillie (see note)  
MAJ W.C. Barnard  
MAJ G.K. Bartels  
MAJ G.F. Berson  
MAJ P.E. Bertocchi  
MAJ D.T. Brennan  
MAJ P. Cimbajjevic  
MAJ C.T. Connolly  
MAJ S. Denner  
MAJ P.K. Dover  
MAJ M. Dutton  
MAJ M.J. Finnerty  
MAJ C.A. Flear  
MAJ A.O. Fleming  
MAJ W.J. Francis  
MAJ T.J. Gibbings  
MAJ W.H. Grimes  
MAJ J.M. Groves  
MAJ N. Hamer  
MAJ M.R. Hartas  
MAJ L.P. Hindmarsh  
MAJ S.A. Hompas  
MAJ D.A. Jenkins  
MAJ G. Johns  
MAJ D.E. Jones  
MAJ J. Kaplun  
MAJ J.B. Kelly  
MAJ J.A. King  
MAJ D. Klomp  
MAJ M.D. Laurence  
MAJ H. Lenard  
MAJ A.M. Ludlow  
MAJ R.S. McDonagh  
MAJ A.R. McDonell  
MAJ G.D. Metcalf  
MAJ M.W. Middleton  
MAJ G.K. Milic  
MAJ D.R. Morgan  
MAJ S.R. Nebauer  
MAJ D.T. O'Brien  
MAJ L.W.L. Partridge  
MAJ P.J. Prewett  
MAJ V.J. Ray  
MAJ S.G. Rohan-Jones  
MAJ W.A. Ritchie  
MAJ P.S. Richards  
MAJ K.F. Schoene  
MAJ L.J. Simmons  
MAJ A.H. Smith (see note)  
MAJ P.W. Spencer  
MAJ M.C. Squire

MAJ A.E.R. Straume  
MAJ M. Taggart  
MAJ W. Tapp  
MAJ M.L. Van Tilburg  
MAJ A.C. Turner  
MAJ T.W. Vercoe  
MAJ M. St C. Walton  
MAJ C.V. Wardrop  
MAJ P.R. Widelewski  
CAPT J.P. Casey  
CAPT J.M. Costello  
CAPT M.S. Hodda  
CAPT M.A. Pasteur (AAAvn)  
CAPT P.J. Smith  
CAPT P.J. Watkins  
CAPT P. Wertheimer  
LT J.F. Henry  
LT S.L. Shepherd  
WO1 D.G. Annett  
WO1 D.W. Bowman  
WO1 K.J. Browning (see note)  
WO1 L.A. Cooper  
WO1 B.A. Franklin  
WO1 G.A. Jebb  
WO1 M.I. Johnson  
WO1 M.A. Johnston  
WO1 T.L. Kennedy  
WO1 D.R. Lehr  
WO1 P.A. Matthysen  
WO1 B.J. Stafford  
WO1 R.J. Thompson  
WO1 M. Vandyke (see note)  
WO1 P.T. Washford  
WO1 C.F.J. Watego  
WO1 G.J. Webster  
WO2 D. Bannerman  
WO2 M. Broughton  
WO2 P. Carthew  
WO2 M.R. Dawson  
WO2 R.T.B. Hay  
WO2 J.J. Hennessy  
WO2 D.G. Ogden (see note)  
WO2 A. Pavlovich  
WO2 R.N. Skelton  
SSGT R.W. Morrell  
SSGT E.J. Paddon  
SGT J. Nield  
SGT G.V. Saint  
SGT D.H. Wood  
Mr E. Harkin

Mr C.J. Jobson

**Note:**

COL M.C. Crawford, COL E.D. Hirst, MAJ A.J. Balsillie and MAJ A.H. Smith have paid three life subscriptions.

LTGEN B.A. Power, MAJGEN T.R. Ford, MAJGEN J.P. Stevens, MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson, MAJGEN J. Whitelaw, BRIG G.W. Finney, BRIG R.K. Fullford, BRIG J.R. Salmon, COL A.R. Burke, COL A.D. Watt, LTCOL J.E. Box, LTCOL D.M. Murphy, LTCOL G.K. Phillips, MAJ J.B. Evans, WO1 K.J. Browning, WO1 M. Vandyke and WO2 D.G. Ogden have paid two life subscriptions.

**Associations**

RAA Association (Tas)  
RAA Association (Qld)  
RAA Association (North Qld)  
RAA Association (Vic)  
RAA Association (SA)  
RAA Association (NSW)  
RAA Association (NSW) - Newcastle Branch  
105th Field Battery Association  
107 (Field) Battery Association  
Fort Lytton Historical Assoc  
RAA Retired Officers of South East Queensland  
Australian Air Defence Artillery Association  
13th Battery Association

**Deceased Benefactors**

Sir Roden Cutler  
MAJGEN T.F. Cape  
MAJGEN G.D. Carter  
MAJGEN P. Falkland  
MAJGEN R. G. Fay  
MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson (see note)  
MAJGEN J. Whitelaw (see note)  
BRIG R.K. Fullford (see note)  
BRIG A.G. Hanson  
BRIG R.Q. Macarthur-Stranham  
BRIG I.J. Meibusch  
BRIG J.R. Salmon (see note)  
COL M.J. Kingsford  
LTCOL R.H.E. Harvey  
LTCOL P.L. Overstead  
LTCOL G.K. Phillips  
LTCOL G.W. Tippets  
MAJ M. Dawson  
MAJ J.B. Evans (see note)  
MAJ A.A. Thwaites  
CAPT A.E. Sheridan

# RAA Gunners Fund – Needs Your Support

## Introduction

The RAA Gunners' Fund is designed to provide a source of funds that can be utilised for the benefit of all Gunners. One of the most important uses for these funds is to support requests from RAA units and organisations to assist in the ongoing preservation and promotion of the Regimental heritage. Other worthy goals that this funding supports, is not limited to, but includes:

- support RAA extra-Regimental activities,
- encourage RAA Officers and Soldiers who excel in their profession,
- support activities that benefit RAA personnel, not normally funded by public money,
- safeguard, maintain and purchase items of RAA Regimental property,
- preserve RAA heritage and history, and
- record RAA Operational service since deployments began in the 1990s.

The Regimental Committee cannot achieve these very worthy goals without the support of individual members and organisations within the Gunner community. All officers, warrant officers and sergeants are encouraged to make a financial contribution to the Gunners' Fund or take up the option of a *'Life Subscription'* which then absolves the subscriber from being asked for any further subscriptions. The list of life subscribers is published in the Liaison Letter and they automatically receive a complimentary copy.

## Recent Projects

Over the years the Gunners' Fund has supported a wide range of requests for financial support, including some of which are ongoing such as insurance and maintenance of the AIF and Mount Schank Trophies. It is worth noting that the sums of money requested from the Fund are generally significant and therefore can only realistically have any chance of being provided if each and everyone of us support the Fund. Projects supported by the Fund include the allocation of:

- \$2,500 to 8th/12th Medium Regiment to assist the Regiment to build a Regimental Memorial to coincide with the Regiment's 30th anniversary celebrations;
- \$500 to 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery to improve the Battery memorial and add a plaque to mark the 50th Anniversary of the unit and its name change from 131st Divisional Locating Battery;
- \$1,000 to 1st Field Regiment for its 50th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1,000 to 4th Field Regiment for its 40th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1,500 for shield to be held by winner of Mount Schanck trophy;
- \$1,000 to 1st Field Regiment to mark 50th anniversary of 105th Field Battery, 50th anniversary of commitment to Malaya and 40th anniversary of commitment to South Vietnam;
- \$1,000 to complete the Major General T. Cape Bequest to the Regimental officer's mess;
- \$5,000 to commission a painting to mark the withdrawal from service of Rapier;
- \$6,000 to support commissioning a painting to mark the RAA/RA deployment in Afghanistan;
- \$2,500 towards the Anti-Aircraft and Air Defence Memorial at 16th Air Defence Regiment;
- The on-going Royal Military College Graduation Artillery prize which is approximately \$100 per graduation; and
- Annual Regimental Officer, Warrant Officer and Sergeant farewells.

## Subscriptions

The recommended new rate of contribution is deemed as **\$260** for a life subscription and the following sliding scale based on rank for an annual subscription for Army Reserve and Retired Members:

- MAJ and above and WO1 – **\$26**,
- CAPT and below – **\$13**.

It is understood that some individuals may not be in a position to meet the suggested scale, therefore any contribution will be gratefully appreciated in helping to continue the good work the Fund has provided the Regiment over many years.





# RAA

## Gunners' Fund Subscription

Rank/Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ [BLOCK letters please]

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
(or Association)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

### Categories

- Fortnightly subscription by direct debit for serving members.  
■ MAJ and above: \$2.00 per pay ■ CAPT and below: \$1.00 per pay
- Annual subscription for Army Reserve and retired members.  
■ MAJ and above and WO1: \$26.00 p/a ■ CAPT and below: \$13.00 p/a
- Fully paid life subscription (available to only Army Reserve and retired members).  
■ All ranks \$260.00

### Annual Gunners' Fund Prize Draw

Annual gunners fund prize draw for all paid up/current members as of 30 June each year (excludes life subscribers).

### Payment Method

- Enclosed is my/our subscription to the RAA Gunners' Fund
- A receipt is required
- Paying by **cheque**. Please return this form with a cheque made payable to 'RAA Regimental Fund' and addressed to: MAJ John Batayola, SO2 HOR, School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal VIC 3662.
- Paying via **electronic funds transfer** (eftpos). \*  
If using a bank or credit union the following is required:  
Credit Union: Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU)  
Account Name: RAA Regt Fund  
BSB: 642 170  
Account Number: 526805

\* The description or reference must include organisation (i.e. mess or association) or initials and surname and the word 'subscription'. It is requested that you email [john.batayola@defence.gov.au](mailto:john.batayola@defence.gov.au) and advise him of your contact details when making a direct payment.

■ For further information contact **Major John Batayola** on his mobile: **0400 854 323**



# Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Regimental Shop



## RAA Items

- Silk ties
- RAA berets and badges (officers and ORs)
- RAA socks
- RAA cuff links
- RAA caps

## General Items

- Stubbie holders
- Polo shirts
- Sports wear (basic)

## Field Equipment

- Knives and tool selection
- Alice pack frames
- Dive bags
- Hydration packs
- Jet biloers
- Goggles
- Gloves
- Torches
- Sleeping mats

### New Stock

Check out the latest deals on the SOARTY web page  
<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/ARTYSCH/comweb.asp?page=28046&Title=Regimental>

**For Information and Orders:**  
School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks

**Contact Details:**  
Email: [RAACorps.Shop@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAACorps.Shop@defence.gov.au)



RAA berets and badges  
(officers and ORs)  
RAA badge \$7.00/\$10.00  
RAA beret \$20.00

RAA caps \$13.00

RAA ties \$35.00

RAA cummerbund \$40.00

RAA scarf \$35.00

RAA cuff links \$20.00

RAA socks \$10.00

**Payment Methods:**  
1. In store - Cash only  
2. Online - Bank transfer  
**BSB No:** 803-205  
**Acct Name:** RAA Corps Shop  
**Acct No:** 20524995  
3. BPay - Not applicable

**Postage:**  
(by arrangement with postage fees to apply)

**Examples**  
(pre-paid standard, non express and Australia wide)  
Small pre-paid parcel (500g) - \$8.25  
Medium pre-paid parcel (3kg) - \$13.40  
Large pre-paid parcel (5kg) - \$16.70

RAA Polo shirts \$30.00  
RAA Jumpers \$50.00

**Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery**  
**Catalogue**

Contact Details:  
Email: [RAACorps.Shop@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAACorps.Shop@defence.gov.au)  
<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/ARTYSCH/comweb.asp?page=28046&Title=Regimental>

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2	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 3 June 1954#
3	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 18 October 1954+
4	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 24 November 1954+
5	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – February 1955+
6	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 31 May 1955+
7	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 30 September 1955#
8	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 20 January 1956+
9	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 18 June 1956+
10	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 26 November 1956#
12	Director Royal Australia Artillery Liaison Letter – 24 February 1957+
13	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 26 November 1957#
14	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 30 April 1958#
15	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 28 November 1958+
16	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 17 June 1959+
17	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – January 1960#
18	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 29 July 1960#
19	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 17 February 1961#
20	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 6 November 1961+
21	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – July 1962#
22	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – October 1962#
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50	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1988 – 23 June 1988#
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## Australian Gunner Magazine

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1	Australian Gunner – Vol. 1 No. 1*
2	Australian Gunner – Vol. 1.No. 2*
3	Australian Gunner – Vol. 2 No.1 – September 1979*
4	Australian Gunner – March 1980*
5	Australian Gunner – December 1980*
6	Australian Gunner – May 81*
7	Australian Gunner – November 81*
8	Australian Gunner – The Official Journal of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery – March 1997*

## Miscellaneous Regimental Publications

	<i>Title</i>
1	DARTY Personnel Notes – December 1969#
2	Royal Australian Artillery Personnel Notes – 1978#

### Note:

\*Copy held by SO to HOR

# Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library

+ Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery

@ Not available to HOR at School of Artillery

# RAAHC

## NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company needs Your Help to Support the Preservation and Promotion of Artillery History and Heritage and the Management of the Regiments Collection Nationally



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