

The Royal Australian Artillery **LIAISON LETTER**

Spring Edition 2012



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

First Published in 1948



RAA LIAISON LETTER

Spring Edition 2012

Incorporating the
Australian Gunner Magazine

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NEXT EDITION CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

Contributions for the Liaison Letter 2013 – Autumn Edition should be forwarded to the editor by no later than **Friday 23rd February 2013**.

LIAISON LETTER ON-LINE

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

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Front Cover:	<i>Top Left:</i> Lance Bombardier Dan Cooke from the Artillery Training Advisory Team Four at the Kabul Military Training Centre during a live fire exercise. Photograph by Sergeant Mick Davis. <i>Top Right:</i> Bombardier Jordan Haskins at the Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (CRAM) system at the Multi National Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan. Photograph by Corporal Mark Doran. <i>Bottom Left:</i> Bombardier Michael Cross looks down a bustling street in downtown Dili, as his patrol waits to rendezvous with a New Zealand Army Patrol. Photograph by Corporal Chris Moore. <i>Bottom Right:</i> Bombardier Kane Robertson from the Artillery Training Advisory Team Four with instructor, Staff Sergeant Leyagat Khawah from the Afghan National Army at the Kabul Military Training Centre during a live fire exercise. Photograph by Sergeant Mick Davis.
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Contributors are urged to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in their articles. The Royal Australian Artillery, Deputy Head of Regiment and the RAA Liaison Letter editor accept no responsibility for errors of fact.

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NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY GUNNERS FUND

Gunners serving & retired are invited to contribute to the RAA Gunners Fund

Aims of the RAA Gunners Fund:

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

***Contribution by Allotment.** Full-time members are asked to contribute by allotment. It is as easy as visiting PMKeyS Self Service, select allotment and then select RAA Gunners Fund.*

- ***Fixed Fortnightly Fees.** The Fee linked to the Rank you hold at the time you first contribute is Fixed for the remainder of your career and therefore does not change as you are promoted.*
- ***Fortnightly Fees***
 - \$1.00 per fortnight - Gunner, Lance Bombardier, Bombardier and Lieutenant
 - \$1.50 per fortnight - Sergeant, Warrant Officer Class Two and Captain
 - \$2.00 per fortnight – Warrant Officer Class One, Major and above

***Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Cheque.** Part-time members are invited to make their annual contribution by EFT or cheque. See Associations and Organisations Section for details.*

***Life Subscription.** Retired (& Full-time & Part-time) members are invited to consider a Life Subscription or to simply make a periodic Donation. See Associations & Organisations Section for details.*

***The Regimental Committee thanks you for your generous support of the
RAA Gunners Fund***

NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

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

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY –
1ST AUGUST 2012**

The 1st of August 2012 marks the 141st Anniversary of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery service to the Army and Australia. Today we again celebrate the history, lineage and customs of the Regiment through a range of dinners and activities.

Deployments of the Counter Rocket and Mortar system and Unmanned Aerial Systems continue in Afghanistan with further deployments in training for later in the year. They of course are not the only deployments and we have soldiers from the Royal Regiment supporting the Uruzgan Task Group as Joint Fires teams and in training Afghan soldiers in the Fourth Brigade and in the Afghanistan School of Artillery. We also remain busy domestically as we embed the capabilities of the M777 Lightweight Howitzer and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System into our training and we meet the challenge that new capabilities provide us.

As we celebrate our anniversary this year, I ask everyone to think about our Gunners, deployed or in training for deployment to operations across the globe. They should know that we support their families during their absence; and we wish them all a safe and speedy return to Australia and their families.

The Representative Colonel Commandant Major General Ford, AO will retire from his position at the end of this year. We all wish him the very best for the future and thank him sincerely for his service to the Royal Regiment and trust that his very strong links to the Royal Regiment endure as I am sure they will.

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

Ubique

S. ROACH, AM
Brigadier
Head of Regiment

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3/ July 2011

Editor's Comment



Welcome to the Liaison Letter 2012 – Spring Edition. After many years of publishing the electronic version in colour, I am extremely happy to report the hard copy version will now be in colour. This milestone marks a significant

progression in quality and enjoyment for you. Furthermore, the Liaison Letter and RAAHC official journal 'Cannonball' will now be published as a single 'back-to-back' edition.

I have received excellent support from across the Regiment with regard not only to the number of submissions, but the range of topics and quality of the content. It is pleasing to see young Gunners contributing towards recording our history and heritage and the general debate.

... the decision to pursue a 'Traditional' Regimental structure. In my view this is a well founded, sound and logical decision ...

I am pleased to note that commonsense (a somewhat uncommon quality) has prevailed in terms of our gun regiment structures. I draw your attention to the article by Major General Jeff Sengelman on 'Artillery Modernisation' in the Capability section where he refers to the decision to pursue a 'Traditional' regimental structure. In my view this is a well founded, sound and logical decision which will address a situation that should never have been implemented in the first place. In these times of fiscal responsibility I am afraid to even contemplate how much time and energy has been expended in this ill-conceived folly.

The article by Major General Sengelman also breathes oxygen into an old chestnut – naming conventions. I am somewhat perplexed with his use of the descriptor 'Field' when referring to regiments. I believe there is a requirement for a 'descriptor' but rather than terms such as Field, Medium, Heavy, I favour 'Fire Support'. An example of my preference is the 1st Fire Support Regiment rather than 1st Regiment, RAA. This conforms to the title style used in some other Corps such as Combat Engineer Regiment and Combat Support Regiment.

In the Professional Papers section there are two very different, but both thoroughly researched and well presented papers on Air Defence in World War Two, and the Royal Regiment Post Afghanistan. These are high quality papers deserving your attention. The post Afghanistan paper is thought provoking and highlights that generational change within the Regiment is not underway but has already occurred! Pre-1999 has been despatched to the annals of history and the memories of those of us who served in that period overshadowed by the post Vietnam experience. The paper on 2/3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment reinforces the importance of taking the lessons from operational experience and ensuring they are not lost when training for the next operation.

I have extended the "Five Minutes With ..." section to include a senior soldier. I am very grateful to Brigadier Paul McLachlan and Warrant Officer Class One Bob Thompson for agreeing to contribute to this edition. Brigadier McLachlan will become Head of Land Systems Division on promotion to Major General in January next year, while Warrant Officer Class One Thompson will bring a wealth of experience as RSM 7th Brigade to the Regimental Master Gunner appointment.

Throw in a well intentioned maverick commanding officer, stir and there is potential for problems.

A recent conversation made me reflect on the current Royal Regiment chain of command – in particular who is really the 'officer of the watch' keeping an overarching 'minute-to-minute' hand on the wheel. It did not take me long to conclude that despite the positive changes and improvements made to claw back ground to fill the black hole created through the demise of the various commanders and related headquarters of 1st Divisional Artillery, Directorate of Artillery and Land Command Artillery, the current situation still leaves a lot to be desired. Throw in a well intentioned maverick commanding officer, stir and there is potential for problems.

At issue is the lack of responsive artillery command and control methodology or for that matter, structure. Currently there is a Colonel Joint Fires who heads up the Joint Fires Branch, importantly to note, located within 6th Brigade who has 'technical control' of the artillery capability. The challenge in executing this role in any real or meaningful manner is that the Regiments are under command of individual Brigades. To support him we have an

extremely busy Brigadier whose role as Head of Regiment is a secondary appointment. The Deputy Head of Regiment is the Commanding Officer / Chief Instructor of the School of Artillery, a very demanding and full-time appointment in itself. Even the Regimental Master Gunner has a different primary role. No wonder as a Royal Regiment we struggle to argue our case forcefully and coherently in the wider defence forums, despite the best efforts of those involved.

... still a need to have structures in place that can oversee both operations and training beyond battery and troop level.

Although the politics and technologies of today mean the likelihood of needing to coordinate mass artillery fire in support of major conflict is virtually zero, there is still a need to have structures in place that can oversee both operations and training beyond battery and troop level. At this point I am not even prepared to canvass the issue of how to routinely maintain and monitor effectively Regimental wide technical standards! The creation of the Master Gunner position in Regiments is only the tip of the iceberg in addressing this deficiency.

As I read my emails at the School of Artillery, I am bombarded with offers from the physical training instructors to assist me in preparing for the pending introduction of the new Physical Employment Standard (PES) assessment. This new physical test is currently being evaluated by units and I understand the policy will be adopted in the near future – most likely next year. It will replace the old Combat Fitness Assessment (CFA) that many readers will have encountered during their career. It is a scientifically developed non-gender specific or age dependent series of tests that relate directly to your employment category – at least that is the theory. On the surface, the test is divided into two categories – All Corps and Arms Corps. Woven into each category are a series of practical aerobic and strength related tests based on your employment within your Corps.

It has been emphasised the tests are about employment not leadership.

My understanding is the new standards are aimed at making you physically fit for the appointment or role that you are fulfilling. Whilst not yet understanding the test program in detail, from my observation there is a way to go before it can be implemented in a safe, sensible and balanced

manner. It has been emphasised that the tests are about employment not leadership. The approach seems to me to be refreshingly very sensible, with regard to young officers and soldiers who are at the coal face and must be at the top of their game physically. The concern for me is how will older members of a unit, who are generally in positions or appointments that do not require the physical challenges of those at the coal face, be included in these tests. It does not make sense that senior members such as the Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant Major or other senior members of a unit perform the same test as a Artilleryman (Gun Number ECN 162) or similar. To me this is unnecessarily dancing with danger in terms of injuring individuals for no good reason.

Unless the guidelines are fine tuned the new system, rather than having the positive benefit of ensuring individuals are fit for their appointment, will in fact have a negative impact due to injuries received in the related preparation for or participation in the test itself.

... this is unnecessarily dancing with danger in terms of injuring individuals for no good reason.

When I joined the Army there were mandatory retirement ages for officers which were extremely young eg. General Service Officer holding the rank of major had to retire at aged 47 (as I recall). In my view this approach created a detrimental brain drain on the Army (RAAF and RAN did not have the same rules). Some argued that it was about preventing an 'old' or 'ageing' Army and maintaining career progression, etc. In the 1990's along came the 'Equal Opportunities' and within a few years Army had to do away with the age restrictions. In the Army of the early 1990's that was drawing down this inability to move people on, meant that for some 'older' members, Management Initiated Early Retirement packages were necessary to meet manpower targets. Yes – the Army had to make people redundant to clear the decks.

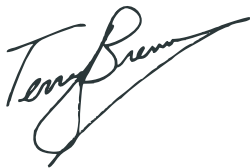
The rationale for describing the scenario in the previous paragraph, is that the cynic in me can see a parallel with this 1990's scenario and the current decision to open up employment in the combat arms to women and the use of the new Physical Employment Standard. Combine this with other 'age' related aspects of the new Army, such as RMC cadets over 30 years of age on graduation, soldiers leaving 1 RTB aged in their 30's and 40's, not to mention that more and more individuals serving on to age 50 and sometimes beyond to 60 years and you can quickly conclude that these Physical

Employment Standard tests could be used to justify removing people without the need for programs, such as redundancy packages; or to justify preventing them from entering areas, such as the Combat Arms.

In my view, the well managed introduction of the new Physical Employment Standards can be seen in two ways. Firstly, in a very positive light that at long last here is a system that prepares individuals physically for the task they are employed to do. Alternately, it could be viewed as a method for overcoming 'Equal Opportunity' obligations through managing access to the more physically demanding appointments within the combat arms by women and older male counterparts. I simply offer my thoughts as food for discussion – I look forward to hearing from you, should you have an opinion.

An email from Major Marc Plummer, regarding me leaving his name off the Full-time Officer List published in the Autumn Edition, was a timely prompt to remind readers and contributors that the responsibility for the accuracy of their submission lies with them. In the case of the specific query raised by Marc Plummer, I draw his attention to my disclaimer on the bottom of page 78 of the Autumn Edition – the list is compiled and provided by DOCM-A.

Finally, I must step down from my soap box and thank everyone again for their wonderful support of the Liaison Letter, especially those who have taken the time to contribute. It is this interaction with the contributor and reader that has enabled the Liaison Letter to grow from strength to strength since I assumed the role of editor in 2000. I cannot stress enough that your contribution, no matter how small, is always welcome and most importantly – valued.



D.T. (Terry) BRENNAN
Major
Editor

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

To add your name to the Liaison Letter mailing list or to remove it, contact the editor.

Letters to the Editor

Reserve Changes

I would like to make a few comments about the re-structuring of the Army Reserve Artillery, particularly relating to Victoria. I was a little disappointed to see the withdrawal of the guns from the Reserve, but I can appreciate the financial aspects of the decision. From an artillery point of view, a mortar is only another method of delivering indirect fire support.

As time has passed, the Reserve regiments have been 'relegated' to the role of a mortar platoon. The decision to reduce the Army Reserve regiments to battery size, administered by an infantry battalion reinforces this thinking.

Furthermore, the fact that the current technical equipment is not to be made available to the Reserve, and the fact that the manual systems of artillery signal log book, target records, and fire plan proforma are to be no longer used, seems to mean that the mortars cannot be used in conjunction with other forms of indirect fire. The training of observers in mortar batteries will also not be practical. Gunners of all ranks cannot be trained to use equipment that they do not have. Reserve soldiers cannot easily be integrated into regular units should this become necessary.

The Reserve artillery suffered the same type of problem, but to a much lesser degree, when Field Artillery Computer Equipment (FACE) was introduced into the system and the Reserve was equipped with the hand-held calculator Field Artillery Backup System (FABS).

On another matter, the names being considered for the Reserve batteries should be carefully chosen. I understand that 4th Battery is being considered for Victoria. I believe this to be a good choice because of the historical significance of the number in Victorian artillery history.

I also believe that, as the battery is not a gun battery, some indication should be given in the name. This is done with all other regiments and batteries throughout the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, so why not a 'mortar' battery? Mortar artillery has historically been called 'Light' regiments and batteries. Therefore the Victorian battery should be 4th Light Battery RAA.

Some of the points mentioned are financially driven, but not all. I would very much like to see the

Reserve artillery retain its identity in this current re-structure.

Major Neil Hamer, RFD (Retd)
President RAA Association (Victoria)

Editor: I understand and appreciate your sentiments. I have found that one of the few 'constants' in the Army is change (not always for the best in my view). The other adage worth considering is that if you do not adapt then you will be left behind. It was highly probable that more dire options were considered by those deciding the future of the RAA Reserve component than the announced changes. In the true Gunner tradition our Reserve batteries will adapt as they are already doing, and embrace their new role.

Australian Gunner Obituaries

The RAAHC announces that it will make Australian Gunner Obituaries readily accessible by hosting and retaining recent and past obituaries on the RAAHC website: <http://www.artilleryhistory.org>.

The 'Australian Gunner Obituaries' page on the RAAHC website will host all obituaries made available to the RAAHC for publishing. It is intended that the obituaries resource will be grown to be a valued source for family members, genealogists and military history researchers. It is also intended that the obituaries page will be designed to encourage the capture increased numbers of obituaries of gunners of all ranks. The creation of an 'Australian Gunner Obituary' resource furthers the preservation of Australian artillery history and heritage.

The RAAHC has included obituaries in its professional journal 'Cannonball', over the years. With the consent of the authors, these will be placed on the web page. There are numerous other sources of obituaries, and all of them are welcome to submit their obituaries for inclusion on the RAAHC website. The author of an obituary will be recognised in each entry. Colonel Arthur Burke, a well-known obituary author, has already agreed to provide all obituaries he has published to the RAAHC for inclusion on the page. The intent is to start with an alphabetical listing by name, however with time, more sophisticated search tags might be able to be indexed, such as: state/territory of birth, names of units that members served in and awards for gallantry.

The contact for the placement of obituaries on the RAAHC website is Peter Bruce, who is contactable at: pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au. Peter Bruce will manage the development of the detailed approach and 'formatting' requirements to permit consolidation of obituaries into a single accessible resource. An important aspect is that should a visitor to the RAAHC site decide to print an

obituary, the RAAHC intends that a suitable and respectful print will be able to be made. There will probably be some IT hurdles, but it will be worth the effort overcoming them. It is expected that up to two hundred obituaries could be available on the web page by mid to late 2013.

The 'Australian Gunner Obituaries' is an RAAHC initiative that has created an opportunity for the Australian Gunner family that will be lasting and appreciated. Please give it your support; future generations will thank you.

Brigadier John Cox, AM
RAAHC Director

Editor: A permanent, well-managed central repository such as this is long overdue and is a wonderful sign that the Regimental Committee and RAAHC goal of national cooperation amongst Gunner associations and heritage organisations is beginning to materialise into a reality.

Unique Afghanistan Tour Record Available

A team from 4th Regiment RAA lead by Lieutenant Colonel Tim Griggs, played a lead role with the Kabul 3 Afghan School of Artillery Training Team. Sergeant Darren Thomas deployed as the Tiffy / Maintenance Instructor. Darren also took on the role as the compiler and photographer; his aim to record the team tour and produce a book. This book has now been printed and is titled: *Artillery Training Team Kabul 3, Strength with Steel, July 2011 – March 2012*. This is a 54 A4 landscape page book with several hundred full colour photos of the K3 team, involving the establishment and training the Afghan Army School of Artillery, as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

As Kabul 3 was only a small group, a total of 69 books were ordered by the team members making the cost of production very expensive. The 4th Regiment Museum chose to support the team by arranging several cash grants towards the production and printing costs, and ordered 11 books bringing the print order to 80.

Thus, there are 10 only copies of Kabul 3 for sale. As the high price of the Kabul book was \$50 per copy, the Museum has combined this with a copy of the 1 RAR book: *Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 2, June 2009 – February 2010*. The 1 RAR book is a 255 A4 landscape page hard cover book with a very large number of full colour gloss photographs.

Together both books present an excellent snapshot and authentic history of the Australian soldiers on operations in Afghanistan. These books will become a historic reference and highly valuable. The Museum is offering both books for the price of \$60.00, plus \$13.00 postage within Australia.

Should any of your readers be interested in obtaining a copy of these two books, contact Sergeant Darren Thomas on email Darren.Thomas@defence.gov.au or mobile 0419 115 852 or Paddy Durnford on email paddy.durnford@defence.gov.au or mobile 0412 411 928.

Thanking you
Paddy Durnford
4th Regiment Historical Collection

Editor: This publication is a most welcome addition to the preservation of our contemporary history – an area the Regiment has been struggling to address. I am only too happy to assist you with promoting the publication and thank you for considering the Liaison Letter as a forum to advertise it.

Sadly Missed

We were saddened by the passing of Rik Modderman in August last year; yet heartened by his son Eric's testimony to his father. Rik and I served as 'Subbies' in 8th/12th Medium Regiment from 1979–1981. Rik was a mountain of a man with a mountain of moral courage – in fact one of the most courageous men I have had the pleasure of knowing. Kate and Rik were a tower of strength for all of us. Farewell to a mate!

Best wishes
Colonel Mike Lovell, AM (Retd)

Editor: A sentiment echoed throughout the Royal Regiment.

Positive Feedback

I am in receipt of the current Liaison Letter [Ed. Autumn Edition]. It continues to maintain the excellent standard set by all of its predecessors. Congratulations. One of the great achievements of the Letter is to brief us 'older' gunners on the operational aspects of the war in Afghanistan. In many cases, it is the only reliable source of how our younger members of the Regiment are carrying on the gunner traditions. They are doing a marvellous job!

With kind regards
Brigadier Garth Hughes, AM (Retd)

Editor: Your very positive comments regarding the performance of members of the Royal Regiment on operations are well founded and most importantly, are supported throughout the Army.

Demise of RAA in the Reserve

In 2006 Commander 2nd Division promoted the concept of switching the reserve field batteries of the RAA from guns to mortars. On the face of things it did not look like a bad idea if you could get past the fact that there were no conventional guns involved. Given the look of operations at the time it appeared that there might actually be a role in the area of supporting Battalions on operations. At least that's the way it was being marketed. The gun fleet had too many types of equipment with more on the way for the ARA. Mortars would allow a level of conventional deployment and training while significantly reducing costs. There was a high level of focus on the procurement of SP, M777 and TUAV at that time so it was never going to get a high level of scrutiny or horsepower from the Regiment as a whole. So with the Commander 2nd Division pushing hard it got a run.

I was the Battery Commander 16th Field Battery around this time and we raised our concerns. Mainly we focused on continuity of training, manning levels and a scope of training that still linked us to the ARA in some way - especially maintaining gunner skills. Manning levels, establishment and a host of other issues had not been planned in detail at this stage so answers to any questions we put forward were sketchy at best. 16th Field Battery was a fairly well manned organisation at this time with around 60 - 70 effective staff and quite a high level of field battery experience. The ARTEP process which forged artillery units into cohesive teams, like nothing else can, was not long gone and the M2A2 was still in service. We were coming off the back of a 9th Brigade CATA exercise where six guns were fielded between three batteries and we fired in support of elements of 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Mission Rehearsal Exercise.

The initial plan was to test the mortar concept using the independent batteries, 7, 16 and 48. 2nd/10th Medium Regiment was tasked with the lead and doctrine development. The pace at which the implementation subsequently began to move meant that some of the key outcomes discussed at the outset began to drop away, most particularly the retention of gunner skills after the change of equipments.

In May - June of 2012 the Reserve Artillery participated in an establishment review. 16th Field Battery emerged with an establishment of around 35. I am unsure what level of support was provided by the Regiment in this process. 16th Field Battery will be linked to 48th Battery in Adelaide and the down size is to occur by 2013 although I am told this may be brought forward. Several key positions

from this review have been frozen until 2014 including BK and BSM. Currently 16th Field Battery boasts around 79 effective members between two depots in Tasmania.

Without having all of the details the TAS/SA composite Battery will be under command of 10th/27th Battalion in Adelaide as of 2014. I have no idea what the structure looks like or the basis for ongoing training. I do know that 35 is not a nucleus for sustained training nor is it a sound base to man the positions you are left with, particularly split between two States.

Already the 'administrators' are moving in to close things up and deal with accounts. Based on these numbers current barrack locations seem unsustainable and around 40 Reservists need to be found postings or fade away. It is happening fast and reminds me of how quickly 102nd Medium Battery disappeared in 1987.

Once these units are reduced to these manning levels there is no coming back in the short term and more importantly the accumulated experience and the expertise is gone. There is no formal reinforcement or recruiting mandate to the ARA but my time here tells me that 16th Field Battery has been the training ground for many to move on to the ARA and the likes of Lieutenant Colonel Nick Bolton, Major Rhyl Opie and Warrant Officer Class Two Toby Organ are current serving examples of the quality.

The Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery made a start in 1859 and the Launceston Volunteer Artillery in the following year. Its size pinnacle was probably around the National Service years with a regiment of guns serving in the state. The history of the unit boasts stories of VC recipients and State Governors.

This is not one unit's problem it is a national one that will see most Reserve Artillery diminished to arguably unworkable levels. If it is thought that this is the best use of Reserve Artillery given the current climate, that's a decision for others but those involved must realise that it risks making the RAA in the Reserve unsustainable. I don't believe however that sufficient thought has been given to the complexity of the problem and finality of this particular solution.

Through the vehicle of the RAA Association of Tasmania and other avenues we will ensure that people understand the magnitude of this issue in Tasmania and I am sure that other states are doing the same. Two years ago the Chief of Army said that 'no flags will fall' when referring to the proposed restructure of certain parts of the Army. That statement is probably still true, but only just....

Major Chris Talbot

Editor: Your letter clearly outlines the situation, views, frustrations and feelings of those at the coal face. Sadly despite the rhetoric and platitudes of our leaders ultimately in a small full-time professional Army there appears to be very little or perhaps no place for Reserve Artillery. This scenario is a very attractive to our bean counters who only think about the financial bottom-line.

Other Miscellaneous Feedback

Thanks for the latest Liaison Letter – you have done a wonderful job yet again! Many thanks.
[Colonel] Paul Appleton.

Just wanted to say thanks for keeping the RAA LLs coming to me, I have 'moved on' now into my new business but I really do enjoy getting the LL. Thanks again.

Regards. [Major] Daimien Patterson.

You left me off the Full Time Officer List in the latest RAA Liaison Letter. Is this message from CA? I'll have to check that I'm still being paid.

Cheers. [Major] Marc Plummer.

Once again a great Autumn Edition Liaison Letter. Can you please add me to the mailing list directly for the Liaison Letter as I currently only receive a copy through the 105 Battery Association but I am also a Regimental Fund Benefactor?

Ubique. Lieutenant Colonel Jim Box (Retd).

Editor: Feedback positive or negative no matter how brief, is most appreciated and always sought.

Lost Contact - Seeking Readers Assistance

Recent editions of the Liaison Letter have been 'Returned to Sender' from the following individuals: Brigadier Brian Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Shafer, Lieutenant Colonel Don Smith, Colonel T.R. Lloyd, Major Rob Cumming and Mr Mick Mahady.

If any reader is aware of the whereabouts of any individual(s) it would be most appreciated if you could provide me the information or alternatively ask them to send me their contact details.

DATE CLAIMER

LIAISON LETTER

Next Edition Contribution Deadline

Friday 23rd February 2013

The General's regrets: John Cantwell

By Melanie Sim (with Alex Sloan)

Australian Forces Commander in Afghanistan in 2010, John Cantwell writes: 'When I sent 10 [deceased] soldiers home from Afghanistan I failed that trust and it broke my heart.' Alex Sloan began her interview with General Cantwell by saying it is one of the finest and bravest books that she has read, and it is a book that has changed her life. General Cantwell's *'Exit Wounds, one man's war on terror'* is an account of his experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan and then his very personal war with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

General Cantwell says he saw many horrific things during his time in Iraq and Afghanistan. 'The killings were overwhelming horrible,' he told Alex on 666 ABC Canberra Mornings. General Cantwell was in Iraq in 2006 and says his most 'horrible memory from that time was confronting the scenes in a market place after a car bomb had gone off. ...Each Thursday, mothers and their kids would go to market places all over Baghdad and exchange their gas bottles. Regrettably just as I was down the road...a car bomb detonated in one of those market places and I will take to my grave the memories of that day.'

Events like this started to affect him, but he says he made a great mistake with the way he initially dealt with them. 'The dumb mistake I made was burying the issue and denying it to myself and denying it to my friends and my family ... because I thought it was a sign of weakness that showed I was less of a soldier than I thought I was. It's not part of the job profile to have PTSD but in reality it is very much part of the job profile.'

General Cantwell says mental illness isn't something to be ashamed of, and he says it is frustrating with the way that PTSD is treated. 'To have an emotional response is absolutely normal and human, otherwise you'd be some sort of psychopath, and it's important that people recognise these terrible memories.' And he says it's more important that after people recognise this, that then they do something about it. In the early days he tried to access counselling but was told he was a big sook, so General Cantwell buried it away, yet it didn't go away.

People have questioned why he wanted to be in the Army, when the obvious destination was a war front. He explains he was very determined to go to war. 'Teachers want to teach kids, and surgeons want to operate on people, and soldiers want to go and fight. The trouble is the big adventure sometimes isn't as much fun as you think.'

When General Cantwell first started to suffer from PTSD, he experienced terrible nightmares, which had some physical consequences. 'One of my most shameful recollections of all of this is waking in the middle of the night with my hands on [my wife] Jane, you know scaring her witless, I was thinking that something bad was going on, and in that dream I was trying to protect her, but at the time I thought to myself, *'what if one night I think that she*

is the threat, I might hurt her,' so it was so confusing. Yet while all of this was going on I couldn't tell anybody, because I was worried that my career might be affected.' He says these nightmares occur most nights, depending on how he is tracking, as now he has got help.

General Cantwell also fought in Afghanistan, and says the Afghan cause is not worth dying for. He says some media commentators have misinterpreted this, saying that his words show that soldiers have died in vain, but General Cantwell disagrees with this. 'What I have said though, and it's a subtlety, which doesn't run well in the media, but what I do believe is that we have achieved some good things, and it's been achieved at enormous cost. There are more schools being opened up, the roads are being fixed and security is getting better.'

'But when I stood and gazed down on the body of an Australian soldier, I wondered is this a reasonable exchange? I just don't think it is a reasonable exchange.' However General Cantwell says we can't leave Afghanistan now because we would be dishonouring the hard work done by soldiers so far. But he believes that, if we have to stay, it should be at the minimum risk possible.

There are also some light moments in the book, including one that General Cantwell recounts about a scorpion attack. He was desperately trying to attack the huge insect with a pistol but he kept missing it. 'Finally the driver Pete just pushes me aside, smashes it with a shovel and says, *'Bloody officers, how useless are they?'* and we laughed and laughed. It was such a release.'

There's a passage in the book that moved Alex to tears as she read out aloud to General Cantwell on 666. General Cantwell writes:

'I reached to a nearby shelf and extract a blue surgical glove and pull it onto my right hand and take a slow breath and step close to each man placing my hand on his shoulder and turn. The chill of their bodies reaches my heart, looking down at each dead soldier I say how sorry I am that they have been claimed by war. I thank them for their sacrifice and tell them they are on their way home. It feels perfectly natural to be speaking to the dead. After a moment of contemplation I say *'goodbye Jacob'* and then I pause and say *'goodbye Darren'*.

General Cantwell says he was the commander and the one who was responsible when they lost those soldiers, and he felt it needed the human touch, before the body bags were zipped up.

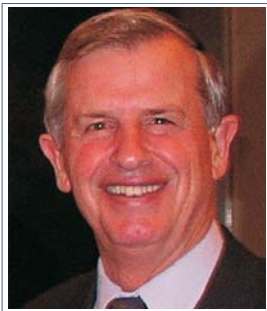
General Cantwell hopes his book helps those who are going through PTSD, and hopes Australians can understand what we ask of our young men and women, the consequences of their courageous service and the families that have to endure the pain as well.

ABC Radio Canberra Interview 27 September, 2012

Regimental

Representative Colonel Commandant

Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)



Dear Fellow Gunners

This is my last message to you in the RAA Liaison Letter as the RAA Representative Colonel Commandant as I will stand down from that role on St Barbara's Day 2012. I first took up this

appointment in April 2005 and I have been immensely proud to serve with you and the Regiment in this role for over 7 years. Much has transpired in that period, operationally, structurally, and with our approach to our proud artillery history and heritage.

I note with great pride the way our serving Gunners have responded magnificently over this period to the many challenges placed before them. They have maintained the Regiment's high reputation for always setting training and gunnery standards at the highest level. Active and Reserve Gunners from all branches of the Regiment responded well to the Chief of Army's request to boost Army training capacity during its expansion in 2004 / 2005.

In addition, the RAA has provided individuals, teams and contingents on all of Australia's peace and security operations around the World. Our deployments of Locating and Target Acquisition troops, Air Defence elements, Counter Rocket, Mortar and Artillery radars and Gun Troops from all our regular gun regiments on 'Operation Herrick' are particularly noteworthy and now part of our RAA history.

Gunners continue to serve today in many roles around the World, including as part of the

Australian Artillery Advisory Team in Afghanistan. I am proud to report that the RAA provides a very relevant contribution to Australia's Defence Force and is held in high esteem by our national and international colleagues.

The service of our Gunners continues to be acknowledged with seven RAA members receiving recognition in the mid year Queen's Birthday Honours list, including the award of another Medal of Gallantry to a Gunner, Bombardier David Robertson MG.

I note with great pride the way our serving Gunners have responded magnificently over this period to the many challenges placed before them.

Over the last decade, the RAA has needed to respond to new structures, equipment and training as part of today's developing Army. This has not been an easy task and it continues to challenge us all. In particular, the capabilities that our Reserve Gunners can best bring to the Army are still being clarified. It is important that they can continue to provide a real capability to the Regiment and the Army. In this respect I ask all of you to give the best possible support and advice to the Head of Regiment and our leaders as they make these decisions.

I am pleased with the way that as a Regiment, we have moved to better support our serving soldiers and to recognise and preserve our history and heritage. The RAA Regimental Committee now has a clearly outlined strategic plan supported by a communications strategy, a developing financial plan and a well-considered heritage plan. These focus on supporting our serving Gunners. I thank all those who have contributed to these developments: the Head of Regiment and their staff, the RAA Colonel Commandants, the Commanding Officers and RSMs of our units and the many retired and serving Gunners, who support the many projects and sub-committees of the Regiment.

In particular, all those associated with developing this RAA Liaison Letter as a key means of communication within the Regiment and to its supporters, deserve special recognition. I thank also the many RAA regional, unit and historical associations around Australia for their continued support in maintaining comradeship and the history and heritage of the Regiment. I note with pride the award of the honour title to 102 'Coral' Battery in May 2008 and the development of the RAA Historical Company as a truly national body to which we can all belong.

I note with pride the award of the honour title to 102 'Coral' Battery in May 2008 ...

We will need to continue to focus clearly on our priorities in the years ahead. In particular, it is a great concern that plans to build the new combined Armour and Artillery Museum at Puckapunyal have slipped even further and is now scheduled for 2021. The Regiment must act to ensure the preservation of the national artillery collection now housed at Bandiana, to maximise its use and display as appropriate in the near future. We should insist upon its relocation to the new museum as soon as possible and certainly before 2021.

I am proud to announce that Brigadier (Retired) Gerry Warner, AM, LVO will take up the mantle of RAA Representative Colonel Commandant on the 4th December. Gerry, who is already the RAA Colonel Commandant (Western Region), will bring a fresh approach to the role based on his immense experience in the Regiment and business, including as Commanding Officer 16th Air Defence Regiment, Chief of Staff Land Command and as member of the RAA Regimental Committee. I wish him every success with his appointment.

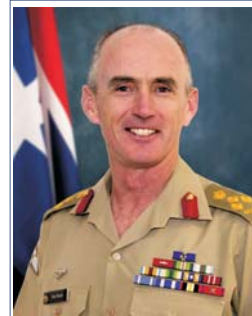
Finally, the Colonel Commandant (Southern Region) Brigadier Neil Graham will also step down in December to be replaced by Brigadier Peter Alkemade. I thank Neil for his service and strong support to the Regiment over the last four years and welcome Peter to the Regimental Committee.

Like Neil, I will continue to support the Regiment in other forums, so I hope to keep in contact with many of you. Thank you for your continued support to the Regiment and to our heritage. Good luck and good shooting to all.



Head of Regiment

Brigadier Don Roach, AM



Fellow Gunners

The Spring Liaison Letter again offers the forum to reflect on the achievements of the Regiment and to consider future opportunities and challenges.

Through the course of the year I have had the opportunity to visit many

Gunners in barracks and in the field, preparing for operations and supporting training, and everywhere I have been, and continue to be, impressed by the professionalism and determination of all members of the Regiment. There have been many operational and training highlights since I last wrote.

The SHADOW system has consolidated its employment in Afghanistan and we continue to evolve our understanding of the full remit of its capability and its best application. Milestones have also been achieved in Australia when at Woomera in August 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment confirmed the integration of laser designation for both air delivered and land fired weapons. We continue to develop the communications and situational awareness elements of the capability and pursue the broadest application in the combined arms and joint support environment.

The Sense and Warn capability of the Giraffe AMB Radar and the Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar has likewise been embedded and further refined in theatre through the great work of the CRAM rotations from 16th Air Land Regiment. On a bitter and challenging windswept South Australian day I, along with Commander 6th Brigade and Colonel Joint Fires, were able to witness the inaugural Mission Rehearsal Activity for CRAM 4. It was a great example of the integration of the Regiment at its best; LCMRs from 16th Air Land Regiment supported by a M777 from 53rd Battery and Mortars firing from 48th Battery, all hosted and supported by the unique and hardworking group of Gunners from PE&E Port Wakefield. It was also noteworthy for the excellent technical and tactical design of the exercise. The ongoing development of the mini

simulation and training lab back in Woodside balanced against the retention of the RBS-70 GBAD capability is also something of which 16th Air Land Regiment can be well and truly proud. *Well done to all.*

Exercise Hamel was completed in July and the achievement of the combined arms and joint fires objectives by 8th/12th Regiment in support of Commander 1st Brigade was commendable. The tactical proficiency in the planning and application of fire support was complemented by the next step in the integration and understanding of the power of AFATDS. Fire prediction and battle management attained new levels and 8th/12th Regiment has set the Regiment up well in the understanding of some of the challenges of combined arms support in a digitised communications capability.

As 8th/12th Regiment now conclude the preparation of what is likely to be the last rotation of the Artillery Training and Advisory Team in Kabul I would also like to acknowledge the great work of the 1st Regiment team currently deployed and also the additional Artillery Mentoring and Training Team generated at short notice and deployed to further augment the developing ANA Artillery capability. To all of the Gunners deployed at present across the force our thoughts and support are with you and your families in what is a very difficult and uncertain time. *Ubique.*

I would like to thank the members of the Reserve for the opportunity to visit the units in training and observe the progress and results of the mortar conversion program. Observing the conduct of courses and live firing at 2nd/10th Field Regiment in April was complimented by visits to both 7th Field Battery in Hobbs Artillery Park and 23 Field Regiment consolidated in Kogarah. I remain very impressed with the commitment with which all Reserve units have continued with the conversion and contributed positively to the Mortar Battery establishment design work. The challenges placed on the Reserve units to complete conversion, conduct preparations to return guns and equipment, consolidate depots and estate, secure and foster heritage and history and develop plans to close units have not gone unnoticed. Resources are a challenge across the Regiment, but nowhere is it more obvious than in the Reserve. Yet I am reassured with the planned program of courses and training and I would conclude that the thorough planning and positive attitude by all will have the Regiment best placed to continue to adapt to changing circumstances while sustaining a reliable capability.

I had the opportunity to again join the young officers of the Regiment at the ROBC Dining In Night in April which was a great success and notable for the significant numbers in attendance. Whilst chatting with members of the Gun and GBAD IET courses at the School I was struck by the confidence and maturity of our young Gunners. 53rd Battery was as busy yet assured as usual. All of these together purport well for the health and strength of the Regiments future.

On half of the Regiment I would like to congratulate the recently announced Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors for 2012. On behalf of the Regiment I wish them every success in their new appointments (Details are in the Personnel and Training section). I would like to acknowledge and thank Colonel Brian Bailey, the inaugural Colonel Joint Fires, for his professionalism and dedication over the last four years. Further I congratulate Lieutenant Andy Haebich, currently Commanding Officer 8th/12th Regiment, on his appointment as the new incumbent commencing in 2013.

*I would particularly like to
acknowledge the award of the
Medal for Gallantry to Bombardier
David Robertson.*

A lot can happen in six months - and has. After my report in the last Liaison Letter with respect to the positive progress of the SPH project it was cancelled as part of the Defence Capability Plan adjustments resulting from the Defence Budget. Acknowledging it as a major disappointment to many of us Chief of Army took the time to personally discuss the issue with and explain the pressures and the context of the situation in which he took the decision. You will recall that this was passed on through the Chain of Command soon after the decision. To all of you in the Regiment who have invested significant time and energy in the project I thank you for the thoroughness and completeness of your work and to those currently committing to the time compressed additional work to adjust the project and produce remediation options I thank you also for your quiet determination.

I join with all members of the Regiment to welcome the new mid year RMC graduates. I was unable to attend the presentation of awards ceremony; consequently I would like thank Brigadier Peter Gates for deputising for me. On behalf of the Royal Regiment he presented the Royal Australian Artillery Prize to Lieutenant Brett Watson who is

posted to 16th Air Land Regiment. The following graduates have also joined the Regiment: Lieutenant's James Craney and Cameron Phasey posted to 1st Regiment RAA; Lieutenant's Nathan Small and Thomas Radford posted to 8th/12th Regiment RAA; Lieutenant's Kai Lindsay and Michael Cooper posted to 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment On behalf of the Regiment I wish you all good shooting.

The future is both bright and challenging for all parts of the Regiment.

All ranks of the Royal Regiment were well represented in the Queens Birthday Honours List for a range of performances and actions in a broad number of areas including bravery. I would particularly like to acknowledge the award of the Medal for Gallantry to Bombardier David Robertson. I endorse the comments by Major General Tim Ford regarding those six members recognised and join him and the entire Regiment in extending my congratulations to all recipients'.

Whilst mentioning the Representative Colonel Commandant Major General Ford, I must acknowledge the outstanding service and commitment he has given the Regiment over the last seven years. His dedication to the work and development of the Regimental Committee, the Strategic Plan, and the history and heritage of the Regiment through a period of significant change has been simply phenomenal. We will have the opportunity to celebrate together in due course but on behalf of the whole Regiment I thank him and wish him well in all of his many current and future endeavours.

The future is both bright and challenging for all parts of the Regiment. I will continue to get around to the units as much as is possible and I look forward to observing training and holding discussions with you all. Continue the great work of the Regiment.

Good Shooting.



Lieutenant Brett Watson and Brigadier Peter Gates, CSM after being presented the Artillery Prize for earning the highest rank on the Queens Medal list for the Corps on behalf of the Head of Regiment. Brett Watson was also the recipient of the Peter Stuckey Mitchell Trust Award for displaying a commendable level of leadership, military ability and physical fitness. Chief of Defence Force, General David Hurley, AC, DSC presented all graduates their commissioning certificate

Regimental Master Gunner

Warrant Officer Class One Paul Thomas Washford

'It takes courage to check a man met on the road for not saluting properly or for slovenly appearance, but, every time he does, it adds to his stock of moral courage, and whatever the soldier may say he has a respect for the officer who does put him up.'

Field Marshal Viscount Slim of Burma, 1956



This will be my last contribution to the RAA Liaison Letter as the Regimental Master Gunner (RMG) as I will finally be retiring from the Army in early 2013 and I congratulate

Warrant Officer Class One Robert Thompson on his appointment as the RMG from January next year. I would have to say that the decision by the 'powers to be' at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion in January 1977 to send me to the RAA (it wasn't my first choice) was one that I will never regret and I will certainly miss the comradeship and characters that I've met over these many years.

... many junior leaders seem to lack the moral courage or are reluctant to question or correct faults with soldiers ...

This year I again participated in Exercise Hamel and was once again lucky enough to observe and report on soldier field skills and junior non-commissioned officer leadership. I, along with my offsider (Warrant Officer Class Two A. Colliver – Trade Manager Infantry, HQCATC), managed to traverse the whole exercise area of Shoalwater Bay visiting many of the units that participated as BLUFOR, OPFOR, Role-players or EXCON including elements of 8th/12th Regiment, 4th Regiment and 16th Air Land Regiment.

One theme that persisted throughout the exercise and that I (and many others) have noticed over the last few years is that many junior leaders seem to lack the moral courage or are reluctant to question or correct faults with soldiers, especially those that

are not in their direct chain of command. What follows is just one example from Exercise Hamel; I was observing in the vicinity of the Brigade Headquarters area when I noticed a soldier walking up the track with no weapon or webbing, when questioned she informed me she was on a medical chit – I then said to her, 'you must be getting sick of people questioning you about this' and she replied 'no Sir, you're the first person to ask me about this in the four days I've been here'. This trait is not only manifesting itself within our defence force, but is now being highlighted by our allies as well.

So, the question is – where does the fault lie? Is it with the junior non-commissioned officers themselves? Is it with our Army training system? Is it a reflection of current western society? Or is it with our officers / warrant officers / sergeants?

... responsibilities of those junior non-commissioned officers have also changed over the past few years, those that were once the domain of the senior non-commissioned officer have now passed down the chain to the bombardier / corporal.

Although the individuals have some part to play in this, it is my opinion that it is not the fault of the junior non-commissioned officers and the answer may lie to some extent within those other areas.

Let's take the training system first – we used to have Subject One Corporal courses; these were 'just-in-time' training courses for soldiers that had been identified for promotion, and generally had been soldiers for a number of years. This was the course that taught soldiers how to become non-commissioned officers and how to gain the respect of their mates / ex-peers when promoted to a junior non-commissioned officer. Now we have Junior Leader Courses (JLC) that are development courses for soldiers, not necessarily for promotion. I'm sure the same things are taught but now the difference is that soldiers complete this course with a minimum of service behind them and that there is no guarantee that there will be promotion involved. Once the JLC is complete they return to their unit and their peer group and wait.

Besides the training for junior non-commissioned officers being conducted earlier in their career, the responsibilities of those junior non-commissioned officers have also changed over the past few years, those that were once the domain of the senior

non-commissioned officer have now passed down the chain to the bombardier / corporal. And although junior non-commissioned officers have this extra responsibility placed upon them, they are still expected to live, work and socialise with their subordinates many of whom enlisted with them. Therefore it is up to those in senior leadership positions within the units to become more aware of this and proactively encourage / mentor their junior non-commissioned officers through training and by setting the right example.

Having mentioned '*setting the right example*' let's look at the senior leadership (officers / warrant officers / senior non-commissioned officers). The example I used from Exercise Hamel is a case in point. The soldier I questioned was in the vicinity of Brigade Headquarters and there were many in a position of authority that could have questioned her, but didn't. Responses I received were: '*we're too busy*' or '*it's not for me to fix*' – we have to be seen to fix these issues and then encourage our junior non commissioned officers to do the same. It's at times like these that I remember a favourite saying that I've used over the years, and that is: '*the hardest time to do the right thing is when you think no one is watching you*'. Although we say we are busier now than we have ever been, we must still take responsibility for developing the junior non-commissioned officers within our units and if this is done properly, they in turn, when they become warrant officers / senior non-commissioned officers, will do the same.

... it is generally not the soldiers or trainees, but senior non-commissioned officers / warrant officers and officers that I've had to speak too.

Does our society have any part to play in this? I believe it does. With the unprecedented ability to communicate with each other via social media (at an increasingly younger age) it has become more difficult for our young men and women in these junior leadership positions to detach themselves from their friends & colleagues; especially in those situations that require the use of their authority. The ability to disparage (or revere) individuals using this technology certainly makes those people (who are regular social media users) more cautious on how they interact with their friends / colleagues. This can ultimately lead to an over familiarisation with those people they need to command.

When I initially wrote this article, just after returning from Exercise Hamel, this was where it

was going to finish however, in the last month or two I have been frustrated and disappointed with the lack of self-discipline of a number of individuals around the Puckapunyal Military Area – and I'm sure that this is not the only location within Army where this is happening. Whether it's driving (speeding, not stopping at stop signs, talking on mobiles, etc), dress / behaviour in military and public areas or a general lack of discipline; the fact is that individuals are just '*not doing the right thing*' and to compound this phenomenon it is generally not the soldiers or trainees, but senior non-commissioned officers / warrant officers and officers that I've had to speak to.

Well, you might say that this is all trivial and with our current operational focus none of these things really matter. Then you would be just plain wrong.

There will be many opinions on why (if at all) this trend is occurring, but the bottom line is that it is up to all officers / warrant officers / senior non-commissioned officers to train, mentor and encourage junior non-commissioned officers with our nine core behaviours – moral courage being just one.

We **must** set the example in everything we do!

Ubique

Endnotes

1. Highlighted in a recent report from the Infantry Battle School, UK.
2. My latest victim was a MAJ in Puckapunyal whose excuse was that, 'he didn't realise he hadn't stopped' even though he went through the stop sign at 10 to 15kph.

Joint Fires Branch

Colonel Brian Bailey, Colonel Joint Fires

The first half of 2012 has proven to be an extremely busy period for the Joint Fires Branch of Headquarters 6th Brigade (6 Bde). The branch has overseen the development of Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (TUAS), the Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) capability, JTAC capability management, Forces Command's (FORCOMD) contribution to the Coalition Attack Guidance Experiment II (CAGE II), as well as advice on Artillery trade and training issues, network integration and RAA Manoeuvre Combat Brigade (MCB) structures. The Branch has also welcomed back Master Gunner Joint Fires, Warrant Officer

Class One Glynn Potter, who has recently returned from a six month deployment to Afghanistan and will be back working in the Branch from mid September.

Operationally, C-RAM 3 is nearing the end of its time in theatre having successfully expanded its role into several patrol bases with the Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) throughout the AO. This has enabled a 'sense and warn' and development of a 'locate' capability which has enhanced that achieved during C-RAM 2. C-RAM 4 has just completed its CERTEX and will takeover in theatre within the coming months. Also, the first rotation of the SHADOW 200 TUAS has successfully deployed and expanded the role previously filled by the SCANEAGLE UAV detachment in Afghanistan.

Network integration remains an important issue for Army.

The Joint Fires Branch continues to support 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA Regt) with the aligning the SHADOW 200 TUAS in order to achieve its full operating capability (FOC). This has involved being pivotal in the development of the SHADOW 200 TUAS training continuum that is soon to be released by CATC, as well as providing an Army advocate during the successful SHADOW OT&E and Defence Trial held at Woomera in late August. The OT&E and Defence Trial focused on 'proving the concept' of the SHADOW 200 TUAS utilising the TUAS Laser Target Designator with RAAF platforms, cueing and adjusting artillery fire with the Laser Range Finder, and a variety of other new capabilities available with the Tier III system.

Joint Fires Branch continues to work closely with 4 Squadron RAAF in order to train the requisite number of Joint Terminal Air Controllers (JTACs) required to support the Manoeuvre Brigades. This has been aided by the excellent work from JTAC Troop which has continued in its work in preparing FORCOMD candidates for the rigours of the JATC course. There has also been movement on JTAC currency issues with plans now in place to run two Army wide currency events a year with RAAF in order to maximise training outcomes. Along with the two currency events, there will also be at least one JTAC-E / JTAC 'development' exercise where the JTAC community can come together to conduct advanced training and develop TTPs with 4 Squadron.

Network integration remains an important issue for Army. Connected with this is the Coalition Attack

Guidance Experiment II (CAGE II), for which Colonel Joint Fires is the FORCOMD lead. CAGE II is an AUS / US / CA coalition experiment that will take place in early November 2012 in battle labs in the three respective countries. CAGE II will use a scenario focussed on aviation battlespace integration, joint fires systems interoperability and cross boundary control issues at brigade level.

... use a scenario focussed on aviation battle space integration, joint fires systems interoperability and cross boundary control issues at brigade level.

The Joint Fires Branch continues to investigate the multitude of legacy trade issues within 20 STA and 16th Air Land Regiment (16 ALR) due to changing roles within the Regiments that has necessitated a rethink of what is required of soldiers and officers throughout the training continuum. These will be discussed within the broader RAA community during the Joint Fires Capability Working Group in mid September which aims to create a common approach and focus for the Regiments. The Joint Fires Capability Working Group will also discuss the future MCB Artillery Regiment Structures with the aim of developing a common structure across the three Regiments.

... due to changing roles within the Regiments that has necessitated a rethink of what is required of soldiers and officers throughout the training continuum.

This will be my last opportunity to contribute to the RAA Liaison Letter in my position as Colonel Joint Fires. I am posted at the end of 2012 after four years in post. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this privileged position, and have been fortunate to have been closely involved with a host of new and developing capabilities within the RAA. Despite the budgetary challenges faced across all of Defence, this remains an exciting time for the Gunner community with the introduction of the Shadow 200 TUAS and the C-RAM capabilities, both of which are currently deployed operationally, plus the introduction of the M777A2 155 mm Howitzer and a suite of digitised enablers that continue to reinforce the contribution made by Artillery to the modern day battlefield. I wish the RAA family the very best of fortune for the future. There remain

challenges ahead but I am confident that we are well prepared to meet them.

Ubique

Five Minutes with Brigadier Paul McLachlan, CSC, ADC

Brigadier Paul McLachlan enlisted in the Regular Australian Army in 1982 and graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1985 to the Royal Australian Artillery. His initial Regimental service was with 1st Field Regiment in Brisbane and 8th/12th Medium Regiment in Sydney. During this time he completed a number of postings including Gun Position Officer and Adjutant of 8th/12th Medium Regiment. In 1988 he married Anita in Brisbane.

He has completed a wide range of staff appointments including Staff Officer Grade 3 Operations at HQ 1st Division, ADC to the General Commanding Training Command, Battery Commander 8th/12th Medium Regiment, Training Officer at the School of Artillery, Staff Officer Grade 1 Plans at Land Headquarters and Military Assistant to the Land Commander.

Brigadier McLachlan will be promoted to Major General in January 2013 and assume the appointment of Head of Land Systems Division.

In 2000, Brigadier McLachlan served as the Commander of the Diplomatic Supplementation Staff – Honiara during the coup in the Solomon Islands. During this deployment he coordinated the evacuation of Australian and other approved nationals and arranged military support to the initial peace negotiations between the combatants.

He commanded 8th/12th Medium Regiment in the 1st Brigade, Darwin during 2003–2004 and on completion assumed the role of the J3 at Headquarters 1st Division / Deployable Joint Force Headquarters. He has served in Baghdad as the J3 operations officer on Joint Task Force 633 Headquarters and was promoted to Colonel on this deployment in February 2006. From 2006–2007

Brigadier McLachlan was employed as the Chief of Staff Headquarters 1st Division located in Enoggera, Queensland and graduated from the Centre of Defence and Strategic Studies in 2008.

Brigadier McLachlan was promoted to Brigadier in January 2009 and appointed as Director General Development and Plans – Army. He served in this appointment until he assumed command of 7th Brigade in January 2010. He handed over command 7th Brigade at the end of 2011. In the 2012 Australia Day Honours List he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for outstanding achievement as the Commander Joint Task Force 637 on Operation Queensland Flood Assist in January and February 2011. Brigadier McLachlan will be promoted to Major General in January 2013 and assume the appointment of Head of Land Systems Division.

Brigadier McLachlan is married to Anita and has two young children, Lewis and Leila. His key interests are surfing, fishing, cricket and reading. He is a graduate of the ADF School of Languages where he studied Japanese in 1991.

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- Congratulations on your pending promotion and appointment as Head of Land Systems Division. There has been an unusually high number of Gunner officers appointed as Brigade Commanders recently, what do you feel are some of the contributing factors?

I think that gunners really do get the combined arms aspect of modern operations. In our early Regimental life we work to coordinate effects on behalf of a range supported arms commanders and gain a very sound understanding of what effects are necessary when. This certainly helped me as a Brigade commander and I went in with a clear vision of the exercise and training framework required to produce a battle grouping culture within 7th Brigade.

- In the Australia Day Honours List you were awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for your contribution to Operation Queensland Flood Assist in January and February 2011. As the Commander do you believe that 7th Brigade was adequately trained and prepared to support such a massive aid to the civil community task?

I was lucky to be put in command of the Flood Assist JTF and the soldiers, sailors and airmen all performed to an excellent standard. The skills that the ADF gets training for operations are very relevant in disaster relief, where the most important thing is to quickly

gain an understanding of a very uncertain situation and then to apply resources where they are most needed. The JTF was very well placed to do this straight off the line of march.

- ‘Digitisation’ is something you are very passionate and vocal about, and promoted vigorously at every opportunity in any forum. As a Brigade Commander what did you conclude were the key ‘force multiplier’ components digitisation brought to your Brigade and what do you see for future of digitisation in support of ‘warfighting’?

My personal belief is that digitisation is the biggest change in the ADF in generations and that it will require a complete rethink of what we can do and how we can do it. The opportunities available are limited only by the creativity of our people and in the two years I was at 7th Brigade and introducing a digital BMS, the Brigade SOPs and our ability to ramp up the decision action cycle was absolutely transformed. Anyone who is not thinking about how best to use digitisation in how we fight needs to revise their priorities.

- As the Army addresses the post Afghanistan era, what level of training should Army, and in particular the Royal Regiment, focus on in preparation for future contingencies?

The Multi-role Brigade concept still has Army's key deployable force based around a three Battle Group JTF. We need to be able to coordinate effects at the minor JTF level (Brigade Headquarters) and at the major JTF level (DJFHQ). So, essentially no change to the level we have been training at for the last 20 years. With digitisation and supporting simulation systems, there are more opportunities to do this better, cheaper and with an ability to capture and replay the entire range of processes and exercise outcomes.

- Growing up in a military family did you always have a desire for a career as an Army officer or did you consider other vocations?

No, I always wanted to join the Army – it says a lot about my lack of imagination.

- To this point in your career what do you consider your three most memorable career highlights not related to the RAA?

Brigade Command, Unit command and my operational service.

- As a senior Army Commander do you subscribe to the old adage ‘once a Gunner always Gunner’?

You certainly cannot change how you were formed and I certainly would not want to.

- What are your fondest recollections of serving as a Regimental Gunner Officer?

Watching in complete disbelief as 1 Field Regiment, Regimental Survey Officer as 105 Battery deployed onto a mangrove flood plain at SWBTA and had three guns and tractors swamped by the incoming tide.

- What do you consider the highlight or pinnacle of your Regimental service?

Commanding 8th/12th Medium Regiment and getting them ready for the operational surge that followed.

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

Work hard to understand tactics, be as good or better than the supported arm. This will get you the credibility you need to get your job done in the combined arms team.

- What guidance do you have for the Royal Regiment as it embarks on a significant period of change structurally and capability wise?

With our communications and liaison culture and organisation, we have a huge advantage in making digitisation work for us. AFATDS is likely to be the key effects fusion gateway with the tactical BMS. The RAA can master this complexity for the supported arm as we have always done and become the principal custodians of both information and effects. With this sort of thinking the RAA can grab a niche that makes us an essential force element right across the operational spectrum, rather than just at the heavy end.

- Are the young officers and soldiers of today better prepared for their first appointment than you were when you graduated?

Absolutely. I have been incredibly impressed with the raft of new officers from all corps that came to 7th Brigade. I think there is a very high level of professional interest and commitment and this has been sharpened further by the operational tempo we have experiencing.

Five Minutes with RSM 7th Brigade

Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) Bob Thompson was born in Sydney, New South Wales on 20th September 1963 and enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on 7th July 1981. After completing recruit training he was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery as a Gun Number. On completion of Initial Employment Training he was posted to 8th/12th Medium Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, serving in 103rd Medium Battery as a gun number and was subsequently promoted through the ranks to Sergeant on 7th August 1988.

At the end of 1989 he was posted to 4th Field Regiment, serving in 108th Field Battery as a Gun Sergeant and as the Operator Command Post Sergeant. WO1 Thompson was posted to 1st Field Regiment, serving in 101st Field Battery. During this tenure of service he was employed as the Battery Commander's Assistant within the Joint Offensive Support Command Centre (JOSCC).

In 1995 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and posted to 11th Field Regiment, as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery of 14th Field Battery in Ipswich. In January 1997 he was posted to the Gunnery Wing at the School of Artillery, North Head - Manly where he spent 12 months as a Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery before being appointed as the Battery Sergeant Major of 108th Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment in 1998. In January 2001 he was posted as an instructor at Warrant Officer Section, Command, Staff and Operations Wing, Headquarters Regional Training Centre and completed the Regimental Sergeant Major's Course later that year.

On 23rd November 2001 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and posted to 7th Field Regiment as the Regimental Sergeant Major. In January 2004 he was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major, 4th Field Regiment. WO1 Thompson was posted to the Soldier Career Management Agency, Fort Queenscliff as the Royal Australian Artillery career manager for Gunners to Bombardiers from January 2007 to December 2009.

WO1 Thompson's operational experience includes Operation Warden and Operation Stabilise, East Timor 1999, and a deployment to Afghanistan in 2008 where he was embedded into the Counter-Insurgency Training Centre, Kabul.

WO1 Thompson was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2008. The award is for recognition of his meritorious service as RSM 7th Field Regiment, 4th Field Regiment and Career Manager for Royal Australian Artillery Regiment at SCMA.

WO1 Thompson is married to Julie, and they have two young sons, Kurt and Dane. His interests include rugby league, rugby union, cricket, all contact sports, surfing, motor racing and motor cycling.

On 18th January 2010 Warrant Officer Class One Bob Thompson took up his current appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 7th Brigade.

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- As a senior RSM do you subscribe to the old adage 'Once a Gunner always Gunner'?

I would have to agree, I think you never forget where you came from and the road you have taken to get there. I have served 28 years of 32 within the Royal Regiment and while posted outside of the Regiment I have always maintained a very keen interest with regards to Corps matters.

- What will be the effect on career progression and in particular non Gunner RSM appointments with the demise of artillery Army Reserve RSM positions?

This is a very emotive subject at the moment however I believe it will not have any effect on career progression for RAA RSMs and non RAA appointments. In the past the Reserve Regiments have provided a solid grounding for first appointment RSMs however over the last 10 years these units have become shallow organisations providing very little Corps capability and lack relevance. For this reason I believe a RSMs first appointment to a Reserve Regiment does not value add to his development.

There are still many challenging opportunities within the Regiment after losing these positions. Across three trades the Regiment still has 17 WO1 Tier A positions within a relatively small Corps to develop RSMs. If you are a competitive Warrant Officer you will still be able to compete with non RAA RSMs for non Corps positions.

- As you have progressed in your career as a senior soldier how has your relationship and interaction with your various commanders evolved?

I have found the relationship and interaction with my Commanders very enjoyable. The RSM and Commander relationship is very unique and is formed very early if not just prior to commencing appointment and will continue to develop throughout your tenure and beyond.

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

Providing we continue to provide soldiers with relevant structured training in order to maintain purpose and readiness I can not see any impact post Afghanistan. The Army and the ADF will continue to support on going operational commitments in other areas and continue to remain ready and focussed to intervene or respond as required into numerous areas of unrest within the region.

- What are the key implications of women in combat for the Royal Regiment especially in the provision of fire support?

I don't believe there are any implications for women serving within Army combat providing current standards and prerequisites are maintained and not lowered to accommodate them.

- Since 1999 elements from across the Regiment have been constantly on operations often 'out of role'. Does this recent experience have implications for the Regiment in retaining technical gunnery skills into the future?

There should be no implications for the Regiment providing units continue as a priority to develop and conduct training focused on maintaining technical gunnery skills pre, during and post deployment noting that most out of role deployments only require to provide at worse case a sub unit minus leaving the remainder of the unit to focus on Corps specific technical training and preparedness.

- What are your fondest recollections of serving as a young soldier in the Regiment?

Digging in a 5.5 Inch Gun position on Singleton Range in the middle of winter would have to be in my highlight reel however working in a competitive environment within a Battery or a Regiment always brings back many fond memories. It could be as little as running the tannoy cable into the CP first or being the first gun off the gun position after 'cease firing'. Everything you did had a competitive nature to it between detachments resulting in nothing but self satisfaction for the victor and a silent death stare from your Sergeant for coming second.

- What do you consider the highlight or pinnacle of your service in the Royal Regiment?

I could rattle off many personal highlights such as promotions, appointments, awards, and deployments however the people I have met and continue to maintain contact throughout my service in the Royal Regiment are far more important than any personal achievements.

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

Listen and learn from to your superiors who are charged with mentoring and providing you opportunities to assist with your development. Don't be in a rush to progress through the ranks to fast. Take your time and enjoy the experience.

- What guidance do you have for the Royal Regiment as it embarks on a significant period of change structurally and capability wise?

Develop a flexible and adaptive structure that meets the Army and the Regiments requirements then conduct a complete analysis in order to test and adjust as required. The restructure must be uniform across the Regiment. Take the time to engage and get it right.

- Growing up did you always have a desire for a career as a soldier or did you consider other vocations?

I grew up in close proximity to Holsworthy Barracks and although I was exposed to the Army I never had a desire to serve. I did however have a desire to join the NSW Police Force and during a recruiting interview I was told at 17 years of age I required some life experience so I walked down the road to the ADF recruiting office and have never looked back.



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

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

Brigadier Michael Leo PHELPS

For exceptional service in the fields of acquisition and sustainment of land capability for the Australian Defence Force.

Brigadier Phelps has been responsible for a diverse and important range of capabilities that have helped Australian service personnel to achieve success on extremely complex and demanding operations. Brigadier Phelps' focus has been on developing and delivering the best available equipment. His exemplary leadership, professionalism and vision in creating solutions to emerging issues are the hallmark of his exceptional service and bring great credit upon himself, the Defence Materiel Organisation and the Australian Army.

MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

Bombardier David Steven ROBERTSON

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 20 March 2011 while a joint fires observer in Mentoring Task Force – Two on Operation Slipper in Afghanistan.

Bombardier Robertson's prolonged acts of gallantry, selflessness and professional mastery under heavy enemy fire enabled him, from an exposed observation post, to direct the effects of mortar-fire in the suppression of a number of well concealed enemy positions. His bravery in extremely hazardous conditions guaranteed the safety of his own team and prevented casualties among advancing Australian and Afghan forces.

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)

Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Edward HARDING

For outstanding achievement as Project Director Land 19 Phase 7A, the Counter Rocket Artillery Mortar capability.

Lieutenant Colonel Harding displayed outstanding leadership, professionalism and teamwork to undertake the rapid procurement of the Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar capability following Government approval on 28 April 2010. Lieutenant Colonel Harding was instrumental in quickly establishing the project team, completing the rapid

acquisition of the capability and successfully fielding this capability on operations in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel David John KELLY

For outstanding achievement as Commanding Officer, 1st Field Regiment, the Royal Australian Artillery.

Lieutenant Colonel Kelly provided exemplary service to 7th Brigade and demonstrated outstanding leadership and command of 1st Field Regiment during his tenure as Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly has also played a crucial role in the introduction of digitisation into the Australian Army. His personal drive, leadership and professionalism have been consistently beyond reasonable expectations and have inspired those around him.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Timothy LANDFORD

For outstanding achievement as the Commander, Combined Task Force 635 on Operation Anode in the Solomon Islands from August 2010 to August 2011.

Lieutenant Colonel Landford's outstanding leadership of Combined Task Force 635 resulted in a highly capable and cohesive force. His highly effective interactions with other agencies in the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, and the adaptable and responsive force under his command, enabled the task force to make a valuable contribution to the security environment of Solomon Islands. He fostered strong bonds with forces from contributing nations and made a valuable contribution to relationships between Defence and employers of Defence Reservists.

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL (CSM)

Warrant Officer Class Two Stuart James BAKER

For meritorious achievement as the Senior Instructor and Acting Second-in-Command, Army Adventurous Training Wing.

Warrant Officer Baker is an exceptional soldier who has consistently displayed professional excellence, initiative, and outstanding devotion to duty in extremely challenging and demanding situations. His achievements in identifying the necessary enhancements and efficiencies to the delivery of adventurous training and linking those components to strategic outcomes have been outstanding.

Operations

Transition to ANA Leadership

*Lieutenant Colonel Peter Monks, Director
Counterinsurgency Training Centre – Afghanistan*

In the Autumn 2012 Liaison Letter Warrant Officer Class One Glynn Potter provided an update on the Counterinsurgency Training Centre – Afghanistan (CTC-A), also colloquially known as the COIN Academy. Located at Camp Julien on the southern outskirts of Kabul, CTC-A was initially established in May 2007 as a US Army force element with the mission of providing residential COIN training to Coalition Forces (with particular reference to Embedded Training Teams and Battalion and Brigade command teams).

... the wider professional attributes of the RAA members were frequently put to the test in a role that offered considerable freedom of manoeuvre...

Over time the mission and tasks of CTC-A evolved to include the delivery of COIN training throughout all regions of Afghanistan by Mobile Training Teams, and from 2009 onwards adopting an increasing emphasis on training the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and developing the ANA capacity to independently develop and deliver COIN training. The CTC-A structure also evolved over time from a small instructional cadre at Camp Julien to a peak in early 2012 of over 80 coalition members from eight coalition nations dispersed in twelve separate locations throughout Afghanistan.

Australia commenced its contribution to CTC-A in March 2008 and retained a presence in CTC-A until the completion of the coalition CTC-A mission in September 2012, being represented by a total of 34 Australian Army officers and Warrant Officer Class One who filled key positions including Deputy Director, Command Sergeant Major, Training Developer, Regional MTT chiefs and lead

instructors. Seven of these Australians were gunners, with honors being evenly divided between field gunners and air defenders. While CTC-A did not make many demands on offensive support or air defence technical skills or knowledge, the wider professional attributes of the RAA members were frequently put to the test in a role that offered considerable freedom of manoeuvre but also demanded high professional standards and adaptability.

In early February 2012, the coalition component of CTC-A was directed to cease delivery of training to coalition forces and, with a considerably reduced force, prepare to transition the responsibility for COIN training to the ANA in late 2012, or some two years ahead of the previous schedule. As part of this process Lieutenant Colonel Peter Monks replaced the outgoing US Army COL as Director and for the final months of the coalition CTC-A would (together with Command Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One Glynn Potter) form an RAA command team for the organisation.

Throughout the remainder of the mission, and while rapidly drawing down coalition numbers, CTC-A not only established the ANA CTC-A in a new location and assisted in establishing CTC-A's ability to deliver COIN Leadership Courses with no coalition assistance, delivered COIN training to over 20,000 ANSF members and qualified over 450 ANSF COIN instructors in training establishments throughout Afghanistan.

While the coalition component of CTC-A ceased operations and handed over to their ANA partners on 3rd September 2012, their legacy will endure and all members of CTC-A can be proud of their achievements in supporting the effectiveness of coalition operations and the development of ANSF capability during the CTC-As existence.

CTC-A – RAA Component

- WO1 Bob Thompson
June 2008 – December 2008
- CAPT Peter Newman
December 2008 – July 2009

- WO1 Paul Washford
October 2009 – April 2010
- WO1 Rene VanOppen
June 2011 – January 2012
- WO1 Glynn Potter
December 2011 – July 2012
- LTCOL Peter Monks
December 2011 – September 2012

Shadow 200 RQ-7B

*Gunner Ashley Wilke
20th Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment*

Shadow Group 1 (SH-1) was raised in late 2010 with soldiers commencing training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona USA, on the recently purchased Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (TUAS). Every TUAS operator had completed a five month Air Vehicle and Payload Operators Course, with selected non-commissioned officers also completing a six week Instructor Course. The group's headquarter element had completed the six week Platoon Commanders Course and the RAEME element had completed a four month Maintainers Course. Back in Australia, several soldiers were sent on a four month Imagery Analysis Course at Canungra to become qualified Image Analysts (IAs) to support the members from 1st Topographical Survey Squadron who would be attached to the group. By the time the last SH-1 member returned to Australia in September 2011, we were leaving for our Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE).

Seven weeks of Brigade Integration Training / New Equipment Training (BIT / NET) combined with pre-deployment training at the Woomera Training Area, a contingent of contractors from America were employed to continue deeper level training on the more intricate capabilities of the system. Our group saw the first flight of the Army's Shadow 200 system in the southern hemisphere. We continued along a steep learning curve due to the increased complexity of missions to replicate operational tempos.

The group began a staggered deployment into theatre from February 2012 and immediately began a Theatre Qualification package under the guidance of members from outgoing Scaneagle Group 9. In

early 2012, the transition of authority from Group 9 to SH-1 was conducted and with it, for the first time in history an Australian Military owned and operated TUAS was being flown in support of operational missions. SH-1 is comprised of two equally capable shifts who work up to 13 hours a day in order to provide a 24 hour ISR capability. We were finally helping to protect Australia's most valuable asset, the soldiers on the ground.

*We were finally helping to protect
Australia's most valuable asset,
the soldiers on the ground.*

The Shadow system brought with it many intricacies and improved pieces of equipment for which we as Australians were only beginning to become intimate with while emplacing the system on the ground. The system comprises of a Ground Control Station (GCS) from where the operators control the Air Vehicle (AV). The inputs are taken from here and sent to a Ground Data Terminal (GDT) which encrypts the data and sends it to the AV. At the same time the GDT receives the telemetry data, which in turn is decrypted and fed back to the GCS for the operator to have accurate information of the AV. Shadow also utilises a hydraulic launcher to catapult the 400lb AV from 0 to 70 knots providing speed and stability of flight upon launch.



This system provides a plethora of options which were not previously available from our outgoing Scaneagle system. It can potentially be integrated with many different Artillery capabilities and assets.

The new payload has a laser pointer which can 'sparkle' targets to help our soldiers on the ground,

which is proving to be very effective on operations. The laser can also take ten figure accurate grids for the user unit whether it be Artillery, or for the troops on the ground to interrogate possible IEDs, spotters, or areas of interest. The capability of the Laser Target Designator (LTD) is a major potential of this new system.

This system provides a plethora of options which were not previously available from our outgoing Scaneagle system.

In time and with appropriate target identification ability it can guide precision munitions to eliminate a threat without putting our troops in harms way. We are currently able to produce more detailed imagery directly to the user units on the ground. The system provides Infra-red (IR) capability to identify heat signatures along with the 'normal' day time camera, which can both be utilised at any time required, with just the touch of a button.

The system also has a Communications Relay Package (CRP), which acts as an in air relay station to enhance the user's ability to communicate at distances far greater than previously able. This has also been used to good effect on operations so far.



All Shadow missions are launched from the Shadow Launch and Recovery Site (LRS) where a special runway has been built to allow the UAV to land with the use of a landing gear. This limits interference with manned aviation operations being conducted from the main runway. At the LRS, RAA and RAEME personnel work side by side to ensure that all mission timings are met and that each aircraft is launched on time. In the hangers next to the runway the RAEME maintainers conduct both scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on each

aircraft to ensure that the group remains operationally capable.

After launch, the operators at the LRS conduct a Control Station Transfer (CST) with the Mission Command Centre GCS (HUB) located within the purpose built UAS compound. From here the Mission Commanders (MC) and their crew conduct the missions under direction of the operations cell located in the Tactical Operations Centre (TOC). When on station the MC has direct communications with the user to best liaise with the call-signs on the ground. Planned and dynamic tasks are flown from the HUB, supporting coalition forces over a wide range of collection and direct support missions throughout the AO.

There were also some ambiguities with the supported units as they had to adjust to a change in platforms and capabilities.

As to be expected, there were several issues experienced as the system was set up and the RAA and RAEME elements continued to develop an understanding of how the other group's procedures worked. There were also some ambiguities with the supported units as they had to adjust to a change in platforms and capabilities. The increased noise signature and reduced flight times initially caused some problems, in particular to Australian units who weren't as familiar with the system as their US counterparts. After the advantages of the system, including better imagery and laser capability were explained, the ground call-signs began adjusting their ISR planning requirements to better utilise this system to support their own operations with greater effect.

At the time of writing this article, SH-1 has completed hundreds of launches, providing hours of on-station collection to supported call-signs. The deployment of SH-1 has successfully proven the Army's ability to conduct all aspects of UAS missions from within its own force structure. The arrival of SH-2 at the end of the year will ensure that our deployed forces have a dedicated ISR platform for the duration of the mission in Afghanistan.

Scaneagle & Operation Slipper

*Lieutenant Daniel Molesworth
20th Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment*

20th Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA Regt) has endured testing times throughout its transformation from a Battery of traditional Radar, Meteorological and Ground Surveillance capabilities into a Regimental unit focussed primarily on unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

At the forefront of this transition, the Scaneagle UAS has emerged as the vanguard of UAS technologies within the ADF, acquired under a rapid acquisition arrangement as a force protection measure and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance platform in support of troops on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Having now been superseded by the Shadow 200 UAS, this article is a reflection of the system, how it was employed on Operation Slipper and milestones achieved in its five year service on this operation between June 2007 and April 2012.

Scaneagle found itself supporting numerous US callsigns, Australian and US Special forces and was involved in many Singapore-led ISR collection missions.

Since its introduction in Afghanistan in support of Operation Slipper, Scaneagle provided, on average, 18 hours of support in a 24 hour period. In the latter half of its life in Afghanistan, that had risen to 28 hours via multiple aircraft representing an almost persistent aerial presence in support of local forces.

The members of 20 STA Regt and 16th Air Land Regiment (16 ALR) that formed the rotations for Operation Slipper flew over 6000 missions and 35000 hours over the five years the detachments were operating in Afghanistan. Scaneagle has supported national and international forces in a variety of functions. In the early days, under the banner of TF-U (Task Force Uruzgan), Scaneagle flew missions for the Australian Conventional Forces, Australian Special Forces and the Dutch Army. With the arrival of more US troops to Uruzgan Province and a change of name for the overall command of the area (CTU – Combined Team Uruzgan), Scaneagle found itself supporting

numerous US callsigns, Australian and US Special forces and was involved in many Singapore-led ISR collection missions.

The growth of support in Uruzgan Province saw the arrival of an Aviation Squadron to the area in 2009 and 2010, and, inherently, a significant increase in air traffic around Multi National Base – Tarin Kowt. The Scaneagle UAV Group adapted well to this ever-evolving and complex airspace and became well renowned as responsible and professional airspace users. Regardless of the increase in air traffic the groups continued to provide a high level of support to the various units as they spread throughout the province.

The Scaneagle system received numerous upgrades in the time it has been in Afghanistan.

Various ground callsigns often operated in areas outside of Scaneagle's range from Tarin Kowt. This was overcome by deploying the SPOKE and FGCS (Forward Ground Control Station) crews to various locations throughout the AO. SPOKE operations (full flying capability minus launch and recovery) deployed to FOBs throughout Uruzgan. FGCS operations (laptop and small antenna setup) were operated from inside vehicles in the early part of the tenure, and also out of Patrol Bases. The SPOKE / FGCS capability provided commanders on the ground a responsive asset and direct access to the feed, product and operators.

The initial GCS (Ground Control Station) was situated adjacent to the SOTG compound. After three years of wear and tear, the area had seen better days. With the Hesco falling down around the detachment and a thin layer of material being deemed unsuitable to stop 107mm rockets; therefore, the decision was made to move to a new and improved GCS facility. The new area was custom built for Scaneagle and proved to be a considerable improvement. The new hardened facilities provided an enhanced C2 infrastructure, top class maintenance sheds, networked video distribution, and a comfortable recreation area, allowing better support and increased morale for the troops.

The Scaneagle system received numerous upgrades in the time it has been in Afghanistan. One of these improvements was the Medium Wave Infrared (MWIR) camera, which provided an enhanced night capability and led to an increase in collection operations at night. Another improvement was the engine upgrade, which increased the air vehicles

fuel efficiency increasing the time on station and climb rates in the warmer months. The last improvement to the system was the use of 'hush' engines which decreased the noise output of the system and allowed for better imagery and lower detection risk during covert missions.

The Scaneagle GCS and the Launch and Recovery site were often a must on the agenda for VIPs and many other personnel around the base. Some of the VIPs that have dropped in for a visit have included the Prime Minister, the Governor General, the Defence Minister, the Opposition Leader, various other Ministers of Parliament, and many high ranking Australian Army members and officials.

*Scaneagle proved to be a flexible,
durable, reliable, sought after and
a 'ready to go' asset within the
AO ...*

Scaneagle proved to be a flexible, durable, reliable, sought after and a 'ready to go' asset within the AO, responding quickly to be on station time in support of dynamic events as they occurred.

A new chapter within the history of 20 STA Regt started on 1st April 2012 when the Scaneagle capability was retired. The departure of Scaneagle was the integration into service of the Shadow 200 TUAS and with it a new era for the Army's UAV capability. The Shadow system provides an improved payload that will allow for better quality imagery and the ability to contribute to the targeting process. The Shadow takes over from a proven system that has provided an exceptional capability to troops on the ground for five years in support of Operation Slipper. The new Shadow system will no doubt continue the proud traditions and professional support that Scaneagle has provided.

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PROJECT 2013
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Official Project Website

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Out of the shadows

Cpl Nick Wiseman

New unmanned aerial system put on public display for the first time

THE Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System was officially unveiled to the public for the first time at the Heli and UV Pacific conference and exhibition on May 24. The conference is the largest dedicated helicopter and unmanned systems event in the region and attracts civil and military aviation specialists. CO 20 STA Regt Lt-Col Nathan Loynes said it was important to draw attention to the Shadow 200 and its benefits for the Army.

'Using this event highlights the success we've had with the project, particularly with the second system', he said. 'We received the second system a year early thanks to the cooperation of the US.'

The first system was delivered to Australia in mid-2011 and was deployed to Afghanistan at the end of the year. The second system will remain in Australia for training and certifying troops deploying to the Middle East Area of Operations in the future.

Lt-Col Loynes said although the Shadow 200 was a high-tech piece of equipment, the greatest strength of the system was his people. 'They have the flexibility to change to the needs of the war fighter on the ground', he said.

With the potential draw down of Australian troops in Afghanistan in 2013, 20 STA Regt is working to get the Shadow system approved for use at major military training grounds within Australia. Soldiers participating in major exercises in the future can expect to be coordinating with unmanned aerial support.

Army, June 7, 2012

We must avoid post-op mistakes of the past - CA

Corporal Max Bree

A post-Vietnam style decline in the military should be avoided when Australia draws down its presence in Afghanistan, CA Lt-Gen David Morrison told a Defence policy think-tank on April 11.

In his address to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in Canberra, Lt-Gen Morrison said drawing down the ADF to save money after a major conflict would result in big spending to later restore the military's strength.

'It is vital that we do not succumb to the sort of thinking that justified a serious reduction in the strength and capability of the Army that we experienced in the wake of withdrawal from Vietnam', he said.

'History has clearly demonstrated that 'peace dividends' invariably become 'peace liabilities' when the military must restore its capabilities.'

This was demonstrated by the long term decline of the Army's fighting power from the end of the Vietnam War until the 'strategic shock' of the East Timor operation in 1999, according to the CA, who was at the time part of the Interfet command team. 'Operations in East Timor in 1999-2000 exposed serious deficiencies in our land forces', he said.

'Over time the Army evolved into a force of single capabilities. We became too light, too dependent on wheeled vehicles and our organisations hollowed out.' Lt-Gen Morrison said that through most of his career, junior and mid-ranking officers were trained to defeat small raids and incursions across northern Australia, with many in the Army critical of the scenarios and force structures they supported.

But the CA believed the Army may have contributed to this unpopular approach. 'We

were, perhaps, too insular in the wake of our withdrawal from Vietnam and possibly somewhat slow to adapt to the changing military and strategic paradigm of the times', he said.

'[The Army] after Vietnam was not immune to the age-old problem of armies: that of being more comfortable looking back with pride, rather than looking forward with focus.'

With Australia's population at 22 million and an Army of 47,000 regular and reserve soldiers, the CA said he would let the government decide if the Army's size was appropriate.

'My view is that it is [appropriate]. That while I may like it to be bigger, that is unlikely at this time', he said. 'My point is that to do what is required of it, now and into the future, it should not be smaller nor less capable.'

The CA also affirmed his commitment to a strong combat culture but one that was more inclusive. 'We must concede that this [old] culture has tended to exclude women and some ethnic groups who are under-represented in our ranks', he said.

'This will prove unsustainable with demographic change over the next few decades.' Lt-Gen Morrison said he was passionately committed to expanding the opportunities for women in the Army and meeting the direction from government to remove the service's few remaining restrictions on the employment of women.

'We can do this without detriment to our exacting standards', he said. 'Harnessing the full potential of our workforce is a capability issue rather than a diversity issue for me and I want to remove any artificial impediments to the best use of all our people.'

The CA summed up his speech by reaffirming the importance of getting the most out of the depth of combat experience among the Army's current soldiers.

'We're in good shape now, but that won't ensure we are a more capable Army in the future. We can take nothing for granted', he said.

Army, April 26, 2012

Capability

Artillery Modernisation

*Major General Jeffery Sengelman
Head Modernisation & Strategic Planning – Army*

I am writing to update the members of the RAA on Army's plans for the modernisation of the current Artillery capability. It is an exciting time for the RAA. The roll out of new equipment to the Regiments continues at a fast pace. RAA training staff, operators, and maintainers are doing an excellent job in preparing soldiers to employ and maintain this equipment effectively.

20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA) has evolved as a unit that is now ready to contribute to Force Generation and is currently providing outstanding support on operations through the provision of the SHADOW Unmanned Aerial System.

*The roll out of new equipment to
the Regiments continues at a fast
pace.*

16th Air Land Regiment (16 ALR) has achieved great success in preparing its soldiers to operate the Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) system on operations and I know the unit is working hard to develop its understanding and the capacity to integrate the air land picture, command and control, and sense, warn and locate capability.

The roll out of the digital Battle Management System – Fires, the SHADOW Unmanned Aerial System, the Digital terminal Control System and Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) system are examples of items of equipment that are just the beginning of a transformational wave of equipment that will quickly change the way Army and the RAA does its business. In its mature form, the rapidly developing fires network will transform the way the RAA operates and integrates with land, joint and coalition forces.

In Afghanistan, both 20 STA and 16 ALR personnel are continuing to provide outstanding service through the effective operation of SHADOW and C-RAM. The Field Artillery Regiments and JTAC Troop continue to prepare and deploy Joint Fires Teams and Joint Tactical Air Controllers to Afghanistan. These small teams are an integral part of force protection and mentoring operations. Importantly, the lessons being learned about these capabilities are informing our employment procedures, the development of our doctrine and the requirements of other modernisation programs.

*... the Chief of Army has
embarked on a plan to acquire
additional Lightweight Towed
Howitzers and to pursue a
traditional Regimental structure ...*

As a result of the cancellation the Self-Propelled Howitzer project, the Chief of Army has embarked on a plan to acquire additional Lightweight Towed Howitzers and to pursue a traditional Regimental structure based on twelve M777A2 and new Gun Tow Vehicles. While the basis of this planning is still under development it is intended that the Field Regiment structures be implemented in 2013. The delivery of the additional guns and support equipment is still subject to negotiation but Army expects to introduce it into service in the near to mid term. Importantly, this additional capability will provide Army with sufficient guns to allow each Field Regiment to provide support to each of the Multi-Role Combat Brigades being developed under Plan Beersheba.

The operation of a common M777A2 Light Howitzer fleet will allow the RAA to remain interoperable with the US Army, the USMC and the Canadian Army. The RAA will be able to build upon its extensive experience in employing towed guns and provide Army the flexibility to develop a range of strategic, operational and tactical deployment options suitable for deployment across a range of operational contingencies and environments. I also believe that Army will benefit from a number of efficiencies by operating a common Howitzer fleet;

principally related to supply chain management, and operator and maintainer training.

Augmenting the additional guns will be a 'Future Family' of ammunition that will deliver Army an ammunition system that will improve range, lethality and accuracy and provides better support to our combat forces.

... an ammunition system that will improve range, lethality and accuracy ...

As Army's ISR network evolves and matures, as the digital sensor to shooter network becomes more efficient and the interface with the Battle Management System across Army is realised; situational awareness across Army will greatly improve. This evolution will also improve the ability for the RAA to rapidly decide, de-conflict and respond as necessary. The 'Future Family' of ammunition will provide Army with projectiles that improve our ability to engage targets at greater ranges, with improved accuracy and a better range of effects. The level of protection afforded to artillery crews will be improved by the employment of protected gun tow vehicles, troop carrying vehicles and command post vehicles.

I know that the RAA is working hard to focus its efforts on realising a modernised Field Artillery capability that best supports Army and the Multi-Role Combat Brigades for employment on future operations. I think it is an exciting time to be in the RAA as the Corps is at the forefront of digital evolution and learning in Army.

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Nominate all Ranks

Chief encourages more honours nominations for unrepresented groups

WHEN Major Ed Wunsch nominated a corporal for the Conspicuous Service Medal he received a lukewarm reception from some people who believed the award was not suited to a junior soldier.

'I had to put the effort into writing the nomination and I had to push to get it through,' Maj Wunsch said. 'But it's not a rank thing at all. He needed to be recognised for the excellent work that he did.'

'Some commanders don't nominate their people because they are busy or think the process is too hard, but that just means your guys aren't going to get recognised for their excellent work.'

Commanders have recently been urged by CA Lt-Gen David Morrison to consider more other ranks, women and reservists when nominating for honours and awards. The CA felt these groups were under-represented in the Australia Day and Queens Birthday award nominations for 2011 and urged senior officers to give soldiers more consideration for recognition of outstanding work in this year's honours and awards.

Nominations for Australia Day 2013 awards from Forcomd units are now closed, however soldiers can still be nominated for Queen's Birthday 2013 honours through the chain of command, with Army nominations closing in the last week of October.

Commanders were also encouraged to keep in mind those who had performed exemplary service in barracks or in training, as recognition should not be limited to when deployed on operations.

As the Secretary of the Army Honours and Awards Board, which reviews Army nominations for Australia Day and Queen's Birthday honours, Maj Wunsch said the nomination synopsis and citation should go well beyond describing someone who just did a good job.

'It's not a PAR and it needs to be backed up by examples of excellent work worthy of recognition for the type of award, otherwise it probably won't get through,' he said. Major Wunsch also urged commanders to keep in mind candidates for Soldiers and Australia Day Medallions and stressed that commendations could be put through the chain of command at any time.

Nominations for Australia Day and Queen's Birthday awards must be submitted through the chain of command using the AD104. For more information go to <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dsg/sites/honoursandawards>

Corporal Max Bree
Army, April 26, 2012

Professional Papers

Australian Artillery After Afghanistan

Foreword

*Lieutenant Colonel Mitch Kennedy
Commanding Officer / Chief Instructor
School of Artillery*

In December 2011 I tasked Captains Squire, Groves and O'Brien to provide me an article on the opportunities for the RAA post Afghanistan, and I am very pleased with the result below. The article has two aims; firstly to highlight to the wider Army the incredible capability the combined streams of artillery provide to the ADF, and secondly to reinforce to the RAA community that it is only as one Regiment that we can realise these opportunities or *'four functions one regiment'* as the authors succinctly put it. The article is an unashamed tactical view, and one we hope will provoke discussion and debate.

Ubique

Introduction

'Three brave men who do not know each other will not dare to attack a lion. But three men, knowing each other well, sure of their reliability and consequently of their mutual aid, will attack resolutely.'

Colonel Charles Ardnant du Picq, 1880

With Australian Defence Force (ADF) presence in Afghanistan having reached its apogee, the impending withdrawal of its deployed fighting force has generated a number of strategic policy reviews into the suitability of Defence capabilities

for future conflicts across a broad spectrum of demands. Critically to the Joint domain, the ADF has sought resolution of lessons learned during the campaign relating to precision targeting and engagement, force protection, collateral damage minimisation, and persistent battlefield surveillance and target acquisition. Though by no means exclusively responsible for the provision of these functions, the capabilities of The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) represent a key microcosm of this strategic concern.

*The post-Vietnam era heralded a
degradation of the RAA
capability ...*

This paper will reflect on the trials of the RAA in the years preceding the commitment to Afghanistan, examine the RAA's development of capability during the Afghanistan conflict, discuss the attributes that have rendered the RAA so unique to the ADF's fighting power and outline the training focus and future combat needs of the RAA under the Multi-role Combat Brigade (MCB) concept of Plan BEERSHEBA.

Contemporary Warfighting and the Resurgence of Artillery

Decades of Doubt: The Artillery Under Threat

The post-Vietnam era heralded a degradation of the RAA capability; the Field Artillery capability was equipped to engage mass targets of a Cold War style campaign and the number of Regiments dwindled. Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) capabilities were developed and structured for a Falkland Islands-style campaign, with little requirement for interaction with either Field or Surveillance and Target Acquisition (then Locating) Artillery. Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) was based largely around support to the gun lines for survey, meteorology and weapon location. With

the sole exception of the deployment of RBS-70 Troops to Gulf War I, no Artillery force had been employed in role since Vietnam.⁽¹⁾ Despite this, the esprit de corps and professionalism of the Gunner remained absolute. Unfortunately for the RAA, principal equipment comprised the significant constraint and there were no perceived avenues for the employment of artillery on operations.

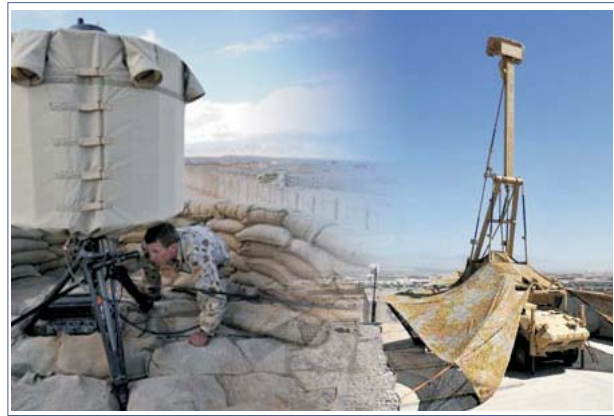
The late 1990s and early 2000s saw a resurgence in Australian military operations. Though significant ADF commitments to Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands and Iraq were the order of the day, only a very limited commitment of 'in-role' Gunners existed. Further, despite three rotations of RBS-70 equipped Air Defence Troops to the Gulf, the GBAD capability was reduced. Despite their capability in providing Offensive Support (OS) to coalition manoeuvre units, the Field Artillery remained an unexploited resource.

As a result of the gradual deviation from its purist heritage, many sectors of Defence and government began questioning the relevance of the Royal Regiment ...

While Australian gunners trained relentlessly, a desire to 'find an operational role' steered some of the functions of the RAA away from the pure Artillery capability. Perhaps the most conspicuous example of this was the use of Gunners as Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) teams and the employment of Gunners as improvised Infantrymen. Though the acquisition of the Skylark Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) would soon forge a new pathway for the employment of STA Artillery, the capability was largely misunderstood and suffered from myriad technical problems.



The M777A2 155 mm Ultra-light Howitzer (Project LAND 17)



Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) and Giraffe Agile Multi-beam (GAMB) Radar (Project LAND 19)

As a result of the gradual deviation from its purist heritage, many sectors of Defence and government began questioning the relevance of the Royal Regiment; they could not see that the Artillery provided a unique fighting capability, arguably because the Artillery was not afforded the opportunity to demonstrate its utility in the first place. Because of the lack of Artillery involvement in the military operations of the 1990s and 2000s, the Australian Artillery capability became neglected.

Silver Lining of Afghanistan

With the commitment of the Australian Regular Army to Afghanistan came the opportunity for the RAA to display some elements of the Artillery capability. Gradually, all three streams of the RAA deployed, in role, to Afghanistan. As a result of the requirement to rapidly adjust to the contemporary operating environment (COE), all three streams of the RAA were modernised and re-equipped to perform some aspects of their Artillery role within Afghanistan. Before long, the RAA was able to demonstrate its relevance to the other Corps, to Defence, to the Government and to the taxpayer. As the RAA gained experience with its modern equipment, more opportunities were found to increase the overall Artillery capability. The deployment to Afghanistan allowed the RAA to display some of its capability, to re-equip, to refine how it achieved its capability and to again prove its relevance on the battlefield.

Considering the dramatic shift in RAA capability and focus as a result of the ADF commitment to Operation Slipper, it could be reasonably argued that Afghanistan saved the Artillery capability. However, the profundity of this statement can only be recognised alongside the acknowledgement that

the employment of Artillery in Afghanistan has only brushed the surface of its future capability. While the achievements of the Australian Gunners in Afghanistan have received both domestic and international praise (for which the Artillery community as a whole should be enormously proud), the lessons learned from this experience must now refocus the ADF's vision towards reflecting the future potential of the RAA.

Afghanistan as a Catalyst to Capability Development

The RAA is Army's key provider of tactical offensive effect through the delivery and coordination of Joint Fires and Effects (JFE), STA and GBAD. While each of these capabilities is unique unto itself, tactical integration under the parent banner of the RAA has proven them to be exponentially more potent, efficient and effective. Perhaps more interestingly, the deployment of the RAA capabilities to the Afghanistan campaign has further served to reinforce both the efficacy, and requirement for integration, of the RAA in the *Joint* environment.

The planned draw down of Australia's military presence in Afghanistan has been a catalyst for revisiting the 2009 White Paper and considering how extant and future policy will be executed by a future land force. The experiences of Afghanistan at both the tactical and operational level have given the RAA a springboard from which to develop a three-pronged capability complementary to future operating concepts.

Joint Fires and Effects

The OS capability afforded by 1st Regiment (1 Regt), 4th Regiment (4 Regt) and 8th/12th Regiment (8/12 Regt) has predominately centred on the Joint Fires Team (JFT) / Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre (JFECC) model in support of manoeuvre operations at sub-unit and unit level respectively. From a tactical perspective, JFTs deployed to OPERATION SLIPPER have been required to perform their traditional role: to provide joint fires and effects advice, liaison and communications to a supported Combat Team (CT); to coordinate and deconflict the employment of JFE and implement the CT Battlespace Management (BM) plan; and to engage targets within their zone of observation

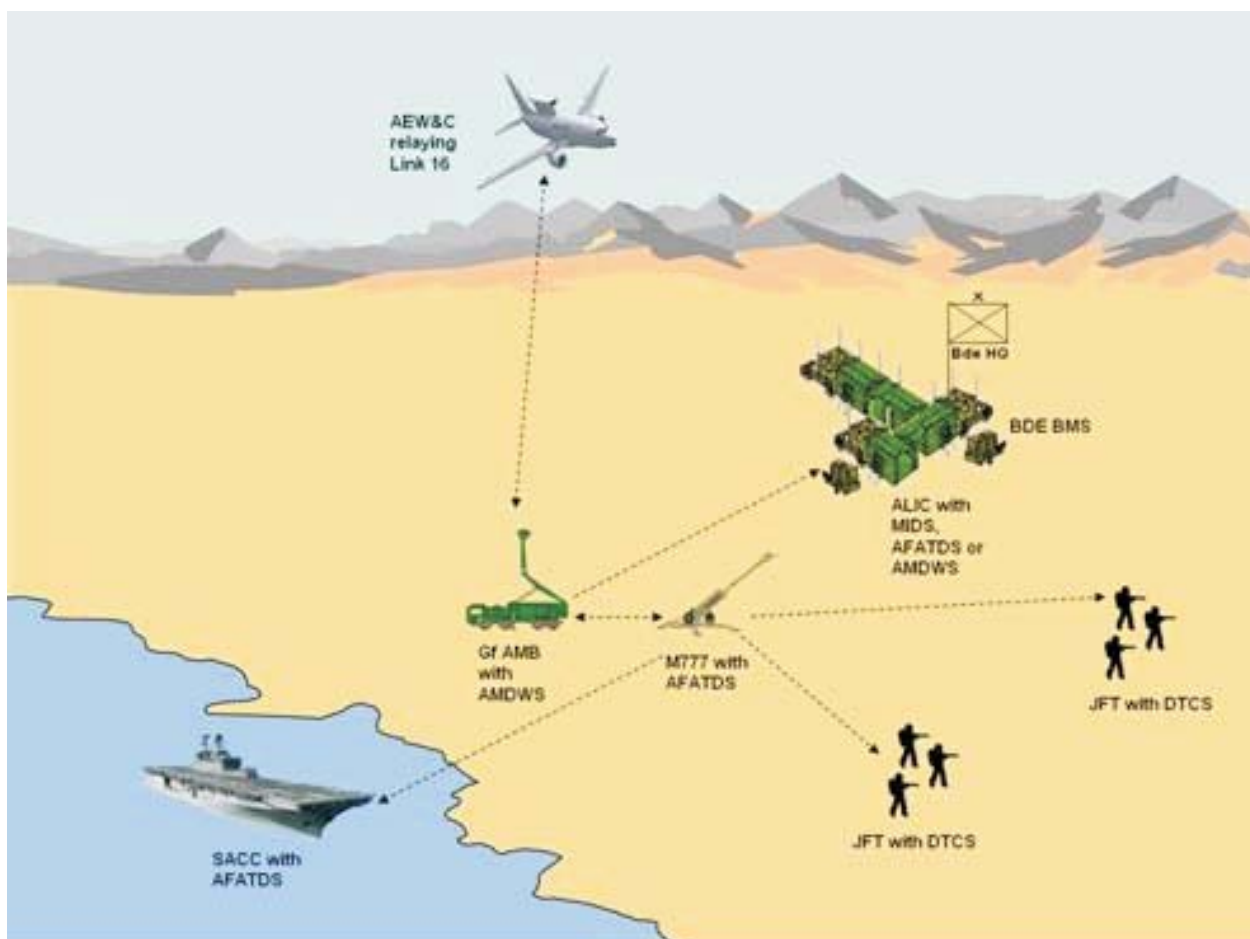


Figure 1: Interoperability of the RAA in the Joint Battlespace

with JFE assets.⁽²⁾ The JFTs have set about demonstrating their indispensable role in providing a joint coordination and strike option for manoeuvre operations at the tactical level without significant change to their habitual tasks.

At the operational level, however, there has been significant reform across the gun regiments to generate teams of sufficient training and flexibility to withstand the rigorous demands of the COE battlespace. As each JFT is potentially responsible for the simultaneous control of multiple Close Air Support (CAS) and Indirect Fire (IDF) missions from artillery and mortars, the gun regiments have remodelled their trade structure and aptitude requirements at recruiting level to ensure that the right soldier is employed in the appropriate trade category. Furthermore, the gun regiments have adopted a unit Order of Battle (ORBAT) that groups their JFTs in modular batteries; these may then be trained and deployed without interruption to the conventional war fighting training program of the remainder of the regiment.⁽³⁾

These three adjustments made by the Gunners have ensured the success of the Joint Fires contribution to Army's commitment to Afghanistan.

Finally, in order to provide sufficient Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) to enable terminal attack control authority at CT level, the RAA has implemented a process of mentoring and screening suitable candidates across all ranks, a development which has resulted in a significant capability increase and has subsequently been adopted across the ADF.⁽⁴⁾ These three adjustments made by the Gunners have ensured the success of the Joint Fires contribution to Army's commitment to Afghanistan.

Ground-Based Air Defence / Air-Land Integration

The Air Defence Gunners have enhanced their ability to provide a local air picture and have, as a result, increased their capacity for a future Ground-Based Air and Missile Defence (GBAMD) capability. Their radar support has assisted in the identification and detection of indirect attacks against Australian static positions, providing vital seconds of early warning to personnel inside such positions. The nature and frequency of such attacks provided the Gunners from 16th Air Land Regiment (16 ALR) the opportunity to develop their tracking procedures and to upgrade their hardware to

counter the existing indirect threat and to have the flexibility to meet varied future threats.⁽⁵⁾

The adoption of 'soft' defensive measures such as the Giraffe Agile Multi-Beam (G-AMB) Radars, Lightweight Counter Mortar Radars (LCMRs) and wireless audio-visual emergency systems have strengthened the 'hard' defences surrounding the Australian bases in Afghanistan and have undoubtedly contributed to the preservation of Coalition lives. These assets were procured and introduced into service during wartime, giving them the uncommon distinction of combat relevance as well as utility for future employment in myriad operational settings.

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA Regt) has provided tactical STA support to conventional and special operations during Australia's commitment to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) through the employment of Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) and Artillery Intelligence and, since 2007, UAS support to manoeuvre operations.⁽⁶⁾ Since the Introduction into Service (IIS) of the Scaneagle UAS, the deployed elements of 20 STA Regt have increasingly found themselves at a premium for the provision of real-time battlefield surveillance and support to joint targeting.

The employment of UAS in recent operations has required significant integration with other airspace users and control agencies, ultimately resulting in the development and improvement of Joint operating procedures. Additionally, through the exposure of the capability to supported agencies such as the JFECC and Special Operations Command and Control Centre (SOCCE), STA has earned its place alongside fixed and rotary-wing operations as offering critical capability across the spectrum of conflict. This interaction has indisputably benefitted Army's understanding of the Joint battlespace and has postured 20 STA Regt for future capability development to capitalise on the crucial lessons learned during the past decade of continuous operations.

It is by no coincidence that the development of Army's UAS capability has developed so swiftly; the complexity of the COE battlespace has practically demanded it. Over the course of the UAS 'evolution', Army has experienced the operational transition from the use of lightweight, low-endurance platforms only capable of intermittent, poor quality video downlink through to vastly superior

platforms capable of extended aerial patrols and high-fidelity Full-Motion Video (FMV). With the inclusion of technology allowing downlink to widely-used Situational Awareness (SA) tools such as the Remote Operator Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) suite, this capability has proven its utility in assisting tactical commanders with the planning, execution and management of manoeuvre operations.

... the significant capability evolution of the RAA that has rendered it so unique and subsequently crucial to the contemporary battlespace.

While the provision of FMV is an increasingly understood feature of the UAS, technological advancements focusing on the development of alternate payloads are exponentially increasing its potential combat support utility. Driven by the requirement for readily-available, multiple-source intelligence collection sensors, this research is expected to ultimately facilitate accurate and reliable cross-cueing of electronic and visual payloads on a single aerial platform. Combined (as required) with the ability of some UAS, in certain deployable configurations, to be controlled remotely from a Forward Ground Control Station (FGCS), it can reasonably be expected for the next generation of UAS to afford supported commanders an unparalleled appreciation of the tactical battlespace.

Unique Capability of the RAA

To consider the RAA capability beyond Afghanistan, the tactical options that Artillery provides to commanders must first be established. Arguably, the principal functions of the Artillery share some similarities to those provided by other corps; that is, a cross-over in functions exist in the provision of indirect fires, aerial surveillance / reconnaissance and the coordination of, and tactical engagement with, aerial platforms. A commonly-held stereotype espoused by traditional Corps rivals has long argued that target engagement with the in-service Howitzer at range constitutes the extent of the RAA's capability; notwithstanding the proclivities of the Artillery purist to nod in concurrence, this misconception is not indicative of the significant capability evolution of the RAA that has rendered it so unique and subsequently crucial to the contemporary battlespace.

Four Functions, One Regiment

The historic capacity of the RAA to provide fire supremacy to the battlefield has not been lost; rather, it has been refined, enhanced and supported by effect-multiplying technologies that have arisen as a result of the necessity for the RAA to adapt to the COE battlespace. The resultant capability forms a corps of specialists in the integration and synchronisation of Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) and GBAD sensor-actor suites, JFE, Targeting and Artillery Intelligence and Air- and Battle-space Management and coordination. These functions performed by the RAA provide tailored and wide-ranging effects, both offensive and defensive, from surgical to bludgeoning across a broad range of targets and tactical scenario complexities. While the ability of other Corps to perform many of these functions is not disputed, the intrinsic requirement for integration within the RAA *modus operandi* multiplies the effect of any individual function, making its understanding, execution and capability more complete and ultimately unique.

Strategic policy of decades past has offered the suggestion of 'outsourcing' the RAA capabilities to other Corps and services operating along similar functional lines; though at the time the relevance of the RAA could reasonably have been considered debatable, the decision to retain the identity, skills and attributes of the Artillery has proven invaluable in the execution of modern warfighting. This is in no small part due to the acquisition of new enabling technology, modernisation of existing technology

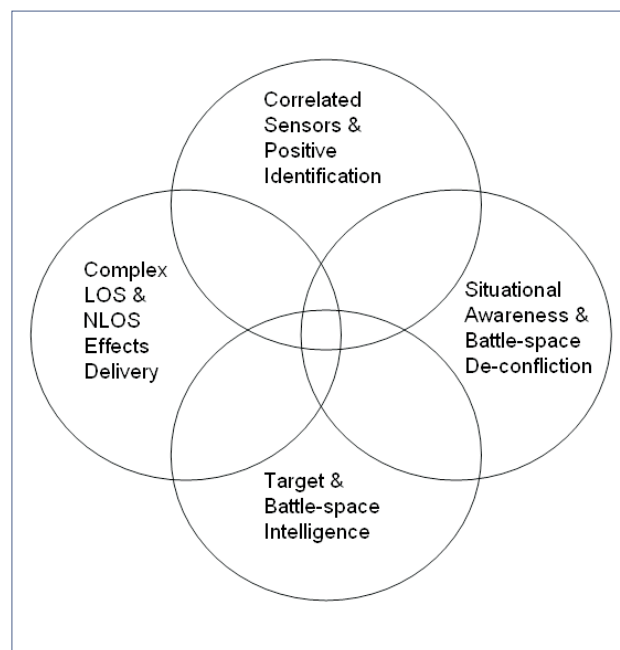


Figure 2: All Four One, One Four All – The key Functions of the RAA and their Relationship

and adaptation of its use to suit a multitude of roles and operational scenarios. This inherent employment flexibility relies not only on a detailed understanding of equipment, but also the key functions that contribute to the overall Artillery capability. These functions are again not unique to Artillery, but instead require an integrated approach to their execution that is ostensibly unmatched by any other single land organisation.

*Strategic policy of decades past
has offered the suggestion of
'outsourcing' the RAA capabilities
to other Corps and services
operating along similar functional
lines ...*

To illustrate the contribution of the three streams of Artillery to the achievement of an integrated, functional capability, the following vignette, based on a Counter-Insurgency conflict scenario, can be studied:

- A jamming strobe is detected by Gunners of 16 ALR; by manipulating the thresholds and operating parameters of their sensors to overcome the jamming, the source is isolated, recorded and exploited to build the Electronic Intelligence picture of the battlespace. The source of jamming becomes a target and is passed to the JFECC for addition to the Target Nomination List (TNL) for future engagement, but is assessed to be a preliminary operation for a hostile fire mission.
- Mortar engagement by the previously undetected hostile Indirect Fire Unit (IDFU) is tracked by the Air Land Regiment's weapon locating sensors. Automatic extrapolation of the likely Point of Impact (POI) determines the round landing within a Friendly Force location, cueing an audible and visual warning for all friendly personnel within the danger radius, warning all personnel to take cover from the effects of the blast. From the information provided by the LCMR, a Point of Origin (POO) is established, facilitating the cross-cueing of UAS to the target location.
- Upon reaching the site, the UAS observes a small baseplate with a three-man team who are continuing to fire on the Friendly location. Providing basic target information via a ROVER downlink, a Joint Fires Team manoeuvres into position to visually observe and positively identify (PID) the target. As a result of Collateral Damage Estimation (CDE) modelling, the Joint Forward Observer (JFO) determines that engagement by conventional munitions is unsafe and will require engagement by precision-guided ordnance or terminally controlled CAS only.
- Through the JFECC, the JFT provides local deconfliction for nearby air and land assets in preparation for target engagement and establishes the requisite control measures. Due to a separate Troops-in-Contact (TIC) situation occurring in a separate part of the AO, no CAS platforms are readily available for prosecution. As the fire mission from the assigned strike unit prepares to fire on its approved task, the G-AMB radar detects a Rotary Wing (RW) asset transiting into the vicinity of the Restricted Operating Zone (ROZ), forcing a temporary pause in the engagement of the target while communication with the aircraft is established. Unfortunately, during this time the hostile mortar team has managed to disassemble the baseplate and begins moving away from the site.
- Tracked by the UAS to a small compound 8 km west of the initial firing point, the mortar team halts and enters the building. Passing target information through the JFECC, a nearby manoeuvre unit is assigned to interdict. As the manoeuvre unit moves into position it is engaged from inside the building with accurate small arms and RPG fire. The local JFT, coordinating with the JFECC for engagement authority, cues a precision fire mission on the target as a result of continued collateral damage limitations. Once cleared for engagement, the target round is observed by both the JFT and UAS cleanly striking the building.
- Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) provided by the UAS reports that a suspected insurgent has survived the attack and is fleeing the building. Observing the event via a ROVER terminal, the JFO requests that the UAS tracks the suspected insurgent while the manoeuvre unit exploits the target location. As the insurgent flees the scene, two other individuals are observed moving towards an adjacent compound through a treeline carrying a suspected long-barrelled weapon, where the three link up. Unable to maintain PID with the UAS as a result of vegetation, the embedded JTAC requests a RW asset to support. Shortly after arriving on the scene, the pilot reports that he has PID the weapon system and requests confirmation of 'clear ground' before engaging the target with 30 mm ammunition.

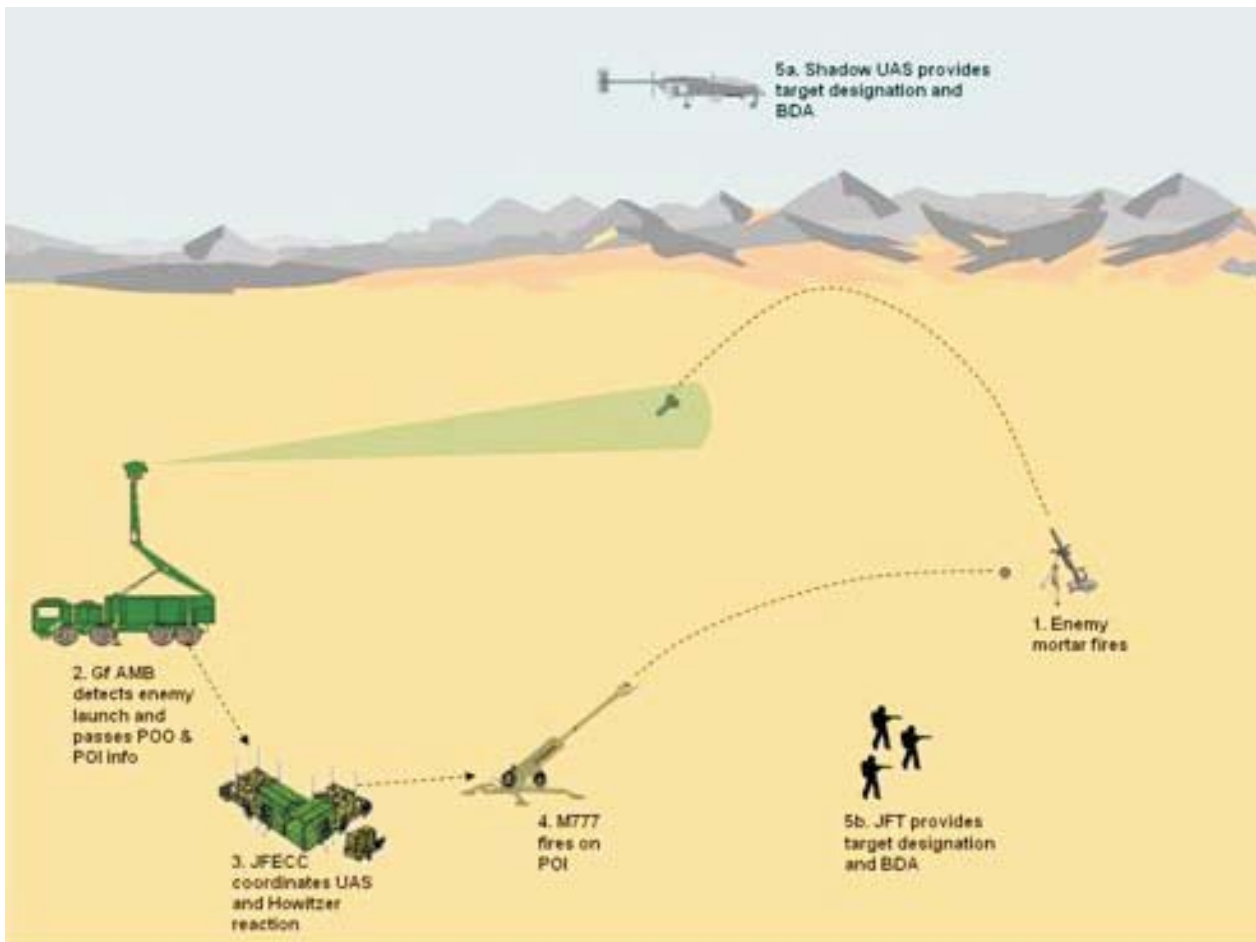


Figure 3: The Tactical Inter-relationship of RAA Elements

By considering the four key functions of the Artillery and contemplating how these functions can be combined to create a unique capability, Gunners may set their sights towards an even brighter future than the results gained in Afghanistan. The experiences and capability surges received from the COIN Operations in Afghanistan will be valuable to the Royal Regiment, but will not necessarily define the standards required of the next conventional conflict.

Objective Force 2020: The RAA Roadmap

The RAA has energetically maintained its contribution to Army's Afghanistan commitment through the development of responsive, 'agile and flexible'⁽⁷⁾ forces. The past decade of operational commitments has engendered an Artillery Regiment that specialises in rapidly employed, increasingly precise fires capable of meeting the target discrimination thresholds of Joint Fires planners and Manoeuvre Arms Commanders (MACs). These fires are tactically mobile, increasingly all-weather and long range, and

incorporate more air-delivered munitions and attack profiles than have previously been available. The RAA will continue to be Army's hub for Joint Effects and will increasingly become the hub for Joint STA as cooperation with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) increases in accordance with the ADF's maritime security strategy.

Joint Fires and Effects

Just as the Federal Government is incorporating a larger United States military presence into Australia, the RAA will continue to emphasise the importance of Joint aspects of fire support and the importance of international accreditation through close ties with the US joint fires community. Currently the RAA's centre of excellence, the School of Artillery, is training the Joint Fires Observer (JFO) program syllabus accredited by the US Joint Staff and Joint Fire Support Executive Steering Committee and ratified by the JFO Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).⁽⁸⁾ There is also an increased RAA assimilation in to the ADF JTAC program at both the instructor and trainee level, which has resulted in a direct increase in the RAA's ability to operate on a

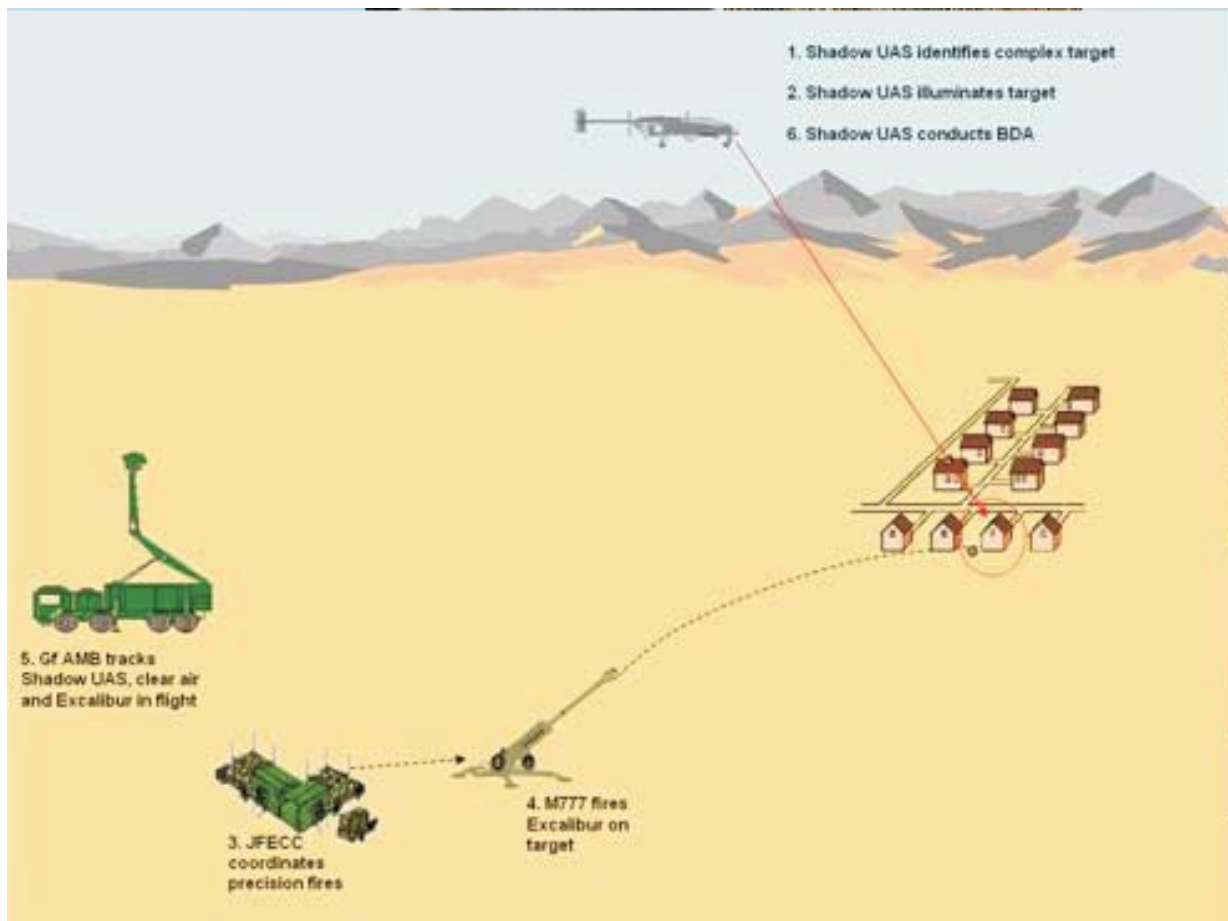


Figure 4: Locating, Identifying and Prosecuting Targets with RAA Elements

common air-ground picture in support of manoeuvre operations.

The RAA is also increasingly ready to support amphibious operations. The RAA's acquisition of the US-made M777A2 155 mm ultra-lightweight Howitzer, combined with the instinctive modularity of gun batteries, has increased the gun line's readiness to support the embarked force, as has the increased training of JFTs in Naval Gunfire Support (NGS) missions under the JFO program.⁽⁹⁾ These new lightweight Howitzers, in addition to the enhanced JFTs (comprising capability bricks of JFO pairs to support Platoon-based *micro-Combat Teams*), task-organised tactical UAS and persistent surveillance suites, are high profile instruments in the Army's ability to escalate or de-escalate the projection of force as the ADF prepares to hedge against regional threats.

Further contributing to the Army's flexibility in the spectrum of conflict is the RAA's implementation of precision fires imagery generators and viewers at CT level, and Digital Terminal Control Systems (DTCS) at Platoon level. Additionally, there is increased training on CDE methodology on RAA courses for Officers and Soldiers alike. Despite

these advances to enable additional agility within the JFE force, it is foundation warfighting that must be emphasised as the 'core competency that the Government demands of Army'.⁽¹⁰⁾

Ground-Based Air Defence / Air-Land Integration

Provided that Land Project 19 Phase 7B continues with Government support for funding, the Air-Land capability will revolutionise; this remains critical in ensuring that future deployed forces receive appropriate levels of protection. With the rapid acquisition of the Afghanistan-fielded Sense and Warn capability, with the G-AMB Radar as its centrepiece, the Air Land Regiment has gained the foundations for an outstanding future capability⁽¹¹⁾.

The Air Land Regiment will be instrumental in ensuring that intelligence provided by the Recognised Air Picture (RAP) is fed into the Land Component. Further, this capability will serve to strengthen Joint operations interoperability, provide a precision locating capability vital to effective Counter Fires, and will ultimately provide a persistent force protection capability to deployed elements.⁽¹²⁾ In protecting deployed forces, the Air

Land Regiment will contribute a far greater and more persistent capability to the Australian Integrated Air Defence System (IADS) than has been previously realised; given the emerging threats to this system, the land based component will increase in importance and will need to cooperate more closely with the RAAF and the RAN. Each layer of mutual support between the three services will be critical in protecting deployed Australian troops. In order to create highly deployable bespoke 'bricks' consisting of Locating, Integration and Protection capabilities, the Air Land Regiment will retain a high-tempo training regime that cannot fit neatly within the force generation cycle of Plan Beersheba.

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The COIN environment has offered an invaluable proving ground for the Army UAS capability and has demonstrated the capacity of its RAA operators to adapt and thrive in an unfamiliar role. Not dissimilar to 16 ALR, 20 STA Regt will undoubtedly continue to feel the training stresses of force generation in the lead up to Objective Force 2020. While the extent of the UAS capability will naturally continue to be explored and realised, an evolutionary shift away from reactionary support to manoeuvre forces must occur within the wider Army; though the Scaneagle UAS has capably provided such a capacity in the past, Army's UAS acquisition strategy to 2020 emphasises a shift in capability focus towards support to pre-planned intelligence-lead operations and Artillery targeting.

The intended application of next generation UAS to the ISTAR fight offers but the briefest insight into the complexities anticipated in the future battlespace. Fundamentally, the reliance upon the provision of platforms must be replaced by the quality, accuracy, currency and relevancy of the information they provide. This transition in operating mentalities represents a vital paradigm shift in the approach to contemporary warfighting; through the scrupulous direction, provision, integration and management of ISTAR sensors and collection assets the operational manoeuvre scope is envisaged to be drastically shortened to reflect only the most critical of tasks. Using the Afghanistan battlespace as a medium for translation, the reduction in requirement for ground movement instantly provides an enhanced degree of force protection coupled with an exponential increase in the quality and volume of critical combat information that can be applied by

the tactical commander to more capably achieve mission objectives.

... Air Land Regiment will retain a high-tempo training regime that cannot fit neatly within the force generation cycle of Plan Beersheba.

The RAA of 2020 is a highly flexible, adaptable and specialised organisation of superior technical and tactical competence in Land and Joint operations. Through the mutually supportive functions of Joint Fires and Effects, Air-Land Integration, GBAD, battlespace management, sensor coordination, ISTAR collection, processing and dissemination, Artillery Intelligence, and support to Joint Targeting, RAA 2020 will represent a critical force capability in the modern battlespace. The provision of such a capability requires the acquisition, management and employment of appropriate Artillery major systems, realistic and pervasive collective training of all the Artillery streams, and inherent organisational flexibility within the RAA.

Risks to the Rise of the RAA

Despite the overwhelming ambition of the RAA to maximize its joint capabilities in support of future land operations, a number of risks exist that may unhinge this momentum. Firstly, the RAA finds itself in competition for a fair share of the Defence budget apportioned to Army; under Project LAND 17, in order to meet the Chief of Army's vision of 'highly protected... combined arms teams'⁽¹³⁾ the RAA had previously received approval for the acquisition of a fully armoured self-propelled howitzer system (SPH). This capability was set to provide highly protected firepower and tactical mobility commensurate to the manoeuvre requirements of the CTs and Battle Groups (BGs) they support under Plan Beersheba. The Federal Budget of 2012 saw a move away from this capability and towards a more agile Field Artillery capability with the acquisition of a further nineteen M777A2 howitzers.

Whilst additional M777A2s will enable the application of digitally executed precision engagements, they are not the final word in providing agile offensive support to the Army of 2020. The recent abolition of the RAA's 105 mm Hamel gun capability has streamlined ammunition and fleet management, but is a risk to the potential agility of an embarked amphibious force as they execute ship-to-objective manoeuvre. Further, not only are Hamel guns capable of engaging with a

smaller burst radius than the M777A2, they are also approximately half the weight⁽¹⁴⁾, allowing underslung transport by S-70 and MRH-90 helicopters and inclusive of ammunition crates when underslung by a CH-47. Comparatively, the M777A2, though clearly a market-leading ultra-lightweight 155 mm howitzer, can only be underslung by a CH-47.

In the amphibious environment, a central focus of the Objective Force 2020 deployment capability, the replacement of the L119 force not only increases the linear metreage required by the embarked OS capability, but also limits the flexibility of deployment by air in support of the transition to land operations. Reinstating the Hamel gun fleet and using the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) to replicate the existing digital relationship between JFTs and the gun line could easily mitigate these risks and would afford greater flexibility in amphibious employment.

Though the increased acquisition of the M777A2 is far from disappointing, it must be noted that the requirement for SPH remains extant so long as the ADF retains a mechanised force capability. Media focus on the cost of LAND 17 has rarely offered an explanation of the capability, or a comparison to the relative expenditure of other projects. It is therefore prudent to keep in mind that *'history has clearly demonstrated that "peace dividends" invariably become "peace liabilities" when the military must restore its capabilities when the next threat arrives'*.⁽¹⁵⁾

Another area of risk is the increasing gulf between the Regular Army and the Army Reserves. As highlighted under Plan Beersheba, regular and reserve forces must be fully complementary if they expect to successfully execute Government policy. Currently, the RAA Reserve units are maintaining an offensive support capability through adopting mortar equipment, ORBATs, command and control (C2) structure and tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs). These training models, whilst beneficial to Army overall, are not complementary to the integration of Reserve artillery forces into Australian Regular Army (ARA) ORBATs. This disparity can be mitigated through equipping the Reserve Artillery with digital fire control systems, establishing a C2 structure enabling a Reserve JFECC to be fully inter-operable with an ARA JFECC and thereby improving the ability to train Reserve JFTs in modern and suitable simulators.

Recent changes to Army's force structure, such as the raising of the 16th Air Land Regiment (16 ALR)

represent Army's contribution and commitment to joint operating principles. Formerly 16th Air Defence Regiment (16 AD Regt) the far superior and unique capability provided by 16 ALR now affords Army a direct and integrated link to air operations. It is critical for the success of the ALR concept and the viability of Army's air-land operations that 16 ALRs capability is not only respected and reciprocated by air operations elements of the RAAF and RAN, but is approached with equal fervour.

Another area of risk is the increasing gulf between the Regular Army and the Army Reserves.

Like any military capability, having modern equipment is paramount to success. The Artillery capability is at the mercy of equipment funding lines; simply stated: if the RAA isn't equipped with modern communications, data-links, vehicles, missiles, sensors and guns, it will not be able to provide the necessary capability required of the modern battlefield. This will not only affect the Artillery capability, but the capability of those systems that the RAA supports in the Combined Arms environment.

Finally, there is a risk to the future of the RAA after Afghanistan if the wrong people are recruited, screened and employed. The Regiment maintains a strong combat culture, which has, at its heart, an intrinsically analytical quality. Under the remodelled trade structures the RAA has identified that the qualities that define an excellent gun number do not necessarily define an excellent radar operator. The contrasts between trades are innumerable but appreciable, and each demands unique physical and intellectual qualities. The RAA must be supported in its determination to select and train candidates considered most suitable for employment within each of its trade models – this starts at the recruiting level through aptitude testing, is continued through initial employment training for allocation to trade and further into monitoring and suitability screening for specialist capability training. The RAA is strongly positioned to harness the full scope of recruiting successes, including women, across its new trade models. This strong position will be jeopardised if the RAA is constrained in its ability to select appropriate people for its wide variety of jobs.

Conclusion

After decades of doubts about its future and challenges retaining its unique heritage and identity, the participation of the RAA in Afghanistan provided an opportunity to display and refine the Artillery capability. The RAA has evolved through its experiences in Afghanistan, refining, enhancing and reinforcing its crucial role in the process. With the imminent conclusion to the Australian commitment in that theatre, the RAA will reconstitute and reorientate towards providing an invaluable capability for Army in future conflicts; that capability requirement, however, may be entirely different to that required of our most recent deployments.

The Artillery capability of 2020 will be unique, merging the mutually supportive functions of Joint Fires and Effects, Air-Land Integration, GBAD, battlespace management, sensor coordination, ISTAR collection, processing and dissemination, Artillery Intelligence and support to Joint Targeting. Achieving the Artillery capability of 2020 will require appropriate Artillery major systems, realistic and pervasive collective training of all the Artillery streams, and inherent flexibility of the Gunners as an organisation. There will be significant risks and challenges in achieving the Artillery capability of 2020, but it must remain the focus of every Gunner to meet those challenges and increase the capability of the Royal Regiment for years to come.

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Authors

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Captain James Groves graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 2003 and the Royal Military College – Duntroon in 2004. He served as a Troop Commander, Gun Position Officer and Forward Observer with 8/12 Regt, and as a Forward Observer and Adjutant of 4 Regt. He deployed to the Solomon Islands as a Platoon Commander in 2006 and to Afghanistan as a Forward Observer and Joint Terminal Attack Controller in 2009–10. Captain Groves is currently an Instructor-in-Gunnery at Joint Fires Wing, School of Artillery.

Captain Chris O'Brien graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 2004 and the Royal Military College – Duntroon in 2005. He served as a Troop Commander in 20 STA Regt and as an exchange Battery Captain and Operations Officer of 42 (Alem Hamza) Bty, 32 Regt Royal Artillery (UK). He has deployed to Afghanistan twice, as part of Operation Slipper as a UAV Troop Commander in 2007–08, and as an Australian embed to UK Operation Herrick 12 as SO3 ISTAR (UK C-IED TF) and S2 Targets / Intelligence Exploitation (CF NES N) in 2010. Captain O'Brien is currently the Instructor-in-Gunnery, Surveillance and Target Acquisition, at the School of Artillery.

Australian Air Defence Experience

Captain Mike Squire

On 5th May 2012, the members of the Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) Regimental Officer Basic Course (ROBC) 2012 sat with veterans and members of the 2/3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (2/23rd LAA Regt) Association, to discuss some of the Australian Air Defence (AD) combat experiences of World War Two (WW2). The luncheon was enjoyed at the RACV Club, on Bourke Street in Melbourne, with several courses taken in the surrounds of the Club's exclusive wine cellar. Present from the 2/3rd LAA Regt Association were four of the last remaining veterans of the Regiment, the Association President, the Association Secretary and the son of one of the veterans. Over the course of the luncheon, a great deal was learnt by the trainees and much was debated on AD tactics.

Background

Following some research on Australian AD engagements, I discovered a rare copy of a most wonderful book: *On Target – The story of 2/3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment*. I was amazed at the scale and diversity of operations that the 2/3rd had experienced during WW2, and was pleased to find that they had a very strong and well represented association in Melbourne. Given their proximity to the School of Artillery, and the breadth of combat experience among their veterans, the opportunity for a meeting was most apparent. It, therefore, came to being that I made contact with the Association Secretary, Mr Colin Bragg, and we planned the luncheon.

Veterans

The 2/3rd LAA Regt had a unique experience, during WW2; each Battery (Bty) operated independently, spread across numerous campaigns and each having a different operational experience. By a stroke of luck, the four veterans present at the luncheon each served in widely different campaigns of WW2, each bringing a unique spin on AD combat.



Mr John Marshall (7 Bty) confesses to Lieutenant Sam Rynne, about some larrikin behaviour in the Middle East

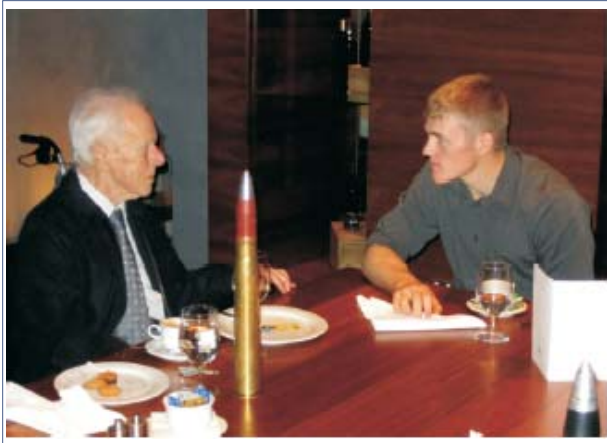
Mr John Marshall was a young teenage gunner when he first shipped off to the Middle East. Having served with the 7th Battery, he was able to recount many of the day-to-day experiences from the viewpoint of a young gun number; this included partaking in many of the shenanigans that many young gunners still enjoy today. John returned to Australia to join a newly formed AA Bty, due to the increased threat from the advancing Japanese, and served on gun positions in Western Australia. John then took up a position in BHP, where his service towards the war effort turned to a different form. Having worked as a professional businessman for most of his life, John was able to reflect on his youth as a gunner and make some considered observations on the experiences of young soldiers in war.



Mr John Campbell (8 Bty) explains the challenges of junior leadership at Tobruk, to Lieutenant Prue Connell

Mr John Campbell was a 19 year old gunner, when he served at Tobruk with the 8th Battery. Despite his youth, John found himself promoted as a lance bombardier and subsequently a bombardier,

commanding a detachment which manned a captured Italian 20 mm Breda Anti-aircraft Gun; this, arguably, made him one of the youngest commanders to serve in the Tobruk campaign. After the Bty had completed its mission in Tobruk, having shot down over 30 Axis aircraft in a six month tour, John returned to Australia as a newly promoted sergeant and trained an AA Bty for the defence of Australia. John, the 2/3rd LAA Regt Association secretary, has a great memory of the war and had some insightful leadership and tactical perspectives on AD. Interestingly, despite ending the war as one of the most qualified and experienced AD senior non-commissioned officers in Australian military history, this luncheon was the first opportunity that John had received to pass on some of his experience and tactical observations.



Mr Ian Rutter (7 Bty) describes the 'clouds of German paratroopers' that descended on his position in Crete, to Lieutenant James Easton

Mr Ian Rutter was a very young man when he found himself at the centre of one of the most intensive AD engagements in history. Serving with the 7th Battery in Crete, Ian's 40 mm Bofors gun position was on the Maleme Airfield; this put him right on the main objective of a German airborne Bde and a German mountain Div, supported by a Luftwaffe Corps. With only their 40 mm Bofors gun and a single .303 Lee-Enfield rifle between the detachment, Ian and his mates engaged dozens of aircraft, engaged many ground targets and then made a fighting withdrawal for the evacuation point. The Bty had shot down more than 60 German aircraft before being evacuated; unfortunately for Ian, he was captured while nursing a dying comrade. Ian spent four years in a stalag in Southern Germany, before being liberated. Interestingly, Ian once accidentally escaped from the stalag, when he found himself left behind after a work detail in the countryside; unfortunately, his escape didn't last long – he was found naked, cold,

hungry and disorientated, stuck in a boggy field and was promptly returned to prison. Ian has a strong memory of that period in his life, both in battle and in a prisoner of war camp, and has a good appreciation for the soldiers from each country that served throughout Europe and the Middle East.



Mr Cec Rae (9 Bty) recalls engagements with the Japanese in Papua New Guinea, to Lieutenant Jimmy Nguyen

Mr Cec Rae had a broad experience of the war, serving with the 9th Battery across multiple campaigns and engaging Italian, German and Japanese aircraft. Because of his vast combat experience, Cec was able to pass some valuable tactical lessons, make informed judgement on the AD equipment of the time and make some considered comparisons between the enemy forces he engaged. As former Secretary and President of the 2/3rd LAA Regt Association, and as the only surviving co-author of *On Target*, Cec was able to confirm all aspects of intrigue on the history of the Regiment. As a gunner who served in many battlefields, Cec was able to make informed comments on the challenges of desert, jungle, urban and littoral environments.

Lessons Learnt

Over the course of several hours, numerous lessons were gained from the four veterans. Thirsty for knowledge, the four trainees and I asked countless questions on the AD battles in Crete, Tobruk, the Western Desert, Syria, Port Moresby, Milne Bay, Lae, Buna and Borneo, and of the various training and garrison duties which occurred throughout the war.

With each question came a response which was fuelled by a wealth of experience. With each response, we could physically see each veteran return to his youth, recalling past events, again becoming the young gunner they once were. Maps, diagrams, sketches and photos were all produced

to clearly pass the tactical knowledge. It was most apparent that each veteran had a great deal of knowledge to pass to us and it was, despite the many years that had passed, still quite fresh in their minds. While I cannot pass all of those lessons gained in this brief with any justice, hopefully I may paraphrase the discussion on one of the battles.



A detachment from A Troop, the 7th Battery, manning a British 40 mm Bofors gun on the North side of the Maleme Airfield. Note that the gun has been bolted in place with no natural concealment. The gunners also possess very little equipment and have no personal weapons

Maleme Airfield

Their earliest experiences of combat highlighted to the 2/3rd LAA Regt hierarchy some of the key planning considerations that they would require for the rest of the war. For the Regiment to have its 'baptism of fire' at the Maleme Airfield in Crete, it was something akin to being 'thrown in the deep-end and learning how to swim'. The failures and successes of this battle, arguably more than any other, helped define the Regiment and prepare it for the many battles that it would, subsequently, participate in. While the 2/3rd LAA Regt experienced many AD battles throughout the war, some more complex than those in Crete, it makes sense that we examine this one battle in some detail.

As per the diagram below, a Bofors Troop of the 7th Battery, fighting alongside soldiers of the 22nd Royal New Zealand Infantry Battalion, were attacked by a Regiment (equivalent of a current Australian Brigade) of elite German paratroopers, on 20th May 1941; this occurred after a preliminary bombardment, by a Corps of Luftwaffe bomber and fighter aircraft, which lasted several days. The attack was later reinforced by two more Regiments (read: Brigade) of elite troops from the German Mountain Division.

The preliminary operations included near-continuous waves of level bombing by Dornier

Do-17s, Heinkel He-111s and Junkers Ju-88 bombers; waves of dive-bombing Ju-87B Stuka aircraft; and occasional strafes by escorting Messerschmitt Bf-109Es and Messerschmitt Bf-110s. To the gunner on the ground, these aircraft appeared like 'clouds in the sky' and cast dark shadows across the countryside.

The main assault, at 0800 h on 20th May 1941, came in the form of a battalion of glider-borne troops landing near the Tavronitis Riverbed and several battalions of paratroopers landing on and around the Maleme Airfield; this was later reinforced by several regiments from the elite Mountain Division. The sight of several battalions of German paratroopers, with an average under-canopy time of 12 seconds, temporarily filled the sky and gave every Allied soldier with a rifle something to aim at. Needless to say, the Bofors gun detachments that bordered the Maleme Airfield were kept busy for several days.

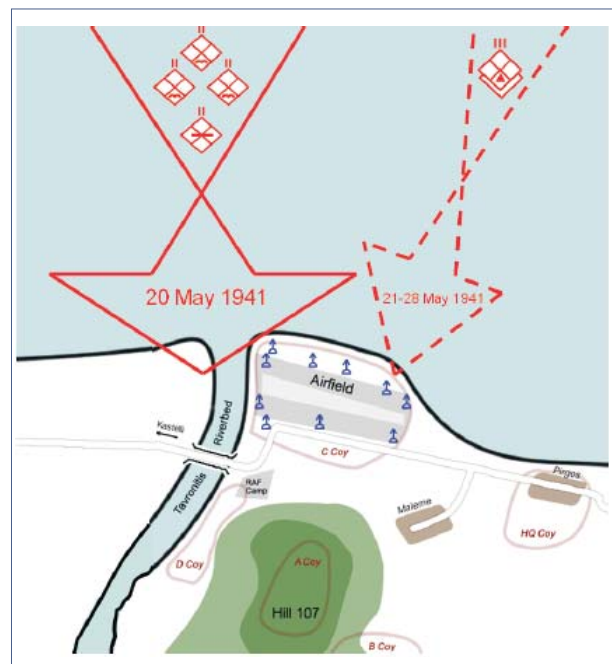


Diagram depicting the position of Allied NZ Infantry and AA Guns, and the assaulting waves of the Luftlande Sturmregiment on Maleme Airfield

For the gunners of A Troop of the 7th Battery, they were operating the 40 mm Bofors gun (borrowed from the British) for the very first time. Therefore, the detachments had received very little time to practice their gun drills and had not been afforded the opportunity to live-fire against aerial targets. For all concerned, this would be their first AD engagement in battle, they were unaccustomed to the chaos of war, they were unfamiliar with the tactics and flight profiles of the enemy, and had not properly rehearsed the SOPs for a Bofors Tp in

action. The enemy, on the other hand, would have air superiority in support of their land operations, would choose the time and the place to concentrate their efforts, would be well equipped, were all hardened combat veterans, were well prepared, had clear objectives yet maintained flexibility which would allow for initiative at the junior command level.

Adding to the difficulties of their first battle, the Bofors detachments would receive no early warning from the lone British Radar (a largely secretive and rarely-utilised technology, at this stage of the war) system in their sector and would not be able to move their guns from the open and susceptible locations on the edge of the airfield where they had been bolted down. The detachments also had no communications within the Troop or to the British Battery; had no communications with the neighbouring New Zealanders; had only one rifle to share amongst each detachment; had no time to prepare their defensive positions; had no mobility and would not get an opportunity to tie-in their ground defence plan with the New Zealanders.

The Bofors guns would be the only AD weapon in the defensive sector; therefore, with an effective ceiling of only 1500 m with iron-sights, the layering of effects was almost impossible. The detachments had not been equipped with, or trained on, Kerrison Predictors; this attenuated the *effective range* of the Bofors gun. Given that the objective was hard against the coastline, the ability to achieve early engagements or conduct air-ambushes was rendered near impossible.

For the first few days of the German offensive, the Bofors detachments became truly familiar with the concept of SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defence), as waves of Stuka Dive Bombers screamed in on their location. Ian Rutter recalled vividly the sight and sounds of a Stuka, with its wailing sirens blaring, diving in on his position with guns chattering and bombs whistling. When asked what the detachment reaction to the Stuka was, Ian reflected *'we kept firing at it as best we could. What else could we do? If a bomb hit us, it hit us. We were the ones with the Bofors so we just had to keep on firing.'* There was little option for the gun detachments – they had to become proficient quickly or be defeated.

Throughout the course of the battle, dozens of German aircraft were shot down, many more were damaged and more again were deterred from effectively engaging their targets. Many German troops were shot under canopy or upon landing,

and several assaults were effectively broken-up with the Bofors in the direct-fire role. Ultimately, however, with no communications; no counter-penetration plan; a lack of defensive cohesiveness; a lack of weapons; Axis air superiority over Crete; limited ammunition and overwhelming enemy numbers; the Australian gunners needed to withdraw with their wounded. The few survivors of the Troop made their way to join the New Zealanders and then conducted a desperate fighting withdrawal south to the coast and east to join with other friendly forces. Many, like Ian, were cut-off without weapons and, subsequently, captured.



Photograph taken of the Maleme Airfield, after its capture by German paratroopers, in May 1941. Numerous Junkers Ju-52 transport aircraft and gliders can be seen scattered on the edge of the airfield; many of these aircraft were rendered inoperable

Despite successful engagements in their first battle, the gunners were cognisant that there were many tactical lessons to be learnt: they needed to learn the Bofors system and its operation quickly; they needed to perfect the use of the Bofors aiming sights for each target; they needed to keep their guns mobile and well camouflaged; they needed better early warning; they needed robust ground defence plans; they needed robust communication plans; early engagements and air ambushes were critical; procedural control measures would need to be implemented; and they would need to gain adequate personal equipment.

The battle at Maleme Airfield was unlike any other that had been experienced before, in the history of warfare; airborne troops would be the main, and only, effort. The gunners came to appreciate that the Germans, at this stage of the war, had far superior aircraft with veteran pilots, were concentrating their attacks with mixed formations of aircraft and had greater quantities of aircraft to

launch. The aircraft engaged here were far superior in every way to that which had been engaged during the Great War; the gunners were fighting against cutting-edge technology and revolutionary tactics. Understanding the enemy and their tactics, from this initial battle, would assist the Regiment in subsequent battles. For the Germans, they would not attempt another airborne / airmobile operation, on this scale, for the rest of the war – the cost had been too dear. For the New Zealanders, they would recognise the importance of a mobile reserve and a counter-attack force in the defensive battle.



Ian Rutter (left), Cec Rae (right) and I discuss the deployment of a 40 mm Bofors gun detachment

The battle at the Maleme Airfield was but one example of an AD battle that was experienced by members of the 2/3rd LAA Regt. By the end of the war guns had been dragged across beaches in amphibious operations; had fought across deserts; had fired through jungles; had been fired from moving ships; had been employed in support-by-fire roles; had been employed with analogue computer adjustments; had been mounted on vehicles and fired while mobile; had fired in an indirect role with adjustments from pilot observers; had fired against vehicles; had fired against bunkers; had fired against troops in the open; had fired against shipping; and of course had engaged many different types of aircraft. From the example of the battle at Maleme Airfield, hopefully the reader can appreciate the vast amount of combat experience that was possessed by the veterans and the valuable tactical lessons that were gained at the luncheon.

Conclusion

After the coffee cups were cleared, we shook hands, thanked each other for the opportunity to chat and said our goodbyes. The young gunners picked up

their walking canes, put their jackets on and became old men again. As each of the old men shook the hands of the other, there was a sad realisation between them that it may be the last time they meet.

For the trainees and I, we learnt a great deal about Australian AD history, finding it rich with heroics, drama, success and valuable lessons on soldiering. We identified that the soldiers of yesterday are only separated from us in time and that their story has much to teach us about warfare today. We identified that the soldiers of the 2/3rd LAA Regt performed exceptionally, demonstrating all of the technical proficiency, tactical proficiency, good soldiering and good leadership that we hope to emulate.

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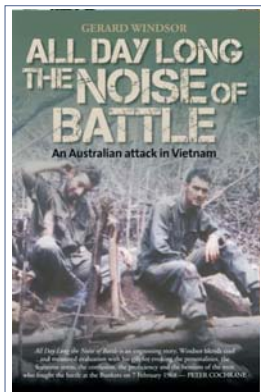
Book Reviews

All Day Long the Noise of Battle *An Australian Attack in Vietnam*

By Gerald Windsor

Reviewed by Colonel Sean Ryan
Commandant Combined Arms Training Centre

ISBN 978 1742668239; MURDOCH BOOKS AUSTRALIA (PIER 9); PUBLISHED 2011; SOFT COVER; 254 PAGES; 58 B&W PHOTOGRAPHS



1968 was a hard year for the Australian Task Force in South Vietnam. We all know about the great achievements of the Task Force at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral in May 1968 but many are probably less familiar with the Australian's hard fighting in February 1968 during the North

Vietnamese 'Tet' offensive. In *All day long the noise of battle,* Gerard Windsor explores the efforts of one of the rifle company in the jungle during 'Tet'.

Gerald Windsor, one of Australia's respected writers, has taken a look at one of the less known but needless to say important company battles during 'Tet'. The Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, battle is one that reflects upon the cornerstones of combat: firepower, manoeuvre and morale.

... promoted a desire to hunt the enemy as any infantry would and should. A fight they found in the jungle.

Charlie Company was not an unusual or special company. It had all the usual operational and administrative pressures any infantry or Army unit in general would experience. The company had its experienced soldiers like the Company Sergeant Major Ted Lewis, its characters like Aboriginal 'Massa' Clarke, and typical soldiers, both regular and national serviceman, like Bill Henderson and 'Pepe' Turra. The company's garrison time at Nui Dat is marked by drunkenness, insubordination, camaraderie and mateship. None of this is unusual nor does it appear to affect the operational

performance of the company. In fact it seems to draw the company together much better during their deployed time.

The battle described in *All day long the noise of battle* comes at an interesting time in the Company's operational tour. It occurs in the last quarter of their deployment with many national servicemen rotating home at the end of their service, a range of battle casualties depleting the company's ranks and overall fatigue. Not an unfamiliar set of circumstances to today's operational commitments.

Operation Coburg, as described in the book, created an interesting set of circumstances for the company. Charlie Company starts the operation detached from the Battalion and placed under command of the Gunners – 4th Field Regiment. A situation the Company Commander Graham Chapman states that he was not entirely comfortable with and one he feels is not appropriate given the quality of mission and the orders from the Gunners to the company. Guarding gunners at Fire Support Base Harrison was probably not as exciting as the battalion's search and clear mission being conducted elsewhere. It probably sets the company's mind set for the operation from the start with a focus of getting back to the battalion as soon as possible. Additionally it probably promoted a desire to hunt the enemy as any infantry would and should. A fight they found in the jungle.

*... when the bullets start flying,
doing the job as best you can and
not letting your mates down.*

The company's fight began on Monday 5th February 1968 approximately twenty kilometres east of Bien Hoa. The battle did not end until late on 7th February 1968 after a tough combined arms fight in the bunkers. In fact the battle was to become known as the 'Battle in the Bunkers'. Three days of intensive close combat against a well trained North Vietnamese Army force that was well dug in, and in a prepared defensive position. The close proximity of the intense fighting is vivid in the recollections of those who fought and well recreated in Gerard's book. The soldier's recollections are not exactly the same but the overall details of the battle are common amongst those involved. For example the soldiers remember the heroism of Lieutenant Mark Moloney in engaging the bunkers with rockets from an exposed position and those of the company having to seek cover in the North Vietnamese toilet. The book is not purely about the military tactics or the field leadership but rather the character of the

ANZAC digger and when the bullets start flying doing the job as best you can and not letting your mates down.

4th Field Regiment's contribution is not missed by the author. The Forward Observer Party's contribution, led by Captain John Phillips, is well explained through the actions of the battle. The planning and execution of protective and offensive artillery fire along with the devastating air support from the USAF. For me it is the story and contribution of Gunner Mike Williams in the battle. Mike's lone efforts to man his radio from a forward position while seriously injured and keep John well informed on the battle and report on the accuracy of the artillery fire was a great example of what a forward observer signaller should do in a fight, especially when you're not qualified as a forward observer's signaller. His contributions resulted in him being awarded a Military Medal. The Regiment's role in commanding the infantry is not really explained nor is it discussed in depth in 'The Gunners' by David Horner. As a Gunner it is probably good it was not discussed.

The Regiment's role in commanding the infantry is not really explained nor is it discussed in depth ...

The book provides an interesting insight into the differences between Aussie soldiers' discipline on the battlefield and in the garrison. On the battlefield they are innovative and determined. In garrison they are unruly and ill disciplined. For this reason alone it is a timely précis the current Army could use to inform discussions on the modern Australian Army character and soldiers. Windsor's account of the battle shows the value of small team cohesion in making a difference on the battlefield. A lesson the modern Army retains and must never forget. The book provides a telling example of the need for and execution of firepower in support of manoeuvre. All Gunner forward observers should read for this reason alone. A lesson that constantly is proving as a rule for any force design.

Windsor's book, 'All day long the noise of battle' looks at the fundamentals of company combat operations and the integration of firepower, manoeuvre and morale. It a book all company commanders, sergeant majors, observers and troop commanders must read.

QF32

By Richard De Crespigny

*Reviewed by Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan
Editor RAA Liaison Letter*

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Richard de Crespigny became a household name overnight on the 4th November 2010. This occurred when QANTAS Flight 32, between Singapore and Sydney, a routine A380 check flight for Captain Richard de Crespigny became one of the greatest 'near misses' in modern commercial aviation.

The story is an amazing tale of escape from what, in the laws of probability, should have been an aviation disaster. Shortly after take-off the crew of QF 32 were confronted with a catastrophic engine failure. The trigger was an explosion that resulted in the loss of one engine, damage to the other three, severe collateral damage to the airframe, and an unprecedented number of system faults.

This incident set in train a series of events that a fiction writer would have trouble conjuring up and resulted in QF 32 holding within 'gliding' range of Changi Airport (a precaution in case of total engine failure) for almost two hours as Richard de Crespigny and his crew stabilised the aircraft and worked out how they could safely land it.

The story is part biographical – part documentary and the two have been very cleverly woven together to make for a captivating read. Although I was aware of the outcome I was immediately drawn into the story and found myself unable to put the book down. At times his description of the events left me engrossed as I tried to imagine the pressure and stresses confronting the crew. The picture he paints of the challenges preparing physically and mentally for the approach into Changi Airport and the actual execution of doing what he describes as 'Threading the Needle' is more than breathtaking – it is riveting.

I am not one to read this type of contemporary story especially about civil aviation. What encouraged me was the similarity in backgrounds between Captain Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger the

pilot of US Airways Flight 1549 that ditched into the Hudson River in 2009 and Richard de Crespigny – they both been trained as military pilots in their respective Air Force before moving to civil aviation.

... developed his ability to think outside the box and take calculated risks if the situation warranted it.

Richard de Crespigny speaks highly of the 11 years he served in the Royal Australian Air Force and the personal development and training it provided him as an officer and as a pilot. It taught him the importance of leadership, team building and training; instilled confidence in his technical and intuitive skills as a pilot and how to manage challenging situations; and allowed him to develop his leadership style. It also taught him the importance of continual professional development and education. These collective skills instilled in him the need not only to hone his 'skill set' as a pilot to fly the aircraft in the safest possible manner, but also the importance of developing a comprehensive appreciation for the underlying engineering and systems that kept it in the air.

The experience he gained and the challenges confronted with military flying in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft, in conjunction with the lesson he learnt from his very first training flight in a 'Winjeel' at Point Cook, prepared him to anticipate situations and aircraft reactions and how to respond in an appropriate manner. It also developed his ability to think outside the box and take calculated risks if the situation warranted it. This was evident when he elected to carry out a series of manoeuvres known as 'Control Checks' prior to attempting to land to determine whether or not the aircraft would 'stall' during his approach. This procedure was something he learnt flying 'Caribou' and was particularly relevant when landing on difficult airfields in Papua New Guinea. It was not taught to QANTAS pilots.

... his military training instilled in him an undying self-belief that he could work through the problems ...

His military training instilled in him an undying self-belief that he could work through the problems confronting QF 32 and land it safely. This is not to say there were not times when he had some personal doubts about the outcome. This personal quality meant he was able to internalise his feeling

and remain outwardly calm and measured in his actions, instructions and decision making. An example of this quality was as the crisis unfolded on the flight deck the ECAM (Electronic Centralised Aircraft Monitoring) system was reporting continuous system failures (thought to be over 100). Richard de Crespigny observed 'We were facing ECAM Armageddon ... I then had my epiphany. My mind switch. I inverted the logic. I remembered what Gene Kranz, NASA's Flight Director, said during Apollo 13: "Hold it, gentlemen, hold it! I do not care about what went wrong. I need to know what is still working on that spacecraft." We [de Crespigny and his crew] went back to the basics and it became easy'

He gives an honest and frank account of his own performance and is highly complimentary of everyone involved including the crew, passengers and ground staff. He vividly describes the personal emotional roller coaster that he went through on the flight deck. He also openly explains his experience of PTSD after the incident.

A personal trait that sets Richard de Crespigny aside from many of his colleagues was his sense of duty and responsibility ...

A personal trait that sets Richard de Crespigny aside from many of his colleagues was his sense of duty and responsibility as the Captain towards his crew and passengers. This was highlighted when after an extremely difficult landing not only did he visit the economy passengers and provide a comprehensive debrief and answer all their questions, he provided them with his personal mobile phone number. Further evidence of his military leadership was as part of a 'hot wash' with the flight crew in Singapore it was he, not QANTAS, who paid for the drinks that evening as they talked through the incident – a \$4,000 bar bill! Back in Australia again it was Richard de Crespigny, not QANTAS, who hosted a large function to acknowledge and thank those involved in the emergency for their contribution.

An interesting sideline was that despite the enormous stress of the situation he remained aware of the big picture including the impact of social media. He was very conscious that whatever he said to passengers would be recorded by someone and rushed onto the internet via 'U-Tube' and the like at the first opportunity. This again highlights the importance of being able to think clearly under stress and consider all aspects of the situation.

As an Army officer who graduated in the same era as Richard de Crespigny I was very interested in his comments about what he did not like about Air

Force culture. The firstly being '*... the alcohol culture where it was considered macho to drink heavily in the evening and go flying first thing in the morning. (I lost a friend in a Mirage accident that occurred the day after an intoxicating Dining In night ...)*'. Most people in the Army during this period would endorse his sentiments and acknowledge it was a Defence wide issue. The second was his realisation that he preferred the flight crew '*team*' environment rather than the '*lone*' life of a fighter pilot. He had always wanted to fly F-111's but in the interim he spent time flying in a team (crew) environment, the influence of which assisted in his decision to move to QANTAS. While preparing for his F-111 conversion course he was required to spend time at 76 Squadron located at RAAF Base Williamtown. He observed '*... I was growing tired of the ego-driven, macho and aggressive briefings / debriefings that epitomised jet-jock life ... I didn't like this environment. Fighter pilot's need super egos to match their fearlessness and aggression to take on high risk missions, but my years of flying transport operations had conditioned me to the pleasures of working in teams ...*'. QF 32 is a story that will appeal to all readers regardless of generation or background. Military readers may well find it enhances their professional development and reinforces the importance of training. All leaders in any profession will benefit from reading this book. The conduct of Richard de Crespigny during and post this aviation emergency should set an example to us all – 8 out of 10.

Without mutual respect we are certain to fail

John Cantwell

PICTURE this. You are a twenty-something Australian soldier in Afghanistan. Your job is to help train soldiers of the Afghan National Army so they can take over responsibility for security in Uruzgan province. You've been in the country for several months, during the peak of the Taliban fighting season.

It's been tough: patrols have frequently encountered improvised explosive devices and insurgents regularly take 'pot-shots' from dense vegetation. Despite everything, you feel you're doing some good. The Afghan soldiers seem to be making progress, more often conducting patrols on their own.

Then one day something goes horribly wrong. One of the Afghan soldiers takes his assault rifle and shoots at a group of Australians inside your shared patrol base. Some of your mates lie dead, others are wounded. The perpetrator has fled. When the shock of the shooting has passed and the dead and wounded have been lifted out by helicopter, what do think about the Afghan soldiers you work with? Do you still trust them?

The issue of trust is at the heart of the murder of three Australian soldiers and wounding of two others inside a joint patrol base this week. Our strategy in Afghanistan rests on the notion that our troops will build and maintain positive relationships with the Afghan soldiers they are training.

The two groups must trust each other, because there is ample mistrust in Afghanistan already: mistrust of the Karzai government, mistrust of local officials, mistrust of other tribes, mistrust of the coalition. It is vital that the Australian troops and Afghan soldiers can at least rely on each other. Would you turn your back on an Afghan soldier during a fire-fight if you suspected he might be thinking of shooting you instead of the enemy?

Without a framework of mutual respect and trust, our strategy cannot succeed. We cannot simply wish into existence a competent, independent Afghan fighting force. It has taken years of difficult, unrelenting and often bloody work by Australian soldiers to get the Afghan army to even begin to look and act like a real army.

A lot more hard work and even more trust will be required before we withdraw most of our combat troops in 2013.

It is a measure of the discipline and resilience of our troops that there has never been a disproportionate response to such outrages. The challenge for the commanders on the ground now is to find a way to get the job of training and mentoring back on track.

Not much more can be done to protect our soldiers from such attacks. Better screening of Afghan recruits is being put in place but there is little likelihood this will be effective. Most 'green on blue' attacks are by disgruntled Afghan soldiers. Some extremists do join the Afghan security forces but are not yet a major threat.

Cultural affront might tip an Afghan soldier to turn his gun on Westerners. Or he might have been paid or coerced to do it.

Whatever the cause, there will probably be more attacks by Afghan soldiers on Australians. The risks to our troops will increase, not decrease, as we adjust our role in Uruzgan province. As always, getting into a war is easy; the hard part is leaving. And the really hard job, getting on with the mission alongside Afghan troops who might one day shoot you in the back, comes down to that twenty-something Australian soldier and his mates.

JOHN CANTWELL RETIRED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY THIS YEAR WITH THE RANK OF MAJOR-GENERAL. HIS BOOK EXIT WOUNDS (MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING) WILL BE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER.

The Age, Friday August 31, 2012

Take Post

Mortars Manned by RAA Personnel

Heritage and History Titling

*Colonel Arthur Burke, OAM (Retd)
RAA History Sub Committee*

Background

Plan Beersheba describes a phased program to adjust Army's force structure so that it can generate optimal capability to conform to strategic guidance and meet the challenge of contemporary warfare. As part of its implementation, Army Reserve field artillery units will be converted to mortar batteries manned by RAA personnel and allocated to each of 2nd Division's infantry brigades. Headquarters 2nd Division wrote to the RAA Head of Regiment (HOR) seeking input into the naming of these mortar batteries. This article is a revised version of the advice provided to Head of Regiment by the RAA History Sub Committee.

The merits of Army Reserve Gunner heritage and its many reorganisations together with historical Australian Imperial Force mortar batteries and historical peace time Gunner mortar batteries will be discussed before establishing a methodology for titling future artillery mortar batteries. The historical titling system of field artillery units is used as the basis for discussions as these have been in continual existence since Federation.

Army Reserve Artillery Units

Traditional Militia, Citizen Military Forces (CMF) and Army Reserve (ARes) RAA units, in general, take their titles from the Militia Forces reorganisation for universal military training in 1912. This was further refined in the 1st Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the First World War and became the basis for the reorganisation of the Citizen Forces in 1921.

This system consisted of brigades (sic regiments) throughout the Army numbered consecutively from the 1st, each consisting of three batteries numbered 1st, 2nd and 3rd for 1st Brigade, 4th, 5th and 6th for the 2nd Brigade and so on. The post Great War units were restricted by their third field battery, but received a Howitzer battery in lieu numbered 101st in 1st Brigade, 102nd in 2nd Brigade and so on.

When the Militia units were called up for active service in the Second World War, they went under the latest regimental organisation of two field gun batteries and used their existing two field battery numbers. When reorganised for a third battery in 1941, the traditional third consecutive number was added.

The 2nd AIF RAA units, which were initially raised with a large proportion of Militia soldiers, consisted of regiments numbered 2/1st, 2/2nd, 2/3rd ... with their two field gun batteries numbered 1st and 2nd in the 2/1st, 3rd and 4th in the 2/2nd, 5th and 6th in the 2/3rd When the 1941 reorganisation established a third battery in each unit, the numbers 51st, 52nd, 53rd ... were allocated to each of the 2/1st, 2/2nd, 2/3rd and so on.

The raising of the CMF after the end of the Second World War saw a limited number of predominantly composite regiments using the lettering P, Q, R and S for batteries. The rapid expansion of RAA CMF units into Artillery Groups Royal Artillery (AGRA) formations following the introduction of compulsory National Service in 1951 reverted to the traditional unit numbering systems, but batteries remained P, Q, R and S.

The suspension of the National Service scheme in 1959 saw a severe reduction in RAA units, AGRAs were disbanded and the Pentropic Division organisation introduced. CMF units were generally fully manned with many former Nashos continuing to serve. Traditional RAA units survived in their parent locations throughout the country.

It was not until the 1965 introduction of the Tropical Warfare establishment with six-gun field batteries and the concept of infantry battalion group operations that the requirement for discrete

sub unit titles emerged. Within the CMF, the traditional battery numbering system for the two sub units took effect. (The Australia Regular Army [ARA] RAA units settled on the original Howitzer battery numbers in the 100 series – 100 (A), 101st, 102nd)

To summarise, a heritage strength of the Militia, CMF and ARes RAA units has always been the unit and battery numbering system based on the 1st AIF.

Thus, the heritage local affiliations again took effect. In southeast Queensland, for example, within 5th Field Regiment the 13th Battery returned to Kelvin Grove and the 14th to Ipswich. In 11th Field Regiment, 41st Battery re-emerged at Southport, whilst the 42nd returned to the Annerley depot. Particularly outside the capital cities, the towns welcomed 'their' specific local battery numbers back onto the Army's order of battle after the long period of rather unassuming alphabetical titles.

To summarise, a heritage strength of the Militia, CMF and ARes RAA units has always been the unit and battery numbering system based on the 1st AIF. This had endured throughout many reorganisations, has seen a possessive 'adoption' by local communities, and hence a recruiting catalyst.

Historical AIF Mortar Batteries

When the Trench Mortar Batteries were raised during the First World War, the light mortars were manned by infantry personnel. These were integral to infantry brigades and took the same numbers as their brigade eg, the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade had the 7th Australian Light Mortar Battery. Each divisional artillery included one heavy mortar battery and three medium mortar batteries, all manned by artillerymen.

From 1916, the medium trench mortar batteries were titled XnA, YnA and ZnA where n was the division number, eg, X1A, Y1A and Z1A Medium Trench Mortar Batteries in the 1st Division Artillery. In 1918, these batteries were reorganised and each division allocated two numbered units – 1st and 2nd Medium Trench Mortar Batteries for the 1st Division, 3rd and 4th for the 2nd Division, 5th and 6th for the 3rd Division

The heavy trench mortar batteries in 1916 were titled VnA where n was the division number, eg, the 1st Division Artillery included the V1A Heavy Trench

Mortar Battery. In 1918, these divisional batteries were disbanded and a single battery assigned to the Australian Corps. It was titled the V Australian Heavy Trench Mortar Battery.

Towards the end of the Second World War, tank attack regiments were also trained on the British 4.2 inch mortar as an alternate weapon. There are active service instances of these being used at Wewak, Labuan and Balikpapan, sometimes by field artillery regiments. However, there does not appear to be any discrete mortar units or batteries formed in the 2nd AIF or raised within the wartime Militia.

In summary, the only specific AIF mortar battery titles occurred during the First World War and these were a rather complicated combination of letters and numbers and straight number allocations based on divisional organisations.

... does not appear to be any discrete mortar units or batteries formed in the 2nd AIF or raised within the wartime Militia.

Historical Peace Time Mortar Batteries

During the National Service Scheme of the 1950s, three light regiments for air movement were raised and equipped with 4.2 inch mortars, 75 mm pack Howitzers or short 25 pounders. One of these was placed under command of each of the three field AGRAs. Their battery titles followed the field system of P, Q, R and S. These units were disbanded in the late 1950s as National Service drew to a close.

When the new ARA 1st Infantry Brigade was raised in 1957, 1st Field Regiment was reorganised to include a new 102nd Light Battery equipped with 4.2 inch mortars. This lasted until the ARA's expansion under the Pentropic Division (announced 1960) created a divisional artillery of five field regiments each of one 105 mm towed Howitzer and one 105 mm pack Howitzer battery. When 105th Battery was moved from Sydney to Brisbane in June 1960 as part of raising the new ARA 4th Field Regiment, the Italian L5 Pack Howitzers had not arrived in Australia and it was dual equipped with 25 pounders and 4.2 inch mortars, the latter being for rapid air deployments. Other ARA batteries serving in Malaya were also dual equipped until the 105 mm L5 Pack Howitzer replaced both these mortars and the 25 Pounders.

It should be noted that, since 1955, the ARA had sequentially numbered its batteries from 100(A),

irrespective of their role. The only pure mortar sub unit raised was the 102nd Light Battery.

In summary, there is little help to be gleaned in terms of titling mortar batteries from the historical aspects of Australia's RAA mortar batteries in times of peace.

Establishing a Nomenclature

When considering heritage versus AIF versus peace time nomenclature for RAA mortar batteries, it must be acknowledged that firstly, a logical heritage numbering system has been enshrined in the field units and continues in today's part-time orbat this is the AIF numbering system. Secondly, there have not been any heritage aspects maintained from 1st AIF mortar unit nomenclature and there are no worthy historical precedents in the titling of 2nd AIF artillery mortar units.

*... there is little help to be gleaned
in terms of titling mortar batteries
from the historical aspects of
Australia's RAA mortar batteries
in times of peace.*

A third point which surfaces is the transition when titling artillery units equipped with mortars from using the term 'mortar' in the First World War to a more generic 'light' in the 1950s. There are at least two suggestions for this passage: a division of surface-to-surface artillery into light, medium and heavy units to categorise the calibre of weapons being used; and to create a distinction between artillery and infantry mortar units 'light' for the Gunners and 'mortar' for the Infantrymen. It therefore seems appropriate that the term 'light' should be maintained as a heritage gesture to acknowledge that the future mortar units are being manned by Gunners.

A final factor to be noted before reviewing possible nomenclatures is Headquarters 2nd Division's indication that current battery locations will, in a number of cases in the future, become troop locations of a battery (minus) located elsewhere. Troops of field and mortar batteries have always been alphabetically titled A, B, C and D Troops. The separated troop locations would thus become B Troop of 13th Light Battery or perhaps B/13th Light Troop, either being somewhat of a mouthful. This flags the likelihood of a requirement to allocate mortar troops discrete titles.

With the above in mind, it is now time to consider five options which have arisen from the wider

Gunner community since Plan Beersheba was announced. Whilst these may not exhaust all possibilities, they are considered sufficient 'straw men' to promote consideration of the key attributes in determining a nomenclature for future RAA mortar batteries: extant regimental and battery numbering, senior AIF battery numbering, senior formation titles, current battery seniority and state batteries.

Extant Regimental and Battery Numbering. Plan Beersheba forecasts the reduction of each of 2nd/10th Field Regiment's existing 22nd and 38th Batteries to mortar troops of a mortar battery of 5/6 RVR. This option proposes establishing the 22nd and 38th Mortar Troops of the 2nd/10th Mortar Battery.

- This supports the above discussion on the simplicity of discrete troop titles.
- It retains heritage numeric titles within local areas of recruitment.
- It abrogates the traditional RAA principle of not combining titles for sub units.
- It introduces discrete troop titles instead of the historical unit alphabetical system.

Senior AIF Battery Numbering. This option offers the senior AIF battery raised in the state or territorial area as the number for the mortar battery. Using the 2nd/10th example again, Victoria would have the 4th Mortar Battery based on the 4th Battery being the senior raised in that state in August 1914 for the 1st AIF. Troops would be A and B.

- This relies heavily on there being significant state AIF heritages.
- It dissolves any need for discussion on current unit / battery designations.
- Troop titles are not discrete without being cumbersome.
- It denies local area allegiance to heritage titling.

Senior Formation Titles. This mortar battery title is based on the senior infantry formation in the state or territorial area. Using the 2nd/10th example again, the Victorian battery would take its name from the 4th Brigade to become the 4th Mortar Battery. The option also suggests troops be either the traditional A and B or 22nd and 38th Mortar Troops using the extant battery numbers.

- This provides for discrete troop titles and retains local allegiances.
- It prevents any argument concerning current unit / battery names.

- Heritage unit titles would be lost.
- There are no precedents for titling RAA units based on infantry brigades.

Current Battery Seniority. This option compares existing battery seniority by date of formation as an artillery unit. In the 2nd/10th case, 22nd Battery was raised in 1954 whilst 38th Battery was formed in 1938. The new unit would thus be 38th Mortar Battery. Its troops would follow the traditional A and B titling.

- This is a simple and easily acknowledged solution.
- Heritage unit titles would be lost.
- Troop titles are not discrete without being cumbersome.
- Local heritage number affiliations would be lost.

State Batteries. This proposal is based on the state battery which had the first gun to be used on active service. In Victoria, 4th Battery has been identified as having the first field gun in action at Gallipoli in 1915. This option for 4th Mortar Battery does not propose any nomenclature for the troops so the traditional A and B have been assumed.

- This is a clear-cut decision for Victoria but is more complex in other states.
- It negates any decisions on current unit and battery titles.
- Troop titles are not discrete without being cumbersome.
- Heritage unit and local affiliations would be lost.

Conclusions. The system of titling future RAA mortar batteries and troops should have the following attributes:

- Retain the existing heritage unit and battery numbers.
- Allocate discrete troop numbers.
- Preferably maintain the 'light' terminology to emphasise RAA manned units.
- The first option employing extant regimental and battery numbering for light battery and troop titling meets all these criteria.

Recommendations

Battery Nomenclature. Future batteries equipped with mortars and manned by RAA personnel should be known by their previous heritage regimental numbers and titled 'light' in preference to 'mortar', eg, 2nd/10th Light Battery RAA.

Troop Nomenclature. Future troops of batteries equipped with mortars and manned by RAA personnel should be known by their previous heritage battery numbers and titled 'light' in preference to 'mortar', eg, 22nd Light Troop RAA and 38th Light Troop RAA of the 2nd/10th Light Battery RAA.

Quo Vadis 105 mm Artillery?

*Colonel Alan Hutchinson (Retd)
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Joint Logistics Command

My views concern the decision taken by Army, admittedly some years ago, to remove 105 mm calibre artillery from the RAA inventory, and to have 155 mm as the sole calibre available to the Regiment. It has been written following the Government's comparatively recent decision not to proceed with Phase 1C of LAND 17 – 18 x 155 mm SP Howitzers.

It seems to me that Army has forgotten a number of important lessons learned the hard way in Vietnam, in regard to employment of artillery ...

First, let me say that I fully support the decision to replace the venerable M198s with the new M777A2 155 mm Lightweight Towed Howitzers. In my current job in the Directorate of Ordnance Safety, I have witnessed the procurement, testing and introduction into service of the M777A2s, as well as the new range of 155 mm projectiles, fuzes and propellants. I am sure that the new howitzers and ammunition will serve the Army well, in their intended role. However, since World War II, the RAA always found it necessary to have both Field and Medium Artillery in its inventory, as exemplified by the use of 25 pounder and 5.5 inch guns, even though they may not have both been used in any one conflict. However, the situation has now altered. I have difficulty in determining why the situation has changed, and caused Army to remove probably the more useful calibre weapon from its inventory.

My concern relates to the fact that Army seems to have adopted the 'one calibre fits all' philosophy. Being an old Gunner, I have vivid recollections of 105 mm artillery being brought quite close (to within 100 to 200 metres, and not always intentionally) to friendly troops in Vietnam, and usually with no friendly casualties. Whilst the 105 mm projectile does not possess the penetrative capability, or the range, of the 155 mm round, it does have certain advantages over its larger cousin.

It seems to me that Army has forgotten a number of important lessons learned the hard way in Vietnam, in regard to employment of artillery and what it can do for the supported arms commander. Indeed, one has to go back to Vietnam days to recall when artillery was used to support platoon, company and even battalion attacks. Despite Army's involvement in a number of conflicts since Vietnam, no RAA battery has been deployed in support of operations in East Timor, Iraq or Afghanistan. It is appreciated that allied 155 mm artillery has been used on occasions to support Australian Infantry and Special Forces in Afghanistan. But it appears to have been the exception, rather than the rule. It should be noted that Australian Gunners were integrated very successfully into Royal Artillery 105 mm Light Gun batteries in Afghanistan, achieving what I am led to believe were some most satisfactory operational outcomes.

Despite Army's involvement in a number of conflicts since Vietnam, no RAA battery has been deployed in support of operations in East Timor, Iraq or Afghanistan.

Because Army now possesses only one calibre of artillery (what used to be called Medium Artillery), it seems that it now has to be all things to all men. The commander in the field has lost a great deal of flexibility, in that he has only 81 mm mortars and 155 mm artillery available to provide continuous indirect fire support (I am excluding air support in this context, because despite their best endeavours, air support is unlikely to ever provide continuous fire support). In a sense, we seem to have removed our putter and irons from our golf bag, and are now left with just the woods. I am not saying we should have solely 105 mm artillery in our inventory; I am strongly convinced that we need both calibres, but for differing roles. The two calibres complement each other.

I have compared the major advantages and disadvantages, as I see them, of both 155 mm and 105 mm systems below.

155 mm System

Advantages

- Longer range.
- Greater splinter distance.
- Greater penetrative capability.
- Much greater accuracy and less dispersion when using precision guided (eg, Excalibur) and 'smart' (eg, SMArt 155) versions.
- Modular charge systems available.
- Fewer rounds required to destroy a target.

Disadvantages

- Much more expensive (both Howitzer and ammunition).
- Because of larger and heavier projectile, much heavier logistic burden.
- Because of greater splinter distance, cannot be brought as close to friendly forces.
- Larger detachment required.
- Larger gun tractor required.
- Slower rate of fire (manual loading).
- Larger/heavier aircraft required to move same number of Howitzers.
- More difficult to deploy.
- There will be fewer 155 mm projectiles available on the battlefield, because of costs and logistic implications.

105 mm System

Advantages

- Relatively cheap to procure (both Howitzer and ammunition).
- Easy to deploy, with smaller gun tractor required.
- Reduced splinter distance allows supporting fire to be brought closer to friendly troops.
- Smaller detachment required.
- Faster rate of fire (manual loading).
- More rounds are able to be transported in same number of vehicles.

Disadvantages

- Shorter range, with lesser splinter distance.
- Lesser penetrative capability.
- Unless Precision Guidance Kit is used, precision guidance is not available.
- Only 'older generation' propellants are available.
- More rounds are required for similar effect at the target.

The British Army had considerable success with their Light Guns in both the Second Gulf War and in their Falklands campaign. And one would have to ask whether D Company 6 RAR would have survived at Long Tan if only 155 mm artillery had been available to support them. As it was, some 3,198 rounds of 105 mm artillery were fired at Long Tan by 1st Field Regiment (by 103, 105 and 161 Field Batteries), with an additional 242 rounds of 155 mm artillery being fired by Battery 'A' 2/35th US Field Artillery, which was under operational control of the Regiment.

Ironically, I note that the British Army still retains its Light Gun in service in a number of regular regiments. Similarly, the US Army has their version (M119) of the British Light Gun in service in a number of its regular brigades.

In my opinion, the Australian Army does not have a great track record in relation to the selection of its Howitzers. In the case of the Hamel Gun, in the 1980s, Army spent many millions of dollars when it contracted ADI to manufacture both the L118 (Abbot) and L119 (M1) versions of the British Light Gun locally. This, theoretically, enabled the Gunners to shoot out to 17.2 km with the L118 barrel, approximately 6 km further than could be achieved with the old M2A2. Unfortunately, and late in the day, a high level Defence committee decided to cancel the last two phases of Project Hamel, which were:

- The phase to provide an indigenous capability to manufacture Abbot ammunition; and
- The phase to build a Capability Reserve of Abbot ammunition, for operational contingencies.

... I am still not convinced that the removal of 105 mm artillery has been thought through.

I am not aware of the reasons for these decisions, but I strongly suspect that they simply related to costs. At the time, the word around Materiel Division – Army was that the committee thought that, should RAA field batteries be deployed on operations, we had sufficient stocks of M1 ammunition to last us until we could buy some Abbot ammunition from Britain. In my opinion, this was always a fallacious argument, as the Army had purchased very few Abbot rounds when Hamel was introduced into service, and there was no guarantee that Britain would be able, or willing, to provide the number of Abbot rounds required in the timeframe. So, in the end, and through no fault of the Hamel Project Team, the RAA ended up with new Howitzers which cost many millions of dollars

to manufacture, but that could shoot no further than the WWII vintage M2A2s that they replaced.

Although the decision to withdraw 105 mm artillery from Army's inventory is not directly related to the decisions taken with Project Hamel, I am still not convinced that the removal of 105 mm artillery has been thought through. Should RAA batteries be required to deploy operationally, to support our Infantry forces, I suspect that it would not be long before the inadequacies of the fire support available would be revealed. I am unsure how the situation might be rectified at this late stage, but I understand that a contract may be still extant between the US Army and Rock Island Arsenal for the supply of M119s. It is probably fanciful at this stage, but could the 18 SPHs which have been recently cancelled, be replaced by say, four batteries (plus spares) of M119s? It would at least, restore some flexibility to the artillery support available, and they would certainly cost less than an additional 18 x M777A2s. I appreciate that my proposal may be somewhat naïve, and avoids many other important issues, such as maintenance, training and manpower, but perhaps it may be worth considering.

I would be grateful for readers' thoughts.

Trainers leave a legacy

WO1 Peter Simic

OVER the past two-to-three years a number of WO1s have been entrusted with the lengthy process of translating training manuals into Dari for the ANA.

Their task involves evaluating the ANA instructors and proposing changes to their training to reflect the NATO training mission – training the Afghan trainers, accelerating leader development, building literacy and vocational skills, inculcating an ethos of stewardship and developing enduring institutions. These systems and enablers will help develop a self-reliant, enduring, self-sustaining and professionally led ANA.

These WO1s were part of what is now known as the Afghan National Army Training and Education Command-Training Advisory Group and formed the Training Standards and Evaluation Branch (TSE).

The English versions of the two training management plans were completed in March, with another document handed over on July 22. It is hoped the translating and editing of the final phase will soon be complete.

Australia's contribution to the TSE will end soon with the redeployment of the current personnel.

Army, August 16, 2012

Personnel & Training

Appointments

Senior Officers

Brigadier P.D. McLachlan, CSC, ADC – Head of Land Systems Division, on promotion to Major General from January 2013

Unit Command

The Head of Regiment wishes to advise the Chief of Army's announcement of new Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery command appointments for 2013:

- 8221417 Lieutenant Colonel D.J. Hill – 4th Regiment RAA
- 8227498 Lieutenant Colonel J.J. West – 8th/12th Regiment RAA
- 8251822 Lieutenant Colonel D.M. Edwards – School of Artillery
- 8265045 Lieutenant Colonel B.T. Galvin – 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment

Regimental Sergeant Major

The Head of Regiment wishes to advise the Chief of Army's announcement of new Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Regimental Sergeant Major TIER B appointments for 2013:

- 8222762 Warrant Officer Class One R.J. Thompson – Regimental Master Gunner & RAA Trade & Training Policy, Combined Arms Training Centre
- 8270904 Warrant Officer Class One M.R. Clayton – Headquarters 6th Brigade

The Head of Regiment wishes to advise the Chief of Army's announcement of new Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Regimental Sergeant Major TIER A appointments for 2013:

- 8239055 Warrant Officer Class One B.J. Fox – 16th Air Land Regiment
- 8265715 Warrant Officer Class One A.M. Hortle – School of Artillery
- 8235053 Warrant Officer Class One D.J. Sinclair – 2nd/10th Field Regiment
- 8237099 Warrant Officer Class One P.G. Holstein – 1st Regiment RAA Standards Cell
- 8246032 Warrant Officer Class One S.J. Voss – 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment UAS Standards
- 8213005 Warrant Officer Class One D.T. McGarry – CATC South Australia
- 8234821 Warrant Officer Class One S.R. Driscoll – LWC Victoria
- 8234075 Warrant Officer Class One B.C. Kyrwood – UNSW Training Company

The Head of Regiment would like to congratulate, on behalf of all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, the nominated officers and warrant officers on their new appointments.

DOCM-A

*Lieutenant Colonel Nick Wilson
Career Advisor Artillery*

Hopefully by now, you are all aware of your 2013 employment where applicable. As evidenced by the outcome of the recent Moratorium and Repechage conference, I think we have achieved a good fit for both you and the Royal Regiment in most cases, and it is my sincere wish that you will find your new appointment rewarding; both personally and professionally. Of course, aligning the 'trinity' of career development needs, Service need and individual wants, is often a difficult (and

confronting) task, so where necessary I will highlight any ongoing issues during my handover, once I have engaged the chain of command and the individual further.

Notwithstanding this, posting orders are done and my focus has now switched to providing you tailored guidance in the form of Annual Career Guidance letters (ACGs). As indicated in previous correspondence, this is an individually prepared statement which covers aspects of:

- ACOTC completion requirements;
- Broad posting **options** or type of employment;
- Some discussion about career milestones, pathways and general competitiveness;
- Information about any upcoming Personnel Advisory Committees (PAC); and
- Information about any PAR issues.

Now, due to a compressed timeline these will not be written for every Captain / Major. Rather, they have been tailored to focus on those officers in cohorts approaching a milestone of sorts (eg, Captain 2007 – 10; Major 2009 – 12). **Please note:** that this in no way de-values the remainder – you were given fairly specific advice during the 2012 interview series and detailed HOTO notes have been prepared for my replacement. **Please note:** ACGs will available on your PMKeyS Self Service in January / February next year.

As we fast approach the year's end, courses are once again becoming an issue WRT available positions. I need to reinforce that your completion of the ACOTC is your responsibility; and a plan should be compiled with your chain of command to ensure that it gets done. Leaving it to the last course of the year is fraught with danger as these are nearly always over-subscribed. And if you are already Provisional, then you are taking a rather large risk. My advice? Engage your chain of command early IOT seek release and then *nominate* for the relevant course through your unit channels on PMKeyS. For those posted at Non-Army Group locations without PMKeyS access, please contact the CA RAA via email to be nominated for courses.

This time of year is also reporting time. I cannot over-emphasise the importance of the PAR to the processes carried out here at DOCM-A (especially the PAC). Whether you are writing or receiving a report, it is vital that the maximum care is taken with report construction, and its subsequent arrival in Canberra. Make an effort to ensure that reports are signed correctly in every area, and then sent to

DOCM-A in an 'e-copy' and in its original hard-copy form. The email address is docmpar@defence.gov.au. Remember to use the DOCM-A website and the various Dispatches – there is an excellent article on PAR construction that you will find useful.

Finally, I will have marched out of DOCM-A by the time you read this. As per my previous correspondence, Major Andrew Campbell (Career Advisor Aviation) will hold the fort for the few months leading the Christmas; noting all internal DOCM processes such as ACSC pre-brief, junior PAC and so forth will have been completed prior to my march out. My replacement next year is Major Nathan Laughton who is currently attending Australian Command and Staff College. Nathan comes with a wealth of experience, including Regimental service in two gun units, Headquarters 3rd Brigade, Royal Military College Duntroon and most recently as Battery Commander 'A' Battery, prior to Australian Command and Staff College; and I am very confident his transition into the Career Advisor job will be seamless. He will be contactable from late January 2013.

Therefore, as a last word let me take this opportunity to thank you all (both chain of command and individually) for your support and guidance throughout my tenure as the Career Advisor. I have enjoyed this job immensely and in many respects will be very sorry to leave it. I can honestly say that I have been hugely impressed by the calibre of our officers, and I know the Royal Regiment is postured for a strong future because of your leadership. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to serving with you somewhere in the future.

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RAA LIAISON LETTER

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NOTICE NOTICE**

Artillery Trade & Training

*Warrant Officer Class One Paul Washford
Regimental Master Gunner*

'Through all this welter of change, your mission remains fixed, determined, inviolable – it is to win our wars.'

General Douglas MacArthur,
West Point, 1962

Introduction

Again we are in the midst of another extremely busy year for the Artillery Trade and Training (Arty TT) Cell. We are still dealing with the introduction into service (IIS) of many new capabilities, and as it was last year this has been our priority of effort. There are many in the wider RAA family and across Army that still do not understand what CATC (Arty TT) is capable of. Once again, here is a reminder to all of what we can do for you. Broadly, Arty TT is responsible for the subject areas listed in the following paragraphs.

Trade / Employment Management / Training Development Responsibilities

Artillery Trade and Training (Arty TT) cell responsibilities include providing advice to the Commandant CATC (COMDT CATC), Head of Regiment (HOR), Deputy Head of Regiment (DHOR), subject matter experts (SME) and RAA units on all RAA trade management, employment policy and training development issues.

The cell is responsible for employment management and employment policy issues for all RAA trades. This includes the development of policy documents (Employment Specifications and Employment Category Standing Orders) and the communication of these strategies. The cell also seeks input from the wider RAA community as to any specific anomalies or policy areas that need to be addressed.

The cells training development responsibilities include the analyse, design, develop and evaluation phases of RAA training; whilst the School of Artillery is responsible for the conduct of that training and are to ensure that it is conducted in accordance with the *ADFP 7.0.2 The Defence Training Model (DTM)*.

The CATC expert on these matters is the SO2 Training Systems & Training Development (TS & TD) who can be contacted at CATT BR HQ CATC.

External Policy

The cell is responsible for the review of externally created documents as they pertain to the RAA trades. Documents may include (but are not limited to) Occupational Analyses (OA), Training Needs Analysis Reports (TNAR), Fundamental Input to Capability (FIC) plans, Army Manual of OH&S, ILSC/ILSP/ILSI (Logistic Plans) and RAA future capability plans.

Provide Advice to COMDT CATC / HOR / Unit Commanders

The cell provides advice to commanders at all levels on how higher level decisions will impact on RAA trade management, trade structures and training development.

Capability and Acquisition

Equipment acquisitions are the '*primary driver*' for changes in trade structures and training. This can have substantial implications for trade models, training and remuneration. The cell provides advice to a range of RAA related projects on their effects to trade structure and training.

Doctrine

The cell participates in a range of RAA doctrine related groups (Authors Briefs / Working Groups, etc).

2012 - A Busy Year

This year has been no different to any other year. The cell has continued to review and update the RAA Employment Specifications and with the current work on UAV (20 STA REGT), C-RAM (16 ALR), restructure of the OS Regiments and the 2 Div Mortar Battery redevelopment, this will be an ongoing task.

Other projects that the cell is involved with are:

- Physical Employment Standards (PES);
- Army Colour Perception Review;
- JP 2072 – Battlespace Communications System;
- Land 121 – Field Vehicles & trailers;
- Land 400 – Land Combat Vehicle System;
- JP129 Ph 4 – UAS for RAInf & RAAC; and

- Land 75/ Land 125 – Battlefield Command Support System.

Course Development 2012

With the introduction into service of much of the Land 17 main equipments over the last 12 months, courses have been re-designed to complement new OS trade structures as well as new capabilities. Most career courses have been trialled throughout 2012 as pilot courses and will be tweaked over the coming months to reflect lessons learned from instructors and trainees.

The JFT course has undergone a considerable re-build to reflect the stated requirements of RAA units and the School of Artillery, as well as a review of the JFO module to ensure that the Australian course is compliant with the stated the requirements of the US.

The ROBC OS course has been re-written and the new course will reflect a revised training package that will ensure that future RAA OS Lieutenants will complete their course job ready for First Appointment as RAA Troop Commanders. The revised course contains most elements of the former gun position officer course which will mean that all RAA Lieutenant will be qualified for employment as senior firing officers in battery command posts.

2013 will see the re-write of the MANOPS OS course, which will be significantly longer than the current MANOPS OS course as much of the revised course will focus on technical gunnery, cross-trade training and qualification as well as the traditional SMIG/BG/BSM components. It is forecast that the first revised MANOPS OS course will be conducted in 2014.

The TMP for Shadow UAV Operators is in its final stages of development; the TMP has been designed for the new expeditionary UAV runway; and work has commenced on designing a new UAS ROBC + ROGC course.

Work has been completed on the C-RAM operator course TMP and it was signed off in Pilot on 23rd January 2012. The first course was conducted at 16 ALR between July and August 2012. As part of the development process of the TMP, members from the RAA TT cell went to 16 ALR for the final week of the course. A Training Review was conducted with amendments and improvements identified for the next C-RAM course planned to commence prior to the end of the year.

Development on the Giraffe – Agile Multi Beam Radar (G-AMB) TMP is almost completed and ready for training in 2013.

Web Based Support

The Arty TT cell has continued to develop an extensive web based tool box on the Arty TT webpage that specifically targets Unit Standard WOs and SMIGs, however, it also provides all ranks with the most current trade and pay related information.

The Arty TT web page includes a link to an RAA forum page where anyone can insert a topic for discussion. This link continues to be underutilised and I encourage all ranks to view the site and make comment. The web page also contains guidance on RCC/RPL applications, EIT/EIR issues, waiver applications and course management for exported training.

Recognition of Current Competencies Process

The Arty TT Cell receives requests for Recognition of Current Competencies (RCC) on a regular basis and as it is the tool the cell utilises to remediate soldiers outstanding training issues, it is necessary to make the RAA (wider population) aware that ATI 1-3/12 Individual Training and Assessment in Army, dated 15th March 2012, in particular Annex E, details the necessary protocols, processes and procedures for a successful outcome in response to recognition requests.

IOT expedite the recognition process, the Arty TT Cell has again updated the website with a blank recognition template that is in line with the ATI 1-3/12 and new examples of minutes and supporting documentation to assist in presenting the most suitable information / evidence possible as this will ensure the best outcome for all concerned.

The new templates / examples are located within the ARTY TT Cell website at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/CATC/comweb.asp?page=25476&Title=Arty%20TT> under the RCC/RPL icon. Please contact the relevant Employment Category Manager for assistance or clarification on the requirements for recognition.

2013 Manning

The manning for the cell in 2013 will significantly change next year with the following personnel moving on to greener pastures:

Staff Officer Grade 2 Artillery – Major J. Batayola – SO2 Cap & Dev HQCATC

Staff Officer Grade 3 Artillery – Captain P. Mullaly – 6th Brigade

Regimental Master Gunner – Warrant Officer Class One P. Washford – Retirement

Warrant Officer Class Two C. Crout – Education Wing, Watsonia

Sergeant B. Lawson – 20th Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment

Those remaining in the cell are:

- Warrant Officer Class Two D. Theiss – TM OS
- Warrant Officer Class Two M. Mlikota – TM GBAD
- Warrant Officer Class Two J. Skewes – TM STA
- Sergeant D. Mason – TD
- Warrant Officer Class Two S. Morse – (Army Reserve TD)

Note: Confirmation of those personnel arriving in 2013 is yet to be confirmed.

Humble pie after making a meal of it

Peter Leahy

The Defence Minister, Stephen Smith, finally fronted up to his plate of humble pie on Wednesday. No matter how much he tried to disguise it with other tasty morsels such as a culture report and DLA Piper's report into abuse claims in the Australian Defence Force, it was still there front and centre on the plate: the Kirkham inquiry. Smith was invited to eat it and he gagged.

In the face of compelling material, he could not accept that he was wrong and that he had jumped the gun by speaking out so impetuously about the handling of the so-called Skype sex scandal at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Those who serve in the Defence Force will remember his intervention over the ADFA commandant, Bruce Kafer, and his lack of civility in being unable to acknowledge his mistake. His refusal to apologise diminishes his legitimacy as minister.

Soldiers, sailors and airmen do their difficult and dangerous jobs not because they are ordered to but out of a deep sense of duty, patriotism, loyalty and respect for their leaders. They are made of the Anzac legend. We should be very proud of them. They will make many sacrifices on behalf of the nation - even, sadly, lay down their lives. They don't ask for much more than respect and good leadership in return. But Smith is making it hard for them.

Many politicians today seem reluctant to recognise that their duties and responsibilities are about serving the nation, its interests and its people rather than looking after themselves, their factions and their political parties.

Smith's refusal to release even a redacted version of the Kirkham inquiry leaves unanswered questions and the

suspicion he is still trying to protect himself. Yes, there are legal and privacy issues to be considered. They are the same sorts of issues that he seems to have resolved when recently ordering the release of all departmental "hot issue briefs" and when speaking about Commodore Kafer last year. Where is the transparency and openness? No doubt, once the freedom of information ferrets get to work, we will see a copy soon enough.

Clearly the Chief of the Defence Force, David Hurley, and Smith disagree on Kafer. By exercising his command responsibility and reappointing Kafer, General Hurley has expressed his confidence in the commodore's abilities. Smith could not bring himself to the same conclusion. Kafer might be back at work but he and the nation know that the minister would not express any confidence in him.

As to the other morsels on the plate, any allegation of illegality or improper conduct within the Defence Force, as made to DLA Piper for its report, must be pursued vigorously and relentlessly. Once an allegation is made it must be resolved. The 'cultural pathway' recommendations for reform must also be implemented. They appear sensible. They are also necessary to affirm in the minds of the public that the Defence Force demands the highest standards of behaviour and conduct from its soldiers, sailors and airmen.

The Defence Force is one of the most trusted and respected institutions. This position has been hard won and cannot be assumed. The minister correctly demands the highest standards of proper conduct from the Defence Force. The real measure is what happens when the shoe is on the other foot.

What might the minister take away from his serve of humble pie? First, to take a deep breath before becoming involved in personnel issues, and second, to leave the day-to-day internal management of his department to those who are properly responsible.

While pondering this advice, he might also consider focusing on his real task, which is about strategy, budgets and building the capability of the Defence Force.

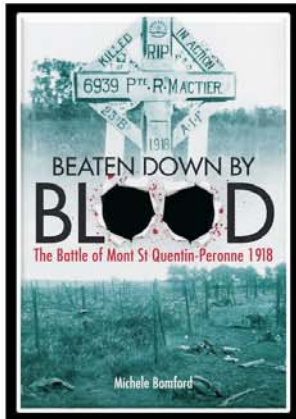
He might also consider telling the public what is going on in Afghanistan. Clearly the withdrawal is on. What are the Americans up to and how do we need to moderate our plans to match their tempo and posture? What are our intentions and what will our commitment to Afghanistan look like in the future?

Right now public sentiment has turned against our deployment to Afghanistan. Smith should turn his attention to developing a persuasive and informative narrative to explain what Australia has achieved in Afghanistan and what we hope to achieve in the future.

Let's hope that Bob Carr does a good job over in Foreign Affairs. If it doesn't go well, Smith will no doubt be thinking, 'That's the job I wanted and here I am stuck with Defence. I don't want them and they don't want me'.

Peter Leahy is the director of the National Security Institute at the University of Canberra. He was Chief of Army from 2002 to 2008.

The Age, March 9, 2012



BEATEN DOWN BY BLOOD

The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Peronne 1918

Michele Bomford

'Beaten Down by Blood' weaves an intricate and colourful tapestry of a complex battlefield with individuals placed on it; who they were and why they were there; conditions at home and insights into family, expectations and hopes.

Beaten Down by Blood: The Battle of Mont St Quentin - Peronne 1918 is the story, often told in the words of the men themselves, of the capture of the 'unattackable' Mont and the 'invincible' fortress town of Péronne; two of the

great feats of Australian forces in the First World War.

In *Beaten Down by Blood* author Michele Bomford examines the Digger at *The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Péronne* – pushed to the limits of his endurance undertaking two of the great feats of the Australian forces in the First World War; the capture of the 'unattackable' Mont and the 'invincible' fortress town of Péronne. It places real men on the battlefield, and tells of their fears, courage, exploits, injuries and deaths.

Author Michele Bomford charts an extraordinary journey from the trenches facing Mont St Quentin on 31 August 1918, through the frenetic phases of the battle until the final objectives are taken on 5 September. Bomford places real men on the battlefield, describing their fears and their courage and their often violent deaths. The struggle for control of the battle, to site the guns, to bridge the Somme and maintain communications are portrayed in vivid detail. The story also offers a glimpse of the men's families at home, their anxiety and their life-long grief.

This work provides a carefully articulated context, describing the ground over which the battle was fought and examining the corps and the ingredients which made it 'socially and structurally homogenous'. An overview of infantry firepower, tactics, training and discipline demonstrates that there was more to the Australian soldier than daring and dash. Likewise, the Australians' German opponent, while numerically weaker and haphazardly thrown into the line, is portrayed as a worthy adversary — a determined and tenacious opponent.

Beaten Down by Blood explores the relationship between myth and history and the significance of the Anzac legend. It analyses the forces that drove the diggers forward even when they had reached the limits of their endurance. *The Battle of Mont St Quentin-Péronne* represents the Australian Corps at its very best, its diggers fighting for peace and satisfied that, 'whatever might lie ahead, at least everything was right behind them'.

About the Author

Michele Bomford is a historian with a Masters in History and Diploma in Education. History has been her passion since she was eight years old, beginning with the Ancient Egyptians and later the Classical Greeks. More recently, a growing fascination with the First World War, Australian History and Family History has led her down a different path.

Mont St Quentin first captured my imagination when I walked the trenches and attended a service at the Memorial on Anzac Day, 1993, and discovered that my grandfather's battalion was involved in the battle.

The epiphany struck in 2008, standing on Mont St Quentin after attending the inaugural Dawn Service and being blown away by the welcome Australians received in Peronne; I realised I wanted to tell this largely untold story. I came home to Australia, and have been researching and writing ever since.

Around the Regiments

4th Regiment RAA

*Lieutenant Colonel C.P.H. Weller, CSC
Commanding Officer*

Land 17 has dominated much of this year with the innate challenges of introducing new equipment combining with the inherent ones of a project that relies in not insignificant part on other, often larger, and certainly wider projects. Integration of Land 17 and the development of its capability is something that will take many years before the full benefits of the new system are realised. One underestimates this combination with peril! Certainly, and here I am sure that the other Regiments' experience is similar, no one has had prior experience of such a dramatic and deep-seated change – almost revolutionary in its scale and scope. Major Will Harvey has more on this.

I have no doubt as to the ability of our Regiments to adapt and deal with the Shakespearean slings and arrows that our busy and transforming Army throws at them.

This has not been the Regiment's sole endeavour as the Ready Battalion Group's Artillery Group remained the Regiment's main effort and has required great effort and diligence to ensure those 90 personnel are ready, individually and collectively, for whatever might come at short notice. It has also seen the Regiment maintain two fleets of equipment and to have one Battery – 107th Battery – dual equipped. Across the Regiment this has increased workloads and complicated many processes but I have been impressed with how the Gunners, Tiffies, Truckies and Qees have adapted to and managed this aspect. I have no doubt as to the ability of our Regiments to adapt and deal with the

Shakespearean slings and arrows that our busy and transforming Army throws at them. Major Scott Calvert Battery Commander 107th Battery will illuminate what these requirements have meant for his Battery and the Regiment as a whole from the re-certification exercise in early February through the reorganisation in April / May to Exercise Hamel as the Enemy.

... became a restructure that returned the Regiment, in part, to the older structure ...

Reintegration of those personnel who deployed during 2011 has been another focus and this has seen the Regiment fill back out to closer to full strength and was planned to coincide with a reorganisation from Gun Battery, Operations and Observation Post Battery and CSS Battery to the FMR 09 Observation Post and Gun Battery construct. However, after having adopted that structure in late '09' the evidence was in that it did not support the Raise–Train–Sustain requirements especially with the weight of personnel and equipment in the Gun Battery. Thus our reorganisation, planned for ANZAC Day, became a restructure that returned the Regiment, in part, to the older structure albeit maintaining the JFECC structure; that had been tested during operations and exercise and does meet the contemporary fires and effects coordination demands. Similarly the up-gunned JFT, with its three pairs, although at times challenging to man, provides better support to the Battle Groups and their Combat Teams. Although not one of the directly considered factors, under the previous structure inter Battery competition was difficult as the preponderance of people in the Gun Battery made most activities a foregone conclusion, whereas the present structure has seen this re-emerge even with 109 and 108 Batteries being manned to about 60% of 107. More importantly, the restructure has spread more evenly the command leadership and management of the

Regiment, and with the return to having more than three Battery Commanders, Battery Sergeant Majors et al, there has been a noted improvement in spirit and morale – this judgment comes not merely from my ivory tower... but most importantly from the Soldiers and Junior Non Commissioned Officers with whom I have spoken and their candid comments were telling. There has been a number of transfers and discharges from those who have returned from operations mainly at the Bombardier and Captain ranks but this is not surprising as for a majority of these I have welcomed them home from operations twice in my tenure as CO. This, combined with the natural juncture that these two ranks and the age usually represents for a Soldier's or Officer's career, makes this normal and expected. They are all wished well for their endeavours to come as they have served their country well and done their duty.

There has been a number of transfers and discharges from those who have returned from operations mainly at the Bombardier and Captain ranks ...

One area where the Regiment has performed admirably has been on the sporting front. Major Brent Saltmarsh, Battery Commander CSS, has done sterling work on the coordination and management front here, which has ensured the Regiment knows what is being played, where and when as well as working with individual sports officers to guarantee our teams are given every opportunity to compete in what is a fluid sporting competition. His drive and enthusiasm has reinvigorated this part of Regimental life and the results have seen the Regiment almost certain to be represented in the great majority of grand finals on 21st of September. The date for the Grand Final will mean that our teams will practice during Exercise Shot Start – the Regimental Land 17 Live Fire Exercise – journeying back from High Range and for the rest of us to spend that time doing some PT in preparation for the RAA Physical Employment Standard testing scheduled for late October! On the Commander's trophy competition front the Regiment performance has produced strong results including the strongest obstacle course team I have seen in nine years in the Regiment. Although not yet announced we look like having been pipped by the 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment – there but for some more small arms practice! Ending this part on a high note the Regiment won the Athletics Carnival and just as pleasing were the spirit and

volume along with the number and energy level of the supporters. This was acknowledged by all and lifted tangibly our competitors. The Northern Services Courier made note of this along with the rendition of happy birthday I received! Leaving aside that I showed my age, but only a tad, by pulling a hammy in the chain of command relay, which lost us an otherwise unbeatable lead and saw us into second place, the performance of the Regiment on and off the track was superb.

While ostensibly this year is reset the twin requirements of Ready Battalion Group and Land 17 have meant that, when combined with catching up on career courses for those deployed along with those scheduled as normal plus the higher than usual support requests, this year has been much busier than I predicted. Perhaps this is merely the nature of the beast and reflects that reset is a misnomer; or our expectations of it are misguided; or that as a supporting arm resetting does not really fit as envisaged. I sense that will ever we are developing the capability of Land 17, which will take a number of years, and supporting our expanded amphibious operations Resetting as it was envisaged will remain elusive.

... we will remember Captain Bryce Duffy on 29th October 2012 ...

As the Regiment moves into the final four months of the year there are a number of significant activities planned and milestones to be achieved. Completing our Introduction Into Service of Land 17 is the central one and this hinges predominantly on Exercise Shot Start, but is also integrated into the re-establishment of the Brigade's Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre that has lain dormant since Exercise Hamel in 2010. This will commence with lead-up training before the Brigade level command post exercise Exercise Silicon Brolga slated for late November. On the sporting and social side we will run an inter-battery sports competition finishing with a Regimental Open Afternoon and BBQ; have a mixed Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers Dinner along with a Regimental Ball. Not forgetting the ceremonial piece, we will remember Captain Bryce Duffy on 29th October 2012, and the RSM is planning a major parade to retire our present Colours and accept formally our new ones. Noting all this December will be here before we know it!

Ready Artillery Group

Major Scott Calvert
Battery Commander, 107th Battery

Exercise Hamel, the Australian Army's annual foundation war fighting exercise, certified 1st Brigade and their assigned force elements to deploy on future contingency operations and take over the responsibility of the Online Battle Group from 3rd Brigade later this year. As such, the current Ready Battle Group (RBG), based around 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment supported by sub elements from 3rd Brigade, was tasked as the opposing force. It was the Commanding Officer's intent to take the fight of a light battle group up against the might of an armoured brigade and test them to their limits.

... deployed to a civilian populated village (Raspberry Creek) in an effort to shield the guns from the air threat and counter battery fires.

In support, Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2 Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and C Squadron, 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) joined the RBG. Further, 173rd Aviation Squadron (Kiowa) provided aviation support (simulating attack aviation). The combined force totalled in excess of 1100 personnel.

107th Battery, as the Ready Artillery Group, deployed to Shoalwater Bay with four M777A2 Light Weight Howitzers and two L119s (Hamel) guns. A detachment from 1st Regiment, RAA flew up to reinforce the gun line. Each of the three Combat Teams (CTs) was supported by a JFT (commanded by a junior non commissioned officer) and Company G brought their Fire Support Team (FiST), commanded by a highly experienced (ex-SF) USMC infantry officer. The Battle Group (BG) Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre (JFECC) integrated offensive support assets during the planning stages and coordinated the current battle's offensive support once the 'box' went live. The RBG deployed to Samuel Hill to conduct final planning, orders, integration training and rehearsals.

The gun battery deployed to a civilian populated village (Raspberry Creek) in an effort to shield the guns from the air threat and counter battery fires. The RBG's Reconnaissance, Sniper, Surveillance (RSS) Platoon infiltrated into enemy territory and established a number of observation posts around Williamson airfield (1st Brigade's staging area). Over the course of the battle, RSS Platoon identified and located 1st Brigade's Headquarters, a gun battery, bulk fuel installations, aviation assets and provided accurate and timely assessments on formations, axis' of advance and resupply convoys. The RBG was therefore spread over the length and breadth of Shoalwater Bay Training Area. Despite a robust communications plan with a number of retransmission stations, it was a lesson re-learned where HF communications would have been best used as a back up to VHF.

The air threat really tested the camouflage and concealment of the gun line.

The battle commenced with an artillery raid by one M777A2, air lifted into the enemy area of operations, engaging with four rounds Excalibur on brigade headquarters, fuel installations and aviation assets. Due to the grounding of the CH-47 fleet, this attack was simulated by a Blackhawk and Hamel gun.

Once 1st Brigade's armoured forces began to advance south, the M777A2 battery was moved to a second gun area and the two Hamel guns were detached to Company G, to assist them with their urban defence of Raspberry Creek. This was a good test of our communications redundancy and C2 construct. As a result, 107th Battery was able to effectively support multiple, often conflicting, requests for offensive support.

The main threat to the gun lines was enemy air assets, both fixed and rotary wing. The air threat really tested the camouflage and concealment of the gun line. It proved how effective cam nets and passive air defence measures can be, if used properly.

Fortunately early on in the battle, a 1st Brigade JFT was captured (including their signals equipment) allowing the JFECC to listen to all enemy air traffic (therefore informing us of assets on station, duration and situation reports from the pilots and late in the piece, aborting final attack missions) and intermittently, the enemy's regimental artillery net. Accordingly, the RBG minimised road movement as required and passed on this valuable tactical

information to the CTs. The biggest coup however was the engagement and destruction of a Blackhawk helicopter, whose passenger manifest included the Commanding Officer of 1st Armoured Regiment. Their failure to sanitise equipment prior to infiltration and zeroise communications equipment when captured was an excellent example to our JFTs and a lesson well-learned.

The experience of our JFTs on Exercise Hamel was very much determined by the mission of their CT. One JFT marched over 100 km with full combat load (CT tasked with engaging 1st Brigade's rear areas), another constantly provided the vital link relaying all arms call for fire from his lead cavalry elements (CT engaged in the covering force battle) and the third was intimately involved in the fight as armoured vehicles rolled over their positions (CT delaying in defence). Once again, this proved the need for our JFTs to be physically robust, work intimately with their CT commander and provide advice on the full gamut of 155 mm ammunition available and other offensive support assets employment and availability. Full credit goes to the junior non commissioned officers commanding the JFTs, having to step up into that position while the JFT captains were deployed on Exercise Rimpac.

... it was exciting for the gunners when the enemy air assets finally found them ...

The Battery Commander's Tac Group was constantly on the move with the Commanding Officer's Tac Group, narrowly avoiding decisive engagement on several occasions, and was protected by the excellent intelligence provided by the JFECC on the enemy's air operations (at one point ordering us to

break track as an F/A-18 was coming in on its final attack run).

After numerous days of staying masked it was exciting for the gunners when the enemy air assets finally found them (allegedly assisted by an intelligence leak through the umpire network). A move to alternate ensued along a seemingly good track. This however was not the case; a thin hard crust masked a quagmire. One M777A2 was bogged up to its axels and three GTVs and a land rover disappeared into the mud. The Battery Commander could not have scripted a better Quick Decision Exercise for the Troop Commander, where the gun line personnel were forced to recover the gun and vehicles (without external assistance) while providing security against further air and / or ground attack.

... highlighting the value of dispersed gun positions when the air threat is rife.

After the vehicles were recovered, the gun line continued its withdrawal towards Freshwater Beach. To improve survivability, the troop split into three sections (two M777A2 and one L119). The gun line spent the last few days hiding from air and supporting the infantry in delaying the advance of 1st Brigade. Unfortunately, one of the sections of M777A2s was destroyed despite engaging a low flying, fast air asset with all arms air defence and remaining parachute flares. The remaining two sections survived however, highlighting the value of dispersed gun positions when the air threat is rife.

Prior to departing on the exercise, the Troop Commander, Lieutenant Ben White and the Battery



Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class Two Damien Lindsay laid the groundwork for the Battery to conduct air mobile operations with the M777A2. With the correct (stamped) single link assemblies and large clevises procured, the correct documentation available for the load masters and the draft doctrine in hand, 107th Battery was the first to air mobile an M777A2 in Australia. This was a significant achievement for all of those involved. The only loser in all of this was the gunner whose stomach did not take too kindly to some tactical flying.

Exercise Hamel was an excellent opportunity for 107th Battery to continue to develop our tactics, techniques and procedures dry firing and moving with the M777A2 and using AFATDS (after our successful conversion earlier this year). Further, it demonstrated how well we have integrated into the RBG (BC with CO's Tac, BG JFECC with BG Main HQ, JFTs with their CTs, the gun line and our resupply elements with Admin Company).

... RBG has constantly improved and developed into an effective, tight knit fighting force.

Over the course of this year, the RBG has constantly improved and developed into an effective, tight knit fighting force. It was an absolute pleasure to work with the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Eamon Lenaghan, his staff and the other supporting elements of the RBG.

Return to the Routine

*Major Phill Hickey
Executive Officer, 4th Regiment*

There have been numerous articles and blogs in recent times regarding the right amount balance afforded to those who return from operations, some from highly respected military minds and well respected theorists alike. Many of these views however, are conflicting; although I believe that we, the ADF, have improved the way we integrate veterans but there is still improvement to be made. We have come a long way from the days when Vietnam veterans were quietly ushered away from Sydney airport in the middle of the night back to barracks and knocked off to walk the streets of Liverpool and Ingleburn.

In more recent times there have been bands and media at the airport to welcome back the recently returned before they attend a couple days at work, go on well deserved leave and later march through the streets to the cheers of an appreciative public. A tribute only afforded the aforementioned veterans in 1987. But as the strain of operational separation and gratitude from the public slide into a memory spoken about in messes and clubs around the country what is the right mix of duty and rest, more importantly when do we commence treating the veterans as soldiers again?

... more importantly when do we commence treating the veterans as soldiers again?

It was only recently that Army decided to formalise its approach to returning from operations. Headquarters 1st Division released its first post-deployment directive in 2009, and whilst this directive was not new in its approach it was influenced heavily by the conflicting demands of the plethora of corps, all-corps and medical requirements. In conjunction with the Army directive on operational respite, the post-deployment directive attempted to provide the balance between what was required and desired by the competing demands, but provide formation commanders flexibility in their approach to how to carry out this task. Since this time until now, the Forces Command, Force Generation Cycle (Reset, Reading, Ready) has been developed and some theorists believe that Reset and Respite guarantee veterans Rest. This view may be utopian, but how much rest can or should be afforded.

This view may be utopian, but how much rest can or should be afforded.

The length of time associated with the operational tour will vary depending on the pre-deployment training aspect. Often this causes more instability that the deployment itself, especially for those not posted to the deploying locality. Competing training demands and an individual's desire to have more time with the family can often cause undue stress within the family, sometimes greater than the tour itself. Thus once the operational tour is over and the leave commences it is often the first genuine leave period for some 10 to 12 months. Historically post deployment leave will vary between 4 to 6 weeks, although individual circumstances will vary. When compared with those

who did not deploy this is roughly the same amount of leave, albeit less weekends and in a lump sum.

Taking this point of view, the variation between time off from those who deployed and those that did not at the end of a 12 month period is the same. Therefore it could be argued that there should be no quarter given to the veterans when they return to work? This simplistic view may sound reasonable for the benefit of the unit but is it in the best interest of the individual? Unfortunately there is no template; there will always be the competing demands of unit tempo, career courses and individual development. Some units have tried, and failed, by trying to isolate their veterans in support of the latter only to find that when required to ramp up, the discharge rate increased as well. I too, when in command, initially attempted to segregate the veterans for a period of time for their benefit. This decision was quickly reversed when they became bored and sought involvement at the realisation of the tempo of the rest of the battery. That is not to say that I did not seek opportunity for leave and career courses for these members, in fact this I saw as the priority, initially. So when did I stop treating them like veterans? When they themselves stopped treating themselves as veterans!

So when did I stop treating them like veterans? When they themselves stopped treating themselves as veterans!

It is my experience, having integrated members from the MRTF2, 2009 to 2010 into 108 Battery and having deployed subsequently with the MTF2, 2011 to 2012, that returning to the routine is an individual progression. As commanders, we provided the framework for unit and individual progression and monitor tempo accordingly. It is naive to place a timeframe on a group and expect to hit your mark, conversely double standards in treatment breeds contempt. It is my opinion that upon returning to work an upfront intent of what is to be expected and when, prioritisation of career courses and leave when it is not to the detriment of the unit, are key to the reintegration of veterans. Provide clear goals and parameters, manage expectations and desires and focus on building the 'we' mentality not the 'me'.

Introduction Into Service LAND 17

*Lieutenant G.D. Clark
108th Battery*



The 108th Battery is moving forward with great enthusiasm in regards to integrating Land 17 into the 4th Regiment. The Battery has experienced numerous challenges with the equipment, such as the availability of replacement parts as well as development of new SOPs in order to understand and redevelop fire discipline. The Battery has only had one field exercise so far this year to truly test itself on the equipment.

The objectives of this exercise were to qualify the soldiers on the M777A2 Howitzer and to develop new tactics, techniques and procedures with Land 17 equipment.

On the 6th June 2012, 108th Battery combined with 109th Battery deployed to Townsville Field Training Area on Exercise Devil's Crawl. The objectives of this exercise were to qualify the soldiers on the M777A2 Howitzer and to develop new tactics, techniques and procedures with Land 17 equipment. The exercise was manned with personnel from across the Regiment with attachments to both gun batteries coming from Combat Service Support and Operations Support Batteries. The 1st Regiment, RAA also provided a



Detachment to the exercise, this enabled the Troop to exercise with a realistic number of equipments.

The exercise was conducted by having a static observation post on Ant Hill accompanied by the JFECC, while the Gun Group deployed to numerous gun positions on the range. The Troop executed these deployments with minimal disruption, overcoming the challenges of new equipment and limited resources. Detachment commander Bombarider Stevens said, *'even though the M777 is a heavier and larger gun than the L119, there is little difference in the manoeuvrability between the two and the more exposure the gunners get the faster coming into action will be'*.

The Troop executed these deployments with minimal disruption, overcoming the challenges of new equipment ...

The Battery is gearing up for the next Regimental exercise later in the year, where those new tactics, techniques and procedures will be adopted and truly tested. The 108th Battery is progressing well with the new equipment and is on track to fully integrate Land 17 into the 4th Regiment.

Exercise Rimpac

*Captain Rob O'Donnell &
Captain Jimmy Wood*

Exercise RIM OF THE PACIFIC 2012, otherwise known as Exercise Rimpac, is a biennial international exercise hosted by the United States Navy and launched from the island of O'ahu, Hawaii. Starting in 1971, Exercise Rimpac has grown in breadth and scale through the years, with the 2012 iteration – the 23rd in the series – boasting 42 ships, six submarines, 200 aircraft and upwards of 25,000 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen drawn from the military forces of 22 nations.

The Australian contingent to Exercise Rimpac 2012 totalled approximately 1100 personnel, two ships, a submarine and three aircraft. 4th Regiment's contribution to this was a Joint Fires Team – consisting of Captain Wood; Lance Bombardiers Martin and Watson; Gunners Flakelar, Snowball and Taylor; two staff officers embedded with US elements, Captain O'Donnell and Warrant Officer Class Two Castek; and a storeman, Corporal Neders.

For the most part, Exercise Rimpac is a maritime exercise, with a number of naval Combined Task Forces patrolling the waters around Hawaii. The land component consisted of a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF), based on the 3rd Marine Regiment headquarters and two of its battalions aboard the Landing Helicopter Dock, USS Essex.

For Captain O'Donnell, time spent afloat became a daily routine of eating, sleeping, watch-keeping, attending countless meetings and trying to find a spare machine in the ship's gym. Whilst the USS Essex had better facilities (a convenience store, a respectable gym, a large flight deck, a library, a chapel and a barber) than previously experienced by 4th Regiment members on HMAS Choules earlier in the year, these areas were only available at certain times and had to be shared, not only with the entire SPMAGTF but with the 1,200-strong crew as well.

The JFT deployed on Exercise Rimpac as part of CT-A, based around A Company, 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. After spending the initial 96 hours of the trip confined to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB) while the rifle companies conducted urban close quarter battle training, the JFT commenced liaison and relationship development with the fire support teams and fire support coordination centre of Weapons Coy, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines.

... deployed to a static observation post situated some 8000 feet above mean sea level.

They were then integrated into the company's offensive support training program and commenced TTP development and planning for the upcoming Fire Support Coordination Exercise (FSCEX). The FSCEX was a week-long live-fire component taking place about halfway through the exercise proper, which would prove to be the highlight of the exercise (for Warrant Officer Class Two Castek and the JFT at least). The majority of the soldiers and marines went ashore onto Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), on the island of Hawaii (known colloquially as the Big Island). They conducted a number of live-fire activities, including small-arms ranges, indirect fires practices, and fixed- and rotary-wing attacks. The JFT – along with an eclectic mix of forward observers and joint terminal attack controllers from the NZ Army, 3rd Marines and 5th Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company –



The fleet, led by the USS NIMITZ. The USS ESSEX is directly behind her

deployed to a static observation post situated some 8000 feet above mean sea level.

This confronted (and in some cases abolished) any preconceived notions of what constituted a Hawaiian summertime – balmy evenings turned into dust storms and howling winds, with night-time temperatures below zero, and white sand, crystal waters and palm trees were replaced with desolate blackened lava fields.

Aircraft ranging from Canadian, USMC and USN F/A-18s, AH-1W Cobras, UH-1Y Iroquois Gunships

and USAF A-10s checked in daily at a gentlemanly hour – typically between 0930 h and 1030 h local time – and were happy to play until approximately 2300h, at which point the pilots would depart hastily, presumably to Waikiki for Pimms cups and Jamieson. Surface fires were provided by an 81 mm mortar platoon and a battery of M777s with whom Warrant Officer Class Two Castek was co-located, and whose mirth over the fires net was clearly evident when *C/S 'Dundee'* (Lance Bombardier Martin) began calling for fire in the most ocker accent he could muster.



Lance Bombardier Martin Preparing a Fire Mission

Mark and SEAD missions were used to add complexity into the CAS controls and in between aircraft checking off and new sets checking in, teams were free to conduct mortar and artillery missions. The FSCEX culminated with an obligatory and gratuitously low-flying panel check, and for Gunner Taylor a distinctly unique opportunity – a joyride in the venerable Huey gunship during an attack run with its 2.75 inch rockets, GAU-17 minigun and .50 cal MG. It was a fitting end to what was unquestionably an invaluable training and liaison opportunity.

Other high points for the JFT included time spent on Waimanalo beach conducting 'urban SIMCAS' and 'target talk-ons' while the remainder of the CT-A



Lavascape – GNR Flakelar, LBDR Watson, LBDR Martin and CPL Thomsen (1RAR) arrive at PTA



A USMC Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) returning to the well dock

conducted urban CQB drills in full assault order. Low points included being used as guinea pigs to test the buoyancy of the Marines' amphibious armoured vehicles during ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship vomit excursions.

Meanwhile, Warrant Officer Class Two Castek, who had been embedded with a USMC Artillery Battery aboard the Armada de la Republica Mexicana (ARM) USUMACINTA (Mexican Navy), was able to participate in gun line live firing, working not only in the Command Post but also running the line as a Section Commander and observing gun detachment drills. He especially enjoyed the FSCEX as it was a welcome break from the monotony of nachos, burritos, siestas and margheritas aboard the Mexican ship.

Whilst Exercise Rimpac was constrained in its realism (apparently PowerPoint is not actually a real planning tool), our participation was certainly not in vain. Beside the higher-level strategic objectives of the exercise, we also learned a couple of things

along the way, and dispelled some important myths – for instance, Americans are definitely not willing to hand over all of their kit for a slouch hat (they have to buy everything, including their own uniforms – no L&Ds).

... it was interesting to see how a large-scale military operates; the equipment they have available, how they use it ...

On a serious note, it was interesting to see how a large-scale military operates; the equipment they have available, how they use it and how that compares to us, and the cultural differences between the Australians and our international counterparts.

In summation, Exercise Rimpac was a positive and worthwhile experience which provided insight into a whole other realm of military capability, and setting us up to contribute to the development of our own amphibious doctrine and TTPs.



Ship-to-shore amphibious mech assault – cue “Ride of the Valkyries”



C-RAM – more than just Sense and Warn

Captain James Roberts
111th Battery, 16th Air Land Regiment

'You don't hurt 'em if you don't hit 'em.'

Lieutenant-General Lewis B. 'Chesty' Puller

Time for a Change

On the 17th of January 2012, after a proud history spanning 55 years, 111th Air Defence Battery became the 111th Counter-Rocket Artillery and Mortar Battery (111 C-RAM Bty). This change of name and task was a result of the rapid acquisition and deployment of the C-RAM 'Sense and Warn' capability to enhance force protection at Multi National Base Tarin Kot, in December 2010. The 'Sense and Warn' capability has grown to cover outlying patrol bases within Uruzgan province, the fourth rotation of Gunners from 16th Air Land

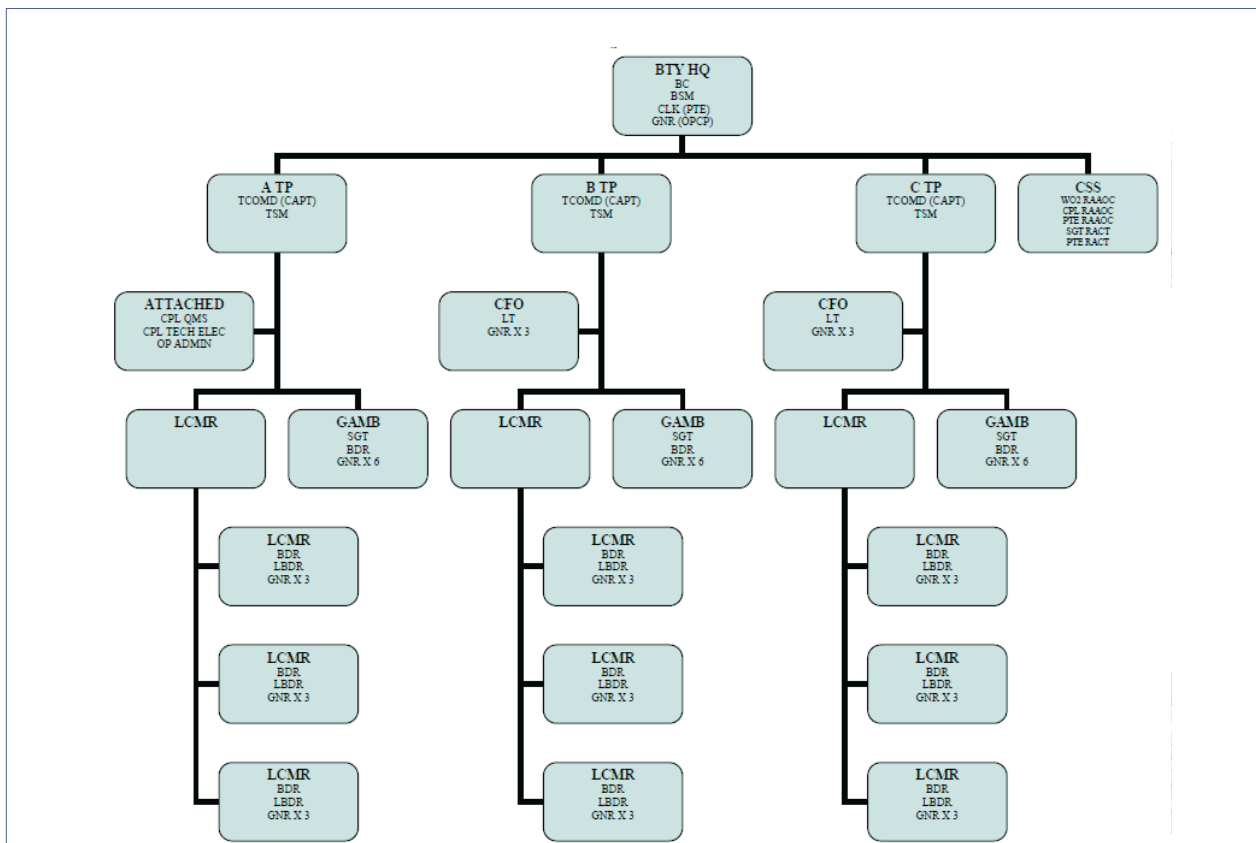
Regiment will deploy later in the year to continue this task.

111 Bty has been restructured to allow it to support formation level operations ...

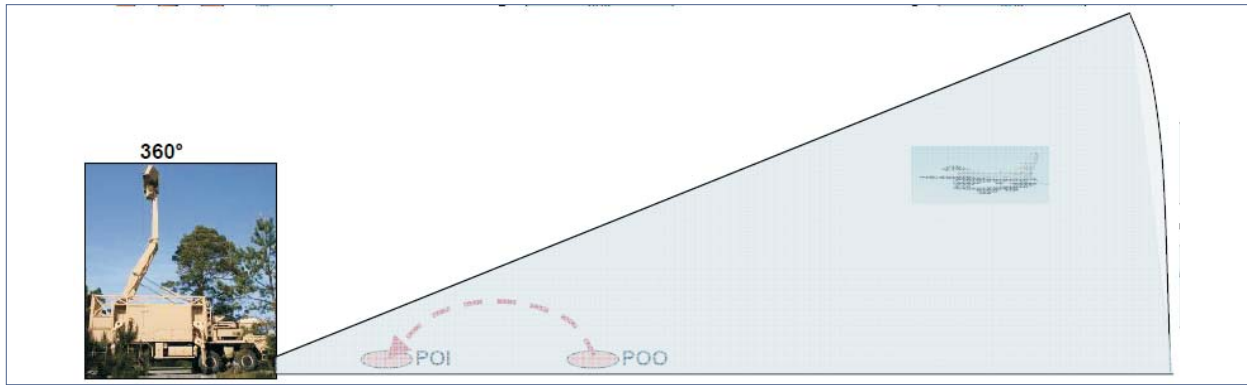
C-RAM has achieved success in theatre; however, it is more than just a force protection asset capable of a 'Sense and Warn' function. It is also a Target Acquisition (TA) capability. 111 Bty is currently developing a capability and readiness able to conduct the full spectrum of sustained operations. This will enable the Bty to support Army's Foundation War fighting training and enhance its operational effectiveness. 111 Bty has also broadened its tasks to include 'Sense, Warn and Locate' (SnWL).

What is New?

111 Bty is able to contribute to the wider Joint Fires capability, by providing a SnWL function. 111 Bty is equipped with the SAAB Giraffe Agile Multi Beam RADAR1 and the SRC Tech AN/TPQ 49 – Light Weight Counter Mortar RADAR2. These systems, coupled with a suite of C2 systems, are able to 'Sense' air tracks and surface-to-surface fires; warn against hostile air, surface-to-surface fires and



Note: A troop currently deployed as C-RAM Sense and Warn to MNBTK



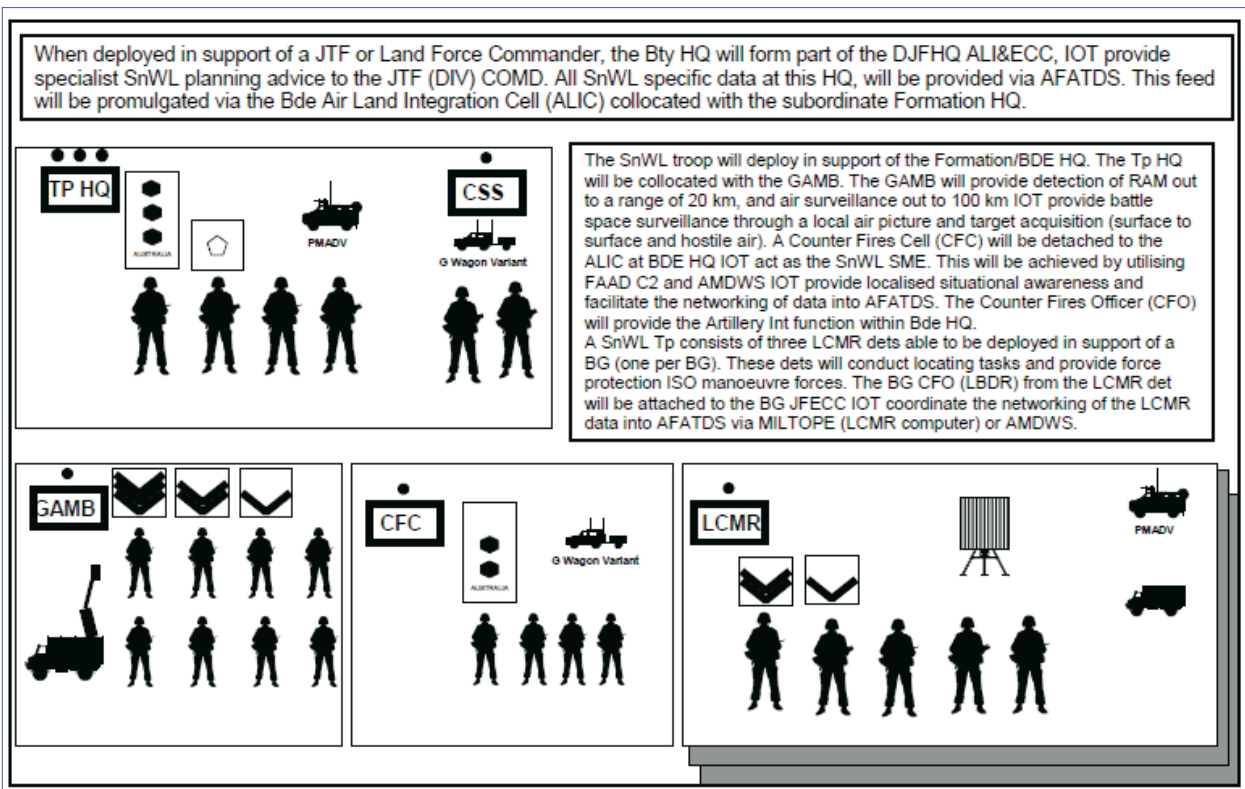
enhance force protection by 'Locating' hostile/friendly air and surface to surface point of origin, point of impact (POO & POI), and identify munitions types. These assets can be deployed in support of manoeuvre forces in a conventional threat environment.

111 Bty has been restructured to allow it to support formation level operations and also adapt to conduct dedicated and scalable SnWL missions for any force requiring a light weight and portable capability able to deliver intimate force protection; whilst, enhancing situational awareness from Battle Group to Formation level. The SnWL function will enhance force protection from air and surface attack; and inform counter fires planning in order to expedite a joint fires response.

111 Bty consists of a Bty HQ and three SnWL troops (see line diagram on previous page). The SnWL troops are structured to support a formation level

HQ utilising G-AMB and at Battle Group level utilising LCMR.

Sense. 111 Bty will provide an air and surface-to-surface fires sense function, the G-AMB is a multi-mission radar capability, able to act as a simultaneous air and ground sensor. The G-AMB is suited to performing surveillance missions and contributing to battle space management, and at the same time providing, a TA capability generating a POO to within 50 m accuracy (see illustration above). The GAMB will track blue, red, green and white air tracks; this information will be utilised to enhance the Local Air Picture (LAP) and networked with BMS-FIRES to better enable the delivery of joint effects. The LCMR operates in two modes: Sense and Warn, and Counter fires. Sense and warn mode is utilised for intimate force protection such as the task in Afghanistan; however, will still determine a POO and POI. Counter fires mode will provide a more accurate POO (<50 m). 111 Bty



utilising LCMR in Counter Fires mode, will provide intimate counter fires information to the supported Battle Group, allowing reduced Offensive Support response timings. For the first time Battle Groups will have an intimate CF/TA capability that will be networked into the Formation BMS - Fires or a dedicated CF network.

Warn. The introduction of the GAMB and LCMR radars will significantly enhance force protection to manoeuvre forces by identifying/tracking hostile air threats and surface-to-surface fires within a TAOR. This early warning can be utilised to sound localised alarms; utilising BMS and voice nets to give formation level early warning. The GAMB will enhance the capability of Air Defence assets by providing hostile air tracks from a range of 120 km. This early warning, and the ability to track friendly air movements, will result in better establishment and coordination of missile engagement zones, the early engagement of hostile air platforms and the establishment of weapon control measures in order to de-conflict airspace, and to provide clear air for a joint effects response.

Locate. 111 Bty utilising the GAMB and LCMR will have the capability to provide a locating function to the supported commander. The GAMB has a locating range of 25 km for surface-to-surface fires and the LCMR has a range of 10 km (for individual radars) in counter fires mode. Both systems are able to generate a POO <50 m and the LCMR can be employed as a standalone asset in order to provide an intimate locating function down to section level. The GAMB will be deployed at formation level to enable the locating and targeting of air and ground delivered fires. The sensor feeds are networked with the BMS- FIRES (AFATDS).

... will provide detection of rocket and mortars out to a range of 25 km, and a local air picture out to 120 km ...

The Way Forward

When deployed in support of a JTF or Land Force Commander, the 111 Bty HQ will form part of the Air Land Integration & Effects Coordination Cell, and will provide specialist SnWL planning advice to the JTF commander. All SnWL specific data, at this Headquarters, will be provided via subordinate feeds into BMS-FIRES. Integration of SnWL specific feeds will be coordinated by the Air Land Integration Cell (ALIC) collocated with the subordinate formation headquarters.

The SnWL Troop will deploy in support of the formation /brigade Headquarters. Troop headquarters will be collocated with the GAMB; the GAMB will provide detection of rocket and mortars out to a range of 25 km, and a local air picture out to 120 km, resulting in enhanced force protection, improved situational awareness and support to Joint Fires coordination / planning. The GAMB will also support localised air space management through the coordination of SnWL and ALIC C2.

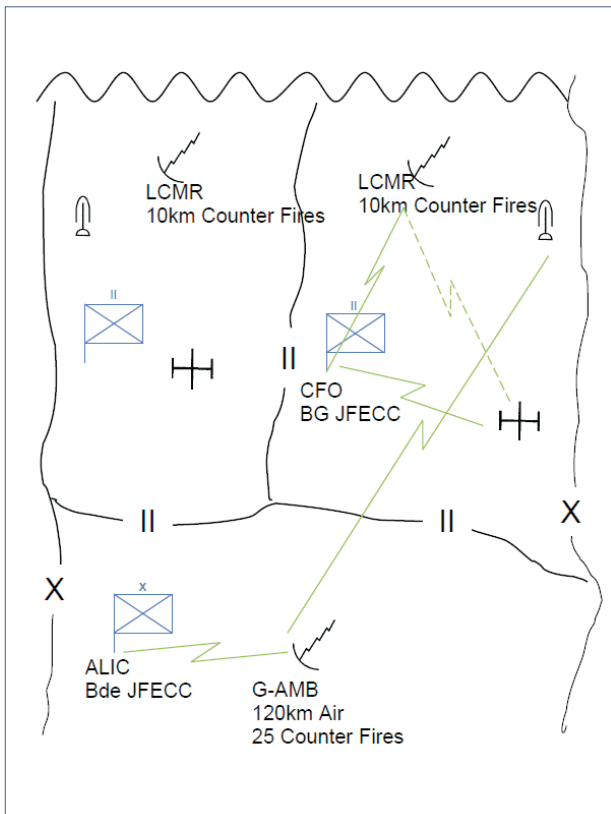
... will be equipped to enable commensurate mobility and networking with the majority of Land Forces.

A Counter Fires Officer (CFO) lieutenant and his team of three operators will be detached to the ALIC at brigade headquarters and will act as the SnWL SME. The integration and sharing of SnWL information will be achieved by utilising the Forward Area Air Defence (FAAD) C2 4 and Air Missile Defence Work Station (AMDWS) 5 to provide localised situational awareness and facilitate the networking of data into BMS-FIRES. The CFO will also provide CF advice / staff work to the Brigade Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre Commander (BDE JFECC COMD) and it is intended to develop an Artillery Intelligence function within this team.

A SnWL Troop will also contain three LCMR detachments (five pers per det) able to be deployed in support of a battle group; these detachments will conduct intimate CF tasks at the tactical level in order to enhance force protection and enable CF response of manoeuvre forces. The Detachments will be allocated under an appropriate command status to the Battle Group / JFT ME in order to provide CF information to the supported BG JFECC. A CFO (lance bombardier) from the senior LCMR detachment will be attached to the Battle Group JFECC and will coordinate the networking of the LCMR data into BMS - FIRES via MILTOPE (LCMR computer) or AMDWS. The CFO will also provide SnWL advice to the BG COMD. Likely tasks for these detachments will be to enhance force protection and provide a CF capability to identify and target hostile surface-to-surface fires FE, delivering immediate effects at Battle Group level. The intent is to provide a POO (<50 m); enabling a Joint Fires response, SnWL information can be utilised to conduct a direct counter fires response or queue other assets to support accurate delivery of counter fires.

SnWL Concept of Operation

The SnWL Bty will be equipped to enable commensurate mobility and networking with the majority of Land Forces. The GAMB is mounted on a S54 MAN truck and is highly mobile, enhancing survivability and tactical deployment options. The TP HQ and LCMR detachments will utilise PMVs and enhanced UNIMOG, allowing rapid redeployment and integration with land forces. 111 Bty will provide a 'BMS – Sense Warn and Locate' for networking the GAMB data, it is intended to utilise a HARRIS 117 G or narrow beam satellite RX/TX alternative to support this network. The LCMR will integrate with BMS-FIRES. This integration will be achieved by utilising the HARRIS suite of radios in accordance with LAND 125, LAND 75 and JP 2072, and the above mentioned C2 systems. These networks will enhance the BMS -Fires network, resulting in timely and accurate SnWL data and support to counter fires.



Conclusion

111 Bty is structured and equipped to provide a dedicated SnWL capability to Army in support of foundation war fighting concepts. The concepts developed over the last six months will be tested and refined on Exercise Valient Vigil 13 at Cultana, in order to allow 111 Bty to deploy on Exercise Talisman Sabre 13. 111 Bty will deliver agile and scalable SnWL solutions in order to enhance Joint Fires Effects to conventional formation level operations.

Notes:

SAAB Giraffe Agile Multi Beam Radar

General Parameters:



- Frequency band: 5.4 to 5.9 GHz
 - Transmitter type: TWT
- Antenna:
- Beam width: 2.1o
 - Average side lobe level: <-50 dB

- Radar Modes and Instrumented Coverage
- Instrumented ranges: 40/120/(180)km
- Antenna rotation rate: 30/60 rpm
- Full elevation coverage: >70°
- Altitude detection ceiling: >20000 m

IFF/SSR

- Modes: 1,2,3/A,S,4/NS
- Potential: 5
- Target Tracking
- Automatically initiated and tracked targets: 200
- Automatically initiated and tracked RAM targets: 100
- 360° Weapon Location – Mortars and Rockets
- Location range: 16/20 km
- Mortar position accuracy: <50 m CEP50

Light Weight Counter Mortar Radar



The LCMR system, lightweight counter-mortar radar, also known as AN/TPQ-49, provides continuous 360 degree surveillance and mortar location. It detects and locates mortar firing positions by tracking the mortar shell to the weapon it was fired from. When a mortar is detected, the LCMR system sends a warning message indicating a round is incoming. The LCMR system is also capable of tracking small aircraft simultaneously while indicating mortar location. Or, when operated in a dedicated air surveillance mode, the LCMR system will track small aircraft at a significant distance. The LCMR system is compatible with airborne operations, can be deployed in a door bundle and can be assembled/disassembled quickly by two soldiers.

Air Missile Defence Work Station

The Air Missile Defence Workstation (AMDWS) fulfils roles within Air Defence, Air Land Integration

and C-RAM. As a collaborative awareness information management system, it contributes to combat effectiveness by retrieving, fusing and distributing time sensitive information, necessary for decision making processes. It provides real-time situational awareness to commanders and allows detailed planning to be conducted.

Forward Area Air Defence C2

Forward Area Air Defence C2 (FAAD C2) interfaces with multiple sensors and information feeds, allowing free communication between Air Defence and Weapon Locating Radars as well as other C2 systems such as AFATDS. FAAD collects, digitally processes and disseminates real-time target information. The Commander is provided situational awareness of the airspace; thereby enhancing force protection against threat rotary wing, UAV and RAM attacks.

- Ensures that measures have been taken to prevent collisions between Army and Air Force assets.
- Provides access to the Air Force's air picture.
- Provides direct voice, text and imagery exchange between the Army's and the Air Force's aircraft beyond visual range.

Rarely does the Battery get the opportunity to deploy its three Troops to provide the full AAGS. The Air Land Integration Troop (ALI Tp) provides Command and Control for Joint ALI to the Commander of the supported formation, usually at Brigade level. The Ground Liaison Detachments (GL Dets) from GL Troop ensure Air Force's air support tasks in support of Army are well organised. The final capability is Joint Terminal Attack Control Troop (JTAC Tp), who provides Terminal Control to Air Force and Army Aviation assets for the purpose of Close Air Support (CAS). With the Exercise Hamel 2012 (Ex H12) now complete this article will address what we have learned about ALI on our first 'live' Battery exercise and look forward to Exercise Talisman Sabre 2013 (Ex TS13).

Exercise Hamel

*Major Mark Mankowski
Battery Commander
1st Air Ground Operations Battery*

Rarely does the Battery get the opportunity to deploy its three Troops to provide the full AAGS.



As highlighted in a previous article, 1st Air Ground Operations Battery (1 AGOPS Bty) was raised in January this year. 1 AGOPS Bty is unique in that it has three separate Troops, which each contribute to forming the Army Air Ground System (AAGS) at different levels of the chain of command on operations and exercises. What does the AAGS do? This is an often asked question. Put simply:

- Allows Army (at Brigade and Divisional level) to effectively access air support and airspace from the Air Force.
- The ALI Cell provides long range forecasting of Army's air support requirements to meet the Air Force's planning requirements.
- Ensures that the Air Force understands what the Army is doing at different points in time during an operation and vice versa.
- Ensures that Air Force assets are appropriately employed by Army.

Air Land Integration Troop

ALI Tp was broken into two cells. The first was located at Enoggera Barracks in Deployed Joint Forces Headquarters (DJHQ) and the Brigade Air Land Integration Cell (BALIC) was assigned to support the Headquarters 1st Brigade (1 Bde). The BALIC was hosted by the Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre (JFECC) providing a link to DJFHQ and the Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) within the Joint Air Operations Centre (JAOC).

The BALIC and elements of JTAC Tp deployed to Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) in order to integrate with 8/12 Regt in time for Exercise Predator Strike 2012 (Ex PS12). During Ex PS12, the BALIC used this opportunity to settle in and to establish necessary processes and procedures for air support to the exercise. RAAF air support was provided by 76 Sqn and was mainly focused on the certification of JTAC personnel in preparation for their upcoming deployment. The BALIC's skills were required from the outset to de-conflict the Army Aviation and Air Force operations. On completion of Ex PS12 the BALIC moved straight into Ex H12

with the rest of 1 Bde and redeployed to Bde Main that was situated near Williamson Airfield.

Exercise H12 was supported by 1 Sqn (F/A18F Super Hornets) and 76 Sqn (Hawk 127), who conducted Close Air Support (CAS) and Non-Traditional Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (NTISR0 (F-18F only) missions in support of the 1 Bde's Scheme of Manoeuvre (SoM). The BALIC's role during the exercise was to plan, prioritise, submit and monitor deliberate (+72 Hours) air support requests and to ensure that the required air support was published in the following day's Air Tasking Order. The task that was done particularly well was linking in with Ground Liaison Officers (GLOs) at 1 Sqn and 76 Sqn. This ensured the supporting aircrew understood the mission and were aware of the locations of Brigade assets, understood the commander's intent and were aware of relevant Fire Support Coordination Measures. The BALIC also provided a GBAD Coordination Cell (GBADCC) capability and provided GBAD SME to 1 Bde staff.

By the end of the Exercise the BALIC had also proven the direct radio link using Tactical Data Information Link 16 (L16) from the Headquarters to the supporting F-18F. Whilst this was a 'technical' win, we now need to develop the SOPs to turn this link from a technical achievement into enhancing the Joint Fires system.

Areas for development prior to Ex TS 13 are performing similar functions for Army Aviation support, so the ALIC is the one stop shop for planning, prioritising and monitoring air support in the Bde's area of operations.

Ground Liaison Detachments

GL Det 7 also deployed on Ex PS12 / H12 and embedded with 76 Sqn. The two personnel GL Det

relocated from the sublime surroundings of RAAF Base Williamtown to austere Rockhampton Airport for the conduct of the FTX component. 76 Sqn operates the Hawk 127 high performance jet that is primarily used to train pilots in combat fighter tactics prior to progressing to high performance F/A-18 fighter jet aircraft. During Ex H12 the Hawk 127 flew over 200 hours in support of the troops on the ground and predominantly conducted CAS and limited NTISR missions.

... information was able to be fed directly into Division / Brigade planning cycles and provided the manoeuvre commander with improved situational awareness.

GL Det 7 provided the Hawks with tactical updates and mission orders in order to meet the manoeuvre commander's intent. Pilots and ground crew received continuous battle updates from the BALIC, with this information processed and disseminated to the aircrew as pre-mission briefing products delivered by the GLO. The GL Det was responsible for providing updates and battle assessments on mission outcomes and intelligence gathered by the aircrew. This information was able to be fed directly into Division / Brigade planning cycles and provided the manoeuvre commander with improved situational awareness.

GL Det 8 was the second to support Ex H12 with 1 Sqn operating the F/A-18F. They also provided Offensive Air Support (OAS) and CAS Operations. Since achieving Initial Operational Capability at the end of 2010, Ex H12 was the first time for many members of 'The Fighting First' to participate in a large-scale joint exercise as a dedicated CAS element.



Ex H12 saw 1 Sqn's F-18Fs conduct two weeks of Dry and Live CAS / NTISR missions in support of 1 Bde, with other elements of 82 Wg providing supplemental personnel to DJFHQ and the JAOC. This was the first time GL Det 8 and most 1 Sqn's Aircrew had been exposed to a joint war fighting exercise of this scope and complexity, resulting in many valuable lessons and experiences in the delivery of NTISR and CAS in a 'live' environment with a range of C2 systems and HQ elements 'in play'.

1 Sqn achieved a number of firsts demonstrating the utility of joint exercises. The F-18F provided near real-time ISR dissemination using the aircraft's ATFLIR Sensor System to ROVER ground stations, the detection and prosecution of 'live' targets on a large scale, integration of Link 16 communications and participation in Army combined arms Live Fire Exercise (LFX).

1 Sqn achieved a number of firsts demonstrating the utility of joint exercises.

The close integration of the air support with the Brigade's SoM significantly degraded OPFOR's capabilities. Commander OPFOR stated in the After Action Review that if he thought Super Hornets were overhead, he would not manoeuvre his forces due to the high risk of their destruction; this is a sterling endorsement of the why the ALI capability is important and very well received by participating members.

Joint Terminal Attack Control Troop

JTAC Tp provided direct support to 8/12 Regt for Ex H12. JTACs were embedded at the CBT level and provided expert OAS advice to the supported JFT commanders. It provided the opportunity for JTAC personnel to integrate into 8/12 Regt and provide a level of exposure to 1 Bde operations that was invaluable. JTAC Tp personnel were able to provide expert OAS advice and planning tools for their supported JFTs and, in turn, received valuable training and knowledge across the OS spectrum.

Summary

It is rare that 1 AGOPS Bty gets an opportunity to deploy elements of all three Troops and provide the critical ALI C2 function for Army. Ex H12 was the first opportunity for the Bty to demonstrate the effectiveness of having the three Troops brigaded under one Sub-Unit. The link formed by the BALIC and the GL Dets was particularly effective. There is still much to improve upon as any Adaptive unit will

recognise, but we will now be providing a proven capability to 3 Bde during the run up and execution of Ex TS 13.

Prince of Wales Award

The Prince of Wales Award (POWA) Scheme seeks to reward selected Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reservists for their dedication and commitment to ADF Reserve service by providing an opportunity for individuals to undertake a training or development activity related to their civilian occupation or profession. In addition, selected POWA recipients may be offered an opportunity to undertake a military secondment in addition to their POWA activity.

Captain Brett Fowler was one of the successful Western Australian applicants for 2012; generally two are awarded in each state. Brett is posted as Joint Fires Team Commander 7th Field Battery 3rd Field Regiment RAA and has been in the Army Reserve since 2001. He has had an operational deployment to Malaysia and the Solomons. He remains heavily committed to 7th Field Battery and the Reserve.

Captain Fowler is a detective police officer in his other life, a career that he finds challenging, stimulating and rewarding. He is looking forward to utilising his award by travelling to Canada and the USA to pursue civilian and military studies in September 2012.



Cultural rift in a nasty little war

Tom Hyland

AUSTRALIAN AND AFGHAN SOLDIERS COME FROM A VERY DIFFERENT WORLDS. IN SUCH A GULF, DEEP TENSIONS ARE INEVITABLE.

ANOTHER three Australian soldiers have been murdered by their Afghan allies, bringing the total to seven. This means one-fifth of all our fatalities in this war have been caused by the very soldiers we are mentoring, so they can take charge of security and we can leave. The toll is shocking, but we should not be surprised. Instead, we should brace for more.

Despite all the official obfuscation, denials and weasel words, such killings are not new, rare or isolated. Nor, despite their apparent random madness, are they without cause. Without claiming any unique insight, it's fair to say they are the result of multiple, complex factors, born of a deep cultural rift, compounded by the inevitable tensions that are part of a messy multinational war.

It doesn't take any particular cultural insight to imagine how some of the Afghans might see some of the foreign troops. Australian soldiers are literate, highly trained, well paid, well led and well equipped. Afghan soldiers are highly religious, they can't read or write, their training is patchy, their equipment is poor. They are from a backward, poor, fractured, tribal society. If an Australian is wounded, he is likely to be in a modern hospital within half an hour. The same can't be said of the Afghans, who, when the foreign troops go, will be left unsupported. This is an environment with multiple points of friction.

Official accounts of these killings are composed in a unique language that seeks to obscure reality. You will see references to fratricide, to 'insider' attacks and to 'green on blue' incidents - the latter stemming from military jargon that uses blue to identify 'friendly' forces, red for enemy and green for 'neutral'. You will hear the Afghan attacker described as a 'rogue' soldier, or as a man 'dressed in Afghan army uniform'.

This language cannot disguise the fact these killings are now almost routine. At least 35 such incidents this year have killed 43 foreign soldiers and wounded more than 70. The mounting toll has prompted the US military, and presumably our army as well, to introduce further safeguards.

One proposal is for at least one foreign soldier, dubbed a 'guardian angel', to stand back and watch over any gathering of foreign and Afghan troops. You don't have to have a military mind to know how messy such measures must be in practice, nor does it require much imagination to realise what these killings and countermeasures are doing to the trust that must be essential on a battlefield.

While the Taliban might claim 'credit' for these attacks, the reality is much more complicated. Last year, a report by military psychologists for the US military said the killings were 'a rapidly growing systematic threat' that could undo the entire international effort in Afghanistan. It said the extent of the killings 'may be the most unprecedented between 'allies' in modern history'. The US report, based

on interviews with Afghan and US soldiers, was titled *A Crisis of Trust and Cultural Incompatibility*. In summary, the Afghans saw the Americans 'as a bunch of violent, reckless, intrusive, arrogant, self-serving, profane, infidel bullies hiding behind high technology'.

The Americans saw the Afghans as 'a bunch of cowardly, incompetent, obtuse, thieving, complacent, lazy, pot-smoking, treacherous, and murderous radicals'.

We can't assume that Australian troops are not separated by a similar cultural gulf from their Afghan partners. Despite all the references in Australian government official statements to the growing capacity of the Afghan security forces, many of our soldiers are deeply suspicious about the performance and ability of the troops they are mentoring.

I was on a reporting assignment in Afghanistan in 2009. In public, Australian officers talked of the courage and innate warrior traits of the Afghan soldier. In private, they told me of the incompetence, laziness and corruption of some of them. (References to the performance of Afghan forces are routinely blacked out on the rare occasions our government releases reports of inquiries into combat incidents.)

I heard comments from some Australian soldiers that ranged from the bemused to the contemptuous. They complained to me about their allies' disgusting hygiene, their dope smoking, their lack of discipline. They complained that Afghans sometimes froze under fire, and expected their Australian mentors to take charge. They were lost for words when some Afghan soldiers cavorted in a haze of marijuana smoke.

Our army is a reflection of our society. Australians assume they are likeable, easy to get along with and tolerant. Australian soldiers share those assumptions. Yet not all Australians display those qualities. Some are racist, some are just insensitive. Some leave sunglasses on when drinking tea with Afghan elders, or they show soft porn magazines to Afghan soldiers. These may seem like trivialities and maybe they are. No harm meant. But any of these things can cause offence in a highly insular, deeply conservative and proud culture. Then add the incredible stress and tension of an environment where young Australians are expected to not only risk their lives, but show sophisticated cultural awareness as well. It's a big ask for untravelled 21-year-olds.

Human nature and circumstances suggest tension between Afghan and foreign troops will rise as the 2014 international departure date approaches. With trust gone, foreign armies will march out watching their backs. The likelihood of more 'green on blue' incidents exposes the threadbare nature of the official narrative of our Afghan retreat: that we are close to creating an Afghan army that can take charge of security. Australian soldiers will continue to die, defying the efforts of government and a compliant media to keep this nasty little war out of the public consciousness.

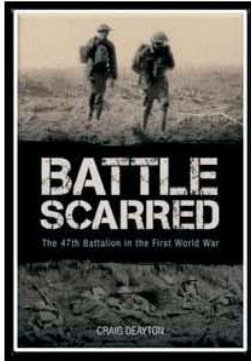
Tom Hyland is The Sunday Age's international editor

The Age, Friday, August 31, 2012

Battle Scarred

The 47th Battalion in the First World War

Craig Deayton



"...this is not a book of glory and medals, but one of heartbreaking loss of Australia's youth, which is told in a way that rightfully earns it the praise it has received."

"Battle Scarred is surely the finest battalion history I have ever read... an honest, critical, but still sympathetic, portrait of a run-of-the mill AIF battalion. Highly readable and richly descriptive both of the 47th's men and their actions, it helps to explain not just what the AIF did on the Western Front, but what it was like for those involved, and why the AIF's part in that terrible war remains such a profound part of Australian memory so long after."

Dr. Peter Stanley

'The dead and wounded of the 47th Battalion lay everywhere underfoot'... With these words Charles Bean, Australia's Official War Historian, described the battlefield of Dernancourt on the morning of the 5th of April, 1918, strewn with the bodies of the Australian dead. It was the final tragic chapter in the story of the 47th Australian Infantry Battalion in the First World War.

Battle Scarred, The 47th Battalion in the First World War by author Craig Deayton is the story of one of the shortest lived and most battle hardened of the 1st Australian Imperial Force's battalions. Though their story is one of almost unrelieved tragedy, it is also a story of remarkable courage, endurance and heroism as the men of this battalion were called into some of the AIF's most savage and costly campaigns, including Dernancourt, Pozieres, Mouquet Farm and Somme.

This is the story of the 1st AIF itself – punished, beaten, sometimes reviled for their indiscipline, they fought on - fewer, leaner and harder - until final victory was won. And at its end, in an extraordinary gesture of mateship, the remnants of the 47th Battalion reunited. Having been scattered to other units after their disbandment, the survivors gathered in Belgium for one last photo together. Only 73 of the 850 soldiers remained.

Throughout the book the fascinating individual stories of the men who made up this battalion are used to tell the wider story. This battalion history is also unique in weaving in the stories of the people back home and giving a clear voice to the women – mothers, wives, sisters and daughters – who are so often silent in military history. *Battle Scarred* stretches beyond the war to tell the story of the soldiers, their wives and families and its impact on Australian society.

About the Author

Craig Deayton was born in Hobart in 1959, one of seven children to parents who both served in the Army in World War II. He studied History at University of Tasmania and graduated as a teacher in 1983, taught in London and throughout Tasmania and has been a College Principal since 1994. His interest in military history was sparked by his Grandfather (a WW1 veteran) from whom he inherited two volumes of Charles Bean's *Official History* at the age of 12. He is married to Tracey, has four children, lives in Hobart and is Principal of Sacred Heart College. His leisure interests are bushwalking, surfing and cycling but his passion is history and he collects history books and memorabilia.

Additional Information on the 47th Battalion

The 47th was formed in Egypt in 1916 and disbanded two years later having suffered one of the highest casualty rates of any Australian unit. Dogged by command and discipline troubles and bled white by the desperate attrition battles of 1916 and 1917, they fought on against a determined and skilful enemy in battles where the fortunes of war seemed stacked against them at every turn. Not only did they have the misfortune to be called into some of the AIF's most costly campaigns, chance often found them in the worst places within those battles.

Finally, at the Battle of Dernancourt they fought in the 4th Division's titanic struggle to save Amiens from the great German offensive of 1918. It was at Dernancourt that the 47th Battalion found itself squarely in the path of the heaviest attack ever faced by Australians in this or any war. Dernancourt would be their finest hour and also its most tragic. This elite troop, utterly exhausted and fatally weakened by their losses, and under a cloud after the formal inquiry into the battle, was broken up. For the Queenslanders and Tasmanians of the 47th Battalion, disbandment meant not only the loss of their battalion, but disgrace and heartbreak as well. Worse still, it meant the ties of comradeship and the bond to their fallen mates were severed at one stroke. In their own bitter words, they were 'thrown away'.

Book Background

In 2003 Craig came across the unpublished memoirs of a Tasmanian soldier who served in the 47th Battalion. Vividly written, they included highly interesting accounts of some of this battalion's battles and, looking for more information, he discovered that no battalion history existed for this unit. Although they had one of the highest casualty rates of any AIF battalion and had fought in some of the bloodiest battles, very little information existed about their war.

Associations & Organisations

Gunner Dinner

Tribal Elder Perspective

Colonel Alan Hutchinson (Retd)

The RAA Association – ACT held its annual Gunner Dinner at the Kaleen Sports Centre in Canberra on the evening of Saturday, 11th August. A total of 39 Gunners attended, including some senior members of the RAA family, including Major General's Paul Stevens, Paul Symon and Mick Crane, as well as Brigadier's George Salmon and Peter Gates. In addition, some other well-worn (but worn well) faces included those of Colonel's Ian ('Scrubber') Ahearn, and Alan Hutchinson, Major Sid Penhaligon, and Warrant Officer Class One David Lehr.

The evening was a great success, having been organised by the Association Committee, including its President – Lieutenant Colonel Nick Floyd, the Vice President – Major Nathan Laughton, Secretary – Major Matt Smith, Treasurer – Major Simon Hunter and Social Representative – Major Pete Newman.

Major General Mick Crane gave an interesting after dinner speech on the current and future directions for the RAA. The Colonel Command Eastern Region, Colonel Ian Ahearn, delivered the message from the Captain General, which was followed by the Loyal Toast to the Queen, by Major J. Nathan Laughton, and a toast to the Regiment, proposed by Captain Garth Pratten from 10th Field Battery, 23 Field Regiment.

All in all, a good night was had by all. There is something unique in a gathering of (deaf) Gunners, all shouting at each other.

Young Officer Perspective

*Lieutenant Matthew Wilcox
10th Field Battery, 23 Field Regiment*

The RAA Association ACT Branch held a Gunner's Dinner at the Kaleen sports club on Saturday 11th August. The dinner was attended by 45 present and past serving members of the RAA including a number of WWII and Vietnam War veterans. The dinner served as an opportunity for old comrades to catch up and those new to the Regiment and Association to rub shoulders with those more experienced members.

The evening was hosted by ACT Branch, President, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Floyd. The night started off with drinks and then we were seated to enjoy a delicious three-course dinner. The atmosphere was comfortable and relaxed.

I attended the dinner as one of the group of seven members from 10th Field Battery, 23 Field Regiment. The 10th Battery table enjoyed the company of Mr Sid Penhaligon – a long-serving gunner who held several senior positions including RSM 12th Field Regiment in South Vietnam. Sitting on the opposite side of the table I was only able to hear snippets of the history he recited to those better-positioned 10th Battery members, but my impression was that much was to be learned from listening to Mr Penhaligon, whose gunner career started in 1941 at North Fort!

The key-note speaker for the evening was Major General Michael Crane DSC AM. The General is currently serving as head of the Defence Force Structure Review (FSR). The FSR will provide costed force structure options for use in developing the 2014 White Paper. General Crane gave an enlightening speech providing insight into the strategic issues facing Army. He illustrated how since 1999, the Army has maintained a high operational tempo with deployments to East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan. However

now, with the winding down of the operational tempo, one of the new challenges facing the Army was how to retain experienced personnel in a peace time Army. General Crane also addressed the very public issue of sexual discrimination in the Australian Defence Force, and the use and abuse of alcohol. He very clearly explained that in order to professionalise the Army, these issues must be addressed as a high priority.

RAA Colonel Commandant Eastern Region, Colonel (Retd.) Ian Ahearn also gave some remarks to encourage our interest and involvement in the RAA Historical Company, and the aim to establish a new RAA Museum. Colonel Ahearn inspired his listeners to respect the long-standing and proud traditions held by Australia's first federated Army organisation.

In all, the evening was a great success. The setting was comfortable, the food was delicious, the speakers were thought-provoking and the company were all gunners! What more could you ask for?

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Mob: 0438 695 711
Email: info@artillerywa.org.au
Website: www.artillerywa.org.au

Artillery WA (On-line Newsletter)

RAA Association (TAS) Inc

President - Colonel Stephen Carey RFD, ADC
Honorary Secretary - Norm Andrews OAM
Tara Room, 24 Robin Street, Newstead, TAS 7250
Email: forfar@gmail.com
Phone: (03) 6344 8307
Mob: 0409 539 430
Website: www.tasartillery.com

The Artillery News (Newsletter)

Editor - John McIntee
14 Craig Street, Waverley, TAS 7250

Email: john.mcintee@bigpond.com
Phone: (03) 6329 1819

Australian Air Defence Association Inc.

President - Glynn Potter
Email: president@aadaa.asn.au
Secretary - Alan Mears
AADAA, P O Box 41, Rosedale, QLD, 4674
Email: secretary@aadaa.asn.au or
bottlecreekau@hotmail.com
Phone: (07) 4156 5215
Website: <http://aadaa.asn.au>

Locating Artillery Association

President - Major Allan Harrison RFD
2/13 Frazer Street, Collaroy, NSW 2097
Phone: (02) 9981 7983 or 0412 021665 (M)
Email: allan@harrisonsolution.com.au
Vice President - Major Joe Kaplun
Phone: (02) 9339 3000
Email: joe.kaplun@defence.gov.au
Secretary - Bob Morrison
Phone: (02) 4861 6463
Mob: 0417 447 504
Email: robmor@ozemail.com.au
Email: info@locatingartillery.org
Website: www.locatingartillery.org

LOCREP (Newsletter)

Editor: Major Allan Harrison (see above)

131 Locators Association Inc.

Eyes & Ears (Newsletter)
Editor: Paul Dickson
Email: three-zero@hotmail.com

18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association

Secretary - Alan Lark
1 Manor Hill Road, Miranda, NSW 2228
Phone: (02) 9522 4815
Mob: 0428 461 621
Email: mokingalong@optusnet.com.au

9 HAA/LAA Regiments Association

President - Phil Easton
29 Michael Crescent, Kiama, NSW 2533
Phone: (02) 4237 6087
Email: pjeaston@westnet.com.au

13 Battery Association Inc

President - Paul Scarborough
Mob: 0418 872 324
Email: paulscarborough@bigpond.com
Secretary - John Parnell

13 Bty Assoc Inc SITREP (Newsletter)

41 Battery/11 Field Regiment RAA Association Inc

President - Graeme Fitzpatrick
25 Manakin Ave, Burleigh Waters QLD 4220
Phone: (07) 5535 1211 (H)
Email: 41btyassn@gmail.com

Gunner Ear (Newsletter)

Fort Lytton Historical Association (QLD) Inc

President - Maurice McGuire, OAM
P O Box 293, Wynnum QLD 4178
Phone: (07) 3399 3198
Email: fhaguides@gmail.com
Website: www.fortlytton.net.au

'The Custodian' (Newsletter)

Editor: Harry Lynas

Fort Scratchley Historical Society

Website: www.fortscratchley.org.au

RA Association

Website: www.forums.theraa.co.uk.php

RAA Unit Websites

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

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

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

Important Website

'Australian Artillery Association'

Website: www.australianartilleryassociation.com

Email: president@australianartilleryassociation.com

Regimental Fund Benefactors

Correct as at 1st September 2012

LTGEN D.M. Mueller	COL S.P. Amor	COL S.M. Saddington
LTGEN B.A. Power	COL B.M. Armstrong	COL G.M. Salom
MAJGEN J.E. Barry	COL B.J. Bailey	COL R.H. Stanhope
MAJGEN M.P. Crane	COL J.F. Bertram	COL B.J. Stark
MAJGEN P.J. Dunn	COL J.P.C. Black	COL D.M. Tait
MAJGEN G.J. Fitzgerald	COL R.V. Brown	COL A.D. Watt (see note)
MAJGEN G.P. Fogarty	COL A.R. Burke (see note)	COL W.A. Whyte
MAJGEN T.R. Ford (see note)	COL D.L. Byrne	LTCOL C.W. Andersen
MAJGEN S.N. Gower	COL S.R. Carey	LTCOL B.J. Armour
MAJGEN J.P. Stevens (see note)	COL S.E. Clingan	LTCOL J.D. Ashton
MAJGEN P.B. Symon	COL F.G. Colley	LTCOL R.M. Baguley
BRIG M.G. Boyle	COL M.C. Crawford (see note)	LTCOL N.K. Bolton
BRIG D.P. Coghlan	COL J.A.L. Fairless	LTCOL J.E. Box
BRIG J.R. Cox	COL G.W. Finney (see note)	LTCOL D.N. Brook
BRIG W.L. Goodman	COL C. D. Furini	LTCOL M.A. Cameron
BRIG N.D. Graham	COL R.N. Gair	LTCOL J.H. Catchlove
BRIG J.G. Hughes	COL S.T. Goltz	LTCOL I.D.S. Caverswall
BRIG J.A.R. Jansen	COL G.C. Hay	LTCOL S.G. Condon
BRIG P.R. Kilpatrick	COL E.D. Hirst	LTCOL R.J. Crawford (see note)
BRIG R.A. Lawler	COL C.B.J. Hogan	LTCOL C.F. Dodds
BRIG I.G.A. MacInnis	COL J.H. Humphrey	LTCOL D.M. Edwards
BRIG T.J. McKenna	COL C.H. Hunter	LTCOL L.D. Ensor
BRIG I.J. Meibusch	COL A.G. Hutchinson	LTCOL E.P.M. Esmonde
BRIG K.B.J. Mellor	COL W.T. Kendall	LTCOL J. Findlay
BRIG K.J. O'Brien	COL M.J. Kingsford	LTCOL N.H.B. Floyd
BRIG M.F. Paramor	COL J.C. Kirkwood	LTCOL R.J. Foster
BRIG D. I. Perry	COL P.J. Lawrence	LTCOL A.W. Garrad
BRIG M.L. Phelps	COL M.G. Lovell	LTCOL I.D.W. George
BRIG S. Roach	COL I.A. Lynch	LTCOL R.G. Gibson
BRIG K.V. Rossi	COL R.M. Manton	LTCOL G. Gilbert
BRIG G.T. Salmon	COL N.H. Marshall	LTCOL K.R. Hall
BRIG J.R. Salmon (see note)	COL R.V. McEvoy	LTCOL M. Harvey (RNZA)
BRIG W.M. Silverstone	COL B.H. Mitchell	LTCOL B.N. Hawke
BRIG G.B. Standish	COL R.B. Mitchell	LTCOL P.L. Hodge
BRIG B.G. Stevens	COL D. J. Murray	LTCOL B.G. Hurrell
BRIG R.A. Sunderland	COL R.A. Parrott	LTCOL J.R. Jauncey
BRIG D.J.P. Tier	COL P.R. Patmore	LTCOL D.J. Kelly
BRIG P.J. Tys	COL A.T. Piercy	LTCOL S.N. Kenny
BRIG A.G. Warner	COL A.A. Plant	LTCOL J.F. Kerr
BRIG D.D. Weir	COL J.C. Platt	LTCOL P. Landford
BRIG V.H. Williams	COL G.G. Potter	LTCOL S.F. Landherr
BRIG P.D. Winter	COL D. Quinn	LTCOL B.L. Lloyd
	COL S.T. Ryan	LTCOL J.L. Macpherson

LTCOL R. Maurice	MAJ R.S. McDonagh	WO1 D.R. Lehr
LTCOL J.H. McDonagh (AALC)	MAJ M.W. Middleton	WO1 P.A. Matthysen
LTCOL P.D. McKay	MAJ G.K. Milic	WO1 R.J. Thompson
LTCOL K.W. MacKenzie	MAJ D.R. Morgan	WO1 M. Vandyke (see note)
LTCOL P.D. Monks	MAJ L.W.L. Partridge	WO1 P.T. Washford
LTCOL J.E. Morkham	MAJ P.J. Prewett	WO1 C.F.J. Watego
LTCOL S.G.T. Mott	MAJ V.J. Ray	WO1 G.J. Webster
LTCOL D.M. Murphy (see note)	MAJ S.G. Rohan-Jones	WO2 D. Bannerman
LTCOL S.W. Nicolls	MAJ W.A. Ritchie	WO2 M. Broughton
LTCOL T.C. O'Brien	MAJ P.S. Richards	WO2 P. Carthew
LTCOL G.F.B. Rickards	MAJ K.F. Schoene	WO2 M.R. Dawson
LTCOL L.F. Searle	MAJ L.J. Simmons	WO2 R.T.B. Hay
LTCOL M. Shaday	MAJ A.H. Smith (see note)	WO2 J.J. Hennessy
LTCOL C. Taggart	MAJ A.E.R. Straume	WO2 D.G. Ogden (see note)
LTCOL R.A. Vagg	MAJ M. Taggart	WO2 A. Pavlovich
LTCOL W.R.C. Vickers	MAJ W. Tapp	WO2 R.N. Skelton
LTCOL D.H.R. Wilton	MAJ A.A. Thwaites	SSGT R.W. Morrell
LTCOL B.J. Winsor	MAJ M.L. Van Tilburg	SSGT E.J. Paddon
LTCOL B.A. Wood	MAJ A.C. Turner	SGT J. Nield
MAJ W.C. Barnard	MAJ T.W. Vercoe	SGT G.V. Saint
MAJ G.K. Bartels	MAJ M. St C. Walton	SGT D.H. Wood
MAJ G.F. Berson	MAJ C.V. Wardrop	
MAJ P.E. Bertocchi	MAJ P.R. Widelewski	
MAJ D.T. Brennan	CAPT J.P. Casey	
MAJ P. Cimballejevic	CAPT J.M. Costello	
MAJ C.T. Connolly	CAPT J.M. Groves	
MAJ S. Denner	CAPT M.S. Hodda	
MAJ P.K. Dover	CAPT A.M. Ludlow	
MAJ M. Dutton	CAPT S.R. Nebauer	
MAJ J.B. Evans (see note)	CAPT D.T. O'Brien	
MAJ M.J. Finnerty	CAPT M.A. Pasteur (AAA _{Vn})	
MAJ C.A. Flear	CAPT A.E. Sheridan	
MAJ A.O. Fleming	CAPT P.J. Smith	
MAJ W.J. Francis	CAPT M.C. Squire	
MAJ T.J. Gibbings	CAPT P.J. Watkins	
MAJ W.H. Grimes	CAPT P. Wertheimer	
MAJ N. Hamer	LT J.F. Henry	
MAJ L.P. Hindmarsh	LT S.L. Shepherd	
MAJ S.A. Hompas	WO1 D.G. Annett	
MAJ D.A. Jenkins	WO1 D.W. Bowman	
MAJ G. Johns	WO1 K.J. Browning (see note)	
MAJ D.E. Jones	WO1 L.A. Cooper	
MAJ J. Kaplun	WO1 B.A. Franklin	
MAJ J.B. Kelly	WO1 G.A. Jebb	
MAJ D. Klomp	WO1 M.I. Johnson	
MAJ M.D. Laurence	WO1 M.A. Johnston	
MAJ H. Lenard	WO1 T.L. Kennedy	

Note:

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

Associations

RAA Association (Tas)
 RAA Association (Qld)
 RAA Association (North Qld)
 RAA Association (Vic)
 RAA Association (SA)
 RAA Association (NSW) - Newcastle Branch
 105th Field Battery Association

107 (Field) Battery Association
Fort Lytton Historical Assoc
RAA Retired Officers of South
East Queensland
Australian Air Defence Artillery
Association
13th Battery Association

Deceased Benefactors

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



Shadow schedule pushed forward

Second System Due To Arrive Almost A Year Ahead Of Planned Delivery Date

PERSONNEL preparing for Operation Slipper will have the opportunity to train on the Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (TUAS) when the second system is delivered in the next few months.

The first is already in operation at Tarin Kot in Afghanistan, where it is contributing to force protection by identifying IEDs and other threats. It will soon be certified as fully operational with more than 220 hours of testing.

Two Shadow 200 systems, comprising five aircraft each, are being acquired through Joint Project 129 (Phase 2) at a total cost of more than \$90 million.

The accelerated delivery of the second Shadow 200 system was announced by Defence Minister Stephen Smith and Defence Materiel Minister Jason Clare at the Navy Heritage Centre on March 29.

Mr Clare said the second system would be delivered before the end of the financial year, almost a year ahead of schedule. 'The second system will enable ADF personnel preparing to deploy to Afghanistan to train with the Shadow 200 system in Australia' he said.

The system was originally scheduled for delivery in the first half of 2013. As well as the five aircraft, each system includes ground control stations, a launch and recovery element and associated equipment, logistics and training capability.

The Shadow 200 operates at an altitude of up to 8000 ft and captures full-motion video during both day and night operations, which is sent back to a ground control station up to 125 km away.

The US Army and Marines first used the system in Iraq and have been using it operationally in Afghanistan.

Army, April 12, 2102

RAA Gunners Fund – Needs Your Support

Introduction

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

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

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

Recent Projects

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

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

Subscriptions

The recommended new rate of contribution is deemed as **\$155** for a life subscription and the following sliding scale based on rank for an annual subscription for Army Reserve and Retired Members:

- LTCOL and above – **\$30**,
- MAJ and CAPT – **\$25**,
- LT and WO – **\$20**, and
- SGT – **\$15**.

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



RAA Gunners' Fund Subscription

Rank/Initials: _____ [BLOCK letters please]

Surname: _____

(or Association)

Address: _____

_____ P/Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

- Enclosed is my/our contribution to the RAA Gunners' Fund
- A receipt is required

Please return this form with a **cheque** made out to 'RAA Regimental Fund':
Major Greg Metcalf, SO2 HOR, School of Artillery,
Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal Vic 3662

or to pay by **electronic funds transfer** using a bank or credit union, the following is required:

Credit Union: Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU)
Account Name: RAA Regt Fund
BSB: 642 170
Account Number: 526805

The description or reference must include Organisation (i.e. mess or association) or Initials and Surname and the word 'subscription'

For further information contact Major Greg Metcalf on (03) 5735 6465

Annual Subscription for Army Reserve and Retired Members:

- LTCOL & above: \$30.00
- MAJ and CAPT: \$25.00
- LT and WO: \$20.00
- SGT: \$15.00

Life Subscription:

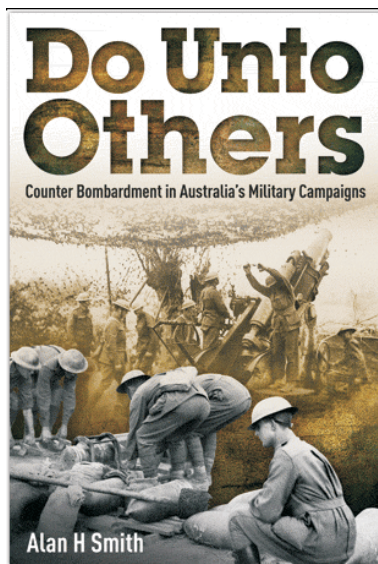
All Ranks: \$155.00

Do Unto Others

Counter Bombardment in Australia's Military Campaigns

Alan H Smith

Since 1899, the significant role Australian gunners have played in supporting the Australian Military Forces' campaigns has been well-documented. They have gallantly and whole-heartedly supported Australian, British, New Zealand and Indian armies in both World Wars, the Korean and Borneo Confrontation Wars and most recently the Vietnam War.



Most Australian military historical accounts focus on the support role gunners played to cavalry and infantry rather than counter bombardment activities, where they used artillery fire to locate and destroy and/or neutralise enemy artillery and mortars. *Do Unto Others* is a comprehensive history of the use of counter bombardment from the inception of this technique in the First World War, through to the Vietnam campaign.

The 'art of counter bombardment' originated during the First World War, when an Australian scientist, William Bragg, a lieutenant in the Royal Horse Artillery, along with Australian physicists and enthusiasts, developed a method of locating enemy guns using the physics of sound, called 'sound ranging', and meteorology. From this time the Australian Military Forces in their campaigns have been major beneficiaries of counter bombardment, which became increasingly more

sophisticated with the advent of radar location during World War 2 and the last big artillery war of the 20th century in Korea.

Counter bombardment reached new heights with the Vietnam War, the first time the Australian Army deployed its own locating battery to a war zone, allowing gunners to achieve outstanding results and an enviable reputation for locating skills. Vietnam culminated in a triumph for the 'scientific method' across many disciplines and the efforts of the many dedicated gunners involved in counter bombardment over the 58 year period since introduction of this technique.

Do Unto Others is a comprehensive account of the history of counter bombardment, including the development of Australian techniques, equipment and procedures through the campaigns up until Vietnam, with references to the techniques and actions of the British and American artillery included where appropriate to place the Australian experience in perspective. It is also the story of the brave men behind the artillery and their outstanding efforts and results across these varied campaigns.

Do Unto Others is available online www.bigskypublishing.com.au & in all good bookstores



Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery REGIMENTAL SHOP

NEW STOCK

Check out all the latest deals on the SOARTY web page
<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/ARTYSCH/>

• Field Equipment

- * Sleeping Mats
- * INOVA AA Torch, Photon Micro Light, Mag Light with Filters
- * Customised Field Packs, Day Packs and Webbing (can be ordered)
- * Day Packs
- * Bivvy Bags
- * Nomex Field Gloves (DPCU)
- * Leatherman Knives
- * Silva Compasses

• Plaques and Presentational Items

- * RAA Regimental Plaque
- * School of Artillery Plaque
- * RAA Cyphers
- * Prints and Artwork
- * Statuettes and Action Figures
- * Desk Sets
- * Canes and Stands
- * Decanter and Whiskey Sets (can be engraved)
- * Medal Boxes (can be engraved)

• Things to Wear

- * Jewellery (including Cuff Links, Tie Pins, Lapel Pins)
- * Polofleece Casual Jackets (with RAA Regiment embroidered badge)
- * Regimental Ties
- * RAA Caps

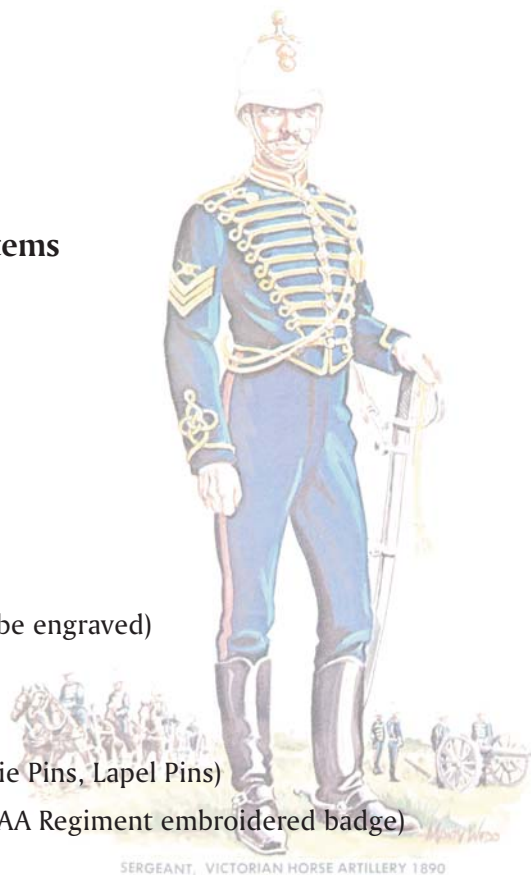
• Models - L119 and M198 resin kits and assembled kits available

For Information and Orders:

School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks
WO2 Daniel Stewart- daniel.stewart@defence.gov.au
Telephone: (03) 5735 6129

Trading Hours:

12.30 -13.15 hrs every Thursday and Friday on Pay Weeks



Regimental Publications Index

Liaison Letter

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1	Director Royal Artillery Technical Liaison Letter 1/48+
2	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 3 June 1954#
3	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 18 October 1954+
4	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 24 November 1954+
5	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – February 1955+
6	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 31 May 1955+
7	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 30 September 1955#
8	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 20 January 1956+
9	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 18 June 1956+
10	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 26 November 1956#
12	Director Royal Australia Artillery Liaison Letter – 24 February 1957+
13	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 26 November 1957#
14	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 30 April 1958#
15	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 28 November 1958+
16	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 17 June 1959+
17	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – January 1960#
18	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 29 July 1960#
19	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 17 February 1961#
20	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 6 November 1961+
21	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – July 1962#
22	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – October 1962#
23	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – February 1971#
24	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – September 1972#
25	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – February 1973#
26	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – September 1973#
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32	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – September 1976#
33	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – March 1977#
34	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – September 1977#
35	Royal Australian Artillery Personnel Notes – October 1977#
36	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – May 1978#
37	Royal Australian Artillery Personnel Notes – 1978#
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39	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – December 1980@
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41	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – November 1981@
42	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1982 (Issue One)@
43	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1983 (Issue One)@
44	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1983 (Issue Two)@
45	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1984 (Issue Four)@
46	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1986 (Issue One)#
47	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1986 (Issue Two) – 4 November 1986#
48	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Issue One – 1987 – 18 June 1987#
49	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Issue Two – 1987 – 11 November 1987#
50	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1988 – 23 June 1988#
51	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 2 – 1988 – 14 November 1988#
44	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1989#
45	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 2 – 1989#
46	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1990#
47	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 2 – 1990#

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48	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1991#
49	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1992 – First Edition#
50	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1992 – Second Edition#
51	Royal Australian Artillery – August 1993 – Liaison Letter#
52	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1996 – First Edition#
53	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1996 – Second Edition#
54	1997 – Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter#
55	1998–99 RAA Liaison Letter+
56	RAA Liaison Letter – 2000+
57	RAA Liaison Letter – 2001+
58	RAA Liaison Letter – 2002+
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77	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter 2012 – Autumn Edition+

Australian Gunner Magazine

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

Miscellaneous Regimental Publications

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

Note:

*Copy held by SO to HOR

Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library

+ Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery

@ Not available to HOR at School of Artillery

RAAHC

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



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



How Much Does It Cost?

\$30.00 (1 year), or \$120 (5 years)

All Gunners and friends of the Regiment are invited to join



What You Get In Return?

RAA Liaison Letter and Cannonball twice annually

Free access to the Artillery Museum (temporarily closed) and most other museums in the Australian Army Museum network

Use of the Artillery Museum's library resources

Personal satisfaction in supporting the preservation of Artillery heritage



How Does The Company Benefit?

They can add your weight to the membership numbers when seeking grants and other assistance from public and non-public sources

Your subscription assists with ongoing administration costs



How Do You Join?

A membership form can be found in this publication

Submit a form and start supporting a very worthwhile cause



RAAHC THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT