

The Royal Australian Artillery **LIAISON LETTER**

Winter 2019



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

First Published in 1948



RAA LIAISON LETTER

Winter Edition
2019

Incorporating the
Australian Gunner Magazine

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NEXT EDITION DEADLINE

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Liaison Letter on-line

The Liaison Letter is on the DRN and can be found on the Head of Regiment - Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RRAA) Share Point Page:

<http://drnet/Army/RRAA/PublicationsOrders/Pages/Publications.aspx> It is also available on the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) & Australian Artillery Association websites.

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

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Head of Regiment St Barbara's Day Message 2018

I extend my greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier AG Warner AM LVO, and the Colonels Commandant for your Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations on 4th December 2018.

As we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day, let us reflect on what we have achieved in 2018 and prepare for new challenges in 2019. This year has once again been extremely busy with the usual tempo of exercises and operations, and significant work in the capability and modernisation areas to progress Gunner projects and introduce new equipment. The raising of 9th Regiment RAA was a significant accomplishment, not only for our Reserve Gunners but also the wider Gunner community. It was also pleasing to see 1st Regiment RAA selected to lead and provide the core of Task Group Taji VIII in Iraq. In addition, 2018 saw significant events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Coral and the 100th anniversary of The Great War. It was fitting that we contributed to the Commonwealth Minute Gun activity by firing across four time zones at 1100 hours on 11th November to mark the time that the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

I congratulate all who will be taking up new appointments in January next year as Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors. It is also a day when many are promoted to the next rank and recognised for their loyal service. To you, I pass on my congratulations for your ongoing commitment to the Royal Regiment and the Army. This St Barbara's Day is also the day on which I will formally hand over the baton of Head of Regiment to Brigadier Richard Vagg and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of you all, to wish him well in his new appointment.

Finally, I congratulate and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and retired, for their continued service and wish all Gunners serving overseas good shooting and a safe return to their families.

Ubique,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'CD Furini'.

CD Furini AM, CSC
Brigadier
Head of Regiment

1st December 2018

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable, Joint

From Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB



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Master Gunner St James's Park

To All Ranks:

The Royal Australian Artillery
The Royal Canadian Artillery
The Royal New Zealand Artillery

26th Nov 2018

My fellow Gunners

GREETINGS ON ST BARBARA'S DAY 4 DEC 2018

Writing to you as Master Gunner St James's Park, I think that all would agree that 2018, with the 100th anniversary of the Armistice of 11 Nov 1918, has been a significant year. The service and sacrifice of our forebears has been jointly and more acutely remembered. The common hardships and travails endured by our Gunners and their herculean efforts in supporting their comrades-in-arms throughout the conflict, established our professional reputation and helped forge our regiments, geographically dispersed though we are, into one close knit 'family'. Their sacrifices should never be forgotten, despite the passing of this historical milestone.

However, on a less sombre note, linking us closer together and for longer, whether at war or in peace, has been St Barbara, Patron Saint to all Christian artilleries; friends or erstwhile foes alike. I would therefore like to convey my personal greetings and best wishes, along with those of All Ranks, serving and retired, of the Royal Regiment of Artillery; to our fellow Gunners of the Royal Artilleries of the Commonwealth, serving and retired, on St Barbara's Day, 4 December 2018.

I wish you all good luck and good shooting.

*With my best wishes,
Ubique!*

Andrew Gregory



From Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB



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Master Gunner St James's Park

To All Ranks:

The Royal Regiment of Artillery
The Royal Australian Artillery
The Royal Canadian Artillery
The Royal New Zealand Artillery

11 March 2019

To The Royal Artillery across the Commonwealth
COMMONWEALTH DAY 11th MARCH 2019

On Monday 11th March 2019, Her Majesty The Queen, our Captain General, will lead the celebrations of Commonwealth Day. She, along with other members of The Royal Family, the Commonwealth's leaders and diplomatic representatives will gather for a Service to be held in Westminster Abbey. As Her Master Gunner St James's Park, it is therefore proper that I extend my personal greetings to all members of Her Regiments of Artillery, serving and retired, on Commonwealth Day, not least as this is an event that presents an opportunity to remind ourselves of our shared values and sense of service.

Our respective nations celebrate the event on different ways and to a lesser or greater extent. However, the common theme of Commonwealth Day is of a 'family' celebration. The Commonwealth itself has 53 member countries, approximately 2.4 billion citizens and, over the years, has provided a means to resolve difficulties, to share successes and opportunities and has enhanced peaceful co-existence in a turbulent world. It certainly deserves to be celebrated.

Our own Gunner 'family' – of active personnel, veterans and our families and loved ones who support us in our roles, sits within this higher Commonwealth structure. We too should be proud of the historic and current linkages we enjoy across our Regiments. We must continue to seize every opportunity to share experiences, train together and use our collective knowledge as a force for good; the whole is definitely greater than the sum of the individual parts. And we should be very proud of our role as Gunners within our Armed Forces.

So, whether on 11th March you will enjoy clear blue skies and sunshine, freezing cold and several feet of snow, or the rain and gales brought to the United Kingdom by Atlantic storms, I wish you all an enjoyable day and would ask you to remember the heritage we share and on which we must continue to build.

With best wishes,

Ubiqus Quo Fas Et Gloria Ducunt

Andrew Gregory



The Colonel Commandant
The Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery

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26 May 2019

2019CCLO#12

Brigadier Gerry Warner, AM LVO (RETD)
Representative Colonel Commandant
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
51A Stoneham Road
ATTADALE WA 6156
AUSTRALIA

Dear Colonel Commandant and all members, serving and retired, The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery,

Your Kiwi gunner friends send greetings and best wishes for Gunners' Day, 26 May 2019. May it be a restful opportunity to reflect on our shared history and common understanding as a family. We have much in common.

Ubique

Matthew (Matt) Beattie
Colonel
Colonel Commandant, RNZA

Editors Comment

Hello and welcome to the Liaison Letter 2019 – Winter Edition. I apologise for the delay in distributing the last edition but please do not shoot the messenger the delay was beyond my control. We are back on track – enough said.

This edition has been well supported by all the Regiments which I am sure you will agree after reading their respective contributions. The significant Regimental talking points will be discussed in the Representative Colonel Commandant and Head of Head sections.

I would draw your attention to a few key matters. Firstly I must apologise to all Battle of Coral veterans for my unwitting error in the last edition. I reproduced as part of the report on the 50th anniversary commemorations a copy of the ‘Synopsis’ that accompanied the Unit Citation for Gallantry signed by the Governor General and provided to the Head of Regiment in May last year.

Unfortunately shortly after the 50th Anniversary week-end during which the award was announced by the Minister for Veteran Affairs, I was made aware that the accuracy of the wording in the ‘Synopsis’ from a Gunner perspective was vehemently in dispute and that a submission with factual evidence correcting the citation words had been made had been made to Army Headquarters. Unfortunately I was guilty of a ‘senior’ moment and did not put the two together, the result being I published the original disputed words.

I am very happy to report that the ‘revised’ citation words were published in the Commonwealth Government Gazette in March this year and I have included them after this Letters to the Editor section.

PLEASE NOTE THE UCG SYNOPSIS PUBLISHED IN THE LIAISON LETTER WINTER 2018 EDITION ON PAGE 61 WAS INCORRECT AND HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE VERSION IN THIS EDITION.

Personally I am a little perplexed by the approach adopted by the Honours and Awards Tribunal staff responsible for researching and drafting the initial citation words. It would

appear to me as an outsider to the process that these individual(s) did not wish to engage with actual veterans for fear they may dispute their academic interpretation of events – which is exactly what has occurred.

In my view the stress and angst created for the Gunner veterans by the poorly researched facts outlined in the initial citation words could have been easily averted by simply consulting the leaders within the Veteran community. The underlying problem was the apparent absence of any consultation with the veterans of FSPB Coral which at the very least is disrespectful of the veterans and displayed a total lack of empathy or understanding of what these individuals went through because it did not necessarily meet the views of academic military historians.

I must apologise to all Battle of Coral veterans for my unwitting error in the last edition. I

The disappointing aspect of this whole saga is that even for the rewrite the veterans were not consulted, even those who had provided formal submissions correcting the facts. (I would have thought that these veterans would have at least been shown a copy of the rewrite to ‘fact check’ before it was forwarded to Government House – but unfortunately ‘No’ they did ‘Not’ and ‘Yes’ there are still disputed content in the gazetted citation although most of the errors have now been addressed.

Personally it is bewildering that in the current environment where we seem focused on changing staff duties for the sake of it (or perhaps to make it easier for those who have grown up writing in abbreviations and emojis) that we seem to have lost the art of conducting basic spelling checks, especially in important and enduring historical documents. In this case on the original UCG citation there were two spelling mistakes – the date and the name of the operation. Sadly even in the revised UCG citation Operation TOAN THANG is still incorrectly spelt - specifically THOAN – there is no ‘H’.

I never cease to be amazed how quickly the modern Gunners are losing an appreciation of the unique intrinsic qualities that being a Gunner brings with it and how that it should be guarded

and promoted at all costs. For generations we have proudly referred to ourselves as ‘The Regiment’ however in recent times I have heard Senior Gunners, who should know better, and many others refer to ‘The Regiment’ as ‘The Corps’. Further I was disappointed last year when a young Major whom I have the greatest respect for, mentioned to me that in his view we should not refer to ourselves as ‘The Regiment’ as his experience was when speaking in non-Artillery forums unfortunately the audience did not understand what it meant. My immediate thought was what is being taught in the Customs and Traditions presentations at RMC, 1 RTB and even ADFA.

... a young Major whom I have the greatest respect for mentioned to me that in his view we should not refer to ourselves as ‘The Regiment’ ...

Everywhere I look there appears to me at least, a ‘dumbing’ down of our differences across Army rather than embracing and celebrating them as a point of difference. There are more and more examples coming to light which highlight that for convenience our unique traditions and even operational aspects are being approached in an infantry way as though there is no other way.

We must be proud of our unique ‘Gunner’ differences, not embarrassed by them and most importantly defend them. Many of our customs and traditions are steeped in the traditions of the Royal Artillery which only a couple of years ago marked its 300th anniversary. There have been many modern eras over the last 300 years and The Regiment and its unique customs have not only prevailed and but expanded.

Finally an apology for my own grammatical and spelling errors which always seem to sneak into each edition. There is nothing more frustrating for me then to receive the latest edition of the LL, open it and to immediately see an error that I should have not let slip through. In the last edition there were a number of errors, mostly minor however I was very annoyed to see I had made a couple of grammatical oversights in my article – Battle of Coral 50th Anniversary – Another View. My only comment is that at times it is hard to check and edit your own work.

The ongoing challenge of locating, preserving, and displaying for long lost trophies and cups is slowly reaping results. The Gordon-Bennett Trophy has been located and will now be restored and displayed along with its history and list of winners at the School of Artillery for all members of the Regiment to appreciate. The Pagan Cup remains elusive and the Heath Trophy has been added to the list of awards, cups and trophies, shields etc missing, presumed gathering dust in a battery or regimental headquarters. If you know here any are please contact me.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to support the Liaison Letter. I look forward to receiving your continued support.



DT (Terry) Brennan
Major
Editor

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CAN YOU HELP

Good news - The Gordon-Bennett Trophy has been located – albeit damaged and is now at the School of Artillery and listed on Regimental property.

The Pagan Cup remains elusive – Any information regarding its whereabouts would be most appreciated. Originally the Cup was linked to AD units in 2 MD. When last competed for (due to the demise of AD in 2 MD) the rules had been amended and linked to the Gordon – Bennett Trophy (the G-B was amended to battery gunline performance) and the Pagan Cup (rules were amended for the OP). The last record of it being awarded was to 1 Battery, 23 Field Regiment in 1974-75.

Heath Trophy – This was for ‘attendance’ which today can be interpreted as recruiting / retention. HOR staff have no idea where it is currently located.

If any reader knows the whereabouts of these trophies be part of reinvigorating our heritage and let HOR staff know who is in possession of the two awards. HOR appreciates any assistance in locating the awards.

Contact Major Gary Down or Major DT (Terry) Brennan.

Letters to the Editor

Coral / Balmoral Unit Citation for Gallantry

First let me congratulate you and your “helpers” on another outstanding production of the RAA LL and *Cannonball*. I am aware of the trials and tribulations that caused the publication to be delayed in delivery. I do however take issue with Page 61 which contains a completely false description of the attack on 102 Field Battery RAA and the 1 RAR Mortar Line. The heading of the offending piece is “Unit Citation Gallantry – 1st Brigade (-)”.

I understand that the information printed on page 61 came with the actual citation which is a great disappointment as it was the document that (as you have rightly pointed out in your article-“Another View”) I objected to in my submissions to Army HQ. Below is the email I sent as a follow up to my initial submission (29 May 2018) to Colonel Griffith Thomas, Director Personnel Policy Army:

“I have not heard anything back from you about the authors of the Coral Balmoral UCG. Nor have I had a reply to the phone calls and email (29 May) I sent to the MA to CofA LT COL Martin. My next step is to write to the C of A before he moves on in July. I feel strongly about the poor record contained in the UCG and would like to assist the authors to correct it. In our phone conversation you mentioned the need for proof that the UCG content about the 13 May 68 was incorrect. Please see the attached paper.

I would rather talk to the authors and rectify the situation than raise the issue to General Campbell or, as you indicated that he had signed it, the GG.

The authors of the UCG citation for Coral Balmoral have shown scant regard for historical accuracy as far as the first attack on Coral on 13 May 1968 is concerned. Some elements have been fabricated – for example the threatened rather than actual capture of gun(s); counterattacks by soldiers on their own initiative; participation of the 1 RAR Anti Tank Platoon, 131 Div Loc Battery and HQ Battery members in such attacks.

Others have been misinterpreted; the lack of knowledge on the layout of Coral on 12 May 1968; the lack of recognition that the Gunners have been given in protecting their guns through close combat and providing the critical action that saved the mortar line survivors while at continuing to provide fire support to the infantry companies deployed outside Coral.

The citation does not mention by name 161 Field Battery RNZA even though it names just about all other sub units. The authors did not seem to recognise that at Coral 12 Field Regt consisted of an Australia Battery, a NZ Battery and a US Medium Battery. It seems ANZAC no longer resonates.

The UCG is, and will be a historical reference document and therefore needs to provide correct information. It should NOT include major inaccuracies of fact and it should NOT invent events.

My suggested text for the citation was:

On the morning of 13 May, the enemy launched a rocket propelled grenade and heavy, accurate mortar fire, followed by a simultaneous ground assault against the position occupied by 1 RAR mortar line, 102 Field Battery, Detachment 131 Division Locating Battery and elements of HQ Battery 12th Field Regiment. The North Vietnamese Army quickly overran the 1 RAR mortar line and Foxtrot gun of 102 Field Battery. The Gunners and the mortar men held their ground assisted by fire support from 161 Field Battery RNZA, 3 RAR mortars, Cobra helicopter gunships and “Spooky” C47 gunship. 102 Field Battery fired 105 mm guns over open sights at the assaulting enemy and then fired Splintex over the mortar line in response to a request by the Mortar Line Officer. As dawn broke fighting patrols from 102 Field Battery mounted counter-attacks to clear the enemy from the mortars and retook the captured gun. Although still under fire the detachments of three guns began to provide fire support to the deployed 1 RAR Companies. Clearing patrols from 102 Field Battery and 1 RAR Anti-Tank platoon secured the battlefield and re-established the perimeter as the enemy withdrew.”

I followed up with Colonel Thomas after the RAA LL was published. As a result he sent me Government Notices Gazette C2019G00275

21/03/2019 which corrected the information about the first attack on Coral. Thankfully the information about the first attack has been corrected although there are still errors in other parts of the gazette information.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance to clarify this matter in the next RAA LL by retracting the published version of the citation notes and publishing the version gazetted. I am disappointed that the authors of the original version and the amended gazette version remain anonymous; it would have been less convoluted to discuss the issue with them.

Yours sincerely Ian Ahearn

Colonel (Retd) - GPO 102 Bty at FSPB Coral

Editor:

All I can say is my humble apologies for my error in printing the incorrect UCG synopsis. What is personally annoying is I was aware that the content was in dispute but did not join the dots when compiling the Coral / Balmoral section of the last edition and unfortunately included the erroneous synopsis.

I have included the revised Battle of Coral / Balmoral UCG citation and synopsis published in the Australian Government Gazette on the 12th March 2019 after the Letters to the Editor.

The Great War - Correct End Date

In articles within the *Liaison Letter* (and *Cannonball*) continual reference is made to the end of The Great War being the 11th November 1918; the armistice of 11th November was just that, an armistice, a truce. The War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 26th June 1919. A good number of memorials dedicated to the War, both here in Australia and across the world, list the dates as '1914-1919'. In addition, the reverse of the War's Victory Medal lists the dates as 1914-1919, and no, this does not include the North Russia Relief Force (which no Australia troops took part in).

A number of articles also refer to warrant officers as 'senior NCOs'. Warrant officers are not senior NCOs, they are just as the title states, officers that hold a warrant. A good number of relevant publications (including dictionaries such as the *Oxford English Dictionary*) state that a warrant officer is "The rank between commissioned and non-commissioned officer."

Christopher Jobson

Editor:

Thank you for reading the Liaison Letter and for writing and sharing your views.

Regimental Facebook Page

As a retired Infantry officer, I enjoy browsing the various Corps sites on Facebook. Of late I have noticed that the RAA site has not been updated for some time. Surely there is some titbit of information that can be posted or is someone on Long Service Leave?

Peter Hatherley Major (Retd)

DEFENCE

Artillery build cops flak

The Australian Wednesday May 15th 2019

Ben Packham

Labor has moved to neutralise a Coalition pledge to build 30 new self-propelled artillery pieces in Geelong for more than \$1 billion, declaring a Shorten government would look at matching the pledge as strategic experts warned the capability might not be a top priority for Defence.

Scott Morrison told the Geelong Advertiser a re-elected Coalition government would revive a dumped plan to acquire the 155 mm self-propelled artillery pieces, creating 350 jobs in Victoria's second city where Liberals are trying to save Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson.

Labor defence spokesman Richard Marles, who holds the neighbouring electorate of Corio, yesterday backed the commitment but said Labor would consult Defence chiefs to ensure the tank like artillery pieces were needed.

Australian Strategic Policy Institute defence director Michael Shoebridge said there had been huge technological advances since the self-propelled howitzer project was dumped by the Gillard government in 2012, and other capabilities might provide better value-for-money. He said an incoming government should instead conduct a structural review of planned capabilities and the range of alternatives available "rather than resurrecting a project cancelled seven years ago".

The Gillard government in 2012 cancelled the howitzer project, which had been awarded defence contractor Raytheon and South Korean company Samsung.



Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia
and Commander-in-Chief
of the Defence Force

BE IT KNOWN that with the authority of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second,
Queen of Australia, I have awarded the

UNIT CITATION for GALLANTRY

to

**1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE (FORWARD) which includes
Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force (Forward)
1st and 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment
A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment
C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment
12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers
Detachments in direct support of and located with
1st Australian Task Force (Forward)**

in recognition of acts of extraordinary gallantry in action

CITATION

*For extraordinary gallantry in action in the Binh Duong/Bien Hoa Provinces of South Vietnam
from 12 May 1968 to 6 June 1968, during Operation THOAN THANG.*

*GIVEN at Government House, Canberra
this fifteenth day of May 2018.*

By His Excellency's Command

Official Secretary to the Governor-General



**Commonwealth
of Australia**

Gazette

Published by the Commonwealth of Australia

GOVERNMENT NOTICES



**Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
21 March 2019**

UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

The Governor-General announces the following amended Unit Citation for Gallantry, awarded for action in Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral.

1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE (FORWARD)
Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force (Forward)
1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment
3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment
A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment
C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment
12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers
Detachments in direct support of and located with 1st Australian Task Force (Forward)

For extraordinary gallantry in action in the Binh Duong/Bien Hoa Provinces of South Vietnam
from 12 May 1968 to 6 June 1968, during Operation THOAN THANG.

By His Excellency's Command

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Singer'.

Paul Singer LVO OAM
Acting Official Secretary to the Governor-General

UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

BATTLES OF FIRE SUPPORT BASES CORAL AND BALMORAL

SYNOPSIS

On 12 May 1968, the 1st Australian Task Force (Forward) (1 ATF (Fwd)) deployed into Area of Operations (AO) SURFERS on the border of the Binh Duong/Bien Hoa Provinces of South Vietnam. Their task was to establish two Fire Support Patrol Bases (FSPB) from which to mount patrols to interdict enemy infiltration and supply routes between War Zone D and Saigon. Intelligence had informed the Task Force that at least five enemy regiments were known to be operating in vicinity of AO SURFERS and preparing to mount attacks against Saigon and the United States military base at Bien Hoa. It was believed that the forces the Australians would operate against were disorganised and withdrawing from Saigon after protracted combat in the Saigon area.

FSPB Coral was occupied late on 12 May by the headquarters and guns from the 12th Field Regiment, mortars and anti-tank crews from the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR), and personnel deployed to set up the Task Force headquarters. Unknown to the commanders, the area chosen for the insertion was the forward staging area of two regiments from the 7th Division of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) which was preparing to advance on Saigon. The Australians had only enough time to prepare basic fighting positions when the PAVN forces launched human wave attacks against the hastily-prepared defences.

On the morning of 13 May, the enemy launched rocket propelled grenade and heavy, accurate mortar fire, followed by a ground assault against the position occupied by 1 RAR mortar line, 102 Field Battery, Detachment 1312 Division Locating Battery and elements of HQ Battery 12th Field Regiment. The North Vietnamese Army quickly overran the 1 RAR mortar line and Foxtrot gun of 102 Field Battery. The gunners and the mortar men held their ground assisted by fire support from 161 Field Battery Royal New Zealand Artillery, 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) mortars, Cobra helicopter gunships and "Spooky" C47 gunship. 102 Field Battery fired 105mm guns over open sights at the assaulting enemy and then fired Splintex over the mortar line in response to a request by the Mortar Line Officer. As dawn broke, fighting patrols from 102 Field Battery mounted counter-attacks to clear the enemy from the mortars and retook the captured gun. Although still under fire, the detachment of three guns began to provide fire support to the deployed 1 RAR Companies. Clearing patrols from 102 Field Battery and 1 RAR Anti-Tank platoon secured the battlefield and re-established the perimeter as the enemy withdrew.

The next day the defences were strengthened by troops from 1 RAR and Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) of A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment. The arrival of the United States' M109 self-propelled artillery from Battery A of the 2nd/25th Artillery Regiment and the M42A1 'Duster' tracked anti-aircraft vehicles from 5th/2nd Air Defence Battery, gave the defenders much needed additional firepower. Engineers from the 1st Field Squadron worked around the clock to harden the defensive position and help establish a Task Force Maintenance Area to provide continuous logistical support to the deployed Task Force.

Over the next two weeks further attacks were mounted against the FSPB, but the arrival of Centurion tanks from C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment and direct support from helicopters from 9 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force and 161 Reconnaissance Flight, added to the defenders' ability to repulse repeated regimental size assaults.

FSPB Coogee had been initially established by 3 RAR, with APC's from A Squadron, however the greater threat identified in the north of AO SURFERS saw them redeployed to occupy FSPB Balmoral on 24 May. Two days later FSPB Balmoral was attacked by a suspected regimental sized enemy force. This attack was defeated by the combined firepower of the tanks and infantry fighting from well prepared positions. A further attack mounted on 28 May was also defeated by supporting fire from the tanks, infantry and accurate mortar fire.

For two more weeks the Australian forces, supported by United States and New Zealand artillery, continuously mounted fighting patrols against the enemy entrenched in bunker systems within AO SURFERS. Operating out of FSPBs Coral and Balmoral, the Australians aggressively sought out and defeated well prepared, highly motivated and well supplied enemy forces in fierce, close-quarter fighting. The aggression shown by the Australian forces and the combat support troops deployed forward working long hours over a long period and under arduous conditions, supported by United States' and New Zealand air assets and artillery, significantly contributed to the failure of the North Vietnamese forces to mount coordinated attacks against Saigon and Bien Hoa.

With limited experience at fighting high intensity combined armour/infantry engagements, the Australians demonstrated extraordinary gallantry in the defence of FSPBs Coral and Balmoral. The exceptional leadership and soldiering skills of all members of 1 ATF (Fwd) and their sustained outstanding performance in the face of overwhelming odds during the largest and most hazardous battle of the Vietnam War were in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Forces.

UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

GAZETTE - GOVERNMENT NOTICES C2019G0075 DATED 21ST MARCH 2019

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA



Regimental

OPEN LETTER DISTRIBUTED IN NOVEMBER 2018 TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT PRIOR TO BRIGADIER (NOW MAJOR GENERAL) CRAIG FURINI HANDING OVER HIS APPOINTMENT AS HEAD OF REGIMENT TO BRIGADIER RICHARD VAGG.



Australian Army
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

Dear fellow Gunners,

Regrettably and reluctantly I will be relinquishing my role as Head of Regiment (HOR) of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) on 4th December 2018. I therefore wanted to take the opportunity to write to you all one last time to make you aware of a few matters within the RAA that are currently being addressed and which my successor, Brigadier Richard Vagg, will continue to advance when he takes over the role in early December.

I would like to begin by expressing what a remarkable privilege it has been to have been able to serve you all as HOR and re-invest in the RAA - a Regiment that has given me so much in terms of opportunity, professional fulfilment and camaraderie. As some of you will be aware, my intent from the very start of my tenure has been to do whatever I can to invest more in supporting junior members of the Royal Regiment and expanding the opportunities available to them. At the same time, I have been cognisant of my responsibility to foster our Regimental identity, history and heritage, and ensure that the Regimental spirit remains vibrant and recognised as critical to Army. As such, there has been significant effort through the 100th Anniversary of WW1, 50th anniversaries of key Vietnam battles and the creation of awards, commendations and events to further strengthen the bridge connecting our past, our present and our future. Citizen soldiers and modern day Reserve Gunners and have been, and will continue to be, a fundamental part of this journey. As such, I was honoured to have been able to have played a small part in the raising of 9 Regiment and returning our Reserve Gunners to 'the Regimental Gun Position' – welcome home. I believe that we have made significant progress but there is still plenty to do. I am sure that my successor will take up the baton with new enthusiasm and continue this vital work.

In undertaking this endeavour the Royal Regiment is well supported by its national, state, regimental and battery associations who all do remarkable voluntary work across the country in sponsoring our identity and sense of community. The volunteers of the Regimental History Committee also provided excellent support to the Regimental Committee. Their expert research enabled the naming of 9 Regiment, the Ewen and Mattner Awards and the Urquhart Trophy, and ensured that our history has been correctly captured. I would also like to thank the RAA Historical Company (RAAHC) for its support to the Regimental Committee and its extraordinary work to publicly promote the significance of our history and heritage. In particular, over the Centenary of ANZAC, they have been highly active with the ANZAC Centennial Gun restoration project and its participation in over 35 events around the nation, and the conduct of the widely acclaimed Firepower Seminar Series that highlighted the critical importance of artillery in the Great War and captured the lessons for the future. As HOR I have appreciated the support and unique Gunner camaraderie of all these volunteers: their activities benefit both the Gunners of today and yesterday, and will benefit those that come after us. I encourage your membership and active participation.

Some of what we do, especially recognition of our excellent people, the displaying of our history and heritage, and some of the initiatives detailed below require funding. To that end I am encouraged by the increase in contributions to the Gunners' Fund. However we

cannot be complacent and I encourage you all to make a modest regular contribution. Every little bit helps.

Furthermore on relinquishing the appointment, although not the Regiment (*Once a Gunner; Always a Gunner*), I am buoyed by the fact that we are in great shape with excellent people who are well led by their Commanding Officers, Regimental Sergeant Majors and junior leaders, and who are leaning forward to embrace all the opportunities of an Army in motion in an increasingly complex world. They are well equipped and every day they strive to live-up to the Gunner mantra of *Accurate, Responsive, Dependable and Joint*. There are challenges ahead as we continue our modernisation journey towards integrated air and missile defence, long range fires and further embrace digitisation, but these are good challenges that the RAA is well placed to meet with the right people in the right positions across Defence to integrate all elements of capability. Furthermore, I am optimistic about the future because I, and other Gunner leaders, have not had to do much to initiate the conversation about fires and effects because the wider Army is now extolling the battle-winning virtues of fire support, air defence and the associated target acquisition and coordination capabilities: critical capabilities for an Army in a dynamic uncertain world.

So to the four matters of which I wish to make you aware. First is the structure of the Regimental Committee. To further build the solidarity of the Gunner community, the RAA State Associations will be invited to provide a non-voting and unfunded representative to participate in the Committee. This mitigates, to an extent, the lack of a Regular Artillery presence in many States. In addition, the Regimental Committee has recently agreed to a new approach for our Colonels Commandant (CC). All the current incumbents' tenures expire in December of this year and I have therefore used the opportunity to evolve our approach so that it becomes more applicable to the contemporary serving and retired communities. I have written to the Chief of Army (CA) seeking approval to the approach and also the appointment of the new CCs. I intend to use the Regimental Conference in February next year to mark the handover and as such CA has approved the extension of the current CCs until then.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the dedication of the current CCs and sincerely thank them for their loyal and invaluable service to the Royal Regiment over extended periods. They are:

- Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonel Commandant Western Region - Brigadier (Retired) AG Warner AM, LVO
- Colonel Commandant Southern Region – Brigadier (Retired) P Alkemade RFD
- Colonel Commandant Eastern Region – Colonel (Retired) IF Ahearn
- Colonel Commandant Tasmanian & Central Region – Colonel (Retired) SR Carey RFD

I would also like to thank Warrant Officer Class One David 'Paddy' McGarry who will be ending his three-year tenure as Regimental Master Gunner in December. You will not find a more genuine, energetic or dedicated Gunner who has done more to reach out, support and connect across all ranks and generations. I for one have totally relied upon his wise counsel – not just as the RMG but at other times including when he was an exceptional No. 10 and I was his brand new 'Seco' in 103rd Medium Battery.

Second, the 1st of August 2021 will mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of a permanent Australian artillery capability that has evolved into and continues today as the

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable and Joint



RAA. As most of you will know, one of the units from that era, 'A' Battery RAA, remains on Army's order of battle as its oldest continuously serving sub-unit. As such, this anniversary will be a significant milestone for the Nation, Army and the RAA and therefore it is the intent of the Regimental Committee to establish a Project sub-committee in January 2019 to develop options for a major commemoration. Central to the anniversary activities will be an 'event weekend' at an as yet to be identified location. Possible ideas for the weekend include: a salute, parade, inter-unit competitions (such as gun races and Rugby) and a National Gunner Dinner. In addition, other lower-profile events will likely occur across the year in various locations and a range of merchandise will be produced. In due course, the 150th Sub-Committee will be seeking ideas and perhaps volunteers to pull all aspects of the project together.

In 1970, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, approved the presentation of a Banner to the Royal Regiment in honour of its Centenary on 1 August 1971. The Banner was formally presented by His Excellency Sir Paul Hasluck, the Governor General at the time. The Banner is therefore over 45 years old and, considering its age, looks in reasonable condition. However, in July 2017 the Banner underwent repairs due to damage sustained. Unfortunately, it cannot be repaired again with the specialist repair company stating that the base fabric is showing its age and that the Banner's usable time is past and that plans should be put in place for a replacement. The Regimental Committee has agreed to this course of action and the necessary formal request will be staffed in the second half of 2019 for a replacement Queen's Banner to be annotated 1871–2021 with the plan being to incorporate its formal presentation to the RAA as the highlight of the 150th Anniversary 'event weekend'. In the interim the parading of the current Banner will be restricted to only the most significant Regimental occasions.

Third, the RAA National Memorial on Mount Pleasant should be a location that makes all Gunners, regardless of the era, feel welcome and connected to the Gunner identity. Gunners, irrespective of whether they have deployed on operations or served without deploying, have all contributed to our history, identity and future. To that end, the Regimental Committee has unanimously agreed that the Memorial's purpose is to recognise the service of all Gunners, regardless of whether they paid the ultimate sacrifice. We believe that this accords with the intent of Major General John Whitelaw, the original champion of the Memorial. Herein lies the issue; the most recent campaign memorialised is Vietnam which excludes the service of our most recent serving and retired Gunners in places such as Somalia, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and many other locations where Batteries, Troops, Detachments, Teams and individuals have brought distinction to themselves, the RAA and the Nation. Consequently, the Committee also agreed that the Memorial needs to be updated. To progress this initiative, a project team will be established to determine which campaigns to include, develop options to best achieve the intent, identify funding requirements and propose a timeline for the Regimental Committee to consider. Ideally any changes can be implemented for unveiling during the 150th celebrations in 2021. As you will all know the original Memorial was fittingly funded by donations from the Gunner fraternity and it is likely that such an approach will be required for this project. Any Gunners (serving or retired) who have areas of expertise in architectural design, building or fundraising, and who might be willing to assist with this project should contact the HOR Cell at Puckapunyal:

SO2 HOR MAJ Gary Down: Mob: 0407 140 036; Email gary.down@defence.gov.au

SO to HOR MAJ Terry Brennan: Mob: 0419 179 974; Email

terry.brennan@defence.gov.au

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable and Joint



Finally a few words about the Australian Army Armour and Artillery Heritage and Learning Centre (The Museum). The current progress of this project is very positive and whilst there are still a number of hurdles to negotiate, I have every confidence that the museum will be established as planned at Puckapunyal around 2021. As you will all appreciate, due to the history invested in the collections of both the RAA and RAAC, the project has a very high profile within the serving and ex-serving communities, as well as the general community and multiple levels of Government. Therefore I, and the HOC RAAC, have requested that we be fully involved in the infrastructure project to ensure our interests are fully represented during development and delivery. Noting that hurdles still exist, it is imperative that the RAA speaks with one voice. Consequently the Regimental Committee (through the HOR Cell) must be the conduit through which all RAA stakeholders engage with the project.

To help govern the process, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established between the RAA, RAAC and Australian Army History Unit (AAHU). Importantly, this MOU will ensure equal exhibit space within the museum for both the RAA and RAAC. Further, an AAHU chaired Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) will be established after the museum design has been finalised and planning for the exhibition space commences. To prepare for this, the Regimental Committee has approved the establishment of an RAA Museum Sub-Committee subordinate to the MAC. It will be chaired by the SO2 HOR with membership from across the retired and serving Gunner community. Its terms of reference are being developed but will, in essence, direct the sub-committee to provide recommendations on how best to tell our unique Gunners story, including advice on themes, the priority of equipment for display (noting we will not be able to display everything) and the balance of physical and multimedia/interactive displays.

In closing, I would reiterate some of my opening comments. As a Royal Regiment we are in great shape with excellent, well lead, highly motivated and professional people. The challenges we face are not only in the modernisation space, but also embrace vital matters relating to our heritage and traditions – some of which I have touched on in the above paragraphs. Do not underestimate the importance of these largely esoteric aspects to delivering our capability. They connect us to something bigger than self and the present: they inform and shape our very existence as Gunners.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as the HOR – **Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner.**



Craig Furini AM, CSC
Brigadier
Head of Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

29 November 2018

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable and Joint



Representative Colonel Commandant

Brigadier S (Don) Roach, AM

My Greetings to the Regimental Community,



As the newly appointed Representative Colonel Commandant it is with distinct pleasure and humility that I assume the position.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the gunner community to thank Brigadier Gerry

Warner for his outstanding service as RCC and it was a great pleasure to see him and the other Colonels Commandant rightfully acknowledged at the Officer Farewells Dining Out Night held during the Regimental Conference in February. I also want to thank Peter Alkemade, Steve Carey, and Ian Ahearn for their service as Colonel Commandant of their respective regions.

Attendance by the Premier of Queensland and a most appropriate statement in state parliament marked the breadth and recognition of his (Arthur Burke) service.

As you may already be aware, and based on some excellent work by the previous HOR, we have adopted a new Regiment based Colonels Commandant approach for 2019 and beyond. The appointments are an excellent mix of retired and serving officers with strong backgrounds and affiliations with the designated units. I welcome the Colonels Commandant and have high confidence for the establishment of strong mutually supporting relationships between the CCs and the members of the respective Regiments. For your information the appointments are as follows:

- 1 Regt – Brigadier Don Roach – (Retired, also Representative Colonel Commandant)
- 4 Regt – Lieutenant General Greg Bilton – (Serving)
- 8/12 Regt – Brigadier Graeme Finney – (Retired)
- 9 Regt – Brigadier Neil Sweeney – (Serving)
- 16 Regt – Colonel John McLean – (Serving)

- 20 Regt – Colonel (Hon) Phil Swinsburg – (Retired)
- School of Artillery – Colonel Steve Goltz – (Serving Reserve)

The Regimental Conference in Puckapunyal in February presented the opportunity to transition to this new structure and establish the important linkages and relationships. The conference also clearly illustrated the tempo at which the Regiment is operating and the significant opportunities and investment being realized. As a collective the Colonels Commandant look forward to working closely with HOR and the Regimental Commanding Officers and with other RAA stakeholders to record the past, capture the present and guide the future of the Regiment. NASAMS, UAS, Mortars, Ammunition, Simulation and the recent announcement of SPH are all issues I will leave for HOR but the future of the RAA is certainly bright!

There is a lot to be excited about in the years ahead and I would like to outline a few of the activities and events for the coming years.

There is a lot to be excited about in the years ahead ...

The RAA will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2021 and we will ensure a number of inclusive and high-profile commemorative events and activities acknowledge this very important milestone appropriately. A sub-committee of the Regimental Committee has been established to plan for and coordinate these significant events. Prime among them will be the presentation of a new Banner to the RAA to replace the current one which has provided excellent service since it was presented in 1971. I have been fortunate enough to recently twice observe the current banner on parade - on 2nd June in Woodside at 16 Regt's 50th birthday parade and on 6th June in Canberra at the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba. It has served us well but it is well acknowledged that it is time for a replacement. I have personally raised this issue with Chief of Army and have written to Buckingham Palace requesting that a representative from Buckingham Palace consider presenting the new Banner. Of course, we will conduct a ceremony to lay-up the current banner as well.

Unfortunately, recently we witnessed the passing of a number of gunners of note and I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge two members of particular significance.

A national Gunner Dinner, a re-dedication ceremony of the ‘refreshed’ RAA National Memorial at Mount Pleasant and the opening of the Australian Army Armour and Artillery Heritage and Learning Centre at Puckapunyal are all events we are working towards aligning with the anniversary. There is also scope for the inclusion of individual unit commemorations, events and activities including exercising respective Freedom of Entries, reunions and Open Days.

I would like to endorse the comments of the Reviewing Officer from the 16 Regt 50th Anniversary Parade and congratulate the Commanding Officer and All Ranks on an excellent parade and series of events to mark the milestone. The spirit is high and the future bright for 16 Regt. Also commemorating 50 years recently was the Battle of Binh Ba during the Vietnam War. I joined veterans from the battle including members of 105 Fd Bty, and the current Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major of 1 Regt in Canberra for the Parade and Last Post service at the Australian War Memorial. A well done to all.

I would also like to acknowledge the continuing great work of the RAA Historical Company and the support of the Australian Artillery Association and all other gunner forums nationally.

The RAA will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2021 and we will ensure a number of inclusive and high-profile commemorative events and activities acknowledge this very important milestone appropriately.

From the RAA as a whole we welcome all new members to the Regiment from their graduations from RTC Kapooka and RMC Duntroon and congratulate all prize winners and strong performers. We wish you all the greatest success for your RAA careers ahead. It is covered later in this Liaison Letter, but to those recipients of awards in the Australia Day and Queen’s Birthday Honours announcements I pass the Regiment’s thanks and congratulations on the recognition of your service.

Unfortunately, recently we have witnessed the passing of a number of gunners of note and I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge two of particular significance. The RAA and Queensland community came together in January to celebrate the life of Colonel (Hon) Arthur Burke. A very eloquent military eulogy

from Major General Paul Stevens was balanced so emotionally and modestly by Arthur’s daughter Lisa. Attendance by the Premier of Queensland and a most appropriate statement in state parliament marked the breadth and recognition of his service.

Colonel Lachie Thompson passed away in late May. Lachie was the Battery Commander of 105th Battery RAA in Vietnam 1969-70, a master Clarinettist musician with international reputation in Jazz, spoke fluent Thai and served Australia as the Military Attaché in Thailand. Vale.

On behalf of the Regiment, I would like to congratulate Greg Bilton on his promotion to Lieutenant General and appointment as Chief of Joint Operations, and thank him for his continued commitment to the RAA.

I look forward to continuing to serve and work with you as the Regiment embraces the strong and exciting future ahead. *Good shooting.*

Ubique

Profile

Simon Roach was born on 6 July 1963 in Adelaide, South Australia. He completed his secondary education at Melbourne High School in Victoria in 1981. Known as Don since before joining the Army he entered the Royal Military College in 1982 graduating in 1985 into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Immediately upon graduation he completed a year of postgraduate study attaining a Bachelor of Science with Honours. His first Regimental postings included 8/12 Medium Regiment and 16 Field Battery, 6/13 Field Regiment, Launceston.

Following experience as a Staff Officer Operations on Headquarters 6 Brigade in Enoggera he was posted in 1993 as a United Nations Military Observer with the UN Truce Supervision Organisation in the Middle East. Brigadier Roach was posted to 1 Field Regiment, Enoggera from 1994 to 1996 initially as Adjutant, and upon promotion to Major at the end of 1994 he completed his tenure as Battery Commander Headquarter Battery / Operations Officer, and Battery Commander 105 Field Battery. Brigadier Roach returned to the Regiment in 2002 as the Commanding Officer.

At the end of 1999 following a position in Australian Defence Headquarters as Staff Officer to Head Strategic Policy and Plans Brigadier Roach deployed to Headquarters INTERFET, Dili, East Timor. He served as Staff Officer Grade One Plans and on return to Australia in

February 2000 he retained the Plans position with Deployable Joint Force Headquarters.

Following Regimental Command Brigadier Roach was posted as the United Kingdom based Australian Army Senior Standardisation Representative to the ABCA Program. He was appointed Commander Land Command Artillery in January 2006 and served only briefly before returning to East Timor in May 2006 as the Deputy Task Force Commander during Operation ASTUTE. Having held the Director Expeditionary Operations at HQ Joint Operations Command between October 2006 and October 2007 Brigadier Roach deployed on Operation SLIPPER as Deputy Chief of Staff Security Sector Reform in Headquarters Regional Command South in Kandahar Afghanistan; an outstanding coalition operational staff appointment.

Brigadier Roach is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, and in addition to his Bachelor of Science (Honours) he has a Masters of Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales. He was appointed as a Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2004 for service as Staff Officer Joint Plans Deployable Joint Force Headquarters and Commanding Officer 1 Field Regiment. He assumed the position of Director General Army Operations, on return from the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, in July 2009.

Following his appointment as the Director General Army Operations, Brigadier Roach was appointed the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633 in Kabul, Afghanistan. On return to Australia, in March 2011 he was appointed Deputy Commander Headquarters 1 Division. He ended his full-time military career in March 2013. He was appointed Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonel Commandant 1 Regiment Royal Australian Artillery on 17 February 2019.

Brigadier Roach is currently the Area Fleet Manager for Volvo Group Australia in Queensland. He is a member of the Defence Reserves Support Council Queensland, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and previously was a Director of Mates4Mates, a charity for the support of wounded, injured or ill current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

Military claims psychic powers

TOM PARFITT, MOSCOW

THE TIMES

The Russian army has trained "combat psychics" capable of detecting ambushes and interrogating captives using telepathy, the Defence Ministry claims.

Special forces units perfected some of their parapsychological skills while fighting in Chechnya, according to *Armeysky Sbornik* (Army Digest), the official magazine of Russia's Defence Ministry. Their talents allow them to "defeat the enemy with non-contact methods", the magazine said.

Absurd-sounding powers reported appear similar to those in the 2009 film *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, starring George Clooney, which is based on the real-life attempts of American army officers in the 1970s to explore paranormal phenomena.

"He who has the power of 'meta-contact' can carry out non-verbal interrogation," the report said. "He sees right through the enemy soldier: what kind of person he is, what are his weak and strong sides, whether he can be recruited (as a spy). The veracity of the interrogation is practically 100 per cent. It's impossible to wriggle out of it."

Gaining a command of foreign languages, reducing the pain of a wounded comrade and locating enemy weapon caches were all possible, according to the article, which is titled "Super Soldier for the Wars of the Future".

Russian specialists had learnt telepathic methods by training with dolphins, it was claimed.

"By the force of thought, it is possible to knock out computer programs, burn crystals in generators, listen in on conversations and disrupt radio and telecommunications," the report said.

Yevgeny Aleksandrov, chairman of a committee for combating "false science" at the Russian Academy of Sciences, rejected the idea of paranormal powers. "Such research did indeed exist but it was made secret," he told the news agency RBK. "Now it's crawling out into the light again, but such investigations are recognised as false science, it's complete rubbish."

Reprinted in the Weekend Australia

WORLD Section April 6 7, 2019

Head of Regiment

Brigadier RA (Richard) Vagg, DSC

Dear fellow Gunners,



It's my great honour to introduce myself here for the first time in the Liaison Letter as the Head of Regiment. Having had the privilege of fulfilling command appointments in both Offensive Support and Air Defence units, I feel I am somewhat uniquely

positioned to represent the interests of the Regiment. On a personal note, it humbles me to be introducing a publication I've been an avid reader of for the last 23 years.

Rather than give you a lengthy update about how every unit of the RAA has fared over the past several months (you will glean that information from the pages that follow), I want to limit this introduction to a few key themes. But rest assured that, yes, the RAA is tracking well and, yes, we are in good hands.



Head of Regiment addressing the Regimental Conference in February 2019

Part of my responsibility in my regular role as Director General Systems and Integration involves looking after Army capability and modernisation. On that front, there is good news. The Royal Regiment today is unrecognizable from the Royal Regiment of ten years ago. The Hamel Gun, M198, Q-36 Radar, P-Star Radar and ScanEagle have made way for the M777A2, the Giraffe AMB radar, the LCMR, the Shadow UAS and the full networking and digitisation of the kill chain with AFATDS and DTCS. Binoculars have made way for Vector 21s and Sophies, whilst Copperhead has made way for the M982 Excalibur and M1156 Precision Guidance Kit.

It doesn't end there. NASAMS is coming shortly and there is an exciting artillery procurement plan that will be executed over the coming years. Facilities have also undergone major upgrades over the past decade, with corrugated iron gun bays consigned to history and grainy projected simulator images being replaced with photo-realistic and fully immersive DOME trainers.

Modernisation, however, is not a simple case of procuring more advanced equipment. We have required our gunners to modernise, and the sheer number of systems we require them to be conversant with, even at the most basic level, is significant. The commanders of the future RAA who achieve success will be those that can achieve the best balance between combat soldiering, maintenance of technical skills and incorporation of modernisation concepts – all whilst committing to exercises and enjoying the great benefits of Army life. It will not be a simple task for the Royal Regiment's future leaders; but certainly, one that is exceptionally exciting.



Head of Regiment announcing Bombardier LS Illes, 1st Regiment RAA, as JNCO of the Year for 2018, which includes a professional development trip to the UK and a visit the Royal Artillery.



Head of Regiment announcing Gunner JS McIntosh, 8th/12th Regiment RAA, as Gunner of the Year for 2018. This includes a professional development trip to the UK and a visit with the Royal Artillery.

And on that note, I'd like to conclude by congratulating all of the newly-appointed Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders, Regimental and Battery Sergeants Major, and of course all those who have recently been promoted. Whilst equipment modernisation efforts are important to our future capability, the calibre of our personnel is key. Your appointments are just recognition for the sacrifices and achievements you have made over many years, and it will be your great privilege to once again lead the men and women of the RAA. I look forward to reading about your endeavours and the lessons learned in future editions.

Ubique



Head of Regiment Coin

Profile

Brigadier Richard Vagg was born and educated in country Queensland. He is a graduate of the Royal Military College – Duntroon, Australian Command and Staff College, the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and Australian Institute of Company Directors. Brigadier Vagg holds a Masters of Arts – Management and Strategy from the University of New South Wales and a Masters of Business Administration from Deakin University. He is currently the Director General Systems and Integration, Army Headquarters.

Brigadier Vagg has enjoyed an exciting career with Regimental experience at 4th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and on exchange with a British AS-90 Artillery Regiment. He was also the inaugural Commanding Officer of 16th Air Land Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

His training experience includes appointments at the School of Artillery and Duntroon, while his staff experience includes appointments at the British Defence Intelligence Staff, the Defence Intelligence Organisation and Modernisation and Strategic Plans – Army. He was MA to Commander Forces Command and more recently

the Director of Military Art, Royal Military College – Duntroon.

Brigadier Vagg has operational experience in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. His most recent deployment was as the Commander of Task Group Taji, Rotation Four in Iraq. In the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his command of the Task Group. He has also been awarded a Commander Multi-National Brigade (Central) Commendation for his role in several operations along the Kosovo/Macedonian/Albanian border and a Commendation for Distinguished Service as the Commanding Officer of the Artillery Training Team – Kabul.

He was appointed Head of Regiment for the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery on 4th December 2018.

Brigadier Vagg is a keen spectator of most sports, a passionate Queensland Reds supporter, rows to relax, and enjoys watching his children's sporting events. Richard and Charlotte have one adult daughter and two school aged children. The family enjoys spending time improving their hobby farm.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ARTV05167

Regimental Master Gunner

Warrant Officer Class One D (David) Nutini

“Good infantry is without doubt the sinews of an army; but if it has to fight a long time against very superior artillery, it will become demoralized and will be destroyed”

Napoleon Bonaparte



To commence with I would like to say that it is an honour and privilege to be appointed the Regimental Master Gunner, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Additionally, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank WO1 David

‘Paddy’ McGarry for his loyal and dedicated service to the RAA, as the RMG over the last three years and wish him all the best in his new appointment.

I look forward to the challenges ahead as the RAA focuses on the Chief of Army’s Strategic Guidance 2019 – *Army in Motion* and the future operating environment.

The Artillery Trade and Training (Arty TT) Cell has had a significant rotation of personnel in 2019. The new team includes:

- SO2 Arty – MAJ M Sullivan
- SO3 Arty – CAPT J Marshall
- RMG – WO1 D Nutini
- TM OS – WO2 M Nipperess
- TD OS – WO2 C Crout
- TM UAS – WO2 J Skewes
- TD UAS – SGT N Ferrari
- TM AMDS – WO2 J Eastley
- TD AMDS – SGT J Hallam

Holistically, the cell continues providing advice to the Commandant CATC on RAA trade, training and policy matters and developing / amending a large portfolio of RAA Learning Management Packages (LMPs). Additionally, the

year ahead will see the Arty TT preparing for Employment Category Review Endorsement Meetings (ECREM) for ECN 250, ECN 254, ECN 255 and ECN 237 with an RAA CER for all units scheduled in 2020. Arty TT updates thus far:

Common Induction Training (CIT). LMP amendments have resulted in the CBRN being removed from the CIT and the Army Combative Program Level Two inserted into the course.

Offensive Support (OS). ECN 255 has been classified to an ‘at risk’ category ECN. Work continues with the remediation of the ECN 254 and ECN 255 trade model. ECN 162 now provides the SINGARS proficiency as part of the Gunner Grade One Course.

Air and Missile Defence Systems (AMDS). AMDS continues with the remediation of a number of SW&L and AMDS LMPs from Subj 4 BDR to Subj 4 WO courses. Engagement with the LSTAR stakeholder following removal of PSTAR from LMP. AMDS has also commenced the significant work package that will be the new ECN 237 trade ready to support the Land 19 7B capabilities.

Operator Unmanned Aerial Systems (OPUAS). As a result of successful recruiting initiatives ECN 250 has been removed from the critical category ECN. LMP remediation continues with Subj 4 WO and ADV UAS Course.

Finally, I would like congratulate the newly appointed Commanding Officers, Regimental Sergeant Majors, Master Gunners, Battery Commanders and Battery Sergeant Majors and wish them every success in their appointments. I would also like to congratulate the members of the Regiment who were recognised in the 2018 Australia Day Honours and Awards.

Good Soldiering

Profile

Warrant Officer Class One David Nutini was born and educated in Perth, Western Australia. He enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in 1987 and following Recruit Training was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

On completion of Initial Employment Training he was posted to ‘A’ Field Battery, 8th/12th Medium Regiment where he served as a Gun Number from the rank of Gunner to Sergeant.

In 1998, he was posted to the Parachute Training School, as a Parachute Jump Instructor. During

this time he was detached to Exercise Long Look with the Parachute Regiment Free Fall Display Team.

In January 2002 he was posted back to 'A' Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment as the Operator Command Post Sergeant and in 2004 he was promoted and appointed as the Battery Guide at 'A' Field Battery.

Warrant Officer Nutini was then posted back to the Parachute Training School in 2005 as the Warrant Officer Free Fall and Wing Sergeant Major, Training Wing. In 2009 he was posted to the 1st Regiment RAA as the Battery Sergeant Major, 105th Medium Battery and 'A' Battery. In 2012 he was posted to the 3rd Light Battery, 11th/28th Battalion, the Royal Western Australia Regiment, as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in January 2014 commencing his first appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Parachute Training School, Special Operations Command.

In April 2016 he was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major Task Group Afghanistan, and in January 2017 took up the appointment of the Regimental Sergeant Major 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. In January 2019 he was appointed as the Royal Australian Artillery Regimental Master Gunner.

In 2005 he was awarded the Land Command Silver Commendation for enhancing operational capability at 'A' Field Battery and in 2008 he was awarded the Commander Training Command Bronze Commendation, for enhancing the parachute capability within the ADF. As a member of MTF-1, he was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation in 2011. In 2018 he was awarded the Chief of Joint Operations Gold Commendation for his duties as the Regimental Sergeant Major, Task Group Afghanistan.

Warrant Officer Nutini is married to Rebecca and has three children. He is a keen motorcyclist and also enjoys sports parachuting, AFL, camping and fishing.

Proposed Australian Army Armour and Artillery Heritage and Learning Centre

Extract from the Australian Army History Unit website in June 2019

The Department of Defence has finalised an Initial Business Case that which identified and recommended a preferred option for the construction of a new Puckapunyal Combined Arms Heritage Learning Centre to preserve the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) and Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) and heritage and technical collections. The Initial Business Case has been considered and endorsed by the Defence Investment Committee and a submission for the approval of development funding has been forwarded to the Minister of Defence.

Once approval to spend development funding has been received from Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance, Department of Defence will develop a Detailed Business Case. This will be presented to Government requesting approval to commit capital funding for the construction of a Australian Army Armour and Artillery Heritage and Learning Centre.

Subject to Government and Parliamentary approval, construction is planned to commence in mid-2020 and be completed by late-2021. This may coincide with the RAA's 150th Corps Birthday.

The Australian Army Armour and Artillery Heritage and Learning Centre will co-locate the current Army Tank and Artillery heritage and technical collections and be the newest addition to the Army Museum Network, managed by the Australian Army History Unit.

The Australian Army Armour and Artillery Heritage and Learning Centre will tell the story of the men and women who have served with these two Corps. In addition to being a resource for professional military education, the project will deliver a more

publicly accessible and manageable facility at the Puckapunyal Military Area. This will improve access for veterans and their families, school groups and members of the public.

The RAAC and RAA collections include many artefacts of historic and technical significance, including:

- An 18-pounder gun used by RAA units during the First World War, which has recently been fully restored by the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company.
- An AS1 *Leopard* Tank sectionalised for use as an instructional model that displays the tanks internal layout and workings.
- One of only two surviving *Yeramba* Self-Propelled Gun – a uniquely Australian Armoured Fighting Vehicle, and the only armoured fighting vehicle operated by the RAA.
- A rare Australian Cruiser Tank Mk I *Sentinel* – one of only a handful of surviving examples of this uniquely Australian tank.

As with any museum, only a portion of the RAAC and RAA heritage collection will be exhibited at any one time with considerations as follows:

- The focus on telling the story of the Australian Army's development of armoured and artillery corps. Artefacts relevant to those their people and capabilities will be afforded priority for exhibition.
- That portion of the collections that are not on display will be held in storage and rotated through exhibition as opportunities exist and in accordance with accepted museum practice

Implementation and Timeline

The project will be managed by Estate & Infrastructure Group in accordance with extant processes under the Defence Estate Quality Management System, in close consultation with Army as the primary stakeholder and Project Sponsor.

Subject to Government and Parliamentary approval, construction is planned to commence in mid-2020 and be completed by late 2021.

The Head of Corps RAAC and Head of Regiment RAA (or their representatives) will be consulted in the design and development process.

The Head of Corps RAAC and Head of Regiment RAA will liaise with their relevant Corps associations as the project progresses.

Budget

Subject to Government approval, the Defence Integrated Investment Program has allocated a total capital budget of \$40m for this project.

Note

The possible relocation of the memorials currently located in or adjacent to the existing Tank Museum will be considered separately.

Colonels Commandant New Structure

Background

Regiments and Corps of the Australian Army are eligible to nominate serving or retired individuals for honorary appointments. For the RAA these appointments are titled Colonel Commandant (CC) and are appointed to provide critical support in fostering of Regimental esprit de corps, promoting the Gunner identity and the preservation of history and heritage. In 2016 CA authorised the removal of the requirement for an allocation of CC for individual Regiments and Corps and therefore Heads of Regiment / Corps now manage the number of CC appointments appropriately to ensure the Regiment / Corps is adequately represented.

The outgoing Representative Colonel Commandant (Brigadier Gerry Warner) and Head of Regiment (Major General Craig Furini) both agreed, that with all current CCs tenure ending in 2018, this presented an opportunity to reshape the RAA CC structure to ensure it suited the Royal Regiment moving forward into the future.

This resulted in a review which included wide consultation across the senior leadership of the serving and retired Gunner community and subsequently a proposal outlining a new structure to an out of session RC meeting in November 2018. This was supported and was again endorsed at the full RC meeting in February 2019.

Current Situation and Challenges

The RAA's approach to its CC has not changed in decades. In that time the RAA has seen the disbandment of the Director of Artillery, Commander Land Command Artillery, Commander 1st and 2nd Division Artillery, 7 Regt, 23 Regt, 2/10 Regt and 5/11 Regt. It has also seen the raising of 20 Regt and 9 Regt (with a footprint across 8 locations), the move of the School of Artillery to Puckapunyal and 8/12 Regt to Darwin. All of these changes have placed pressure on the existing CC network. Furthermore, with the changes in the Reserve artillery, it has become increasingly difficult to find senior Reserve Gunners to fill CC roles.

Expectations of CC

In addition to their formal CC tasks, the HOR and RAA COs expect the CC to be able to:

- Perform a strong mentoring role, outside the formal chain of command, to assist COs, BCs and RSMs.
- Perform an advocacy role for both serving and retired gunners with the community.
- Maintain close links with State Associations (and assist COs/BCs to maintain relationships with unit associations).
- Provide oversight of RAA heritage in respective regions and the linkages between RAA Associations and groups fostering common interests and views.
- Maintain formal or informal linkages between State-based groups and the Regimental committee.

Proposed future CC structure

Having considered a number of options, the RAA Regimental Committee has recommended adopting a unit-based approach to the RAA CC as follows:

- Seven CC with one dual-hatted as the RCC.
- Each CC will have residual responsibilities to State-based associations that are matched to their home location and their ability to travel.
- COs and BCs will formally assume responsibility for managing relationships with unit and by associations.
- COs will fund travel of their CC to unit events from within existing resources.
- HOR will fund travel for the RCC and CC to attend Regimental Conferences from within existing annual HOR TARP resources.

Eligibility

- **Army Requirement.** A CC is to be a COL (or above) serving or retired. However, any other person may be appointed in exceptional circumstances. Furthermore, in the event that a LTCOL is appointed in exceptional circumstances, CA has the delegated powers of the Governor General to appoint honorary rank IAW Ref D.
- **RAA Requirement.** Ideally each unit CC will be a former CO; but where such an officer is unavailable or unwilling, consideration will also be given to officers who have served extensively in the Regiment/Unit including Battery Command. In some circumstances an officer who has not served in the unit, but who has other qualities, will be selected.

New CC appointments

The new CC nominations listed below are all volunteers and are passionate and respected Gunners.

- 1 Regt - BRIG Don Roach AM (Retd) (also the RCC)
- 4 Regt - MAJGEN Greg Bilton AM, CSC
- 8/12 Regt - BRIG Graeme Finney OAM (Retd)
- 9 Regt - BRIG Neil Sweeney AM
- 16 Regt – COL John McLean CSC
- 20 Regt - LTCOL Philip Swinsburg (Retd) (see further comments at para 9)
- School of Artillery - COL Steve Goltz

20 Regt exceptional circumstances

Due to the young age (12 years) of 20 Regt RAA, there are currently no senior retired RAA officers with the necessary STA background. However, LTCOL Philip Swinsburg was not only the first CO of 20 Regt, and a driving force behind its establishment, but he remains a passionate and engaged retired officer who is a very willing volunteer. As such, he is proposed as the CC of 20 Regt and it is also requested that he is given honorary rank of COL for the tenure of his appointment.

Conclusion

The RAA Regimental Committee has unanimously endorsed this new approach for the RAA CC. The CA agreed to the proposal and the Regimental Conference in February 2019 marked the handover of all outgoing CCs to the new CCs under the new structure.

COLONEL COMMANDANT 4TH REGIMENT RAA

Lieutenant General Greg Bilton AM, CSC



Lieutenant General Greg Bilton, AM, CSC was born in Melbourne, Australia.

After completing his secondary education at Melbourne High School he entered the Royal Military College in 1983 and graduated to the Royal

Australian Artillery Regiment in 1986. He completed regimental appointments as a Lieutenant and Captain in the 1st and 4th Field Regiments, the 8th/12th Medium Regiment and the School of Artillery.

Lieutenant General Bilton has held command appointments as Battery Commander 104th Field Battery, Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment, Commander 7th Brigade, Deputy Commanding General United States Army Pacific and Deputy Chief of Joint Operations. He served in staff appointments in the Directorate of Officer Career Management, the Directorate of Force Structure (Army) and as Director General Development and Plans (Army). He has also been an instructor at the Australian Command and Staff College.

Lieutenant General Bilton deployed on Operation MAZURKA in 1993 on the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) Headquarters. In 2008 he deployed on Operation SLIPPER as Deputy Chief of Staff for Security Sector Reform on Headquarters Regional Command South, Afghanistan.

Lieutenant General Bilton is a graduate of the Long Gunnery Course at the UK School of Artillery, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, Weston Creek. He also holds a Bachelor degree in Military Studies and Master's degrees in Military Art and Science, and Strategic Studies. He is also a recipient of prestigious academic honours; the Major General Hans Schlup (US) award for excellence in International Relations and the Blamey Award (Australia) for Leadership.

Lieutenant General Bilton has been awarded the Force Commanders Commendation for his work on Operation MAZURKA in the Sinai, a Conspicuous Service Cross for his force structure

work at Army Headquarters, the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal for his work in Afghanistan, the United States Legion of Merit and the Japanese Defence Cooperation Medal for his work at United States Army Pacific. He was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in 2014 in recognition of his work as Director General Development and Plans at Army Headquarters and as Commander 7 Brigade.

Lieutenant General Bilton is married to Rachael, who is a registered nurse. His eldest son Alex is a Staff Cadet at the Royal Military College and his youngest son Nic is a second year Officer Cadet at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

COLONEL COMMANDANT 8TH / 12TH REGIMENT RAA

Brigadier (Retd) Graeme W Finney, OAM, FAIM, CAHRI

Brigadier Finney has enjoyed a 30 year leadership career, the last nine of which were in senior executive roles. He has predominantly served in strategy, operational and training assignments including as Deputy Commissioner Strategic Capability for Fire and Rescue NSW, Director General Operations for the Australian Army and as Director Future Operations for the NATO led International Security Assistance Force (Afghanistan). He has also served in a range of training appointments within Australia and the United States, including as Assistant Commissioner Education and Training (Fire and Rescue NSW), Commandant of recruit training at Kapooka (Wagga Wagga) and as an instructor with the US Army Command and General Staff College (Fort Leavenworth). Brigadier Finney is current pursuing a career change with StatePlus (specialising in NSW and Federal Public Service Superannuation Schemes) as a Financial Adviser.

He is a recipient of the 2002 Australian Human Resources Institute Award. He has previously been appointed to the Management Board of the Royal Darwin Hospital and he has held civilian appointments on the Wagga Wagga Business Advisory Board and the Wagga Wagga Chamber of Commerce.

Brigadier Finney was awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service in 2000 for his service in East Timor, has received two Australian Army Service commendations (1994 and 2002) and two United States Meritorious Service Medals (2008 and 2012). He was made a Paul Harris Fellow in

2010 and in that same year was nominated to be Wagga's Citizen of the Year. He was awarded the COMD Australian Defence College Award (2011) and in 2012 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (in the General Division) for his service to Wagga Wagga during his time as Commandant ARTC.

Deputy Commissioner Finney holds a Masters Degree in Defence Studies (2000), a Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management / Industrial Relations (2002) and a Masters Degree in Strategy (2011). He is currently undertaking further Graduate study (Masters) in Financial Services.

He is married to Tracey and has two daughters. He is heavily involved in a range of volunteer and not-for-profit enterprises and in his spare time, enjoys sailing, running and cycling.

COLONEL COMMANDANT 9TH REGIMENT RAA

Brigadier Neil T Sweeney, AM



Brigadier Neil Sweeney, AM was born in the Republic of Ireland and emigrated to Australia in 1989. He graduated from RMC Duntroon in June 1991 and was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Brigadier Sweeney has served in a wide range of artillery regimental appointments at 1st Field Regiment and 8th/12th Medium Regiment. He served as the Commanding Officer of 8th/12th Medium Regiment from 2009 to 2010. His training experience includes instructional and doctrine writing appointments at the School of Artillery, Puckapunyal and as an Exchange Instructor at the United States Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Brigadier Sweeney has served as; an SO1 at Deployable Joint Force Headquarters / Headquarters 1st Division, Military Assistant to Commander Forces Command in 2011, as G3 Forces Command from mid-2011 until late-2013 and as Director Future Military Commitments, Military Strategic Commitments Division in 2016.

Brigadier Sweeney deployed as a Battalion Mentor to Tal Afar and Al Kasik, Northern Iraq with the first Australian Army Training Team – Iraq in 2004. He commanded the Defence Supplementation Staff based in Beirut, Lebanon during OP RAMP, in July and August 2006. Brigadier Sweeney was initially deployed as the Commander of JTF 629 for Operation Padang Assist, Australia's response to a 7.6 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Sumatra in October 2009. He deployed as the Chief of Stability Operations at Headquarters Regional Command (South), Afghanistan from December 2013 until August 2014. Brigadier Sweeney served as Deputy Commander Joint Task Force 633 from July 2016 until April 2017. He was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours List for his role at Joint Task Force 633.

Brigadier Sweeney is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Professional Studies from Southern Cross University and a Master's Degree in Management and Defence Studies from the University of Canberra. Brigadier Sweeney completed a Master's Degree in Business Administration through Deakin University in February 2016.

Brigadier Sweeney is currently appointed as the Deputy Commander of the 2nd Division. He is married to Tonya, and they have three children, Jourdaine (29) Thomas (19) and Jack (16).

COLONEL COMMANDANT 16TH REGIMENT RAA

Colonel John B. McLean, CSC



Colonel John Mclean graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in December 1991 and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Artillery.

Colonel McLean has enjoyed a diverse career including appointments in the command, training, intelligence and acquisition domains.

In 2001/02 Colonel Mclean served as Battery Commander of the air defence battery that

deployed troops to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of the RAN contingent. In 2003 he attended the Singapore Command and Staff College, and following this served as the Senior Instructor of the Combat Officers Advanced Course 2004/05.

Upon promotion, Colonel Mclean served at the Defence Intelligence Organisation in a variety of challenging roles. In 2006 he deployed to Iraq as the Commanding Officer of the Australian Intelligence Support Contingent. In-theatre he acted as the Branch Chief of Insurgent Groups Branch within the multi-national headquarters intelligence division. In 2007 Colonel Mclean was the inaugural J2 (Intelligence) of the ADF Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force. In this role he was responsible for coordinating the efforts of a range of national agency staffs and developing links with international agencies.

Colonel McLean served as Commanding Officer of the 16th Air Defence Regiment 2009/11. This period of command required significant change leadership and adaptation, including taking the new Air-Land Regiment concept from inception to raising over a period of two years; and the rapid introduction into operational service of a new ADF capability – counter rocket artillery mortars.

Throughout 2014/17, as Director of Project Land 121 Phase Four (Hawkei PMV-L), Colonel Mclean led a high profile developmental Defence project under a demanding set of circumstances. This included achievement of Government Second Pass approval and establishment and ongoing management of a \$1.5Bn acquisition contract.

In 2018, Colonel Mclean assumed the role of Project Director Land 400 Phase Two (BOXER 8x8 CRV). This project will introduce into service a new combat reconnaissance capability, replacing the current ASLAV fleet.

Colonel McLean holds a Graduate Certificate in Management; Graduate Diploma in Asset Management; Master of Business Administration (Project Management); Master of Management (Leadership) and Executive Master of Business (Complex Project Management). He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Certified Practising Project Director. Colonel Mclean was awarded an ADF Silver Commendation in 1999 for regimental service and a Conspicuous Service Cross in 2013 for his efforts as Commanding Officer 16th Air Defence Regiment 2009/11.

Colonel McLean is married to Julie and they have two children, Debbie (26 yo) and John (13yo).

COLONEL COMMANDANT 20TH STA REGIMENT RAA

Colonel (Hon) Phil Swinsburg

Phil Swinsburg is a retired Australian Army Lieutenant Colonel, having previously served over 24 years in the active military and have three tours of Iraq and one of Afghanistan. Phil Swinsburg was instrumental in the first major Unmanned Aerial Systems Deployment with the Australian Army in 2006 and 2007 to Iraq and Afghanistan and was the lead for the system selection and deployments.

Phil Swinsburg was the first Commanding Officer of the Army's 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. Phil Swinsburg has also seen service with the United Nations, serving as the assistant Military Advisor to the United Nation in Iraq from 2008 to 2009 where he wrote the UN military engagement strategy for northern Iraq.

During his time with the United Nation Phil spent 12 months working with the Kurdish forces in Northern Iraq, and planned and conducted over 200 patrols, in an around the areas of Kirkuk, Mosul and wider Iraq. Phil Swinsburg has a Masters in Strategy, a Masters in Operational Planning and Degree in Disaster Management from UNE.

Upon retirement from the active military in 2010, Phil Swinsburg started his own company called Unmanned Systems Australia, where he specialises in Autonomous System Consulting and the provision of Drone services.

Unmanned Systems Australia has been involved in the delivery of a VTOL Unmanned System to the Royal Australian Navy, and for lease to the Australian Army. Phil Swinsburg has been involved in various projects including Defence Studies for the South Australian Government, evaluation of surveillance systems for the Counter IED task Force, and reviews of optimum basing and capability options for the RAAF future Medium and High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Systems.

In 2013/14, Unmanned Systems Australia worked with the Google X team as part of Project Wing and was the Chief Pilot for the first commercial parcel delivery by an unmanned

aircraft system in Queensland Australia. Unmanned System Australia continues to work in the drone delivery sector with Wing and has been operating a drone delivery service since May 2017. Recently operations expanded in the ACT, with operations being conducted into residential areas, the first operational deployment of drone delivery in the world. Since May 2017, Unmanned Systems Australia has conducted over 2500 commercial deliveries and over 8500 flights in Australia, both for ongoing testing and deliveries.

Phil Swinsburg continues to lead the flight operations team for Project Wing and has recently been appoint as Head Global Flight Operations for Wing, overseeing the expansion of the drone delivery capability in Australia, US and Europe.

COLONEL COMMANDANT SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

Colonel Steve Goltz



Mr Stephen Goltz enlisted in the Army in January 1976 and after recruit and initial employment training was posted to 4th Field Regiment. He graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in mid 1978 and served in 1st Field Regiment, Wacol, from mid 1978 to December 1981. Mr Goltz was posted to the Army Apprentices School, Bonegilla in 1984 as a Company Commander and then returned to 4th Field Regiment in January 1986 to December 1988. In 1989 Mr Goltz was promoted to Major and posted as Battery Commander Headquarters Battery/Operations Officer of 1st Field Regiment in Enoggera.

In 1991 after his posting to Brisbane, Mr Goltz was posted as a Senior Instructor/Company

Commander at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. In mid 1992 – mid 1994 he attended German Staff College in Hamburg. In mid 1994 he returned to Australia and moved to Canberra into Officer Career Management as the Career Adviser – Artillery until December 1995 when he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and served in Strategic Personnel Planning in Personnel Division. Mr Goltz attended the Joint Services Staff College in Canberra in the second half of 1997. Following this course, he was appointment Chief of Staff of the Combat Arms Training Centre for 1998. In December of 1999 he assumed his appointment as Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor of the School of Artillery in Puckapunyal.

In January 2001 Mr Goltz was posted as Joint Staff Officer (J5) Plans in Headquarters Northern Command, Darwin. He was promoted to full Colonel in January of 2003 and appointed Commander Land Command Artillery at Victoria Barracks, Sydney. He retired in January 2006 and moved to Brisbane

Mr Goltz was a Managing Director of Hall and Watts Australia from 2007 to 2013. Mr Goltz has been a Business Development Manager – Asia Pacific for Rockwell Collins Australia from 2013 until 2017 where he was a Global Joint Fires Expert in air and surface fires. He has also worked as live firing safety expert for QinetiQ Australia from Nov 2017 to Sep 2018. He is now a consultant to various companies in the Defence Sector in SE Asia.

Mr Goltz has a Masters in Defence Studies from University of New South Wales, Bachelor of Professional Studies – Asian Studies from the University of New England, Graduate Diploma of Strategic Studies and his interests include all sports, but in particular rugby, golf, hockey and swimming. He is married to Denise and has a daughter Amanda. He is living in and operating out of the Bundaberg area.





The approved Artillery Emblem

BUDDING GUNNER HISTORIANS
Help is Available

The Regiment's History Committee will provide advice to all budding historians who are writing and intend to publish any aspect of the Regiment's past.

Simply pass your draft through your unit commander for forwarding to Regimental Committee staff. A History Committee member will contact you.

The earlier in the planning and writing process you make contact with the Regiment's experienced historians the better. Kicking off in the right direction saves a lot of effort!

The History Committee will not re-write or publish your work for you. It will provide invaluable advice on methods and resources.



The approved Artillery Emblem

OFFICER, WO & SNCO FAREWELLS

If you have 20 or more years full-time and/or part-time service & have not been farewelled & still wish to be, please contact Major DT (Terry) Brennan for officers & WO1 DT (David) Nutini for WO & SNCOs. Alternatively if you are aware of anyone who was overlooked no matter how long ago and they still wish to be invited please pass on their contact details. It is never too late to attend the Regimental farewells.

Australian Honours

AUSTRALIA DAY - 2019

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)

Lieutenant Colonel Wade Graham COOPER, WA

FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY AS THE BRIGADE MAJOR, HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE.



Major Cooper demonstrated outstanding achievement and devotion to duty during his tenure as the Brigade Major for the 1st Brigade. His superior planning and management led directly to the success of the 1st Brigade in both exercises and support to training and operations. His mental agility, planning acumen and leadership on Exercise

Talisman Sabre 2017 ensured the Brigade's success. His inclusive and people-focused leadership style built robust teams and greatly enhanced the reputation of the 1st Brigade and the Australian Defence Force.

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL (CSM)

Major Ross A WEHBY, NSW

FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN JOINT CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AS OFFICER COMMANDING JOINT TERMINAL ATTACK CONTROL TROOP AND CHIEF INSTRUCTOR, STANDARDISATION OFFICER AT NUMBER 4 SQUADRON.



Major Wehby's meritorious professionalism, extraordinary skill, and conspicuous drive have guaranteed that the Australian Defence Force retains a robust Joint Terminal Attack Control capability and an effective international Joint Close Air Support network. He is an officer of impeccable character and rare skill and ability whose in-depth knowledge, professional excellence, and devotion to duty have melded to produce a lasting contribution to the combat capability of the Australian Defence Force.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY DAY – 2019 ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEMBER (AM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION



Colonel Michael Robert KENNEDY ACT

FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY HEADQUARTERS, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL POLICY, DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY AND THE DIRECTOR OF CAREER MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION.

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)



Colonel Andrew Mark HAEBICH NSW

FOR OUTSTANDING DEVOTION TO DUTY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT EXPERIMENTATION DIRECTORATE AND JOINT EXPERIMENTATION FRAMEWORK WITHIN DEFENCE.

AUSTRALIA DAY MEDALLIONS – 2019 AWARDS

Each year the National Australia Day Council invites the Department of Defence to participate in celebrating Australia Day by awarding Australia Day Medallions to our personnel.

The Head of Regiment, Brigadier Richard Vagg, on behalf of all members of the Royal Regiment, congratulate everyone on their performance and achievement.

- Sergeant NR Corradetti – School of Artillery
- Lieutenant DJ James – 1st Regiment, RAA
- Lieutenant MJ Robinson – 1st Regiment RAA
- Lance Bombardier FR Watters – 1st Regiment RAA
- Bombardier JM Tosh – 4th Regiment RAA
- Craftsman MR Willmott – 8th/12th Regiment RAA

AUSTRALIAN COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE – CLASS OF 2019

The Gunner officers below were recognised for their outstanding performance on the 2019 course.

- Major Jacob Costello (GBAD) - Commander ADC Prize
- Major Moose El Khaligi (FA) - Commandant ASCS Prize

The Head of Regiment, Brigadier Richard Vagg, on behalf of all members of the Royal Regiment, congratulate these officers on their performance and achievement.

Notice

Distribution of Death Notices

In recent times, some members of our Gunner community have died with little recognition from Gunner mates or RAA organisations large or small.

A notification system to ensure every opportunity to provide a fitting farewell to departed comrades has been established.

If you become aware of the death of a Gunner, let your unit / sub unit or RAA organisation know.

Contact details are available in the RAA Liaison Letter or in your state and unit organisations' publications and websites.

Please share funeral arrangements promptly; and as much detail as soon as it becomes available to ensure maximum support.

If you are not a member of any unit, sub unit or RAA association, pass the information to obituaries@artilleryhistory.org

Secretaries or responsible committee members are asked to forward death notices to obituaries@artilleryhistory.org for wider distribution across organisations and borders.

The RAAHC Obituary Resource Officer (Peter Bruce) can coordinate an obituary for the deceased Gunner for inclusion in RAA publications and on the RAAHC website.

Please share, share and share – we are the Gunner family.

Ubique

GUNNERS FUND

*Major DT (Terry) Brennan
& Major Gary Down*

Potted History

Origins - 1970s

The Gunners Fund origins can be traced back to the 1970s. During this period an RAA National Memorial Committee was formed to raise funds to establish the RAA National Memorial on Mt Pleasant in Canberra. MAJGEN John Whitelaw (son of another MAJGEN John Whitelaw who served during WWII) was the Chair of the Committee. The Committee raised, primarily through donations, the funds to build the Memorial. It was opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II, Captain General of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

RAA Central Fund - 1980s

On 25 January 1980, under the leadership of MAJGEN Whitelaw, the RAA Central Fund was established. The concept was that all Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers would make periodic financial contributions based on rank.

The primary means of doing this was to have the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of all units place an annual levy on their member's mess bills. The amount levied was based on their rank at the time. The amount, by rank, was set by the members of the RAA Central Committee (known today as the RAA Regimental Committee). Members serving in non-Corps appointments were also encouraged to make contributions.

*... under the leadership of MAJGEN
Whitelaw, the RAA Central Fund was
established.*

To encourage retired members and those serving Officers, WOs and SNCOs in non-Corps appointments to contribute, the concept of Life Subscribers was introduced. This was a one-off payment which meant the Member was no longer required to pay annual subscriptions. Life subscriptions were taken up by a relatively small number of officers and virtually no WOs and SNCOs in the 1980s. The life subscription was \$90; subsequently (in around 2010 / 2011) this increased to \$155 (the only rationale for this figure was the calibre 155 mm). The current Life Membership is \$260.

One of the first major financial decisions made by the Central Committee was to allocate \$2,000 from the Central Fund to the School of Artillery to use as seed funding to establish Regimental Shop. This shop is still located at the School in Puckapunyal and as a result of this initial funding the Regimental Shop still makes an annual disbursement of 10% of its profits to the Regimental Committee which goes into the Gunners Fund.

RAA Regimental Fund – 1990s

In the 1990s the name 'Central' was replaced by 'Regimental' for both the Committee and the Fund. The source of funds continued to be annual and life subscriptions primarily from serving Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs. JNCOs and Gunners were not asked to contribute. However, in the late 1990s a decision was made by the Regimental Committee to broaden its membership. The key change was that all unit COs and RSMs and Independent Battery BCs and BSMs were made members.

RAA Regimental Fund – 2000s

As a result of the revised Regimental Committee membership, and the leadership of MAJGEN Tim Ford (Committee Chairman), it was decided to make the work of the Regimental Committee more relevant to the entire membership of the RAA. In order to achieve this it was agreed that the means of raising funds for the Regimental Fund had to be revisited.

Gunners Fund – 2010s

Over a number of years the Regimental Committee discussed and explored this subject. Eventually it was agreed to change the name of the Regimental Fund to the RAA Gunners' Fund and to open the membership to all ranks and ask everyone to voluntarily contribute.

Your Fund Needs Your Support

Introduction

The Gunners Fund is designed to provide a source of income that can be utilised for the benefit of all Gunners – regardless of rank. This income is mainly generated by fortnightly or annual subscriptions from serving (both ARA and Reserve) and ex-serving members of the RAA and

also various donations. The current size, and therefore capacity, of the Fund is relatively small, especially when compared to the equivalent funds of other Regiments and Corps in the Army. The primary reason for this is the relatively small subscriber base. As a result, the Fund is only able to provide relatively modest levels of support within the RAA. This will improve as the subscriber base grows. The Fund is managed as a Non-Public Monies Account by the SO2 Head of Regiment and is held within the Australian Military Bank. In broad terms, income is derived from the following sources:

- The subscriptions of officers and other ranks, retired and serving, according to the rates determined by the Regimental Committee (RC) with agreement from the HOR.
- 10% of the profits accrued annually from the sale of goods from the RAA Regimental Shop.
- Gifts, bequests and donations made to the RAA and accepted with the approval of the RC.
- Any other source which may be approved by the RC.

Potential Uses of the Fund

Over the past few years the Regimental Committee has discussed various ways of promoting and developing the Fund in order to increase membership and put the Fund on a firmer and more sustainable financial footing. It has also been asked to fund support in order to increase the awareness of the Fund. This has resulted in a number of initiatives to date.

... to provide suitable recognition of the achievements of our soldiers, officers and units.

The Fund has been in existence for many years but continues to struggle with the generation of sufficient funds to allow it to provide suitable recognition of the achievements of our soldiers, officers and units. The Fund currently provides a baseline level of financial support to foster the development of RAA traditions, history and heritage. Whilst in addition to this support there are a number of other activities that should be supported, the Fund will have to continue to be selective in its support as the current income stream is neither completely predictable nor of sufficient size.

Current Subscriber Level

As at 1st August 2019 there are approximately 270 members of the Fund.

Gunners Fund Subscription Scheme

Although not compulsory, all RAA officers and soldiers, serving and retired, are encouraged to contribute to the Fund.

Serving Members Rates

The current annual / fortnightly subscription rates for serving RAA personnel are as follows:

ARA

Rank	Per Fortnight	Annual
MAJ and above / WO1	\$2.00	\$52.00
CAPT, WO2 / SGT	\$1.50	\$39.00
LT/BDR/LBDR/GNR	\$1.00	\$26.00

ARES

Rank	Annual
MAJ & above / WO1	\$26.00
CAPT, WO2 / SGT	\$19.00
LT / BDR / LBDR / GNR	\$13.00

Subscription Rates

Subscription rates will not automatically rise when members are promoted. However, members are strongly encouraged to review their subscriptions from time to time during their career and on promotion.

Life Subscription. Life subscription is available to all members (ARA and ARes), retired members and Associations. The current one-off subscription rate is \$260.00. Life subscribers will be listed in the RAA Liaison Letter.

Periodic Subscription Payments. The options available for the payment of subscriptions are described below:

- **Paying by Cheque.** A completed Subscription Form and cheque made payable to the 'RAA Regimental Fund' is to be returned to SO2 HOR, School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal VIC 3662.

- Paying by Direct Debit. The account details of The Fund are as follows:
 - Financial Institution - Australian Military Bank
 - Account Name - RAA Regimental Fund
 - BSB - 642 170
 - Account Number - 100026037
 - Reference - Name and the word 'Subs' must be included.

All members subscribing to The Fund are entitled to an RAA Keychain with a unique membership number.

Annual Badge Draw

The Draw is conducted on 1st August each year. Three random key chain numbers are generated and the winners each receive a pair of concert/event tickets to international acts touring Australia. Members must be contributing to The Fund at the time of the Draw. The Fund Treasurer (SO2 HOR) is responsible for informing the winners and their names will be published in the RAA Liaison Letter.

RAA JNCO & GNR of the Year

To reinvigorate RAA Regimental identity, esprit-de-Corps and encourage excellence, annual awards were established in 2016 for best ARA JNCO and GNR, with biennial awards for the Reserve from 2019. The prizes are the same for both ARA and ARes.

The general criteria by which the nominations are assessed is a balance between the Army's Values and Behaviours and specific RAA trade and general soldier excellence. In addition, the criteria for the JNCO Award is not only linked to trade (ECN) competency but also, and more importantly, includes those attributes that are specific to junior leadership. Each Artillery unit nominates a high-performing JNCO and GNR who, during the preceding year, has not only displayed the highest levels of technical mastery, but also has proven themselves as excellent leaders and of the highest character. They will also have shown respect for the history and traditions of the RAA and been active in promoting unit and RAA identity and esprit-de-Corps.

Each Artillery unit nominates a high-performing JNCO and GNR ...

On the advice of the RAA History Committee, the names of John Carr Ewen and Edward William Mattner were proposed as examples of former

Gunners who would have more than met the above criteria, and in whose names the two awards are now presented. Both soldiers enlisted as Gunners in World War I, were decorated with the awards of the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and the Military Medal (MM) as Junior NCOs, and later with the Military Cross (MC) after having been commissioned in the field.

... an appropriate prize that would not only be attractive to junior members, but also be an investment in the recipient's military, professional and personal development, ...

It was decided that if the Awards were to have the desired effect, they would need to include a 'significant' prize. To that end, it was identified that an appropriate prize that would not only be attractive to junior members, but also be an investment in the recipient's military, professional and personal development, would be for the winners to undertake a short-term visit to an overseas artillery unit and for each winner to also receive an engraved watch as a permanent memento. This was approved at the 2016 Regimental Committee Meeting. The Regimental Committee will continue to seek sponsorship to assist with the funding of these major awards and any future initiatives.



RAA Gunners' Fund Subscription Rates Revised Subscription Form 2018

Categories

Rank	ARA Member	ARA Member	Reserve Member	All
	Fortnightly Rate	Annual Rate	Annual Rate	
MAJ & above / WO1	\$2.00	\$52.00	\$26.00	Life Membership All Ranks \$260.00
CAPT, WO2 / SGT	\$1.50	\$39.00	\$19.00	
LT, GNR / LBDR / BDR	\$1.00	\$26.00	\$13.00	

Payment Methods (Please tick)

- Enclosed is my / our subscription to the RAA Gunners' Fund
- Paying by **Cheque**: Please return this form with a cheque made payable to "RAA Regimental Fund" and addressed to MAJ GM Down, SO2 HOR, SOARTY, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal VIC 3662
- Paying via **Direct Debit**: The account details of the RAA Regimental Fund are:

Financial Institution: Australian Military Bank
Account Name: RAA Regt Fund
BSB: 642 170
Account Number: 100026037
Reference: Your Name & Initials

Note: A copy of this completed subscription form is to be forwarded to MAJ GM Down (SO2 HOR) to enable the issue of an RAA key ring. Email: gary.down@defence.gov.au

PMKeys No: _____ **Regimental No (if applicable)** _____

Rank / Initials: _____ **Unit:** _____

Surname: _____ **Post Nominals:** _____

Address: _____

_____ **Post Code:** _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Commence Subscription Details

Amount: \$ _____ **Effective Date:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

All subscribers will receive a 'numbered' RAA key ring on joining the Gunners Fund and if their subscription is current they be eligible for the annual 'Badge Draw' held as at 1st August each year.

ABC News Online

The Army's creeping takeover of Australia's national security

By defence correspondent Andrew Greene
Sun 26 May 2019, 5:09am

Old soldiers never die. They just move into the most senior posts in Australia's national security community.

A quiet parade of decorated current and former Army officers have been making their way into the most powerful positions within intelligence agencies, big-spending defence procurement posts and even vice-regal offices.

Ex-military appointments to civilian posts are nothing new, but what's raising eyebrows among some in the defence community is the remarkable trend running in favour of Army officers over their service cousins in the Navy and Air Force.

Members of the khaki cavalcade include Commander-in-Chief Peter Cosgrove (and the next Governor General David Hurley), key appointments to Government ministries, and even the directors of the country's intelligence agencies.

When Scott Morrison announces his new front-bench it's expected to include former Army Reserve brigadier Linda Reynolds as Defence Minister, and two other former Army officers, Stuart Robert and David Fawcett, are in the running for other Defence portfolios.



Photo: It's expected that Linda Reynolds will be announced as Defence Minister by Mr Morrison. (AAP: Lukas Coch)

Perhaps the most high profile Army officer to enter federal politics in recent years is former SAS Captain Andrew Hastie, who now chairs Parliament's Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

Photo: Former SAS Captain Andrew Hastie is now the MP for Canning, Western Australia. (ABC News: Jed Cooper)



In Australia's secretive intelligence community, Army is also making its mark in a world that is typically dominated by career diplomats and bureaucrats. Mike Pezzullo, the former defence bureaucrat who heads the recently expanded and all-powerful Home Affairs Department, was once also an Army Reserve officer.

The Director-General of Australia's domestic spy agency ASIO is former Army Major General Duncan Lewis, a decorated SAS soldier who went on to an impressive civilian career in diplomacy and at the top levels of the public service.



Photo: ASIO director-general Duncan Lewis. (ABC News: Marco Catalano)

Similarly, Paul Symon, the head of Australia's

overseas spy agency ASIS, is also a former Major General and Deputy Army Chief.

At the Australian Signals Directorate, a possible future Army Chief, John Frewen, has become Deputy Director General with the "3 star" rank of Lieutenant General.

At the very top of the ADF, Army is currently in a commanding position - "4 star" General Angus Campbell is Chief, but directly below him are two Army "3 star" officers; the soon-to-be Commander of Joint Operations Greg Bilton, and Army Chief Lieutenant General Rick Burr.

The Defence Department is led by Secretary Greg Moriarty who as an Army Reserve Officer was posted to the Headquarters of US Central Command during the first Gulf War.

Below him another former Army Officer, Tony Fraser, serves as Deputy Secretary heading up Defence's Capability and Sustainment Group.

At the Department of Veterans' Affairs another former Major General, Liz Cosson, has become Secretary after a trailblazing career in the Army.

Army insiders say the prevalence of their people currently serving in top national security posts is not surprising given the high tempo of operations the service had in recent decades.

And in a gesture of goodwill to their Navy and Air Force colleagues they point out that all things in Defence are cyclical - meaning that despite its size, Army won't always dominate the ADF's leadership positions.

THE KHAKI CAVALCADE:

Governor General: Peter Cosgrove, then David Hurley; Minister for Defence: Linda Reynolds; Defence Industry Minister: potentially Stuart Robert or David Fawcett; Chair of the Joint Intel Committee: Andrew Hastie

CDF: Angus Campbell; Chief of Army: Rick Burr; CJOPS: Greg Bilton (taking command in June); Home Affairs Secretary: Mike Pezzullo; Veterans' Affairs Secretary: Liz Cosson; Defence Secretary: Greg Moriarty; Deputy Secretary: CASG Tony Fraser; Director General ASIO: Duncan Lewis ;Director General ASIS: Paul Symon; Deputy Director General ASD: John Frewen

Around the Regiment

Task Group Taji VIII – Gunners in Iraq

Captain James Cranley

Australian officers and soldiers have deployed to Iraq as part of Task Group Taji since 2015 as part of Operation Okra. Now in its eighth rotation, Task Group Taji VIII is comprised of members from over 50 units, deploying from the mounting headquarters of the 7th Combat Brigade at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. The Task Group deployed in November 2018, and has continued to advance the partnership between Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces to defeat Daesh within Iraq. This partnership comes in the form of support to the training and development of Iraqi Army Brigades, through the School of Infantry Non-Commissioned Officer Two (SINCO II).

The program aims to encourage the sharing of experiences within both previous Iraqi Army training, and recent combat experience in the defence of Iraq against Daesh.

Task Group Taji contains the subordinate Training Task Unit, led by former Commanding Officer 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, Lieutenant Colonel Matt Smith. Gunners from the 1st Regiment are deployed in a variety of roles, including trainers, headquarters staff, drivers, and members of the Quick Reaction Force. Each soldier is a ‘trainer first’, and the Gunners have proven themselves as highly capable partners and mentors to the Iraqi Army.

Anzac trainers come from all ranks, each day partnering with an Iraqi instructor to deliver

training. Coalition trainers also support the Anzac mission, and include soldiers and officers from Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. From small beginnings, this training has progressed to the Reset Brigade Program of Instruction, a 12-week training program. This program is designed to train an Iraqi Brigade of mixed training levels, where many soldiers within the Brigade will have received little to no formal training, and others have conducted both basic training and career courses. It is rare for Iraqi Army Brigades to dedicate such a long period of time to training, as their primary role is the conduct of operations within their country.



Bombardier Peter Graham

The program aims to encourage the sharing of experiences within both previous Iraqi Army training, and recent combat experience in the defence of Iraq against Daesh. These experiences help to add context to the training, encouraging the training audience to learn from each other, as well as the instructors. The instruction follows a logical path, focusing on individual skills, to working within a squad, a platoon, and then a company.

The program of instruction concludes with a culmination activity for a brigade operating in a divisional framework. Throughout the training, opportunities are available for the Brigade Commander to tailor the program to meet their brigade’s unique operating environment. A brigade’s area of operation can vastly differ to

the previous training audience, as some brigades may occupy largely rural areas with small villages, and others may exclusively operate within larger cities. The flexibility to create a bespoke program can largely be attributed to the skill of the Iraqi instructors, whose military knowledge is greatly enhanced by the mentorship of Task Group Taji's training staff.

The mentorship of partnered instructors in the delivery of tactics, techniques and procedures within the Reset Brigade's Program of Instruction, will enable the Iraqi Brigade's success on Operations. Iraqi instructors are progressing towards Initial Operational Capability, which will see them delivering the majority of instruction to the Iraqi Brigade independently. The Training Task Unit's focus is on train-the-trainer mentorship, assisting Iraqi instructors in lesson preparation, and providing valuable feedback in a continual loop of improvement.



Sergeant Dakil

It is behind the scenes where Anzac trainers have the most impact, rectifying deficiencies and suggesting improvements without undermining the instructor's confidence, or reputation; an important balance in Iraqi culture. Building this rapport takes a high degree of influence, leadership, and cultural awareness; made easier by leveraging capital earned by previous rotations. The continuation of that legacy is essential for the success of future rotations, and can at times seem to be the most important line of effort within Task Group Taji's mission.

Officers and soldiers from 1st Regiment, RAA, are employed as trainer / advisors, and within force protection roles. Gunners will align their week with a specific goal and teaching points set by the program of instruction, such as squad tactics in the urban and rural environment.

A typical day would see a training company meet early in the morning for orders and equipment checks, load training aids into vehicles, and move as a convoy out to the training area. Training aids such as facades simulating buildings would be laid out, and a reception point would be established. SINCO II instructors will arrive and join their Anzac counterparts, conducting rehearsals prior to the trainees arrival.

Anzac training staff will provide assistance and fault correction ...

In the winter months, the Iraqi battalion would arrive at the training area at 0900 h, however in the summer this can be as early as 0600 h. On arrival, the Iraqi battalion will form up in their company groups, and move through the reception point to be accounted for at roll call, moving to an assembly area awaiting their instructors.

After the morning's administration, Iraqi instructors and Anzac trainers will move with their company to their training location and begin instruction. Iraqi instructors will take control of their audience, directing them into a hollow square, and stand central for the theoretical part of the lesson. Standing to the rear will be their partnered Anzac trainer, reaffirming that the Iraqi instructor has ownership of the lesson. The lessons will progress to a practical phase, and alongside the Iraqi instructor, Anzac training staff will provide assistance and fault correction where required.

As the mission to defeat Daesh continues, the supporters of the ideology will continue to operate through insurgent tactics.

To ensure the Iraqi instructor maintains ownership of the lesson, Anzac trainers will deliver their key points to the instructor while the Iraqi squads practice their drills, enabling the Iraqi instructor to rectify common faults and reinforce teaching points.

At the conclusion of the day's training, the plan for the following day will be briefed, the Iraqi battalion will move to an assembly area, and depart the training area. Anzac trainers will then run a training After-Action Review with the

Iraqi instructors, and deliver points for improvement or reinforce good performances.

Train-the-trainer coaching will then occur with the Iraqi instructors for the upcoming day's training. This coaching is the most important part of an Anzac trainer's partnership with their instructor. The key outcome is to set the conditions for the Iraqi instructors to succeed. Importantly, ensuring that there are no doubtful teaching points left prior to the Iraqi instructor's delivery of the next lesson, and that the content of the lesson is aligned with the Training Directorate's intent.

This investment in Iraqi instructors ultimately drives the success of the school, developing a cohort of highly skilled individuals to create a culture of excellence, thereby placing SINCO II as the premiere training establishment.

Training delivered to Iraqi soldiers, by Iraqi instructors, helps to fortify Iraqi confidence in its own security, alleviating the reliance on coalition support.

Task Group Taji VIII has primarily focused on the development of SINCO II, providing an example of what future Iraqi training establishments can become. Within the overarching mission of Joint Task Force 633, Task Group Taji and SINCO II are directly invested in our build partner capacity mission in Iraq. With time, other Iraqi schools will follow in the footsteps of SINCO II, sharing knowledge through the Training Directorate framework, to provide efficient and relevant training throughout Iraq's Security Forces. Training delivered to Iraqi soldiers, by Iraqi instructors, helps to fortify Iraqi confidence in its own security, alleviating the reliance on coalition support.

As the mission to defeat Daesh continues, the supporters of the ideology will continue to operate through insurgent tactics. With a stronger training continuum established for its soldiers, Iraq will be better positioned to secure areas liberated from Daesh.

1st Regiment

RAA

Lieutenant James Harvey

2018 was a very busy period for 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Matt Smith. In mid-May the 'A' Battery gunline boarded the HMAS Choules and JFECC and JFTs boarded HMAS Canberra as part of the RBG for the Integrated Sea Land Series (ISLS) 18. This saw a crawl, walk, run approach to joint Navy and Army activities for BG Ram, based around 8/9 RAR.

'A' Battery sailed from Brisbane up the coast to Bowen before returning to Shoalwater Bay to conduct the run stage of the ISLS, which involved a 108 Battery JFT conducting an airmobile insertion under cover of darkness in support of a 2 RAR amphibious combat team insertion. The JFT was able to coordinate joint Navy, Army and Air Force effects through the Amphibious Task Groups SACC using satellite communications to reach beyond line of sight to the distant LHD.

That action then set the conditions for the landing of BG Ram to secure a sea point of entry and departure. To support the landing force 'A' Battery's gunline, including M777A2s were airlifted from HMAS Choules into a remote gun position amongst thick vegetation and steep terrain by CH-47. Despite the rugged, unforgiving terrain the gunline was in range to provide effective offensive support to BG Ram actions.

The conclusion of ISLS 18 effected the preliminary phase of Hamel 18 and saw 104 and 105 Batteries entering Shoalwater Bay in support of 7th Brigade. 105 Battery was providing direct support to BG Warhorse, based around 2/14 Light Horse Regiment. Their provision of forward leaning offensive support, integrated with UAV support from 20 STA proved effective against the OPFOR armour, much to the chagrin of 2/14 LHR who often found their ammunition supply pretty well full at the end of their offensive actions.

104 Battery brought their counter battery fire (CBF) role to fruition during Hamel 18,

integrating the Light Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) into their ‘tethered goat’ concept of unmasking enemy guns. This would see a pistol gun mission firing a high rate before rapidly redeploying. This high rate of fire would draw out enemy CBF, unmasking the enemy battery. The 104 JFECC would receive the target data from the LCMR and the CP and remaining three guns would be poised and ready to engage.

The integrated surveillance and target acquisition capability of UAS and CRAM produced excellent outcomes by enabling a rapid link between sensor and shooter and demonstrates concepts that should inform the future composition of STA capabilities organic to our gun regiments.

Their provision of forward leaning offensive support, ...

The final enemy action of Hamel 18 saw a desperate OPFOR armoured reserve penetration with the goal of reaching the rich pickings to be found in the rear echelons. Unfortunately for them this brought them past ‘A’ Battery’s gunline, which was dispersed within their AMA. The quick thinking of the BK and BG, enabled by the impressive array of HE weapons organic to the modern gunline and executed by as fine a group of gunners and junior non-commissioned officers as you’ll find in the Army saw the OPFOR tanks held up by a series of anti-armour blocks, enabling the BDE JFECC to coordinate an attack aviation response.

August saw the conduct of Exercise Coral, where the Regiment consolidated training on HE small arms and local defence operations. Of interest to our more mature RAA readers, the gunline of 2018 has more organic small arms, HE and firepower than an infantry company, between 84 mm and 66 mm rockets, 40 mm automatic grenade launchers and the ubiquitous MAG 58.

Soon after Exercise Coral the Regiment formed the mounting Headquarters for Operation TAJI XIII and a large portion of the unit began its pre-deployment training. In November we farewelled both our soldiers deploying to Iraq and a Joint Fires Training Team deploying to the Philippines as part of Operation Augury. Around the same period ‘A’ Battery came ‘online’ as part of the RBG. This has seen the Regiment making up the headquarters and about a third of

the Training Team Unit in TAJI, manning continuous JFT rotations to AUGURY and maintaining the RBG with ‘A’ Battery and other contingency force elements.

Honours and awards for 2018 saw Bombardiers Barber and Alexander receive Soldiers Medallions, while Bombardier Watters, Lieutenants James and Robinson received Australia Day Medals. Bronze Commendations were awarded to Lance Bombardier Parker, Bombardier Clark and Lieutenant Harvey and the prestigious Silver Commendation was awarded to Warrant Officer Class Two Charles and Major Collins. These awards are recognition of the achievements of the individuals and perhaps more importantly a worthy reflection on the quality of the Gunners and soldiers of the Regiment, who are the humble, quiet, hardworking men and women making up our teams and producing tangible results for the Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Hunter took command of the Regiment in 2019 and as this letter is being written he is preparing to deploy the unit on Exercise Barce as the first major training activity of the year. He has also overseen the introduction of the TADP physical training program to the unit, including the establishment of a new \$70,000 Human Performance Centre at Barce Lines.

The Gunners Club has been reinvigorated in 2019, with a restructured and modernised RTF supporting a successful soldier run café and bar which has proved very popular with the Gunners and is already paying dividends in Gunner and unit culture. Warrant Officer Class Two Jenkins has led the way for the Gunners Club and continues to develop it for the benefit of the Gunners of the Regiment.

Later in the year, after the majority of our deployed soldiers have returned, the Regiment will celebrate 70 years since being raised. In the meantime, our women and men continue to do us proud with their service in the Middle East and South East Asia and we look forward to welcoming them home.

Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt.

4th Regiment RAA

Lead on Townsville Flood Relief

*Lieutenant Colonel Paul Duncan
Commanding Officer*



It was a challenging start to the month of February for the residents of Townsville; not the least for the soldiers of 4th Regiment, who worked tirelessly to support emergency services and the broader Townsville community during the ‘unprecedented weather event’.

As the first soldiers on the ground, we initially provided sandbagging and general preparatory support to residents in the most impacted areas – being affected by the relentless rain and rising flood waters.

As the situation worsened, preparations quickly turned to urgent notifications of residents and the rapid evacuation of numerous households in the suburbs of Hermit Park, Rosslea, Mysterton and Mundingburra. Throughout the support effort, the soldiers of the Regiment evacuated well in excess of 1,000 men, women and children – as well as many pets. We also responded to emergency situations including the execution of swift water rescue of community members who found themselves in life-threatening situations in the fast-flowing waters.

... Regiment evacuated well in excess of 1,000 men, women and children – as well as many pets.

As the flood waters began to recede, our attention turned to the clearing of roads and public infrastructure, as well as the conduct of welfare checks on the community.

As the waters further receded, we remained active in our allotted area (and beyond) through the clearing of debris and removal of affected

furniture and carpets from local schools and day care centres.

During the last few days of the relief effort, the soldiers of the Regiment maintained close involvement through the conduct of kerbside collection of flood damaged effects, through the loading, removal and unloading of over 200 truckloads from Mundingburra, Rosslea and Mysterton.

The teamwork and resilience of the 4th Regiment has been evident, with every member of the Regiment exceeding expectations

After 2 weeks of challenging but rewarding work, the soldiers of the 4th Regiment are proud of their contribution to our community and left the remaining work in the capable hands of Townsville City Council and other ADF elements who continued to provide support.

The teamwork and resilience of the 4th Regiment has been evident, with every member of the Regiment exceeding expectations which has resulted in a remarkable collective contribution to the Townsville community.

Key RAA Associations & Organisations

'Australian Artillery Association'

Website

www.australianartilleryassociation.com

Email

president@australianartilleryassociation.com

'Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company'

Website

www.artilleryhistory.org

Email

raahcoffice@gmail.com

Ex Olgetta Warrior 19

All Corps Corporal Qualifying Course

*Lieutenant T Jack Cailes
109th Battery, 4th Regiment RAA*

The Australian Army maintains a strong, habitual relationship with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) through the Defence Co-operation Program - Papua New Guinea (DCP-PNG). The 3rd Brigade is the main contributor under this framework and is focused on achieving positive and enduring change within the PNGDF. This is achieved through the conduct and support of a variety of courses throughout multiple locations in Papua New Guinea.

In recent years the PNGDF has had many responsibilities and faced a variety of challenges. In 2017, the PNGDF focused on providing security to the national elections while 2018 saw the PNGDF focus on the delivery of security for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference. Concurrent to this the PNGDF completed tasks to secure their western border with Indonesia, responded to ongoing violence in multiple provinces and supported humanitarian responses to natural disasters. For a force of roughly 4000 personnel this left little room for individual and collective training.

In recent years the PNGDF has had many responsibilities and faced a variety of challenges.

The focus for the PNGDF in 2019 is to execute collective training and a multitude of individual courses with the support of the 3rd Brigade. Training and courses of this type have proven difficult to conduct for many years.

The nine-person contingent of 109th Battery, 4th Regiment travelled to Port Moresby on 27th February 1919 in order to support the All Corps Corporal Qualifying Course. This course is a crucial individual promotion course that aims to teach students how to lead a section size element in a variety of environments. The contingent was

employed as a Mentor Training Team (MTT) that was there to reinforce and support the PNGDF instructors and provide further assistance to students as required. The experiences and cultural differences throughout Papua New Guinea presented the MTT with a variety of opportunities and challenges, both personally and professionally.

Prior to stepping off from Australia, the contingent attached a medic from the 2nd Close Health Company and a cook from the Force Support Battalion. Once the contingent had concentrated, pre-deployment medical appointments as well as mandatory security, health and legal briefs were conducted.

Tasks are not completed as promptly as they are in Australia and it was important to remain motivated and to keep liaison between forces constant.

The MTT arrived in Port Moresby and was met by DCP-PNG staff where a quick tour of Port Moresby was conducted. Following the tour the contingent settled into our accommodation at Murray Barracks. As a result of a number of unforeseen friction points, the course content and structure was amended and resulted in the MTT running a three week all corps focused training block. This was positive news for the MTT as all instructors were keen to commence conducting the quality training, they had prepared.



The revised training program focused on orders, navigation, first aid, defensive, offensive and security operations as well as introducing the PNGDF FSB to urban drills and procedures. This provided a unique opportunity for the PNGDF, as well as providing an excellent opportunity for the MTT instructors to take ownership of their own training and execution. The mantra of the MTT was to ensure that as

much of the training was practical in nature and avoided long periods in the classroom. To tie in everything the students learnt over the training block, a culminating activity was planned to be conducted at Taurama Barracks, home of the 1st Royal Pacific Islands Regiment. This involved blank firing activities, urban clearances, ambushes and vehicle control points (VCP). This final activity would be followed by a BBQ with all members involved showing appreciation to the PNGDF for their hospitality.

Overall, the training was a success. In the beginning, the students' all corps knowledge was limited. As a result, there was a large amount of new information that was taught. There were long days spent in the classroom teaching students how to deliver orders. There were also days spent in the close training area stepping through the conduct of the ambush. Even though the students do not often use these skills they highlighted that they had learnt a great deal. The students relished the opportunity to develop their basic soldiering and enhance their ability to lead a section.

The ability to adapt the instructional style used as the situation dictated was a crucial lesson learnt.

This exposure was also extremely beneficial to the MTT instructors and there were many lessons learnt throughout the activity. The importance of remaining flexible, yet appropriately forthright, in regards to timings and planning procedures when attempting to integrate with a foreign force was highlighted. Tasks are not completed as promptly as they are in Australia and it was important to remain motivated and to keep liaison between forces constant. This ensured all stakeholders are synchronised and aware of their roles and responsibilities. The ability to adapt the instructional style used as the situation dictated was a crucial lesson learnt. This played an important part in ensuring the information was absorbed and understood by the training audience.

The MTT was also required to learn to work through language barriers and with a limited amount of resources compared to those training aids and facilities accessible in Australia. This meant that the MTT had to be creative in the way in which we conducted practical activities.

The instructors successfully achieved this as there was an excellent amount of investment and enthusiasm from the training audience throughout each lesson and practical activity.

The trip to Papua New Guinea also allowed the MTT to conduct several other activities. Operating out of Port Moresby meant that the MTT had the opportunity to visit the Bomana War Cemetery, a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery dating from World War II, where the remains of 3824 commonwealth soldiers lie.

The MTT along with DCP-PNG staff and other contingents from the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion walked the 14 km trek from Owens Corner to Imata Ridge on the Kokoda Trail in extremely muddy and slippery conditions. The weekends allowed the MTT to visit the National Museum and Art Gallery, local craft markets, swimming holes along the Goldie River and allowed for a few rounds of golf.



Exercise Olgetta Warrior 19 was a personally and professionally rewarding experience for the members of the MTT. Despite some early delays and frustrations, we provided the PNGDF quality all corps training, with the students now possessing the knowledge to be better junior leaders. This exercise also provided the MTT with the perfect opportunity to develop their instructional styles. For most, this was the first time they have trained or worked with foreign forces. The lessons learnt in relation to the cultural and technical complexities associated with training a foreign military can be used during future deployments.

Ex Shot Start 19

*Major Chris D'Aquino &
Captain Steve Aston*

“THE ROUND (SMART 155MM) IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR LONG RANGE, TOP ATTACK AND EACH ROUND CONTAINS TWO SUBMUNITIONS WHICH DESCEND OVER THE BATTLEFIELD ON PARACHUTES, IDENTIFY ARMoured VEHICLES USING ADVANCED SENSORS, AND THEN FIRE AN EXPLOSIVELY FORMED PENETRATOR WARHEAD INTO THE TARGET. THE SYSTEM IS ALSO BUILT WITH MULTIPLE REDUNDANT SELF-DESTRUCT MECHANISMS. THIS CAPABILITY CREATES A DILEMMA FOR ENEMY COMMANDERS DUE TO ITS ABILITY TO DISRUPT ARMoured APPROACHES AT OPERATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT RANGES, IN ALL WEATHER AND TERRAIN”

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL DUNCAN,
COMMANDING OFFICER 4TH REGIMENT, RAA

On 12th March, the 4th Regiment, supported by elements of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion, 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery and the 1st Close Health Battalion, deployed to Shoal Water Bay Training Area (SWBTA) to conduct the Combined Arms Exercise, Exercise Shot Start 19. This is 4th Regiments annual ‘craw / walk’ exercise where the regiment certifies to Gunnery Stage 4. Built into this year’s exercise was the Army Headquarters directed Advanced Precision Guided Munitions (APGM) live fire activity, Exercise Chimera. This was the first firing of SMARt 155 and Precision Guidance Kit, Course Correcting Fuse (PGK CCF) by a combat Regiment. It was an exercise of firsts as we also utilised our new Land 121 vehicles for the first time, albeit the HX77 and 40M have been fielded in other Brigades for some time.

Coincidentally the 1st Regiment and 20th Regiment were also operating in Shoalwater Bay over the period and we capitalised on the

opportunity, conducting regimental live fire serials involving all both M777A2 gun regiments with 20th Regiment in support.



Exercise Short Start 19 was a very deliberate exercise by design, and consisted of an RSO&I package transitioning to dry and then live fire activities before a very deliberate and controlled retrograde back to Lavarack Barracks. During the dry and live fire phases key enablers integrated with the Regiment, including 1 RAR

Recon and Snipers (RSS) with the JFTs. The RSS imparted invaluable knowledge on advanced field craft, observation post occupation and Point Target Reconnaissance. The JFTs were introduced to the new and advanced equipment that is part of the RSS standard loadout utilised this equipment during both the dry and live phases of the exercise. V6 from 2nd Cavalry Regiment (MSS TP) provided a detailed surveillance effect throughout the LFX, calling in both 155mm munition from 4th Regiment as well as 81mm from the 1 RAR Mortars.



The LFX was focused around technical missions in a tactical setting, continuing to develop Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) and a continued emphasis on maintaining a full digital thread with DTCS and AFATDS. Throughout the LFX the RCP deployed as an independent callsign and performed the vital roles of regimental reconnaissance and the net control station (NCS) duties, continuing to reinforce its importance and utility as an organisation. Integration with attached elements

including 1 RAR mortars and RSS proved exceptionally valuable throughout the duration of the exercise. Over the period of the LFX 4th Regiment fired over 2000 bombs ranging from 81 mm up to 155 mm across the span of full mission profiles, including immediate suppression and smoke, up to coordinated illumination with both artillery and mortars.

... conducted a number of multi-callsign digital fire missions with 'A' Battery, 1st Regiment.

As the culminating activity of Exercise Shot Start and prior to commencing Exercise Chimera, 106th Battery conducted a number of multi-callsign digital fire missions with 'A' Battery, 1st Regiment. During the practice both Batteries engaged onto the same targets with full digital threads, further re-enforcing the continued drive of the RAA as an accurate, responsive and dependant force of the battlefield.



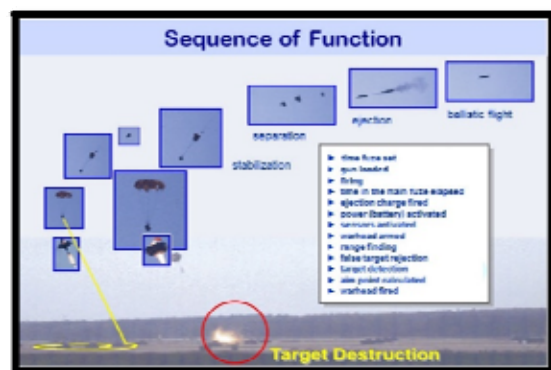
At the completion of the Regimental LFX 4th Regiment transitioned to Ex Chimera. A number of external organisations assisted the Regiment, including Land Engineering Agency for both range planning and ammunition certification; and the School of Artillery through the provision of expertise to qualify our gunners in the APMG suite. The original intent was that 4th Regiment would fire the complete suite of APMG,

including M982 Excalibur, DM702A1 SMARt 155 and the M1156 Precision Guidance Kit Course Correcting Fuse (PGK CCF); however due to serviceability reasons the decision was made not to fire Excalibur.

SMARt 155 is a fire and forget artillery round that is very effective in GPS denied environments and against targets with large target location errors (TLE). SMARt 155 uses high performance explosively formed penetrator (EFP) technology and a multi-mode sensor suite to provide predictable and precise lethal areas of effects in all weather and environments. The SMARt 155 provides a robust solution to defeat medium and heavy armoured targets.¹

The SMARt 155 provides a robust solution to defeat medium and heavy armoured targets

The initial flight path of SMARt 155 is similar in nature to that of an illumination round. It is designed with an optimal height of burst (Met dependant) of 400 - 1000m above the target. After the submunition is released it opens a parachute. While slowly descending, it rotates, scanning the area below with an infra-red sensor and a millimetre wave radar in order to identify its target. Once the target is identified the EFP will detonate striking and destroying the target. 4th Regiment effectively engaged five Leopard Tank hulls with SMARt 155, proving that this capability can be employed outside of Proofing and Experimental Unit, Wakefield, by the RAA.



M1156 Precision Guidance Kit Course Correcting Fuse is a precision guidance fuse that is fitted to standard natures for 155 mm

¹ General Dynamics, 2019, *Artillery 155m SMARt*, viewed 23 Mar 19, < <https://www.gd-ots.com/munitions/artillery/155mm-smart/> >

ammunition effectively making them a guided munition. It is a low-cost alternative to M982 Excalibur designed to reduce collateral damage through the combination of increased accuracy and safeguards that render the round inert if it passes outside of 150 m of the target location. When firing PGK, AFATDS directs the rounds long of the target and the fuse uses its fins to reduce the spin of the round, therefore increasing the drag to increase the precision of the round. During the practice the majority of rounds functioned as designed, accurately striking the intended target over three days of firing.

During the practice the majority of rounds functioned as designed, ...

This exercise involved force elements from the 1st, 3rd, 6th, 7th and 17th Brigades proved to be an excellent opportunity for all involved and successfully trained elements from all three facets of the Force Generation Cycle. The next time some of these force elements will see each other again will be in the same training area, only this time they'll be facing off against each other during Exercise Hamel 19.

Overall the exercise was highly successful, and achieved the desired end-state of the 4th Regiment, the 3rd Brigade, the RAA and Army Headquarters.

9th Regiment

RAA

Readying: The Australian Army's newest unit on the road to Talisman Sabre 19

Captain Des O'Brien & Captain Wade Higgins

“Mission: 9 Regt is to raise, train, and sustain Army Reserve Artillery capabilities in order to support reinforcing Battle Groups and augment ARA RAA Regiments consistent with phases of the Force Generation Cycle.”

The raising of 9th Regiment, (9 Regt) and its command over the 2nd/10th, 3rd, 5th/11th,

6th/13th, 7th and 23rd Batteries, signified a dramatic shift from the previous arrangement whereby Artillery Batteries were assimilated into an Infantry Battalion. This centralized construct provides an opportunity for greater technical competence in joint fires advice and capability. It does however also risk dislocation as an isolated artillery unit. Training year 2018/19 is the first year that 9 Regt, specifically the 6th/13th and 2nd/10th Batteries, has completed a full year of “Readying” during the FORCEGEN cycle. While the new Regiment brings opportunity for Army Reserve Artillery, all change brings some friction.

Training Year 2018/19 is also the year Battle Group (BG) Jacka reinforces the Readying ARA brigade and certified through a series of exercises. As 1st Brigade (1 BDE) gets put through its paces in their “Readying” year, so too does BG Jacka in its role as reinforcing Battle Group to 1 BDE. BG Jacka comprises of Army Reserve units from 4th and 9th Brigades. 9 Regt, through a reinforcing battery composed of members predominantly from 6/13 and 2/10 Btys, provides Joint Fires support to BG Jacka.

This centralized construct provides an opportunity for greater technical competence in joint fires advice and capability. It does however also risk dislocation as an isolated artillery unit.

So how has 9 Regt's reinforcing Battery integrated with Battle Group Jacka? This essay will analyse what the integration journey has been like through the following three steps; reaching base standards in a vacuum, working and exercising with the Battle Group to provide bespoke effects, and finally providing a co-ordination point to brigade headquarters adjunct to the command net in order to support BG Jacka.

Achieving the standard

Each light battery has distinct components that need to be trained and integrated internally before the integration with a battle group can occur. In order to achieve this, resources are required and due to the quick thinking and TARP analysis by RHQ, an initial amount of resources was acquired with a plan for the

volume and type of resources to purchase in the near future gaining fidelity.

Artillery Fires Teams and the BG JFECC headed by Major Robert Love ran the training plan. In addition to attending battery planned and run CPX and IFOT training, these two elements attended all road to war series exercises which, exactly like the full-time army is a graduated continuum, consisting of a *Crawl, Walk, Run* philosophy. The team also seized additional opportunities such as the attendance on larger 1 Bde Exercise Carbon Predator 19 and Silicon Predator 19 to further round out their basic skills.

In 2019 the BG Jacka exercise continuum was not however, the priority for the mortar line and command post, since as a joint entity, it was still achieving proficiency by re-prioritising their support to Exercise Chong Ju. During this Exercise, they provided Indirect Fires in support of manoeuvre elements. The absence from the BG Jacka continuum was deemed a palatably small risk. The risk being the potential for some turbulence when bringing the mortar line “back into the fold” prior to Exercise Talisman Sabre 19.

SUAS²

The introduction of SUAS to the Regiment represented a dynamic shift in capabilities of enhanced surveillance and targeting that Army Reserve artillery could provide 2nd Division. However, in order to appropriately harness this capability, 9th Regiment needed to develop a comprehensive training package that would allow the Regiment to employ SUAS in support of 2nd Division operations whilst simultaneously developing the capability in the Regiment. To assist with this process, two Army Reserve members were employed on a CFTS contract to augment the Regimental S7 Cell in developing SUAS TTPs and SOPs. This increased manning and expertise allowed the S7 Cell to develop Lieutenant Colonel Lachlan Searle’s vision for a reservist JIST³ (Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Support Team) whilst also establishing

internally run WASPs course to generate capability growth. result of their hard work, 9th Regiment successfully ran its inaugural SUAS Operators Course in February 2019 and has subsequently deployed JISTs in support of key 2nd Division Exercises.

“Capability is delivered and evaluated in the field. The success or failure of Army’s newest unit will be judged by each of us deploying, and delivering, in the field.”

- Lieutenant Colonel Lachlan Searle,
Commanding Officer 9th Regiment

Integrating with the BG

In recognition of documents like the reference consistently citing the integration of supporting assets needing improvement, the members of 9 Regt were determined to ensure that they were involved from the beginning. Planning conferences with the 4th and 9th Brigades in 2019 were always attended by representatives of 9 Regt to ensure the smooth running and inclusion of its members. The actual exercises were led by the BG Jacka Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mark Neich; a full-time infantryman, who, due to his experiences both domestically and internationally with artillery C2, was a strong advocate for the JFECC and the 6/13 Battery Commander, which made the integration process a lot easier. In the same vein that 9 Regt, since its inception, has been attempting to collate various dislocated battery SOP’s into a regimental level document, so too was the BG trying to test and adjust the SIB SOPs to represent the Jacka experience on these most recent series of exercises.

The introduction of SUAS to the Regiment represented a dynamic shift in capabilities of enhanced surveillance and targeting that Army Reserve artillery could provide 2nd Division.

The nature of a rear area is usually defined by a complex physical terrain; mixed populations that may contain civilians, not-state actors, and irregular forces; and a complex information environment. A quandary for fires planning during the Jacka exercises therefore, was how to

² 9 REGT has WASP and MRUAS

³ Joint ISR Support Team. 6 x PAX: 2 x BG HQ attachments and 2 x Pairs detached to support NAI’s

integrate a small amount of light indirect fire capacity across a large dynamic 360-degree brigade rear area.

Further, the organic SUAS capability presented ISTAR opportunities and risks which had never been fully exploited in a Reinforcing BG before. In conjunction with less “exotic” ISTAR assets such as AFT and RSS teams, commanders were given the opportunity of greater situational awareness and targeting, but also the challenges of supplying, transporting, and protecting those attached assets. For the BG Combat Team commanders training with those attachments, key learning outcomes proved to be learning to plan with those assets, the vertical and horizontal integration of ISR assets, and the growth of their “drone-literacy”.

Integrating with 1st Brigade

Support to the BG through the Brigade JFECC is a vital point in the success equation, and the first problem to solve was communications. The BG itself provides a supporting relationship to 1 BDE and hence is required to maintain a corresponding communications suite. Throughout the Jacka exercises, it was evident that this is still a challenge that the Army Reserve as a whole is working to overcome. Through liaison with 8th/12th Regiment, (8/12 Regt) a further communications setback was identified; they were going to be trying something experimental. Similar to the dispersed mesh data network of EPLRS, the dispersed IP data transfer of an Adaptive Networking Wideband Waveform (ANW2C) would be using 117G Radios instead of traditional EPLRS. This was intended to be their *primary* transmission of fires data. Within ARes, procurement of digitally capable vehicles and the “standard suite” of digital hardware and software, as well as the training of Army Reserve members is slow. To further try and keep up with experiments such as that being run by 8/12 Regt is an ambitious goal.

Support to the BG through the Brigade JFECC is a vital point in the success equation, and the first problem to solve was communications.

Whilst in attendance on the 1 BDE exercises, the co-location with 101st Battery and 102nd Coral

Battery meant that 9 Regt was able to leverage off the BCs of those Btys, Major Graham Cummings and Major Matt Seabrook. They were able to provide mutually beneficial training opportunities to their Army Reserve Artillery brethren. Not all training activities were dynamic by nature, and the later phases of Exercise Carbon Predator meant there was an opportunity for 9 Regt AFTs to be paired with 1st Armoured Regiment squadron commanders and support their manoeuvre plans in the battlefield simulation centre. Whilst not directly affecting the integration with the 1 BDE JFECC, these events allowed social capital to be earned and exposure to 1 Bde units.

9 Regt continues .to ... seek out challenges ... and to provide quality JFE to the Reinforcing BG.

In broad terms, the centralisation of artillery assets allows for greater technical assurance, flexibility, and quality in the provision of support in accordance with a readying manning document. While still facing acute resourcing challenges when deploying out field, the decentralisation of the readying battery means flexibility and the ability to seize upon opportunities as they arise. 9 Regt continues to look over the horizon, seek out challenges and responsibility, and to provide quality JFE to the Reinforcing BG. However, the future development of 9 Regt cannot rest on a few key far-sighted personalities within the regiment. The intellectual and cultural cross pollination from the broader RAA community must become routine. The support that the Artillery community provided and continues to provide is priceless and cannot be overstated in the successful journey 9 Regt has had in joining with and supporting BG Jacka.

Reference:

A. CTC trends report 2016 – Integration of supporting assets (The last time BG Jacka was in the box)

16th Air Land Regiment RAA

Farewell 16th Air Land Regiment & Welcome 16th Regiment RAA

*Lieutenant Colonel Mark Mankowski
Commanding Officer*

The three themes from the 16th Air Land Regiment (16 ALR) submission for the Winter 2018 edition of the Liaison Letter were, busy, looking forward to Exercise Pitch Black (first time in 10 years we had deployed our air defence capability in support) and the imminent Government announcement of Project Land 19 Phase 7B to replace our existing capability based around RBS 70. You will read about all three in this submission.

Enhanced National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System

On 25th March 2019, 16 ALR supported the Government announcement that it will improve the protection of Australian troops through the purchase of a new short-range air defence capability using Australian designed and built radars and vehicles.

“The capability will be based on the Raytheon/Kongsberg NASAMS which is used by several countries including the United States”, Minister Pyne said. “Australia’s version of NASAMS will use advanced radars designed and manufactured by Canberra-based company, CEA Technologies. The CEA radar that has been so successful on our ships will now be integrated into an Australian designed and built vehicle, the Thales Hawkei”.



Minister for Defence, The Hon ChristoSpher Pyne MP & Chief of Army, LTGEN Rick Burr among other dignitaries.

The requirement of LAND 19 Phase 7B is to provide mobile tactical-level protection from air and indirect fire threats to the Joint Force, and NASAMS is designed to be integrated with the ADF’s existing sensor network that includes Vigilare, the RAAF’s E-7A Wedgetail AWE&C and C2 platform, and Navy’s new Hobart class Aegis destroyers.

The ‘baseline’ NASAMS is an advanced short/medium range GBAD system that was originally developed for the Royal Norwegian Air Force (RNoAF). Army’s requirements were for an Enhanced configuration of NASAMS, one that would add significant capability. As well as the Kongsberg Fire Distribution Centre (FDC), the Enhanced solution adds active electronically-scanned array (AESA) sensors made by CEA Technologies, electro-optical sensors, an upgraded vehicle-borne high-mobility launcher (HML), and the adoption of the latest Mk 2 canister launcher. Both of these launchers will allow multiple types of effectors to be employed.



CO & RSM 16 ALR at NASAMS Gate 2 Announcement in front of CEATAC Radar

16 ALR will receive two NASAMS batteries and Initial Operating Capability (IOC) is likely to be declared at Woodside Barracks in 2023. An Australian Army NASAMS Fire Unit will comprise a FDC, a CEA Tactical sensor, an EO/IR sensor, and a number of canister and/or HML with AMRAAM missiles. It is expected that a fire unit will comprise an Air Defence Troop, and that three Troops will make up a Battery.

The FDC will also interface with Army’s Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATADS), as well as the Elbit Battle Management Systems (BMS) currently being delivered under Project LAND 200. For deployment, the NASAMS is compatible with

all ADF strategic transport assets including the RAAF's C-17 Globemaster III airlifter and the Navy's Canberra class LHDs.

A constant theme that came through the announcement was that it was all about the protection of our soldiers. The introduction of fifth generation capabilities, as well as the joint fires integration, make NASAMS one of Army's most important projects. It is a capability that will make us future-ready.

Deep selection of personnel for the Initial Operating Capability

Between now and the first equipment arriving in 2022, there is work to do. The focus for the next two years is to select and train the Tactical Control Assistants (TCAs at rank of Sergeant), Troop Commander and Tactical Directors (Captains), Troop and Battery Sergeant Major, and Battery Commander for the IOC organization. Once these personnel are identified later in 2019, 16 ALR will work with AHQ and Career Managers to produce a directive on the skills and experience these personnel require to be 'ready' by 2022.

There are trades within the ADF that use skills of relevance to the future NASAMS capability. For 16 ALR to both contribute and participate in the IAMD fight, it needs to be able to develop and sustain its own air surveillance workforce. Commencing in early 2018 a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (JNCO) completed the RAAF Air Surveillance Operator (ASOP) course and a junior officer (Lieutenant) completed the Air Battle Manage course with the view to commence developing these skill sets for use within 16 ALR.

There are aspects of the Principle Warfare Officers' course that would be particularly valuable for NASAMS preparation. The Air Warfare Destroyer uses similar doctrine statements to pre-program the semi-autonomous system. This work is done by Combat System Operators.

Skills can be trained on existing simulators for NASAMS. Raytheon have offered access to the Air Defence Console (ADC) at Brindabella Business Park. The ADC is the simulated version of the FDC, which includes the Battle Management Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (BMC4I) system for NASAMS. This console provides the fire control for the system. The

ADC provides the ability to network sensors, launchers, and other ADCs in a hard real-time network, and has an extensive datalink capability to provide tactical information exchange with higher echelon and lateral units using a range of tactical datalinks and message formats.

Skills can also be obtained overseas from nations with IAMDS and NASAMS. The priority for overseas courses will reflect the Army's Engagement Priorities in order to provide the maximum chance of the investment in staff work being rewarded by places on courses.

50th Anniversary of 16th Regiment

Army Headquarters Raising/Reorganization Instruction 18/69 of 14th May 1969, raised Headquarters 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RAA and reorganized 110th and 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries RAA with effect from 2nd June 1969. Therefore, on Sunday 2nd June 2019, the newly re-titled 16th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (16 Regt) will proudly display the Queen's Banner on parade with the unit's members showing the highest standards of dress, bearing and drill to demonstrate the pride and esprit de corps in the unit. It will be a great honour for 16 Regt to host this significant event and provide an opportunity for all former members to reminisce about their service at the home of the ADF's Air Defence capability.



Banner of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

110th Battery – C-UAS

Major Nicholas Wells, Battery Commander

Ever since the ADF rapidly acquired a counter-unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS) capability, 16 ALR has maintained and developed this capability. Comprising two different systems to defeat the majority of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), this capability is one that fits neatly within 16 ALR's remit. The disruption of the enemy's UAS is simply an extension of Ground Based Air and Missile Defence. For the soldiers, what this means is that they are required to maintain their skills on the RBS 70, Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) and the Giraffe Agile Multi-Beam radar, as well as the newly acquired C-UAS systems; no small task.

... integrating RBS70 and C-UAS is a task that will keep the soldiers of 16 ALR busy, but also prove immensely rewarding.

The ADF's contribution to the APEC 2018 leader's week security operation included a rapid deployment of a C-UAS detachment in November 2018. While primarily an operational capability, it can be used in extremis for such activities. This was part of a broad package of support for the Papua New Guinea Defence Force under the command of JTF 658. This operation demonstrated the Regiment's ability to rapidly generate and deploy a C-UAS capability brick, the inherent flexibility in the system and the ability of the junior leaders within the Regiment to take basic GBAD deployment principles and employ them regardless of the weapon system or the terrain.



GAMD Det at Cultana Training Area

2019 promises to be an exciting time for this emerging capability. 110 Bty has been tasked with assisting AHQ in considering whether to formally bring the capability into service. Balancing the training needs of the Gunners within the Regiment, establishing the appropriate relationships external to 16 ALR and integrating RBS70 and C-UAS is a task that will keep the soldiers of 16 ALR busy, but also prove immensely rewarding. If there's anything that 2018 has taught us it's that the members of 16 ALR continue to embody the Accurate, Responsive and Dependable Joint characteristics of being a Gunner.

AGO Battery

Major James Lawlor, Battery Commander

GLOs at Work. 16 ALR's Ground Liaison Officer (GLO) network worked tirelessly across RAAF Air Mobility, Surveillance and Response, and Air Combat Groups in facilitating (in cooperation with DAAS) both RAAF aircraft and contracted Alpha and Lear Jets to provide added realism and depth to Army and JTF training serials throughout the year. Much of this work was done at short notice as RAAF and contracted air assets became available, thus confirming the valuable contribution GLOs make to Army's Raise Train and Sustain efforts.

Late December 2018 saw RAAF No.38 SQN at Townsville (flying B300 Kingair) disbanded with the airframes and staff (including a GLO) moving to No.32 SQN at RAAF Base East Sale, Victoria. RAAF No. 35 SQN (C27J Spartan) also moved from RAAF Richmond up to new, purpose-built facilities at RAAF Amberley with the GLO effort also moved.

Exercise Nigrum Pugio 18-2 (JTAC Concentration). JTAC Tp (located at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW) planned and conducted Exercise Nigrum Pugio 18-2, FORCOMDs six-monthly JTAC concentration activity. This exercise was expertly supported by the aircraft, crews and members of RAAF No. 75 SQN on detachment from RAAF Base Tindal, NT. This activity saw FORCOMD JTACs control 75 SQN Hornets to deliver Laser-guided and unguided HE munitions (by day and night) as well as 20 mm gun runs by day to achieve JTAC currency requirements. This activity progressed to tactical scenarios (dry controls) and the conduct of a number of 18-

month evaluations (an additional currency / competency requirement).

ALI Integration with E7. Air-Land Integration Troop conducted a number of connectivity tests with RAAF No. 2 SQN E7 Wedgtails flying out of RAAF Williamtown to Cultana and return. ALI Tp communicated solely over the Link 16 network and was successful in transmitting and receiving, the complete Link 16 message set. This activity proved the way for continued testing and tactical employment of the E7 Wedgtail by Army-led minor and major JTFs.

Notable among the floats was a Protected Mobility, Air Defence Variant vehicle, festooned with colourful tinsel rather than its customary ‘shaggy dog’ camouflage.

Posting of two 16 ALR members to 3CRU. As part of 16 ALR’s evolution to the NASAMs capability mentioned earlier, two members of 16 ALR, a lieutenant and a lance bombardier, conducted training at RAAF’s Surveillance and Control Training Unit (SACTU) to become an Air Battle Manager and Air Surveillance Operator respectively. Both members completed the RAAF initial qualification (IET) courses of approximately three-months duration each before posting to RAAF 3 CRU (Control and Reporting Unit) for calendar year 2019. It is envisaged that these members will return to 16 ALR to form the nucleus of Army’s airspace management capability, a key function in preventing fratricide in the beyond visual range engagements that will become the hallmark of 16 ALR’s increased capabilities.

111th Battery – Neighbours, The training opportunities from Community Engagement

Major Owain Griffiths, Battery Commander

On a warm, cloudy morning in December, the main street of Woodside, South Australia was filled with excited local parents and children eagerly awaiting the start of the annual Christmas Pageant. With the officials in place (CO 16 ALR as a special guest judge!) the Christmas floats began their steady procession past the appreciative crowd.



Community Support - Woodside Christmas Pageant support using PMADV

Notable among the floats was a Protected Mobility, Air Defence Variant vehicle, festooned with colourful tinsel rather than its customary ‘shaggy dog’ camouflage. The float drew the appreciation of the local Adelaide Hills residents, and earned an honourable mention from the judges (with complete impartiality from CO 16 ALR of course!).

While simple, this activity is one of many that the Regiment, and 111 Bty has conducted over 2018 to bring us closer to our community. It is both a recognition of the support we draw from our community, and a demonstration of our commitment to being valued members of the Adelaide Hills community. This article intends to highlight the value of community engagement activities, both at the individual and sub-unit level and to review the engagement activities of 111 Bty in 2018.



South Australian Aboriginal Womens' Netball Academy hosted by DFR and 16ALR

Charitable activity formed an important part of the Battery’s engagement activities in 2018 and members of the Battery gladly supported Legacy Week by travelling to local town centres and engaging with members of the local community to collect donations on behalf of Legacy. At an individual level, this activity provided an opportunity for our soldiers and officers to

interact with our community, and to hone their interpersonal and communication skills. From a sub unit perspective we had the privilege of supporting an organisation that does excellent work for the families of those who have died during or after their service in the ADF.

In addition to Legacy Week, the Battery supported ceremonial activities for Bridgewater Primary School and the Hills Christian Community School, demonstrations and activities for the SANFL's Land's Cup, Defence Work experience programs and the Uraidla Show. All of these interactions provided members of the Battery a chance to integrate with the local community, to display our capabilities and to build interest in the Regiment in the community that we are part of. These interactions provide opportunities for networking, and open avenues for potential community support and access to non-defence training areas, in addition to being a key driver for recruiting activities.

Recruitment courses for the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service regularly visit Woodside for physical training, team building and resilience development activities.

In addition to directly supporting our immediate community, the Battery has been able to export leadership skills and physical and mental resilience training to help in the development of some of South Australia's emergency services personnel. Recruitment courses for the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service regularly visit Woodside for physical training, team building and resilience development activities. These activities are supported by ADF Fitness Leaders and Officers from the Regiment, to prepare Firefighters for the rigours of service, and to develop their will to push themselves further to meet the team's lifesaving outcomes.

For members of the Battery this activity has numerous benefits, from detailed planning and execution of training, through to motivation and encouragement, and even simply the ability to see the commitment, drive and professionalism of members of our emergency services.

While 2018 has been a fantastic year for 111 Bty in terms of military exercises, notably with the first Regimental deployment in years to Exercise

Pitch Black 18, the value of simple interaction and cooperation with the local community is often overlooked.



BDR Rowe conducting Detachment Training at Woodside Barracks

The value of community engagement stretches beyond the act of support to a task. It provides creative and valuable individual and sub-unit training opportunities that draws us closer to perhaps our most important base of support, our local community. In this and many other respects, 2018 has been an excellent year for 111 Bty and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2019.

School of Artillery

*Lieutenant Colonel Nick Wilson
Commanding Officer / Chief Instructor &
Deputy Head of Regiment*

The School of Artillery's mission is to DELIVER individual training, nested in the Combined Arms environment, in Joint Fires & Effects, Surveillance and Target Acquisition, and Air and Missile Defence in order to build and sustain Australia's best practice in Joint Effects training, education and doctrine. This is to support the generation of the Army's foundation war fighting capabilities through high quality and safe individual training in the Royal Regiment's requisite capabilities.

To do this the School has four distinct priorities:

- Training to the DTR;
- Support to modernisation;
- Professional development of our people; and

- Support to external stakeholders.

Central to this approach is building and capitalising on strong enabling relationships across the spectrum and executing a balanced, professional and efficient methodology for training outcomes. Safety for our people – both staff and trainees - remains a no-fail criteria.

The common unit mantra is that we seek to influence through innovation.

This calendar year, the School of Artillery will generate over 2250 proficiencies and train in excess of 1100 students across all course regimes. This includes 348 ab initio Gunners. In doing so, we enable the land force to manoeuvre in an unprecedented environment of change. Technology advancement, social demographic influence and the changing nature of battle are all factors demanding a flexible and adaptable approach; we, like the rest of Army, are in constant motion.

The common unit mantra is that we seek to influence through innovation. We solve problems through a proactive investment in our people, equipment and emerging technology; and you will see the results of this through new learning strategies shortly.

We are proud of our role within the Royal Regiment; as a learning centre of excellence, contributing call-sign for the Joint Warfighting Series and as custodians for RAA heritage.

Joint Fires Wing (JFW)

The RAA and Joint Fires community has undergone some significant changes in the past year and now looks forward to several more as 2019 kicks off. For the staff within JFW, this means a busy year. The staffing of the wing has undergone significant changes with almost a complete change, only retaining a handful of members from 2018. So firstly a thank you to staff who posted out, for their diligence and hard work during their posting.

The hard work of 2018 resulted in the awarding of Instructor of the Year to Sergeant Anderson of Mortar Cell, Bombardier of the Year to newly promoted Sergeant McCaig of Strike Cell, and a Bronze Commendation to Sergeant Fordham of RTT, all three being a powerful testament of the attitude within the school and JFW.

... Instructor of the Year to Sergeant Anderson of Mortar Cell, Bombardier of the Year to newly promoted Sergeant McCaig of Strike Cell, ...

For 2019, the main effort remains with conduct and delivery of instruction on courses, with JFW already completing two courses (SUBJ 4 BDR, ACSO and JFT) whilst continuing delivery of ROBC. Concurrently the staff are committed to developing courses for future delivery.

Some of the changes RAA trainees can expect to see within the year are blended and electronic learning, introduction of new equipment and software (such as DARS-A, JFACTS and BMS) and the transition to the new DOME Simulator Facility. For Mortar Cell, changes largely revolve around Land 136 with the new M252A1 Mortar and M32A1 Ballistic Computer, compatible with AFATDS and DTCS, whilst incorporating the M113AS4 Mortar variant into their courses.

JFW has also been busy supporting commitments overseas. Captain Richard Lever and Sergeant Justin Matangi are preparing to participate in the Joint Warfighting Assessment in Seattle. Major Niel Gould and Captain Steve McBride also participated in the JCAS Symposium and JFO Curriculum Review in Virginia. This was encouraging and we look to further our engagement with our partner nations to help develop each other's programs.

The JFS ESC STAN Team recently audited the Wing's JFO program where several international best practices were observed thanks to the hard work of Warrant Officer Class Two Scott Ashurst.

Finally, JFW currently have three staff deployed; Captain Giles Clark, Sergeant Aaron Spicer and recently Sergeant Jade Godbolt, so we keep them and their families in our thoughts as they either prepare to leave or look forward to returning back to Australia.



Members of Strike Cell and the SI Joint Fires Wing with international members of the JFS ESC Team during the JFO Audit in 2019.

Surveillance and Target Acquisition Wing (STA Wing)

Since the last edition of the Cannonball, STA Wing has focused on the modernisation and improvement of the trade Learning Management Packages (LMP's), the introduction into service of the Small Unmanned Aerial System (SUAS) - WASP SUAS and Black Hornet NUAS - engagement with key stakeholders within the L129 project (SHADOW TUAS replacement) and assistance in the update of STA doctrine. The modernisation and improvement of LMPs has been through Plan Erebus with five out of nine LMPs released and made active for training and the other four due for release within 2019. The main improvements from these LMPs arise from the update of doctrine (with vast input from the Wing) and modernising training IAW input from the Regiment on current practices and procedures.

The Wing has remained active in assisting Army Knowledge Centre personnel in updating STA doctrine.

With the increased focus on SUAS within the Army, the team in STA Wing have maintained a high tempo in delivering training. In 2018 the focus had been the delivery of training of the Black Hornet NUAS. The team have trained approximately 100 personnel that are now classified as trainers able to conduct training within their unit locations. The focus has shifted in 2019 to the WASP SUAS which will see approximately 100 personnel trained as train-the-trainers over seven courses. Recently (Mar 19) the SUAS team were invited by AHQ to

attend, and provide SME advice, on a payload trial to demonstrate future payload capabilities for a new SUAS platform that may replace the WASP system in the future.

The Wing has remained active in assisting Army Knowledge Centre personnel in updating STA doctrine. Of note the LWP-CA (STA) 2-3-3 UAS Operations and LWP-CA (STA) 2-3-2 Artillery STA have been updated to reflect changes in how the UAS organisation operate, the inclusion of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS) as well as planning and execution of STA operations. It is anticipated that both documents will not require amending until L129 phase 3 comes to fruition. The last publication LWP-CA (STA) 2-3-4 TUAS Battery Deployment Procedures is under review and amendment with release scheduled for 2019.

Air and Missile Defence Wing (AMDW)

Following the announcement of that the RBS70 will be replaced with the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS) the introduction to the new system commenced in 2018. Raytheon started with a demonstration and introduction to the Electronic Optical (EO) sensor at their offices at Nowra NSW. Members from AMDW, Warrant Officer Class Two English and Sergeant Archer (now WO2), attended the demonstration of the proto-type sensor tracking a target out beyond normal visual range with the use of digital camera, forward looking infrared camera and a laser range finder. The EO sensor will provide NASAMS with passive air surveillance, raid assessments, verify jamming, and kill assessments.

... the RBS70 will be replaced with the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS) ...

In Jun 2018 Kongsberg and Raytheon conducted the first of three introductions to NASAMS courses to be held at 16 ALR in Woodside Barracks over a period of five months. The training was open to all ranks of the Air and Missile Defence trade and was split into three modules. Each module was a week long and they covered an overview of NASAMS and system description, Air Defence Console (ADC) operators' introduction and NASAMS tactical

workshop. Warrant Officer Class Two English and Bombardier Martin attended the full three weeks of the course with most members of AMDW attending the first week of the subsequent courses. The course was of great benefit to both Kongsberg and Raytheon as well as the members attending the training. It stimulated discussions on the requirements to bring the system into service, trade structure, training burden, aptitude and skill requirements, rank and experience requirements. All conceded that there is a lot of work to be done once government signs final pass in late March early April 2019.

In January this year the incoming IG of the AMDW, Captain Joseph Thomas, attended the UK Guided Weapons Short Course (UKGWSC). The course was hosted by Cranfield University, at the UK Defence Academy, Shrivenham and was the first time since 2014 that an AMD officer has attended the UKGWSC. The aim of the UKGWSC was to provide a general overview of guided weapons systems and technology, introduce students to the theoretical design of guided weapon subsystems and demonstrate how these subsystems form the overall guided weapon system.

The UKGWC provided an excellent opportunity to develop the technical expertise within the AMD stream. Knowledge gained from the UKGWSC has already been used to develop lessons across all RAA ROBC packages. As the ADF looks to acquire a new GBAD system as part of Land 19 Phase 7B, attendance at courses such as UKGWSC for members of the AMD stream will likely become more common.



53 Battery (53 Bty)

In 2018 53 Bty celebrated 20 years since its re-raising as the School of Artillery's training support Battery. The second half of 2018 was a

particularly busy period for the Bty with support to five substantial artillery fire and manoeuvre activities across the training continuum from Gunner Grade One to Joint Fires Team Commanders' fire planning live fire. This last live fire activity was particularly spectacular with plenty of ammunition allowing visiting Royal Military College graduands the opportunity to call fire and experience the Royal Australian Artillery in the field. The Battery also undertook some rewarding development activities including a visit to the Bendigo Thales factory to learn about ballistic protection modelling and view the production lines for the Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light.

Soldier development achieved substantial successes ...

Junior Non-Commissioned Officers of the Battery were put to the test with a mounted navigation competition with the eventual runner's up launching a protest after they missed out on points due to stopping to assist with a small bush fire! The year was rounded out with a Battery resilience trip to Canberra which included historical presentations and plenty of confidence obstacles and PT. 2019 has already been busy for the Battery achieving certification early due to the press of commitments to the Avalon Air Show and the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting.

The Buie Bar kept the social side of the Battery alive throughout the year with lunches at the Royal Hotel in Seymour and an end of year function conducted in a torrential downpour. Soldier development achieved substantial successes and as a result more than half of the Battery's current Junior Non-Commissioned Officers received their training and promotions whilst posted to the Battery. This should demonstrate the opportunities a posting to the School provides for all including our most junior soldiers. Star performers in the Battery were rewarded including Army commendation recognition for Sergeant Fordham and Bombardier Selwood and corps level awards to Bombardier Selwood and Corporal Dawson (RAAOC).



In the future 53 Battery's primary mission will continue to be the provision of Joint Fires and Effects in support of Royal Australian Artillery trade training however we also expect to continue to be at the leading edge of introduction to service of new and modified equipment given existing strong links with the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group. An increasing focus on the use of simulation in training provides an opportunity to allocate effort outside the single stream of field gunnery and some work has been done developing opportunities to support more broadly including Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The Battery is also well placed to consider a return to providing mortar live fire elements, potentially in support of 9 Regt or the Joint Fires Mortar Training Team.

Radio, Digital and Support Wing (RDSW)

The School of Artillery's Radio, Digital and Support Wing (RDSW) continues to perform its role as the gateway for all trainees entering into the world of the Royal Australian Artillery. Proudly welcoming trainees direct from Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC) Kapooka we remain steadfast in building the foundation for all trainees whether they be pursuing careers as Gunners on the M777 Gun Line, Artillery Communication Systems Operators (ACSO) in the Command Post, Joint Fire Team (JFT) operators, Ground Based Air Defence operators (GBAD) including Sense, Warn and Locate, or Shadow 200 UAS operators.

All roles are open to, and actively encourage, female trainees, with the increasing numbers of trainees pursuing these trades reinforcing their viability as rewarding career paths for all personnel. Alongside our more typical demographic in their late teens and early

twenties, we have the fortune of mature trainees with military experience from as far afield as South Africa and the United Kingdom, and Corps/Trade Transfers, all contributing to a diverse mix of capability and skill.

Their pathway within RDSW will see them complete three courses; Common Induction Training (CIT), Basic Combat Communicator Course (BCCC), and Specialist Combat Communicator Course (SCCC). The former builds on their foundation from ARTC, predominantly in range time earning them non-live fire qualifications in 64 mm, 88 mm, Claymore, GLA, EF88 and F89 weapon systems, pyrotechnics, and additionally the Army Combative Programme Level 2, and Character Development lessons.

BCCC covers the basic functions and operation of communications suites, including voice procedure, whilst SCCC goes in depth into operating procedures, antennae theory and setup, covers Fire Missions, transmitting and receiving reports and returns, and includes command post exercises. With all this to cover in their time here it can be a hectic schedule for most, utilising high calibre instructors employed as subject matter experts in their field drawn from across the School of Artillery. The successful educating and training of these personnel is a whole of organisation effort.

Proudly welcoming trainees direct from Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC) Kapooka we remain steadfast in building the foundation for all trainees ...

Whilst all instructors within RDSW are relishing their role, it is important to highlight noteworthy efforts from Bombardier Cruickshank and Lance Bombardier Sharp-Bucknall. Bombardier Cruickshank's innovative use of Go-Pro technology in his lessons ensures all students have the ability to observe demonstrations.

All feedback from trainees in course Training Review Reports have highlighted this as a significant sustain and we applaud and encourage this cognitive development to how lessons are being taught. Lance Bombardier Sharp-Bucknall has been awarded the Head of Regiment's Commendation for his exemplary performance as an ACSO, distinguishing him

amongst his peers, and he now passes his technical excellence on in the advancement of trainees.

With the number of trainees choosing careers in the RAA on the rise we look forward to the continuous influx, and are endeavouring to establish familiarisation visits into their programs yielding a more detailed ‘look at life’, and incorporate historical and cultural aspects to further establish their esprit de corps.

Conclusion

By the time you read this, the School will have nearly completed its first high tempo training period that saw at its peak 254 trainees across 16 courses being run concurrently. The tempo is expected to remain high throughout 2019 and the School will, as always, remain dedicated to meeting the challenge of providing officers and soldiers of high quality to fill the ranks of the Royal Australian Artillery.

BUDDING GUNNER HISTORIANS
Help is Available

The Regiment's History Committee will provide advice to all budding historians who are writing and intend to publish any aspect of the Regiment's past.

Simply pass your draft through your unit commander for forwarding to Regimental Committee staff. A History Committee member will contact you.

The earlier in the planning and writing process you make contact with the Regiment's experienced historians the better. Kicking off in the right direction saves a lot of effort!

The History Committee will not re-write or publish your work for you. It will provide invaluable advice on methods and resources.



MEDIA RELEASE

28 Mar 2019

Prime Minister, Minister for Defence Appointment of Chief of Air Force and Chief Joint Operations

The Government is pleased to announce that Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO, DSC, will be Australia's next Chief of Air Force. The appointment was made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Government for four years from 4 July 2019.

Air Marshal Hupfeld is currently serving as the Chief Joint Operations and has extensive leadership and operational experience in senior positions including Air Commander Australia and Head Force Design.

His experience in these roles makes him ideally suited to continue the development of the Air Force as a modern and effective force capable of undertaking regional and global operations.

The current Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies, AO, CSC, will complete his tenure on 3 July 2019, after 40 years of exemplary service.

The Government extends its sincere gratitude to Air Marshal Davies, who has been relentless in embedding a culture of innovation and integration that will shape the Air Force for generations to come.

The Chief of the Defence Force, General Campbell, AO, DSC, has advised the Government that Major General Greg Bilton, AM, CSC will be promoted to Lieutenant General and appointed as the Chief Joint Operations, from 28 June 2019.

Major General Bilton is currently Commander Forces Command within Army and is a highly experienced officer with extensive leadership and operations experience through senior positions including Deputy Chief Joint Operations, and Commander 7th Brigade. He has also served as Deputy Commanding General United States Army Pacific. The Government congratulates Air Marshal Hupfeld and Major General Bilton on their selection and wishes Air Marshal Davies well in his future endeavours.

PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA
The Hon Scott Morrison MP

Professional Papers

OUR EYE IN THE SKY: INTEGRATING E-7A WEDGETAIL AND THE COMBAT BRIGADE

Captain Pietro Ruggeri, 16th Air Land Regiment RAA

*“Defend from Above” –
42 Wing Motto*

Introduction

As Ground Liaison Officer to No 42 Wing I have had the opportunity to observe the E-7A Wedgetail operate in support of Forces Command (FORCOMD) exercises. This essay is intended to communicate the lessons learnt from these exercises to facilitate future integrated training.

The essay will first explain the context for discussion. It will then address airborne early warning, command and control, and targeting coordination in support of a combat brigade. Lastly, it will detail the lessons learnt from recent support to FORCOMD.

Discussion Context

What do we, as a ground combat element, *think* we need from air platforms? Bombs, guns, cameras, thermal sensors, and imagery communication? Wedgetail doesn't carry air-to-ground munitions, isn't equipped with high-definition multi-spectrum cameras, and can't determine ten figure grids to enemy dug-in positions. So, what is the use of one orbiting ninety miles south of the battlespace?

E-7A Wedgetail is the RAAF's airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) capability. It's based on a Boeing 737 airframe and is equipped with a multi-role electronically scanned array (MESA) radar with an effective range in excess of 400 kilometres. Wedgetail's role is to provide networked surveillance, information dissemination, and battlespace command and control to air warfare elements (RAAF Capability Guidebook, 22).

What is a combat brigade's contribution to air warfare? Typically, an Air Defence Battery (AD

Bty); a mix of RBS-70 ground-based air defence weapons, Giraffe Agile Multi Beam Radars (G-AMB), and a Battery Command Post (BCP), all from 16th Air Land Regiment. Together these provide a local air picture to the supported headquarters and a very short range, ground-based air defence capability.

What do we, as a ground combat element, think we need from air platforms?

Wedgetail can significantly improve the effectiveness of brigade air defence by forming the cornerstone of a Joint Task Force's integrated air and missile defence system (IAMDS), from which the land component can leverage. As a command and control platform, Wedgetail is also better equipped to coordinate airspace, providing a higher authority to a Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) who may have strike, ISR, and mobility platforms on station. This is also relevant to targeting coordination, with Wedgetail having the capability to efficiently communicate dynamic targets and execute target lists.

Early Warning

Despite operating with a ceiling altitude of 41,000 feet, the Wedgetail remains capable of communicating with land forces. Whether an Air Operations Centre, Brigade Headquarters, or Joint Terminal Attack Controller, the on-board capability allows for communications by voice and data (RAAF Capability Guidebook, 22). This means that airborne Surveillance Control Officers can disseminate near real-time information to any organisation or force element via their array of communication networks.

This information would be primarily focused on the air picture; a visual representation of all

friendly, hostile, and neutral aircraft flying within the area of operations. The RAAF has defined this as a recognised air picture (RAP), intending to share data and information collected from various ISR and air battle management capabilities with the ADF's common operating picture (AAP 1001.3, 2-18). With a MESA radar capable of identifying aircraft out to 400 kilometres, Wedgetail becomes a primary deployable means of generating and communicating the RAP.

At the Brigade level a local air picture is a responsibility of the AD Bty, employing radars and communications equipment to disseminate near real-time information. By coordinating the efforts of G-AMB radars, the BCP can derive a local air picture for Brigade early warning against hostile aircraft. Given their Link 16 compatibility, however, Wedgetail can directly communicate its RAP to the Air-Land Integration Cell (ALIC), significantly improving the Land Force's situational understanding of the air environment. The RAP would not only be limited to what Wedgetail can see with its MESA radar, but also the data it can relay from other RAAF and national strategic ground-based radars.

Tactical Air Land and Air Mobile Operations can be a complex activity to coordinate for a ground combat headquarters

Wedgetail can also be integrated into the early warning control net, which is the direct link between a Joint Force Air Operations Centre/Tactical Control Centre and the AD Bty command post. This net is established to coordinate the overall air defence effort within the IAMDS. ADF force protection doctrine acknowledges that "the growing capabilities of aircraft and missiles require joint forces to be more responsive, integrated, and networked to effectively defeat or neutralise the threat they pose" (ADDP 3.22, 2-32).

Wedgetail is capable of acting as a frontline conduit of information for the cueing of air and ground based air defence capabilities within a joint force area of operations. The impending acquisition of NASAMS will extend the range in which Army GBAD systems operate, giving an IAMDS commander more reason to decentralise control and engagement authority. Although NASAMS and Wedgetail can improve a Brigade's air defence capability, the IAMDS should be approached holistically within the Joint Force commander's intent.

Command and Control

Wedgetail is, at a minimum, an operational level capability. Its capacity for C2 tasks is shaped by its communications suite, radar, and highly trained crew of Surveillance Control Officers. This enables Wedgetail's role as a C2 node across the core air power roles: control of the air, strike, air mobility, and ISR (AAP 1000-D, 46). Control of the air is a standard AEW&C function, with Wedgetail crews gaining valuable experience in controlling coalition aircraft on exercise and operations.

AEW&C is also highly capable of coordinating all types of strike missions, particularly kinetic strikes against ground targets.

No 2 Squadron has participated in a number of high-end air combat exercises abroad, including the American Red Flag series. An AEW&C's ability to replicate ground based operational airspace control while being rapidly deployable and not limited by terrain makes it the commander's choice for JTF operations (ADDP 3.3, 2-9). While ground combat units wouldn't require dedicated Wedgetail support for airspace control, the TACP and ALIC could certainly leverage off an already airborne AEW&C for control within the AO and C2 of the aforementioned IAMDS.

AEW&C is also highly capable of coordinating all types of strike missions, particularly kinetic strikes against ground targets. The Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC) is able to delegate strike coordination authority to subordinate elements, providing the AEW&C crew autonomy and promoting integration with other elements of the Theatre Air Control System. This includes acting as a higher authority to the brigade's TACP. Wedgetail is capable of tasking aircraft from across the Joint AO to prosecute targets in support of brigade operations (ADFP 3.1.1, 3-4). As a result missions such as close air support and air interdiction can be planned and executed with greater flexibility outside of limited brigade airspace. Given that brigades often lack a higher level Air Operations Centre or Air Component Coordination Element when exercising at the formation level, a Wedgetail can replicate the strike control delegation process more rapidly, though with limited permanence.

Tactical Air Land and Air Mobile Operations can be a complex activity to coordinate for a ground combat headquarters. Often requiring

detailed integration with aircrew and heavy input from the TACP, a Tactical Air Land or Air Mobile Operation must be executed with minimal ambiguity in intent. The most difficult process is communicating safe flying routes, insertion locations, and actions on, all common points of debate between aviators and staff planners. The *Air Power Manual* recognises this complexity, suggesting the requirement of integrated planning and organisation in such operations (AAP 1000-D, 67). Wedgetail can provide a means for integrated execution. By handing over air mobility C2 to an AEW&C platform a brigade can enable the Wedgetail aircrew to utilise common language for control and exploit their greater situational understanding. This does create conflict in mission C2, however the clear communication of intent will mitigate operational friction.

The most difficult process is communicating safe flying routes, insertion locations, and actions on, all common points of debate between aviators and staff planners.

Wedgetail, with its communication and radar capability, is also expected to act as a critical node in the ADFs ISR network. It is a key enabler of situational understanding and decision superiority, providing real-time data and information to a JTFs integrated ISR system (AAP 1001.3, 2-5). For a Combat Brigade, Wedgetail can fulfil the roles of sensor and C2 platform within an AO. As an operational level asset Wedgetail is part of the vertical and horizontal integration of ISR. Although it is unlikely to be tasked in direct support of the land force, Wedgetail's ISR data is accessible to a JTF, particularly while it is reconnoitring priority intelligence requirements common to the formation commander and their higher headquarters (LWD 2-2 ISR, 25). Wedgetail could also communicate data it receives from other networked ISR platforms as a conduit of information; all the while maintaining control and coordination of airspace movement.

Targeting

Recently released joint fires and targeting doctrine places emphasis on multi-level command, control, and coordination. It acknowledges AEW&C as a platform “capable of conducting air battle management, airspace control, surveillance, and coordination functions in support of joint fires and effects,” and that it “can be employed autonomously or integrated

with other elements of the tactical air control system to support all air component missions” (ADFP 3.1.1, 3-5).

Wedgetail is a vital asset in the coordination of air delivered fire support, acting as a forward deployed C2 node capable of deconflicting airspace and attacks within the joint force AO. Air-ground attack, whether close air support or air interdiction, requires close coordination between air and land elements. Wedgetail, with a direct link to brigade headquarters, would be able to rapidly clear attacks beyond the fire support coordination line without a requirement for liaison from the attacking aircraft, back to the air operations centre, and then forward again to the brigade. The required current operating picture (ADFP 3.1.1, 6-10) can be shared by Wedgetail through data communication with the ALIC, thereby relieving TACP and AOC liaison responsibility, expediting attack, and increasing the safety of friendly forces.

Doctrine determines that a ‘top-down planning, bottom-up refinement’ process works best for joint fires and effects planning. This occurs when the brigade’s Joint Effects Working Group determines targets and effects, after which battlegroup Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centres refine how they intend to prosecute targets within their supported commander’s mission. Known as deliberate targeting, this process identifies known targets in the operational environment, categorising them as either scheduled or on-call. Targets will be allocated lethal or non-lethal effects and ultimately be collated in the Joint Integrated Prioritised Target List (JIPTL). Wedgetail, acting as a forward deployed airborne C2 node, can therefore enable the execution of deliberate targets in accordance with the JIPTL or task on station aircraft with prosecuting on-call targets. This means that the brigade’s target list, which is nested with the higher commander’s, can be executed by an AEW&C platform without constant involvement or communication from the JFECC and TACP to the AOC.

Wedgetail, with a direct link to brigade headquarters, would be able to rapidly clear attacks beyond the fire support coordination line ...

Wedgetail can also support the combat brigade in the prosecution of dynamic targets. Dynamic targets are typically high priority targets, immediate threats, or time-sensitive targets of opportunity which are either unplanned or unanticipated. Despite being unplanned or

unanticipated the target type should fall within the combined Attack Guidance Matrix / Target Selection Standards/High Pay-Off Target List, therefore having a metric for prosecution (3.1.1, 2B8).

Wedgetail is operating in the Joint Force AO, and has data communications with brigade, the ALIC or TACP can request support from the Mission Commander to prosecute dynamic targets.

Again, these targets should be nested within the brigade's higher commander's intent. If a Wedgetail is operating in the Joint Force AO, and has data communications with brigade, the ALIC or TACP can request support from the Mission Commander to prosecute dynamic targets. Wedgetail will receive the request and task aircraft outside of the brigade's AO to provide support. AEW&C's, with extended communications range and control authority, can also transmit a CAS brief provided by the ground combat element to the attacking aircraft prior to check in. Both deliberate and dynamic targeting has been common practice for Wedgetail crews on Operation Okra, giving them valuable experience to practice with FORCOMD.

Current doctrine determines that targeting requests outside of the Air Tasking Order, specifically dynamic targets, need to be routed through AOC liaison elements to the JFACC (ADFP 3.1.1, 6-10). Establishing data communications with a locally operating Wedgetail will enable rapid transmission of a Joint Tactical Air Strike Request, a procedure practiced during Exercise Predators Run in 2018. This would be particularly important for unexpected troops in contact situations when there are no available aircraft in the brigade's AO.

The Way Ahead

The BALO. The Brigade Air Liaison Officer should be lent on for understanding and integrating Wedgetail into brigade operations. Their appreciation of airspace control will provide a base for further education and training on Wedgetail's capability. This can be instigated by the BALO speaking directly with the Ground Liaison Officer in order to scope exercise support and capability briefs. The BALO will likely submit all platform support requests so should be fully informed of the brigade

commander's intent for air integration and joint training.

The GLO. No 42 Wing's Ground Liaison Officer is Army's conduit for integration with the Wedgetail. Working out of the Wing headquarters, they are given an intimate knowledge of AEW&C operations and exercises. They can be engaged directly or through 16th Air Land Regiment, though should have an established relationship with the BALO.

The Wing. No 42 Wing has a positive attitude towards joint integration. Often exercising in a coalition environment has generated an expectation of joint warfighting, with the Officer Commanding's intent communicating joint integration as a high priority. Platform support requests receive genuine consideration though should be submitted as early as reasonably possible to facilitate effective planning.

The ALIC. The Air Land Integration Cells of 16 ALR provide FORCOMD's Link 16 capability. The ALIC comprises personnel and equipment capable of relaying Wedgetail's RAP, acting as the centre point for the dissemination of air-based information across the land force. The ALIC also has direct links to the GLO, so can therefore conduct support planning on behalf of the commander and in accordance with their intent.

Readying. Integration training should begin with Wedgetail at the beginning of the brigade's readying cycle. Given 2 Squadron's high operational and training tempo this period is when justification can best be made for 42 Wing resources to be allocated to brigade level exercises. Exercises during readying also present an opportunity for the TACP to receive more air support, therefore setting the conditions for Wedgetail's participation. This will allow Wedgetail to conduct integrated training in early warning, command and control, and targeting before supporting the brigade during their ready assessment on Exercise Talisman Sabre or Hamel.

Conclusion

Wedgetail has provided support to both 16 ALR and 1 Brigade exercises in 2018. This support has thus far demonstrated the versatility of AEW&C's employment when integrated into FORCOMD exercises. Officer Commanding 42 Wing's intent is to continue advocating joint training, increasing Army's knowledge of Wedgetail's capability, and improving Wedgetail's interoperability with Army.

This can also link into targeting processes, with air-to-ground attack being a key enabler of brigade manoeuvre.

Understanding the platform and its role in the ADF is key to appreciating the tasks it can accomplish in support of a brigade. Airborne early warning improves the brigade's situational understanding of the air environment, particularly beyond the local air picture provided by the AD Bty. This capability, when incorporated into the IAMDS, will significantly improve FORCOMD's employment of GBAD. Giving Wedgetail greater command and control authority over brigade airspace will also facilitate joint integration at a level beyond what the JFECC and TACP are capable of. This can also link into targeting processes, with air-to-ground attack being a key enabler of brigade manoeuvre.

Although Wedgetail may not operate directly in support of land forces there are domestic training opportunities to practice detailed integration. Operationally AEW&C's will be tasked by the AOC to provide battlespace C2 to air warfare elements. Prior experience with the platform, however, will allow combat brigade's to leverage Wedgetail's situational understanding and improve joint warfighting capability.

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HE WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF **'ALLENBY'S GUNNERS'** BY MAJOR ALAN SMITH (RETD) & **'ROUNDS COMPLETE'** BY MAJOR GENERAL STEVE GOWER.

I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING MORE QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ACROSS THE ROYAL REGIMENT FOR FUTURE EDITIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO **ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK BIG SKY PUBLISHING** FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE READERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INTERESTED IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY TO VISIT

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Artillery Platform Analysis: The Assault Gun

Captain Jason Kirkham, 102 (Coral) Battery, 8/12 Regiment RAA

‘Volunteers cut off from a parent branch, whose guns were still horse-and-tractor-drawn, shuffled as army troops from division to division... the Sturmgeschutz developed a self-image as buccaneering adventurers, successors to the sixteenth century Landsknechts... The assault gunners restored many a position and turned back many an attack.’ – Dennis Showalter, author of ‘Hitler’s Panzers’

Artillery’s appearance and role in battle has adapted to the needs of commanders throughout history. In both appearance and application Artillery has assumed numerous innovative designs to optimise effects delivery to best support manoeuvre. This essay aims to bring attention to the effectiveness of the Assault Gun as an offensive support platform by analysing the factors responsible for its success. Germany’s *Sturmgeschutz* (Assault Gun) of WWII will serve as the exemplar of assault gun effectiveness and will be reviewed across five key criteria: design, capabilities, organisation, and combat performance. The essay will finish by considering the concept as it relates to the Royal Australian Artillery.



A Sturmgeschutz Model ‘G’ providing troop lift.

The concept of the *Sturmgeschutz* [Stug in short] was birthed in 1935 from Hitler’s requirement for an army capable of mobile combined arms warfare. Hitler’s vision necessitated that infantry be capable of overcoming fortified strongpoints with unprecedented rapidity. Modern direct fire support weapons such as man-portable recoilless rifles and automatic grenade launchers were not widely proliferated. Horse-drawn and towed artillery were very slow and the Panzerwaffe remained preoccupied with advancing rapidly into the enemy’s rear. Infantry formations therefore risked becoming separated and exposed. The towering concrete fortifications that dotted Europe therefore punctuated the infantry’s firepower deficiency leading up to the

outbreak of hostilities. The solution; mounting a field gun onto a panzer chassis and attaching it to the infantry as a means of close fire support. Even in 1939 as war loomed this morbid concept was opposed by notable officers like Guderian as an unnecessary diversion of resources from Panzer development¹. However, the influence of gifted military thinkers such as Manstein, Beck, and Halder pressed the idea to fruition². Unlike the Panzer, intended to exploit breakthroughs, the Stug was to be tethered to the infantry as ‘escort artillery’. Unsurprisingly when production commenced in 1935 it was taken under the ownership of the Artillery. The *Sturmartillerie*, as it became known, would be the harbinger of firepower to unseat enemy defences and give manoeuvre forces some much needed firepower.

In the 1930s, when many armies were becoming increasingly mobile, a number of capabilities made the Stug unique. The Stug concept was akin to the ‘Infantry Tank’ already in popular use across Europe. Infantry Tanks were slow and lightly armoured, designed to reduce soft-skinned defences in support of dismounted attacks. The Stug deviated from the formula through its enhanced mobility, firepower and aggressive method of employment. Fielded in batteries of six equipments, the platform boasted a 75 mm gun, excellent for engaging strongpoints, but also capable of destroying any enemy tank then known to the Germans³. It was fitted with a 300 hp engine, providing a speed advantage of 76 km/h over the British Matilda II. In addition to speed and armament, its communications suite made it ideal for command and control with successful transmissions recorded at ranges of 200 km⁴.

The Stug concept was akin to the ‘Infantry Tank’ already in popular use across Europe.

Improvements to the Stug’s capabilities kept in step with the war’s growing ferocity. Later

versions of the Stug fielded a 10 cm howitzer for greater lethality. The penultimate version, ‘Type G’, sported thicker armour, anti-magnetic mine paint and machine guns for close protection. Its proven performance coupled with its relatively cheap cost of production resulted in approximately 11,500 being produced by war’s end, greater than any individual Panzer built during the war⁵. Ultimately its ability to accommodate continual upgrade ensured the platforms’ competitive edge against a multitude of anti-tank innovations introduced by the Allies during the war. Yet, technical capability matters little without innovative methods for employment.

Stug Battalions were raised as independent units not belonging to a larger regiment.

The organisation and employment of *Sturmartillerie* units was uniquely different from conventional self-propelled artillery, even as we view it today. Stug Battalions were raised as independent units not belonging to a larger regiment. This enabled Stug units to be rapidly moved in ‘fire brigade’ fashion in response to the growing number of emergencies across German theatres. Then, once in action, the Stug behaved much differently to towed artillery. For instance, although fitted for indirect fire, the Stug was used primarily in the direct fire point target role, engaging static defences and armoured vehicles alike. The Stug proved so effective at this that it would eventually be employed to augment the dwindling panzer force.

Then, once in action, the Stug behaved much differently to towed artillery.

Unlike the tank however the Stug possessed limitations common in self-propelled artillery of the period. Its fixed gun mantle, necessary to support its heavy gun, severely limited its traverse when compared to a Panzer. It was also slower and had few weapons for close anti-infantry protection. Just like traditional artillery therefore, the survival of a Stug battery depended heavily on the security provided by the infantry being supported⁶. Photographs of the Stug in action commonly feature infantrymen on or around the vehicle, depicting the symbiotic dependence that both arms held in one another for survival. By 1945 the number of Stug battalions had risen from six to 45,

testifying to its popularity and validating its unconventional method of employment⁷.



Newsreel footage of the Sturmgeschutz in combat.

One cannot measure the effectiveness of the Stug without also reviewing its combat performance. For manoeuvre forces the *Sturmartillerie* become synonymous with accurate and responsive fires. The approach which many infantry units took to the Stug is summarised well in this quote:

‘Continuously in action, they [Stug crews] developed a wealth of specialised battle experience that led infantry officers to follow the assault gunners’ lead when it came to destroying tanks and mounting counterattacks’⁸

Statistics published by the General der Artillerie report a loss / kill ratio that grew from 1:3 to 1:14 throughout the year of 1944. The same record claims that on the Eastern Front alone the *Sturmartillerie* claimed 18,262 Soviet tanks between June 1941 to August 1944⁹, equating to approximately 21% of the Soviet Union’s total tank losses¹⁰. Against the Anglo-American invasion force the Stug performed comparably. For example, in Normandy the 10th SS Panzer Regiment’s Stug battery claimed 49 British tanks over the month of June alone¹¹. The Stug achieved kills at recorded ranges of 3.5 km, excellent by period standards. Such was its reputation, the Stug was referred to by one German commander on the Eastern Front as ‘the backbone for the morale of the infantry’¹². Remarkably, the utility of the Stug greatly exceeded gunnery alone. Stugs saw wide employment as improvised troop lift assets carrying soldiers across the battlefield. Its wide chassis and flat superstructure also made it ideal for opportunistic resupply tasks. Its communications suite was superior to many dismounted units and become frequently relied upon by supported manoeuvre arms commanders for C2. Approximately 150 Knights Cross recipients, Germany’s highest combat decoration, served in the *Sturmartillerie*;

an outstanding achievement for merely a specialised sub-section of Germany's Artillery¹³. Having described the merits of the assault gun, the question now arises as to its role in Australia's contemporary battlespace. The assault gun remains in service in the Russian Army as the 2S1 Gvodzika, used extensively since the 1970s. Meanwhile in the West the merits of the assault gun played influentially on the development of the Main Battle Tank and Infantry Fighting Vehicle. Today the American 105 mm equipped Stryker plays much the same role as did the Stug of WWII.

Meanwhile in the West the merits of the assault gun played influentially on the development of the Main Battle Tank and Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

But what of the Australian Army? As the RAA edges closer to a self-propelled system consideration must be given as to its deployment relative to our towed systems. The asset may be best deployed in a direct fire "assault" role within a battlegroup construct thereby maximising the inherent protection and mobility. Conversely, fate may compel Australia toward a time-sensitive alternative. By taking advantage of the system's key strengths, being its low cost and heavy armament, the opportunity exists whereby the chassis of the obsolete Leopard I is wedded to the equally obsolete L118 field gun. Although an obscure proposition, it mirrors the design philosophy used by the Germans who, in the late-1930s, also sat at the mercy of both fate and time. Our unending commitment to the mastery of battlefield fires merits the contemplation of this contingency, among many others, into the future.



US Army M1128 Stryker Mobile Gun System

The *Sturmgeschütz* of WWII was a unique offensive support platform that, despite heavy initial scrutiny, excelled in its role during the greatest war in history. It was designed to thrive in Germany's vision of combined arms warfare

that emphasised shock action and rapid movement on an unprecedented scale. By bridging the firepower gap existing in the infantry of the period it nested well with its supported units, introducing a new species of offensive support 'assault' artillery that deviated from common self-propelled guns. As the war intensified it would go on to exceed original design intent, eventually augmenting the dwindling Panzerwaffe. It upheld the values of Artillery not only in the quality of its fires, but in its diverse utility in supporting roles unrelated to gunnery.

Today it stands as an example of the holy union between manoeuvre and offensive support that is the solemn legacy of every gunner. In today's uncertain world consideration of new ideas to maximise the responsiveness and accuracy of fires remains our unending mission. The assault gun concept is one of many that merits professional discussion as we continue along our path of modernisation.

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¹ Thomas Anderson, 2017, p. 9

² Dennis Showalter, 2005, p. 96

³ Dennis Showalter (2009) describes the German Army's rude awakening during the invasion of Russia, where they discovered that Russia's principle tank model, the T-34, was a whole generation ahead of German panzer design.

⁴ Thomas Anderson, 2016, p. 209

⁵ World War Two Tanks, Documentary, 35:40

⁶ Thomas Anderson, 2017, p. 214

⁷ Thomas Anderson, 2017, p. 212

⁸ Dennis Showalter, 2009, p. 236

⁹ Thomas Anderson, 2016, p. 281

¹⁰ Grigori Krivosheev, 1997, p. 253

¹¹ Wilhelm Tieke, 1975, p. 95

¹² Thomas Anderson, 2016, p. 243

¹³ Dennis Showalter, 2005, p. 137

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) Indirect Fires war game and correlating Royal Australian Artillery gaps

Major Simon Frewin, Battery Commander 106th Battery, 4th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

'The harder the fighting and the longer the war, the more the infantry, and in fact all the arms, lean on the gunners' (Field Marshal Montgomery).

This article is designed to spark discussion and offer observations, from the USMC, of the challenges they are facing within their Artillery community. The USMC indirect fires war game, which was designed to identify gaps in Ground Combat Element (GCE) indirect fires organic capabilities and provide a focus on areas where gaps exist and capability development or acquisition is required to meet holes that were exposed during the war game.

This article will discuss the fundamental problems driving the indirect fires war game, ...

This article will discuss the fundamental problems driving the indirect fires war game, the threat in which the war game was set and it will talk about how the USMC is expected to fight in 2030 timeframe. It will weave key observations of target acquisition requirements, Counter Battery Fire (CBF) threats and the difficulty of CBF in the future; it will also focus on future lethality as a counter to near peer threats increasing their ability to mass fires.

The article aims to correlate the issues the GCE indirect community is experiencing and draw similar parallels with the RAA. This article will not answer all the questions that are raised, but it will provide areas of focus and identify gaps.

The fundamental problem driving the USMC Indirect Fire war game

A comparative shift in capabilities between the US and its potential adversaries complicates the 21st century battle space. The US no longer enjoy presumptive sea control nor can they assume they will be able to establish air superiority prior to the beginning of a manoeuvre campaign. The advancement and proliferation of long-range precision fires by their near peer threats of China and Russia no longer allows for large groups of ships to loiter relatively close to the shore to actively support

manoeuvre. Improved effectiveness of adversary integrated air defence systems promises to challenge the US; specifically, the USMC attempts to achieve air superiority and execute doctrinal air assault tactics.

Peer and non-peer competitors, such as China and Russia have cyberspace and information technology related capabilities that equal or exceed the US and they are willing to employ them. These evolving capabilities present the USMC with an operational environment where employment of their legacy concept of applying overwhelming strike assets is insufficient in enabling the defeat of their adversaries. (MC Functional Concept MAGTF, Problem statement 2017).

21st Century Fires War game

The USMC hosted an international war game in November 2018 which included ABCANZ nations. This allowed the addressing of the fundamental problem identified and the USMC perceived gaps between Direct Fire weapons systems and Operational/Strategic strike assets. The focus for this war game was on the Ground Combat Element (GCE) where units of action were Battle Groups within a Brigade setting, with organic artillery capabilities attached. The war game was set in 2030, including future indirect fire assets likely to be employed in that timeframe.

The USMC focused entirely on integral fires and ignored the assumptions that Operational and Strategic assets would fix the challenges that were difficult to defeat. The continued assumption was that the Air Combat Element would **not be available** to support the Ground Combat Element due to contested airspace. This assumption stopped the war game transferring identified gaps and risks to higher level operational and theatre assets to prosecute.

Threat

This war game focused on near peer threats of China and Russia in high intensity warfare. The threat ORBAT was focused on the 2017 Russian way of war, but included expected technologies that China and Russia are developing (Grau and Bartles, 2017). Furthermore, the candid nature of the threat and lessons identified out of the Ukraine and Syria were integrated.

The fundamental paradigms of Chinese and Russians throughout the war game was their expected way of war. This centred around fires shaping manoeuvre and that 2/3 of their combat power was derived through indirect firepower (Grau and Bartles, 2017). This war game was not designed for the USMC to win, rather its purpose was to expose weaknesses that will drive the need for capability development.

How does the USMC Artillery expect to fight in 2030?

The Mission of the Artillery in the Marine Division is to 'furnish close and continuous fire support by neutralising, destroying, or suppressing targets that threaten the success of the supported unit' (USMC Artillery Operations, 2016).

The USMC has stated that its future artillery 'needs precision fires that routinely displace and move immediately after firing in order to enhance survivability while providing uninterrupted support to manoeuvre forces' (Marine Corps Functional Concept MAGTF, 2017). 'Future field artillery requires the ability to execute missions on the move, communicate with higher headquarters utilising both surface and air means, and deliver forces from dispersed locations.

Future ground-based fires systems will have enhanced mobility and survivability, as well as a long-range communication architecture that provides the ability to mass or deliver fires from dispersed locations. This will be accomplished through the development of a system of systems with common mobility, target fusion, fire control and long-range communications capabilities' (Marine Corps Functional Concept MAGTF, 2017).

The Australian Army and the RAA have a corresponding requirement to focus on future artillery, and the recently circulated draft Concepts for Employment are a good start.

Key gaps identified in the indirect fires war game and discussion around those points are below

1. The absolute necessity for organic target acquisition assets.

Increased range is only of benefit if you have the capability to engage to the extent of that increased range. The lack of redundancy in target acquisition assets at the USMC GCE functionally dislocates the increased range of the artillery weapon systems in 2030. Introduce a contested electromagnetic spectrum, remove operational and strategic assets for target acquisition, due to the assumption that they are providing the bubble in which the GCE is operating, and you have a gap in acquiring targets. The USMC relied heavily on UAS, a by-product of their experience in the Middle East over the past two decades; This one-dimensional, predictable asset was easily defeated by the integrated anti-air systems employed by the threat force. This lack of airborne ISR functionally dislocated the GCE target acquisition capability, disrupting their ability to acquire targets at long range; This resulted in their increased range of 70 km with 55 calibre 155 mm barrels only being able to effectively range 30 km due to the lack of organic ISR assets able to affect the range window from 30 km – 70 km.

The USMC relied heavily on UAS, a by-product of their experience in the Middle East over the past two decades; ...

The RAA has the same gap. The Combat BDE construct lacks organic UAS platforms that would allow layering of airborne ISR, coupled with the lack of an organic radar to detect the point of origin with the capability to direction find at extended ranges. The majority of our Target acquisition is from ground units and depending on the size of the BDE AO, would not be greater than 20 – 40 km forward. To maximise the range of these longer ranging artillery systems we need to identify the supporting and correlating assets that would acquire long range targets for prosecution. The underlining point is that increased range is only of benefit if you can engage to the extent of that increased range, uninterrupted, accurately and decisively.

2. How do you achieve mass and relative superiority when you need to be dispersed to stay alive?

This is a difficult concept to grasp, mass (force ratios) are generally required to defeat a threat, but mass provides a high value and or high payoff target for the enemy, especially with near peer threats of China and Russia who prioritise massed fires. An important question for the RAA more broadly should be 'how do we achieve relative mass but remain below the targeting threshold'?

The answer may be with Combat teams, Battle Groups and Brigades massing in one location for short periods of time, therefore, limiting the risk and opportunity to be targeted. The requirement of dispersed operations requires extreme levels of coordination and mission command with the requirement to be able to pass information and intent through multiple levels whilst remaining geographically separated is difficult. The options for commanders are reduced when units are employed as a dispersed force as everything is harder to achieve, including command and control, the ability to react quickly, and the ability to reorientate on internal lines rapidly. The heavy requirement on communications for command and control for dispersed operations is targetable through a range of electromagnetic denial and electronic attack measures. The counter question that we subconsciously default to, is dispersion worth it? and what is the trade off?

Pacing threat weapon systems. In 2014, the Ukrainian conflict demonstrated what pacing threats (Russia) are capable of achieving. Russia massed indirect fire, which destroyed a reinforced Ukrainian mechanised battalion in less than 120 minutes (Dr Phillip A Karber, 2016). Would Australia strategically and politically accept losing similar through accurate massed fires? With such a small army, are we willing to take that risk or can we modify the way we operate to mitigate it?

The underling question is how do we achieve mass fires for such a short period that we limit the opportunity to be decisively targeted, but still achieve our mission? I argue that currently the RAA is not focusing on this fundamental problem.

3. When the threat force has Counter Battery options, how does the Artillery stay alive to achieve its tasks?

The tried and tested method is increased mobility and dispersion; the USMC GCE M777 towed artillery during the war game was unable to conduct survivability moves in a timely manner to avoid enemy counter fires. The war game demonstrated that the threat forces significant radar and accuracy of indirect systems required the firing units to adopt shoot and move tactics, which the M777s were not able to achieve before receiving accurate CBF. This gap in capability was exploited in the 2030 timeframe. The outcomes of the war game pointed towards self-propelled artillery; the reduced ground threat, due to firing assets being further from the perceived front line, and an increased risk of CBF resulted in the need to be more dispersed and move quickly from firing locations. With dispersion comes further challenges in providing security; however, security can be reduced if you have a highly mobile, armoured firing asset and you are willing to accept this risk.

The USMC are exploring wheeled, highly manoeuvrable systems with a mixture of manned and unmanned assets. The USMC was not focused on tracked systems as the maintenance and weight restrictions juxtaposed their expeditionary warfare mantra. This wheeled system is designed to provide the USMC with the most flexibility in the expeditionary warfare environments the USMC will encounter in the future. This gap of poor mobility when facing a creditable CBF threat was identified when utilising the USMC M777 during the war games.

Would Australia strategically and politically accept losing similar through accurate massed fires?

With Australia's amphibious expeditionary allies focusing on wheeled self-propelled systems for the 2030 fight and our increased emphasis on amphibious warfare leads to the conclusion that the RAA should investigate similar systems, which are both lethal and highly mobile.

The current RAA force structure does not allow for volume of fires to be achieved including, continuous artillery coverage when survivability moves are necessary or to provide reinforcing fires under all conditions. Australia has a small quantity of artillery assets and we have a

decreased likelihood of survivability by reducing its mobility and limiting its armour with our current platform.

4. Inability to conduct effective CBF

The USMC currently utilises the M777 as their main indirect fire asset for the GCE. The 2030 timeframe identified that it lacks the lethal range to engage the anticipated enemies' artillery systems and deliver long-range precision fires further than 40 km. The GCE lacks the ability with the M777 to conduct counter fire missions at a standoff range that is considered acceptable; currently the GCE utilise the HIMARS systems to engage in CBF. Due to the high trajectory of the rocket, flight time to the target and airspace deconfliction clearance, CBF cannot be delivered in a timely manner relative to the mobility of the threat force indirect platform. The delays in clearance result in an ineffective CBF engagement, coupled with allowing threat force radar to identify GCE point of origin.

The range of engagement in 2030 are expected to be between the 40 km – 70 km (US Army Functional Concept of Fires, 2017) range bracket with the time of flight in excess of 120 seconds. Add the amount of time for the fires processing chain to occur and the time of flight, the GCE cannot realistically deliver CBF on target in less than 5 minutes, especially with the current required clearances being satisfied. Therefore, CBF may be considered temporally dislocated against a well-trained near peer artillery threat in future.

Airspace complexity and expedition of fires. Currently the inability to expedite fires is largely due to the requirement to deconflict the airspace. This problem will be magnified in the future as the airspace is guaranteed to be more congested due to an increase of UAS assets, loitering munitions etc. As there is no danger of loss of life when using these systems, is it an acceptable risk, that air deconfliction can be minimised and the old adage of 'big sky, small plane and smaller bomb' suffice to expedite fires. Further training and integration with RAAF and 16 Aviation Brigade may enable greater education in relation to permissive control measures for indirect fires in order expedite clearance times.

... is it an acceptable risk, that air deconfliction can be minimised and the old adage of 'big sky, small plane and smaller bomb' suffice to expedite fires.

Self-designating, loitering munitions is another possible solution to the gap. If the enemies artillery is highly mobile therefore temporally dislocating the CB kill chain, the variable that the GCE is seeking to change is the munition. A suite of loitering munitions over a grid square that has the ability to loiter for up to 120 minutes and detect HVTs and any movement within a 5km radius would mitigate the extended time of flight and mission clearance times of the CB kill chain. The munition no longer requires precision, merely a grid square point of origin, which gives the munition a centre point to start the search. This technology being developed is set to alter the CBF conundrum of temporal dislocation through no longer requiring pinpoint accuracy; rather the munition has intent and boundaries.

5. If you do not have more Artillery than the Enemy how do you become more lethal?

The future way of war for near peer threats is focused on massing artillery and generating 2/3 of its combat power through indirect fires (Grau and Bartles, 2017). If the west does not focus on finding a solution to mitigate the overwhelming firepower, our ability to manoeuvre and achieve tempo to defeat an adversary will be threatened, whilst magnifying risk to force. An answer may be in the employment of advanced munitions that are currently in development.

Artillery is evolving and so are our enemies' capabilities.

Developing munitions, including what some may perceive as science fiction, such as, jamming, loitering, anti-armour, electronic warfare, and DPICM munitions or equivalent to increase lethality and have more options with limited ammunition. The USMC is developing and seeking to acquire self-designating munitions that have a loitering capability. The concept is that a projectile once fired can loiter for up to 120 minutes whilst actively searching for armour; once a target is identified it then self designates and destroys the target. This capability ensures every round counts' and provides a high degree of guarantee to destroying HVTs. This also reduced ammunition burden through having rounds that are more efficient, and reduces the logistics requirements, collateral damage and the number of assets exposed by limiting the CSS footprint.

Artillery is evolving and so are our enemies' capabilities. As a small Army, we cannot afford to be left behind and we must continually evolve

our weapons technology to provide us a competitive advantage. The employment of Artillery in a 2030 battlefield against an adversary will be more lethal, at a longer range and more decisive. We have to train to be agile and to adapt to the evolving threat rather than to continue to do what we have always done and expect that it will work. The enduring problems of requiring organic target acquisition, defeating a CBF threat, delivering CBF fires and becoming more lethal are not new but are becoming more important as adversaries close the technology gap and are overtaking in numerous areas. These gaps in the RAA capability are largely shared with a number of our allies.

The RAA needs to have these discussions; we as gunners of all ranks need to be part of that conversation.

The RAA needs to have these discussions; we as gunners of all ranks need to be part of that conversation. I believe it starts with the questions how do we as the RAA expect to fight and how do we want to fight in 2030? If we cannot answer those questions yet, we could take the lesson from the USMC fires community and be humble enough to seek help in ensuring we do the research, understand the threat and the corresponding gaps in our own capability. Then we need to develop an informed RAA narrative in what we need to counter and then exploit to ensure that our Artillery remains king of the battlefield.

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The Head of Regiment’s intent is that the fund is utilised to foster our Regimental spirit, not only by ensuring our past is captured, but also by ensuring we continue to build our identity into the future. As such it is his vision, as the Fund grows, that we can begin to provide greater support to prizes, awards and incentives. Ideally this will encompass recognition of individual and team achievements, written articles, memorial and museum projects, bereavement needs, as well as special projects requested by individual members or sub-units/units of the Royal Regiment and affiliated Associations.

The Gunners’ Fund not only belongs to past and present Gunners, but also to our successors. We must leave them a strong and vibrant ‘family’. This is only possible with support from individual subscribers. If you have any questions or would like to receive a subscription form, please contact the Fund’s Treasurer, Major Gary Down, on 03 5735 6267, mobile 0407 140 036 or email gary.down@defence.gov.au.

Your contribution, along with all the other serving and retired members of the Royal Regiment who are making a similar commitment, is extremely important in ensuring the Regimental Committee can support the fostering of our esprit-de-corps and ensure our unique ‘Gunner identity’ remains a fundamental part of Army’s culture and traditions.

Once a Gunner, always a Gunner!

Factors limiting the ability of 2nd Division fires to deliver advanced training to Reserve members and its affect on capability and credibility

Captain Oscar Dyer

“We don’t rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training”

Archilochos

Background

As the Instructor of Gunnery at 2nd/10th Battery (2/10 Bty), 9th Regiment RAA (9 Regt) it is becoming increasingly evident as we progress through the force generation cycle that our reservists are fighting a difficult battle in order to maintain currency and proficiency within their trades and to provide a legitimate capability back to today’s modern Army. Since the decision to move away from the L119 105mm howitzer and instead utilise the 81mm F2 mortar, there have been strict limitations governing the type of practices ARes members can conduct. This, tied in with the restricted access to essential equipment and training facilities, is making it increasingly difficult to enhance our capability and credibility. In addition, this essay will discuss a challenge that is potentially affecting all Reserve units; that is, the current minimum service requirement for active Reserves.

Aim

The aim of this essay is to raise the question, are we allowing members of the Australian Army Reserves the best opportunity and resources to be successful and safe in training and whilst on operations? Ideally, this question will create a discussion that will help modernise the way we think about Reserve forces.

Scope

This essay will cover three broad areas that limit and restrict 2nd Division (2 DIV) Fires capacity to provide a relevant capability back to the regular army. The first of which is the restrictions placed over a Reserve battery by doctrine. The Indirect Fire Range Orders publication LWP – G 7-3-3 prohibits a Reserve battery conducting anything but the most basic of mortar live fire practices without qualified ARA staff conducting the practice. Secondly, the lack of modern facilities and equipment

which make developing challenging and relevant training difficult to achieve. The final issue, which is a more systemic and possibly wide spread limitation is the the minimum service requirement for Reserve members.

Doctrinal Restrictions and limitations

As mentioned above, 2 DIV Fires currently faces a number of obstacles, which, if overcome would greatly increase the capability output and our reputation. The first obstacle is the limitations implemented by current doctrine. Although amendments have being proposed, there has been little change seen at the battery level.

The restrictions placed on 2 DIV Fires by the Indirect Fires Range Orders LWP – G 7-3-3, prevent Reserve members from conducting anything but the most basic live fire ranges (E1 Range) without the direct support from ARA staff to fill key safety roles, such as OIC Practice and OP safety supervisor. A Category E1 range limits the units’ ability to achieve any training objectives/assessments beyond Army Training Level and Standard (ATLS) 2C/3C.

... our reservists are fighting a difficult battle in order to maintain currency and proficiency within their trades and to provide a legitimate capability back to today’s modern Army.

In order for a battery to progress through the force generation cycle from this level (2C/3C), it is then a requirement for units to conduct/support combined arms exercises and advanced practices. However, to conduct a category E2 Range, ARA staff must fulfil the roles of OIC – Practice (with a RAA ROGC qualified CAPT) and OP Safety Supervisor (by a JFT qualified bombardier) as a minimum. With

regard to conducting any advance practices, the LWP – G 7-3-3 clearly states (chapter 1, table 1 – 3) that RAA Reservists are unable to conduct any E3 ranges (advance practises), preventing any battery within 2 DIV from gaining any exposure to danger close practices and battle practices.

Is it possible as an organisation to train members of Reserve units to a level where they are self-sufficient and competent enough to plan / run their own live fire exercises and conduct advance practices? Given the appropriate mechanisms for safety and supervision are in place such as qualified ARA personnel for supervision and an approved training continuum to qualify reserve safety staff, this may be achievable and very beneficial. Having the ability able to train to a more advanced level (CAT E3 Ranges) would further improve the reputation of 2 DIV Fires and would increase the ability for 9 Regt to contribute to exercises such as Exercise Chong Ju 19 where manoeuvre assets required danger close serials in support of a combat team assault.

Equipment, Resources and Facilities

This may not come as a surprise but at the unit level, Reserve Battery's within 2 DIV lack some of the basic necessities for training that other regular (and reserve) units may take for granted. This includes access to adequate and / or modern: training infrastructure (Dome, Flat screen trainers, IFOT or even gym facilities), training aids (Harris 152 Radio's, HF radios, 117G radios, night fighting and recon optical equipment, laser range finders, body armour, NFE, BMS, DTCS and AFATDS) and available resources (reliable ammunition allocation and non-legacy fleet vehicles).

This may not come as a surprise but at the unit level, Reserve Battery's within 2 DIV lack some of the basic necessities for training that other regular (and reserve) units may take for granted.

Training objectives are still being achieved, however the logistical arrangements between supporting units for training and field exercises are greater and much more time consuming due to the lack of equipment and facilities held at Battery level. For example, as Battle Group (BG) Jacka (combination 2/10 Bty and 6/13 Bty) progresses through the series of exercises that

will prepare us as the readying BG in the lead up to Talisman Sabre, we first have to overcome the fact we are spread across three different states, with RHQ in a fourth. We then have to liaise with other units in order to arrange communications equipment, body armour (SCE), transport, TSR's, etc. This process only works due to a few key Reservists who go above and beyond expectations as well as some additional support from the ARA staff. This is a fragile process and is often heavily reliant on a particular member's former networks and relationships.

There is a fine line between demanding too much from our Reservists (most of whom balance full or part time jobs, their family life, as well as their commitment to the Australian Defence Force)

If we had reliable access to the equipment and the facilities mentioned above, our reliance on supporting units would drastically decrease while our integral ability to conduct beneficial / realistic training would be greatly enhanced. The flow on effect from this would be to produce a more confident and capable Mortar-line / JFT as well as a reduction in the time allocated to administration and liaison.

Service Requirements

There is a fine line between demanding too much from our Reservists (most of whom balance full or part time jobs, their family life, as well as their commitment to the Australian Defence Force) and the requirement for them to maintain professional competence and their trade currency. This issue is not going away. On the contrary, it is getting more difficult as we implement more advanced equipment, upgrade our legacy fleet and diversify within trades.

As stated in the Army Standing Instruction (Personnel), Part 7, Chapter 2, the minimum service requirement for a member to be considered an active reservist (SERCAT 5) is 20 days of service. Most members commit to more than this, however there are those that do not, and consistently get by on the bare minimum. Some members may not be able to commit to more than this, but never the less are passionate and proud of the service they can provide. We don't want to lose those members. However, are they benefitting the organisation if they become stagnated in their career progression? Are we as an organisation doing the right thing by them?

With a minimum service requirement of 20 days per year, how do we maintain and improve the skills and qualifications of each individual soldier in order for them to progress in their career as reservists and provide useful capability back to Defence?

With 20 days a year, it becomes difficult to upskill any soldier when you require a large portion of your battery to parade on a Tuesday night, contribute to field exercises, non-platform support tasks and regular rostered training weekends. When soldiers pick and choose which exercises they can attend (due to their availability), continuity of training becomes very difficult to achieve especially when members are absent for critical training assessments / objectives.

The solution to this issue is not easy. Some current serving members may decide to transfer to SERCAT 3 or discharge if they cannot commit to more than 20 day per year. But would they be replaced by new recruits that could? An increase to the minimum service requirements could be phased in as a joining requirement so we don't lose our current serving members, particularly senior non-commissioned officers. Correspondingly, do we require additional ARA staff to fill critical roles within Reserve battery's such as Battery Quartermaster or battery clerk?

Conclusion

Although this essay has highlighted and discussed various limitations that currently restrict 2 DIV Fires from delivering capability to their full potential, the capacity and drive from our soldiers is evident. Their performance and enthusiasm is commendable, given the resources that they have access to as well as the planning/logistical obstacles they face. Provided they are given the right tools and opportunity to succeed, 2 DIV Fires would be able to deliver a vastly more versatile, confident, and proficient force that could continue to benefit ARA exercises, training support tasks as well as operations.

The three areas that have been discussed above; restrictions implemented by LWP-G 7-3-3; lack of equipment and modern training facilities; and the minimum service requirements are the main factors limiting the success of 2 DIV Fires. If we can modernise the way Army thinks about the Reserves then there is a more than capable asset waiting to be recognised.

Bibliography

Army Standing Instruction (Personnel), Part 7, Chapter 2

Land Warfare Procedure – General 7-3-3, Indirect Fire Range Orders, 2018

Notice Death Notices

In recent times, some of our gunner community have died with little recognition from gunner mates or RAA organisations large or small.

A notification system which may assist a more suitable farewell to departed comrades is proposed.

If you hear of the death of a gunner, let your unit/sub unit or RAA organisation know.

Contact details are available in the RAA Liaison Letter or in your State and unit organisations' publications and websites.

Please share funeral arrangements promptly; and as much detail of as you know.

If you are not a member of any unit, sub unit or RAA association, please pass the information to obituaries@artilleryhistory.org

Secretaries or responsible committee members are asked to consider forwarding any death notice to obituaries@artilleryhistory.org for wider distribution across organisations and borders.

The RAAHC Obituary Resource Officer (Peter Bruce) can coordinate an obituary for the deceased gunner for inclusion in RAA publications and on the RAAHC website.

Please share, share and share – we are the gunner family.

Ubique



Capability & Personnel

1ST DIV HQ / DJFHQ JFECC

Major Kev Pamerter

Enhanced Regional Engagement

The DIV JFECC has had an accelerated start to the year with its support to the Enhanced Regional Engagement in the South West Pacific (ERE SWP). Lead by LTCOL Hughes and the Non-lethal team with support from the whole of JFECC the team has focused on the Why and How JTF637 can achieve the best effects in its regional engagement program. This provided the team with the opportunity to think outside of the traditional targeting methodologies but still apply the principles in an Information Activities style approach. The ERE SWP is an ongoing effort that will continue to provide a challenge for the team in a real time environment with other nations and strategic competitors.

Joint Warfighting Series

Preparation for Exercise Polygon Wood is in full swing with the team having conducted a considerable amount of DIME analysis on the Legaisian archipelagic region in order to determine how the adversary's systems work. This level of detailed analysis will directly contribute to answering the question "Why" during targeting and will allow the team to explain (potentially up to the strategic level), exactly why certain entities have been listed for engagement or protection.

The JFECC is also planning the first Joint HIMARS Live Fire Exercise as part of the Multi Domain Operations (MDO) development and integration. This will be conducted through our close working relationship with the US Army and USMC in SWBTA this year. Lead by MAJ Armstrong the team plans to showcase how the synchronisation and integration of systems and effects can disassemble an adversary's A2AD system in order to allow an amphibious force to lodge. Further development of the MDO concept

will be conducted with the Multi Domain Task Force deploying and integrating with the JFECC on TS19, testing interoperability and processes.

Joint Warfighting Assessment 19.1

The DIV JFECC has also stood up a nine man team to send to JWA 19.1 in Seattle, Washington, US. Due to the JFECCs commitments to Polygon the team has been comprised of SMEs from multiple areas including the School of Artillery, 4th Regiment RAA and 453 Squadron. The team was given a RSO&I package in Townsville prior to their departure in order to understand how the DIV JFECC currently operates. This will be an excellent learning opportunity for those members to see how the US Division and Corps fight their fires battle in shaping the battlespace for the Brigades and how they are conducting MDO against strategic competitors. Those lessons learnt will be brought back for the JFECC to gain a better understanding of how we can fight in support of our partnered nations whilst remaining at the forefront of MDO development and integration.

Joint Targeting Course

The JFECC has also run a Joint Targeting Course which was supported by HQ JOC and the ADFWTC. The course saw 43 personnel attend in total, drawn from Navy, Army and Air Force with a good representation from the RAA community. The students received detailed lessons on the Joint Targeting Cycle, Target Systems Analysis and specialist capabilities from across the ADF. The JFECC has since taken the lessons learned from the course, packaged it and sent it to the ADFWTC in order for them to conduct the course at the end of the year (planned for November) which is to be retitled the Joint Effects Staff Officer Course (JESOC).

Systems Integration

Last but not least, WO2 Silarski has been instrumental in the development of systems integration through discussions with LNIC and other key members on how we can bridge the

current gaps in our systems architecture. Some significant advancements have been made through interoperability with systems which will be tested in Polygon and Talisman Sabre this year. We are also preparing for the introduction of the FMS version of AFATDS to increase our interoperability with key coalition partners. If successful the integrated fires and effects systems will be a step closer to achieving a more robust digital kill chain that provides greater situational awareness and lethality to the entire effects community

Former RSM Recognised for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to Veterans' Employment

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AWARDS WERE PRESENTED ON TUESDAY NIGHT (5TH MARCH 2019) IN CANBERRA. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM THOSE AWARDS RECOGNISING CHRIS MAYFIELD.

The extract:

The Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Awards is part of a broad program of activity aimed at raising employer awareness of the enormous value and unique experience of veterans.

Winners at last night's ceremony represent the many companies that are consciously tapping into the skilled veteran workforce and demonstrate what a tremendous asset a veteran can be to a business.

The highest honour of Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to Veterans' Employment was awarded to Chris Mayfield OAM. Mayfield is a third generation soldier who was discharged from the Army in January 2014, completing 26 years of distinguished service.

He is a champion for veteran employment and was influential in establishing Fortescue Metals Group recruitment and training program that has seen 54 veterans enter careers in mining. Chris played a pivotal role in assisting the business understand the opportunity of offering roles to veterans, drawing on his knowledge of defence and of trade qualifications.

Senior Officer Appointments

- Lieutenant General Gregory BILTON, AM, CSC
Commander Joint Operations Command - June 2019
-

CO & RSM Appointments

Commanding Officers - 2020

- LTCOL PA (Pete) Allan – 4 REGT
- LTCOL DA (Dave) Carew – 9 REGT
- LTCOL WG (Wade) Cooper – 20 REGT
- LTCOL BCM (Ben) Gray – SOARTY

Regimental Sergeant Majors - 2020

- WO1 MG (Matthew) Miller – 4 REGT
 - WO1 BT (Brett) Donaldson – 8/12 REGT
 - WO1 GS (Gavino) Mura – 16 REGT
 - WO1 N (Nathan) Cole – USA Sergeant Major Academy
-

Command & Staff College 2020

- MAJ AE Murcott
 - MAJ AE McDonald
 - MAJ BJ Perkins
 - MAJ LW Window (Overseas)
 - MAJ MA Williams
 - MAJ R Brin
 - MAJ S Frewin
-

Sub Unit Command Appointments

The following officers have been selected for sub unit command in 2020

- CAPT JJ O'Brien – 1 AGO BTY 16 REGT
- MAJ FE Bruce – 131 STA BTY 20 REGT
- CAPT LA Seymour – 101 BTY 8/12 REGT
- MAJ DE Thom – 102 BTY 8/12 REGT
- CAPT BJ White – 106 BTY 4 REGT
- CAPT NS Clarke – 109 BTY4 REGT
- MAJ RIT Best – 104 BTY 1 REGT
- MAJ KK Pamenter – 105 BTY REGT
- CAPT AL Ridgeway – 53 BTY SOARTY
- MAJ BS Allan-Agnew - OC DWN SQN NORFORCE

Officer Graduates

Royal Military College – Australia

2019 End of Year Graduates

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Unit</i>
LT	Jude, BD (Ben)	8/12 REGT
LT	Bowman, CR (Cameron)	4 REGT
LT	McCartney, CP (Christopher)	AHQ
LT	Lyneham, CJ (Cooper)	8/12 REGT
LT	Fleming, DIW (Daniel)	20 REGT
LT	Bell, DR (Douglas)	1 REGT
LT	Hatton, JA (Jack)	16 REGT
LT	Russell, JD (Jereme)	16 REGT
LT	Munday, JA (Joel)	4 REGT
LT	Kale, JJ (Jonathon)	8/12 REGT
LT	Wiles, LJ (Luke)	16 REGT
LT	Harvey, LJ (James)	1 REGT
LT	Macintyre, PF (Peter)	1 REGT
LT	Davidson, SS (Samuel)	8/12 REGT
LT	Johnson, SA ((Samuel)	16 REGT
LT	Holden, WJ (Wesley)	4 REGT
LT	Hogendyk, CJ (Craig)	1 REGT

78-year-old wins \$1.6 million on Keno, gets bus to pub

OLIVIA GRACE-CURRAN, Townsville Bulletin

December 29, 2017 9:12pm

A true-blue Townsville battler hopped on a public bus to the pub after winning more than \$1 million in a Keno jackpot.



The 78-year-old Currajong man who wishes to be referred to only as 'Charlie' was catching up with a mate at

the Cowboys Leagues Club on Friday when he won the big prize.

He played seven games of Keno with six of the same numbers he has been using since 1997, plus an additional four.

"I don't put ten numbers very often and I've had the same six numbers since the beginning.

The retiree then watched as 10 out of the 10 numbers from his \$7 ticket appeared on the Keno screen, scoring a massive \$1,636,024 cash prize.

"I saw six of my numbers come up and I knew that I'd won \$900," he said. "I was pretty happy with that. And then I saw more of my numbers come up. I counted them up and I thought 'that can't be right'. "I went over to the counter and said, 'I think I've got ten out of ten'. "I don't think the girl believed me until I showed her the ticket."

In true-blue Aussie battler style, he continued on with his normal day, jumping on his usual' 12:15pm bus to the Dalrymple Hotel before having an afternoon nap.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," the winner said.

Charlie plans to use his cash prize to help his family and buy a house in Rosewood near Ipswich, where he lived for 12 years before moving to North Queensland.

"It was my birthday on the 22nd and Christmas on the 25th, so it wasn't bad."

Keno's Queensland manager David Dicker congratulated the state's latest jackpot winner.

The mystery man was retired Gunner - 14330. Sherwood Trevor Charles (Charlie)

- Enlisted 27th December 1966
- 1 Fd Regt / 102 Bty 12 August 1957
- 1 Fd Regt / 101 Bty 1959
- Malaya: 'A' Bty 13 March 1959
- 101 Fd Bty / 26 Fd Regt RA 17 October 1960
- 131 Div Loc Bty 15 March 1961
- Discharged 26 December 1962

New Commanding Officers

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK MANKOWSKI

16th Regiment RAA



Prior to enlisting in the Australian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski was a Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force Regiment in the UK and served in a variety of positions including training, staff and operational appointments. He served with 1st Air Control Centre as a

Ground Based Air Defence Weapons Controller and he deployed with the unit to Talil Air Base in Southern Iraq in 2003. His final appointment was as the Second in Command of 1st Squadron RAF Regiment (an infantry sub-unit). In this role, he learnt about effective leadership during his second deployment to Iraq in 2007.

Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski joined the Australian Army on 4 August 2008 as a lateral transfer. His first appointment was as the Battery Captain of 111th Air Defence Battery, 16th Air Defence Regiment. Promoted to major in 2011, he was posted to Headquarters Joint Operational Command as an operational planner in the J53 branch. He worked in close partnership with other government agencies including AusAID in planning immediate disaster relief efforts overseas, the Australian Federal Police in providing domestic security support during the US President's visit in 2011, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade during the planning for non-combatant evacuation operations in Southeast Asia.

In 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski was selected to raise and command 1st Air Ground Operations Battery within the newly formed 16th Air Land Regiment. As a new capability, there was the opportunity for Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski to trial new equipment, such as Link 16 (tactical datalink), which was subsequently integrated into the Army. He also developed new teams to enhance joint support to the combat brigades. To establish the capability, he designed

and implemented a bespoke Air-Land Operations Course. After Australian Command and Staff College, Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski was posted to Headquarters Forces Command in 2015 as the Staff Officer to the Chief of Staff.

Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski was promoted to his current rank in 2016 and has undertaken the duties of the Staff Officer Grade One Operations (G33) and Training Requirements Policy and Plans. As the G33 he supported 1 Division with force allocation for Operation Fiji Assist and ensured force elements were available for the domestic response to Cyclone Debbie. Another area of focus was working with the Training Centres to reduce the quantity of training support required from the Combat Brigades to enable individual training. The two appointments at Headquarters Forces Command were separated by a deployment on Operation Okra as the Fires Plans Chief in Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve. The opportunity to work in a three-star US Headquarters in an Artillery role was extremely professionally rewarding. Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski wrote about his observations of contemporary warfare from this deployment on the *Cove* website. He assumed command of 16th Air Land Regiment on 13 December 2018.

Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski holds a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Chemistry, from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, a Master of Arts in Military History from the University of New South Wales and a Master of Military and Defence Studies (Advanced) with Honours from the Australian National University. His work has been published in the *Australian Army Journal*. Lieutenant Colonel Mankowski is married to Nicole and they have three daughters: Lucy, Olivia and Charlotte. His hobbies include surfing, skiing and studying military history.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOE WHEATLEY

8th/12th Regiment RAA



Lieutenant Colonel Joe Wheatley entered the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1999 studying a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Political Science. He graduated from the Royal

Military College in 2002 to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. His first posting was to 4th Field Regiment where he initially served in 107th Field Battery as a Troop Commander and then as a Forward Observer. He continued his regimental experience at the 4th Battalion as a Forward Observer, 7th Field Battery as the Instructor in Gunnery and Adjutant of the 5th Aviation Regiment.

LTCOL Wheatley's staff experience includes time at AHQ in Modernisation-Army; Australian Command and Staff College; Deputy Future Operations in United States Army Pacific - Hawaii; and SO1 Amphibious Capability Development Branch in HQ 1st Division.

Operationally, LTCOL Wheatley has seen service in: the Solomon Islands as part of the Civil Military Cooperation during Operation ANODE; Operation ASTUTE in Timor Leste as the Executive Officer of the Special Operations Task Force; Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan as part of the Special Operations Task Group and again to Afghanistan as the Senior Instructor of the Artillery Training and Advisory Team.

LTCOL Wheatley is privileged to have held command appointments as the Battery Commander 107th Battery and Operations Officer 4th Regiment, and is currently posted to 8th/12th Regiment as the Commanding Officer. His wife, Monica, is a registered physiotherapist and they have four children together and enjoy fishing, camping and playing golf.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIMON HUNTER

1st Regiment RAA



Lieutenant Colonel Hunter graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1998 and the Royal Military College in 1999. Following allocation to the Royal Australian Artillery he was posted to 8th/12th Medium Regiment in Darwin where he completed a range of Regimental appointments. In

2003, Lieutenant Colonel Hunter was promoted to Captain and posted to 4th Field Regiment as a Forward Observer, during which he deployed to East Timor as a Civil Military Cooperation Team Leader and exercised extensively with 1st Royal Australian Regiment. In the remainder of his time as a Captain, Lieutenant Colonel Hunter had postings to 7th Field Battery in Perth as a Training Officer, 8th/12th Medium Regiment as Adjutant and a deployment as a Forward Observer in support of the Overwatch Battle Group in Iraq.

Following promotion to Major in 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Hunter fulfilled the role of Operations Officer, Battery Commander of 103rd Medium Battery, Battery Commander of the Mentoring Task Force in Afghanistan and had a brief stint as Regimental Second-in-Command of 8th/12th Medium Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Hunter attended the Australian Command and Staff College in 2012 and graduated with a Masters of Military Studies from the Australian National University. Upon graduation he was posted to the J7 (Training and Exercises) Branch of the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters. During that posting he deployed on Operation Philippines Assist following the disaster caused by Typhoon Haiyan. He was also deployed as a member of the Joint Task Forces that responded to the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH307 and the downed Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17.

In 2015, Lieutenant Colonel Hunter was promoted to his current rank and posted to Headquarters Joint Operations Command as the Staff Officer Grade One, Global Operations. In 2018, Lieutenant Colonel Hunter was posted to Army Headquarters as the Staff Officer Grade One – Incident Management. In 2019, Lieutenant Colonel Hunter assumed command of 1 Regt, Royal Australian Artillery.

New Regimental Sergeant Majors

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE MICHAEL KELLY

1st Regiment RAA



Warrant Officer Class One Michael Kelly enlisted in the Army Ready Reserve Scheme on 25 January 1994 and transferred to the Australian Regular Army on 4 May 1995. From the 1st Recruit Training

Battalion, he was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

After one year at the 1st Field Regiment, Warrant Officer Kelly was posted to the 4th Field Regiment and spent the next eight years fulfilling appointments up to Detachment Commander as a Sergeant. In 1999 he was deployed to East Timor on Operation WARDEN as part of the International Force East Timor.

Warrant Officer Kelly's time in Townsville was followed by three years at the School of Artillery. He was employed as a Detachment Commander within the 53rd Independent Battery, and then as an instructor at Fire Support Wing. A second instructional posting followed to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion where he was employed as a Platoon Sergeant.

In January 2009, Warrant Officer Kelly was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and was posted to the 1st Field Regiment as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery at the 41st Field Battery. In 2010, Warrant Officer Kelly was deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Slipper. Upon his return he was employed in the plans cell at the Combat Arms Training Centre for two years.

In 2013, Warrant Officer Kelly posted to the 4th Regiment and filled successive appointments as the Battery Sergeant Major of the 107th Battery and the Battery Sergeant Major of Combat Service Support Battery. In 2016, Warrant Officer Kelly posted to the Australian Defence

Force Academy as the Squadron Sergeant Major of Delta Squadron.

Warrant Officer Kelly was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in 2017 and his first appointment was as the Master Gunner New Equipment Team at the School of Artillery.

In July 2018, He was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Regiment. He was subsequently deployed on Operation OKRA as the Regimental Sergeant Major of Training Task Unit – Eight; a multinational Task Unit responsible for training the Iraqi Security Forces.

Warrant Officer Kelly's interests include supporting the North Queensland Cowboys and watching cricket. He is married to Lisa, and together they have three children: Thomas, Mollie and May.

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE PAUL BOSWELL, DSM

8th/12th Regiment RAA



Warrant Officer Class One Boswell was born in Toowoomba QLD in 1971. He enlisted into the Australian Army in 1989 and on completion of Recruit Training was allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery. Warrant Officer Boswell has filled a wide variety

of Regimental appointments at the 4th Field Regiment, 2nd/10th Medium Regiment, 131st Locating Battery, 1st Regiment RAA, 5th/11th Light Battery and the 8th/12th Regiment RAA. He has extensive RAA experience having been employed across all Offensive Support trades including Gunline, Command Post (CP), Joint Fires Teams (JFT) and Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centres (JFECC) at the Battle Group and Formation level. In subsequent years Warrant Officer Boswell has been employed across all trades within Offensive Support including Guns, Command Posts, Joint Fires Teams, Joint Fires and Effects Cells at both Battalion and Brigade level.

His instructional experiences includes postings to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion as a Platoon Sergeant and Assessment Sergeant (2006-2007) and Royal Military College – Duntroon as a cadet instructor (2011-2012). His operational experience includes the United Nations Transition Authority (UNTAC) in Cambodia (1993) as a Signaller; Operation Bel Isi in Bougainville (1999) as a Driver / Signaller and Operation HERRICK in Helmand Province, Afghanistan (2009) as the Troop Sergeant Major Delta Troop 8 Commando Battery. His deployment to Helmand Province as part of an Australian Artillery contingent embedded with the British Army's 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery remains a career highlight to date.

Warrant Officer Boswells honours and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal for leadership in action in Afghanistan (Operation Herrick), the Australian Active Service Medal with Clasps Afghanistan and Cambodia, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Australian Service Medal with Clasps Cambodia and Bougainville, the Operational Service Medal – Border Protection, the Defence Force Long Service Medal, Australian Defence Medal, the UNTAC Medal and the NATO Medal with Clasp ISAF. His other awards include a Soldiers Medallion (1996) and Training Commanders Silver Commendation 2007 and Australia Day Award 2015.

In 2017, Warrant Officer Boswell was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and appointed the Master Gunner of the 1st Regiment RAA and in 2018 was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the 8th/12th Regiment RAA.

Warrant Officer Boswell is married to Tina and has two adult sons from a previous marriage, Damien and Tristan. He is currently unaccompanied and divides his spare time between Darwin and Brisbane where his family reside. His hobbies include Open Water Diving, Fishing, Hunting and renovating houses.



WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE KYM FOX

20th Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment



Warrant Officer Class One Kym Fox was born and educated in rural South Australia. He enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1993 and following recruit training was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

On completion of initial employment training he was posted to 107th Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment where he served as an Artillery Signaller from the rank of Gunner to Bombardier. He was posted to 1st Field Regiment in 2000 in the Regimental Command Post as the acting Signals Sergeant.

Warrant Officer Fox trade transferred in 2001 to RADAR Operator, following training he was posted to 131st Locating Battery as a Listening Post Bombardier. He remained within the RADAR troop until a posting to the United Kingdom in 2005. He was selected as a part of a five person team to undertake Phoenix training to gain experience on unmanned systems as a part of the JP 129 Phase Two. Operational experience in Iraq flying Phoenix provided that education and experience. Posted back to Australia and the newly formed 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment he was subsequently promoted to Sergeant in late 2006.

Trained on the ScanEagle in 2007, quickly followed by a deployment to Afghanistan as a Mission Commander. Upon return in 2008 he was posted to the Royal Military College as a small group instructor. Departing the Royal promotion to Warrant Officer, he was posted back to 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment as the Regimental Operations Warrant Officer. In 2011 he again had the opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan as the Sergeant Major of the group. Warrant Officer Fox was appointed as Battery Sergeant Major of 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery in 2014.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class one in Jan 2017 and commenced his first appointment as the Regiment Standards Warrant Officer for 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. He commenced his tenure as Regimental Sergeant Major for 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment in January of 2019.

Warrant Officer Fox is married to Juanita and has two children, Maximus and Solomon. He is keen camper and enjoys travelling to fantastic places with his family. He is an avid supporter of AFL in particular the Hawthorn Football Club.

Notice

Regimental Farewells Eligibility

Leaving the Royal Regiment after more than 20 Years Effective Service

Full-time, Part-time or a Combination?

The Representative Colonel Commandant & Head of Regiment invite you to be formally farewelled at the Regimental farewells conducted at the School of Artillery in the respective Regimental Messes.

For further information please contact

Officer Farewells

Major DT (Terry) Brennan

Email: terry.brennan@defence.gov.au or terry.brennan59@yahoo.com.au

Mobile: 0419 179 974

WO & SNCO Farewells

Warrant Officer Class One D (David) Nutini

Email: david.nutini@defence.gov.au

Mobile: 0408 604 596

GNR & JNCO Farewells

Major GM (Gary) Down

Email: gary.down@defence.gov.au

Mobile: 0407 140 036

If you cannot attend the formal farewells 'generally' alternate arrangements can be accommodated such as being farewelled at your unit or by the local Artillery Association. Head of Regiment staff will arrange for the appropriate engraved memento to be supplied. Individual 'Historical' circumstances of anyone who left the Regiment during the transition from DARTY to HOR will be considered on a case by case basis.

IMPORTANT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVICED 20 YEARS FULL-TIME BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO THE RESERVE MAY ELECT TO BE FAREWELLED AT THIS POINT OR ANYTIME AFTER BUT IT SHOULD BE NOTED YOU ARE ONLY ELIGIBLE TO BE FAREWELLED ONCE.

Notice

Associations & Organisations

RAA Gunners Fund

SO2 HOR School of Artillery
Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal, VIC 3662
Phone: (03) 5735 6267
Mob: 0407 140 036
Email: gary.down@defence.gov.au

Australian Artillery Association Inc.

President – Kim McGrath
Email: president@australianartilleryassociation.com
Mob: 0417 422 427
Secretary – Graham Hampton
P O Box 3486
Caloundra QLD 4551
Mob: 0401 400 403
Email:
webmaster@australianartilleryassociation.com
North Qld Rep – Eldon Bryant
Email: nqrep@australianartilleryassociation.com
Phone: (07) 4755 4510
Web: australianartilleryassociation.com

RAA Historical Company

P O Box 171 Cremorne Junction, NSW 2090
Web: <http://www.artilleryhistory.org>
[See Membership Form in Cannonball]
Cannonball (Official Journal)
Air Burst (Electronic Newsletter)

Cutler Research Centre

Phone: (02) 9977 0946
Email: cutlerresearchcentre@artilleryhistory.org

Australian Army Artillery Museum & Artillery Display Puckapunyal

Curator - Peter Armstrong
Australian Army Artillery Museum
Albury Wodonga Military Area
Gaza Ridge Barracks
South Bandiana, VIC 3694
Mob: 0407 469 018
Email: peter.armstrong1@defence.gov.au
Manager - Vacant
Battery Guide (Newsletter)

RAA Historical Society WA (Inc)

President - Bruce Campbell
Phone: (08) 9221 2494 (Bus)
Secretary - Stan Davies
P O Box 881, Claremont, WA 6910
Mob: 0418 903 722
Email: info@artillerywa.org.au
Web: www.artillerywa.org.au
Take Post (Quarterly Newsletter)

4 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

Peter Bruce
33 Cathie Circuit, Lake Cathie, NSW 2445
Phone: (02) 6585 7342
Mob: 0419 349 317
Email: pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au

7 Field Regiment Association

President - Major Steve Flower
Secretary - John Balfour OAM
Email: jba30607@bigpond.net.au
Mob: 0418 412 354
P O Box 206, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086
Web: 7fd-regt-raa-association.com

10 Medium Regiment Association Inc

President - Bev Lancaster
Mob: 0409 936264
Secretary - Glenn Rabbas
133 Roseneath Street, North Geelong, VIC 3215
Email: rabrad@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.10mdmraa.org.au
The Big Gun (Newsletter)

23 Field Regiment Association

Secretary - Peter Merlino
63 Penshurst Road, Penshurst, NSW 2222
Phone: (02) 9570 2776
Email: the23fdassoc@yahoo.com.au
Web: www.23fd-regt-raa-association.org

A Field Battery Association Inc

President – Robert (Dodger) Noonan
248 Smithfield Road
Fairfield West NSW 2165
Secretary - Ron (Tex) Bassan
6 Harveys Road, Beaconsfield, QLD 4740
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101 Battery

Secretary - Bill Telfer
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www.homepage.powerup.com.au/~assoc101bty

101 Battery (Malaya 1959-1961)

President - Don McDonald
Secretary- David Troedel
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102 Battery

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103 Battery

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4 Lineda Court, Warrnambool, VIC 3280
Phone: (03) 5561 4370

104 Battery

Frank Corcoran JP
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Hampton VIC 3188
Mob: 0400 113 929
Email: corcorf@bigpond.net.au

Germ Journal (Newsletter)

105 Battery

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'The Custodian' (Newsletter)

Fort Scratchley Historical Society

Web: www.fortscratchley.org.au

Royal Artillery

Web: www.army.mod.uk/artillery/artillery.aspx

Royal Artillery Association

Web: www.theraa.co.uk

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'Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company'

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Soldiers' careers threatened by army facial hair inflexibility

Two Townsville based soldiers have spoken out against a rule that could see them removed from the army for having a beard.

KATE BANVILLE, Townsville Bulletin May 27th 2019

TWO Townsville-based soldiers could be forced out of the Australian Defence Force because of an ongoing medical dispute over their beards. The men, who the Townsville Bulletin has chosen not to name, have more than two decades of service between them and both have had their facial hair for about six years. The pair is anxiously awaiting a final decision on whether they can continue their service.

They believe that their careers have been negatively impacted by a long-term medical recommendation not to shave. They said they were part of a much larger group of males who were being unfairly targeted for their facial hair. "It's discrimination against something so minor," one of the soldiers, who has served for 14 years, said.

The soldier said the sudden change in how the army dealt with facial hair came after an internal email, seen by the Bulletin, was sent out in 2016 from the then Chief of Army Lieutenant General Angus Campbell. "I continue to be surprised by the number of soldiers I see either unshaven or wearing beards," Lt Gen Campbell wrote. "I am currently considering whether personnel currently unable to shave on an enduring basis should be deemed non-deployable and considered for either service transfer or discharge."

The soldier, who blames service conditions for the cause of his long-term skin irritation, can't understand why his beard had become career threatening,

given it doesn't prevent him from doing his job.

"Over the last two years it's set my career back a fair bit. I've lost experience, I've lost promotion courses and have just been confined to barracks," he said. "We used to go out in the field from four to eight months at a time and there's no real chance to wash at all; you're in vehicles and always covered in grease and dirt, then have to shave every day."

Another Townsville soldier facing possible medical discharge, also due to his beard, said he was being unfairly "segregated" from his peers. He has had his beard since 2013 as prevention for a skin condition known as folliculitis, which he said was a result of being forced to shave in unhygienic conditions while deployed. "It's so stressful," he said. "There is absolutely no job security. "I understand the importance of traditions but traditions should also change with the times."

A Department of Defence official said the army had always had strict dress and personal presentation policies for discipline, operational and safety reasons. "Members of the Australian Army wear their uniform with pride and respect to its tradition," she said. "Army policy is always under review to ensure appropriate balance is applied between the operational and safety requirements, and workforce needs. Members with medical conditions that prevent shaving are considered by the Medical Employment Classification Review Board. The board considers the medical evidence, the member's wishes, and their commanding officer's advice and workforce requirements before making a decision."

Soldiers with certain religious beliefs are also exempt from the army-wide rule, as well as Pioneer Sergeants posted to the Townsville-based 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

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COL AW Reynolds
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LTCOL W Foxall
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LT JG Beamish
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COL MRC Kennedy
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LTCOL RJ Crawford
LTCOL NC Laughton
LTCOL MKL Mankowski
LTCOL AJ Payne
LTCOL JJ West
MAJ JLF Batayola
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MAJ JM Costello	LT OL Dyer	SGT ECR George
MAJ TS Drew	LT ER Ellis	SGT RD Greenwood
MAJ MJ Finnerty	LT SE Brown (Furlong)	SGT CJ Haire
MAJ JG Floyd	LT SG Green	SGT SJ Haywood
MAJ AR McDonell	LT EJ Grigg	SGT R McCaig
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MAJ BJ Perkins	LT DJ James	SGT AJ Shilton
MAJ GM Potter	LT JJ Lynch	BDR AM Bamford
MAJ JM Roberts	LT AJ Martin	BDR BP Beach
MAJ C Sandner	LT AJ Other-Gee	BDR GM Clark
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MAJ A Wendt	LT WC Ryan	BDR LT Jamieson
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CAPT IR Cowley	WO1 MS Dewar	BDR LB Sonners
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CAPT KR Handreck	WO1 TL Kennedy	LBDR CG Gibb
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CAPT N Waugh	WO2 T Organ	GNR JA Hill
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CAPT BJ White	WO2 SA Regal	GNR KJ Lawson
CAPT MA Williams	WO2 BJ Watson	GNR TM Lewis
CAPT NJ Woodhams	SGT RW Archer	GNR KW Murray
CHAP PD Price	SGT AJ Buzescu	GNR PM Smith
LT SM Bowles	SGT NR Corradetti	GNR ML Topliss
LT JB Childs	SGT JT Elms	GNR J Vardanega
LT MJ Convey	SGT MM Farrell	

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(The paid ‘Benefactors’ membership option has Closed. The new single payment option is paid ‘Life’ membership of the ‘Gunners’ Fund.)

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BRIG N.D. Graham *	COL C.B.J. Hogan	LTCOL M.A. Cameron
BRIG J.G. Hughes	COL C.H. Hunter	LTCOL J.H. Catchlove
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MAJ N. Hamer	WO1 L.A. Cooper	
MAJ P. Harris	WO1 B.A. Franklin	
MAJ M.R. Hartas	WO1 E. Harkin	
MAJ L.P. Hindmarsh	WO1 G.A. Jebb	
MAJ M.S. Hodda	WO1 M.I. Johnson	
MAJ D.A. Jenkins	WO1 M.A. Johnston	
MAJ G. Johns	WO1 T.L. Kennedy	
MAJ D.E. Jones	WO1 D.R. Lehr	
MAJ J. Kaplun	WO1 P.A. Matthysen	
MAJ J.B. Kelly	WO1 B.J. Stafford	

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MAJGEN R.G. Fay
MAJGEN G.J. Fitzgerald
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Australia helps save asylum boat with 41 Sri Lanka asylum seekers

Details of a rescue mission involving Australian pilots, who have helped save dozens of asylum seekers from drowning at sea has emerged, as Peter Dutton visits Sri Lanka.

Staff writers, AAP, News Corp Australia Network, June 4, 2019

National

Australian pilots have helped save dozens of asylum seekers from drowning at sea.

The 41 asylum seekers were sailing from Sri Lanka to Australia 10 days ago when their vessel started to sink in the Indian Ocean.

An Australian surveillance aircraft assisted members of the Sri Lankan Navy to rescue those on board.

Operation Sovereign Borders boss Craig Furini, who is in Sri Lanka with Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, praised the country's navy for pulling off the rescue.



Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton and Major General Craig Furini, at Parliament House in Canberra.

Picture: Kym Smith

"This highlights the very real danger of attempting these journeys," Major General Furini told The Australian.

"Fortunately, the Sri Lankan navy was able to rescue 41 Sri Lankan nationals on board.

"Before (Operation Sovereign Borders) started in 2013 more

than 1200 drowned at sea attempting such journeys at sea. Since Operation Sovereign Borders began, there has been none."

The Australian reports that the boat broke down between Sri Lanka and Australia and began to take on water before being rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy with the assistance of an Australian surveillance aircraft.

It is the second vessel to attempt to reach Australia in the past month, and the third since March. Several other boats are believed to have been detected in recent weeks.

The 41 asylum seekers were sailing from Sri Lanka to Australia 10 days ago when their vessel started to sink in the Indian Ocean. An Australian surveillance aircraft assisted members of the Sri Lankan Navy to rescue those on board.

Operation Sovereign Borders boss Craig Furini, who is in Sri Lanka with Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, praised the country's navy for pulling off the rescue. "This highlights the very real danger of attempting these journeys," Major General Furini told The Australian. "Fortunately the Sri Lankan navy was able to rescue 41 Sri Lankan nationals on board. "Before (Operation Sovereign Borders) started in 2013 more than 1200 drowned at sea attempting such journeys at sea. Since Operation Sovereign Borders began, there has been none."

The Australian reports that the boat broke down between Sri Lanka and Australia and began to take on water before being rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy with the assistance of an Australian surveillance aircraft. It is the second vessel to attempt to reach Australia in the past month, and the third since March. Several other boats are believed to have been detected in recent weeks.

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 regardless of rank. 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 Regimental heritage. Other worthy goals that the Fund supports includes, but is not limited to:

- support RAA extra-Regimental activities,
- encourage RAA Officers and Soldiers who excel in their profession,
- support activities that benefit RAA personnel, not 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 worthy goals without the support of individual members and organisations within the Gunner community. All ranks are encouraged to make a financial contribution to the Gunners' Fund; be it fortnightly or annual contributions or by becoming a life member. Whilst a 'Life Subscription' absolves the subscriber from being asked for any further financial contribution they are welcome to make additional contributions to further support the Royal Regiment. The list of life subscribers is published in the Liaison Letter and they 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 the maintenance of the AIF and Mount Schanck 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 supported if each and every one of us contribute to the Fund. Projects supported by the Fund include the allocation of:

- \$500 to 107 Battery for 50th Anniversary celebrations;
- \$500 each to 101 Battery and 103 Battery for 100th Anniversary celebrations;
- \$2,500 to 8th/12th Medium Regiment to assist 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 50th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1,000 to 4th Field Regiment for 40th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1,500 for shield to be held by winner of Mount Schanck trophy;
- \$1,000 to 1st Field Regiment for 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;
- \$2,500 towards the Anti-Aircraft and Air Defence Memorial at 16th Air Land Regiment;
- \$700 for 53 Battery World War Two Battery Flag restoration and preservation;
- Ongoing JNCO and Gunner of the Year prizes;
- Ongoing to send the JNCO and Gunner of the Year on a professional development overseas trip with the Royal School of Artillery and local artillery units;
- Presentation of a framed miniature RAA Standard with supporting service history to those who have achieved of 40 years of service;
- On-going Royal Military College Graduation Artillery prize; and
- Annual Regimental Officer, Warrant Officer and Sergeant farewells.

Subscriptions – See the subscription form on the next page for details.

RAA Gunners' Fund Subscription Rates Revised Subscription Form 2018

Categories

Rank	ARA Member	ARA Member	Reserve Member	All
	Fortnightly Rate	Annual Rate	Annual Rate	Life Membership All Ranks \$260.00
MAJ & above / WO1	\$2.00	\$52.00	\$26.00	
CAPT, WO2 / SGT	\$1.50	\$39.00	\$19.00	
LT, GNR / LBDR / BDR	\$1.00	\$26.00	\$13.00	

Payment Methods (Please tick)

- Enclosed is my / our subscription to the RAA Gunners' Fund
- Paying by **Cheque**: Please return this form with a cheque made payable to "RAA Regimental Fund" and addressed to MAJ GM Down, SO2 HOR, SOARTY, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal VIC 3662
- Paying via **Direct Debit**: The account details of the RAA Regimental Fund are:

Financial Institution: Australian Military Bank
Account Name: RAA Regt Fund
BSB: 642 170
Account Number: 100026037
Reference: Your Name & Initials

Note: A copy of this completed subscription form is to be forwarded to MAJ GM Down (SO2 HOR) to enable the issue of an RAA key ring. Email: gary.down@defence.gov.au

PMKeys No: _____ **Regimental No (if applicable)** _____

Rank / Initials: _____ **Unit:** _____

Surname: _____ **Post Nominals:** _____

Address: _____

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Commence Subscription Details

Amount: \$ _____ **Effective Date:** _____

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All subscribers will receive a 'numbered' RAA key ring on joining the Gunners Fund and if their subscription is current they be eligible for the annual 'Badge Draw' held as at 1st August each year.

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6	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 31 May 1955+
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Notes:

*Copy held by SO to HOR

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+ Copy held by HOR Staff at School of Artillery

@ Not available to HOR Staff at School of Artillery

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