

# CHARLIE COMPANY REPORT

December 2017



PTE Jeremy Bangel provides feedback to a TNI soldier during Airsoft training.

Following their deployment in Iraq as part of Task Group Taji – IV, the soldiers and officers of Charlie Company returned to Darwin to begin a period of well-deserved leave. Arriving refreshed and reinvigorated for duty in mid-August, the soldiers were deployed to the Cultana Training Area in South Australia. The Company was tasked with providing non-platform support to the Royal Military College–Duntroon (RMC–D), playing enemy party and providing tactical instruction to the future leaders. Of particular note, CPL Whale and PTE Gale provided excellent support and advice on the effects and employment of Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFSW) to the Staff Cadets. As a consequence of the two soldiers expertise the Trainees' learning was

greatly enhanced.

Charlie Company continues to invest in the professional development of its soldiers regardless of rank or experience. Whilst the more senior soldiers of the Company were busy supporting RMC–D, two sections of new soldiers fresh from Initial Employment Training at the School of Infantry in Singleton deployed to the field for Exercise TALISMAN SABRE. The exercise is Army's premiere Brigade-level exercise and involves over 30,000 Australian and US defence personnel. The exercise included United States Marines from 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, who share Robertson Barracks with the Battalion as part of the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin.

The second half of 2017 has also seen the Company's senior soldiers and NCOs attend promotion and specialist courses. This training holds the Company in good stead as it prepares to integrate itself into a motorised Battalion. Moreover, the Company has been well represented within the Regiment due to the performance of its soldiers on course, whose enthusiasm and professionalism brings credit upon the Company and the Battalion. Special mention goes to LCPL D Tanner, who was awarded the Soldier of Merit on his Subject 2 for Corporal course. Congratulations Dylan.

The Company has also contributed to Australia's strategic partnership with Indonesia when a Section travelled with Delta Company to Bandung in Indonesia to take part in Exercise WIRIJAYA in September. This was a welcome change from the rigours of soldiering in the Northern Territory. A party of Indonesian officers and SNCOs returned the favour in October, taking advantage of the Battalion's new Combat Skills Development Area and Airsoft training aids. Needless to say the Indonesians were impressed both by our hospitality, and our ability to manoeuvre in the urban environment.

In other news PTE Borgono and PTE Jones represented the Battalion as members of the 1st Brigade AFL team. Each man made substantial contributions to the team. PTE Borgono impressed with his ability to instigate attacks off half back, whilst PTE Jones stood tall in the ruck, floating down the field to bolster the attack on half forward. Even more impressively, CPL Pearson continues to represent Army in rugby union, playing on the wing and at full back.



PTE Aaron Brady and his moustache work with TNI soldiers on the obstacle course

Lastly, congratulations to PTE Bangel and PTE Thapa. PTE Bangel has married Miss Shaelee Isenberg on the 23rd of September in Sydney surrounded by friends and family. Although PTE Thapa was legally married in March to Miss Supriya Upreti, the wedding itself was held in Sydney over two days in late September. The 153 guests were treated to a traditional Nepalese Hindu ceremony on the first day, with the festivities continuing into the next day. Charlie Company wishes PTE Thapa well for the return Nepalese leg in Kathmandu where 700 people are expected to be in attendance. PTE Thapa met his wife whilst using the cable machine at the gym, proving that size is not the only prize.

All in all, a good showing for the Company and a strong foundation as we prepare for commencement of motorised operations in 2018.

LT Chris Thorburn