

## BRAVO COMPANY REPORT APRIL 2019



In 2018 Bravo Company returned to the top of the 5 RAR tree by winning the Champion Company of the Battalion, this was a testament to all members who served in Bravo Company in 2018, after a tough year in 2017 we bounced back in true 'Duty First' fashion and continued to become a force to be reckoned with within the Battalion and the Brigade.

The highlights of late 2018 continued to be the International Engagement (IE) with the Indonesia Army (TNI-AD) through lessons, both theory and practical. The breaks in training allowed informal interaction between all members involved in the exercise from Australia and Indonesia, as well as an opportunity to work on different language skills and exchange military training stories. Other activities worth mentioning are the range shoot, sports competition, practical urban drills and the culminating activity of the mounted and dismounted clearance of the urban facility at

Mount Bunday Training Area (MBTA), this highlighted how far the members from both countries has progressed their training over the exercise.

The Wirra Jaya training was officially closed on the 14 Sep 18 with the farewell parade which was reviewed by Panglima Kostrad (Indonesian Army Chief of Staff), LTGEN Andhika Perkasa, Commander 1 Brigade, BRIG Matt Pearse and their staff. The Panglima Kostrad was treated to a demonstration that involved roping, tactical employment of vehicles, airsoft (non-lethal training ammunition) and Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) support. The VIPs had the opportunity to speak with the soldiers at a morning tea hosted by 5 RAR and to look over the Protected Mobility Vehicles (PMVs), planning will commence for next year's exercise in early 2019.

Immediately following Exercise Wirra Jaya 18 on 16 Sep 2018 the Company deployed at short notice to Exercise Predators Run, the Brigade warfighting exercise run at Cultana in South Australia. This consisted of Bravo Company integrating both Logistic and Support Company enablers to form Bravo Combat Team. The activity practiced motorised manoeuvre with enablers on a variety of tasks including a route clearance, gap crossing and urban clearance. The culminating activity included a Combat Team Live Fire defensive activity in which a standing patrol engaged the enemy at maximum range before conducting a fighting withdrawal back to the Combat Team position for a defensive battle by day and night.

Bravo Company will look to continue this good work through 2019 and into the Joint Warfighting Series and Exercise Talisman Sabre as the pinnacle exercises to be conducted in June and July of 2019.

Within 2018 the Coy has been going through some significant change with regards to manning, with new members at every rank level from LCPL – CAPT, this is a verification of the good work done in 2018 with most of these members posting on promotion or internally posting to Support Company to further their careers. We are starting 2019 with a new CSM WO2 Steve Wood, who has extensive experience and knowledge across a variety of areas will bring a fresh enthusiasm moving forward. There are new and old faces within the platoons as well which makes it a new dynamic, a new team to bond with and a new set of challenges to adapt to.

The company has a busy year ahead with multiple training opportunities both in Australia and abroad, the training progression model established by the battalion has us well set up to progress to section level live fire by the end of April with multiple trips to the Close Training Area (CTA) just outside Robertson Barracks. A trip to Tully will look to refine soldier's basic field skills and progression to platoon level live fire in the jungle operating area. Finally, the last exercise of the first half of 2019 is the Joint Warfighting Series (JWS) which will see Bravo Company embark on HMAS Canberra for approximately one month to enable amphibious certification as part of 7 RAR followed by coming back to 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade for Exercise Talisman Sabre in Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA).

Overall, Bravo Company is continuing to try to improve their soldiering and provide the best capability for 5 RAR that it can. No doubt there will be some challenges in 2019 but if we can work as a team and support each other, it will no doubt be a great year within Bravo Company at the Tiger Battalion.

MAJ Jacob Osbourne

