

## CO'S REPORT APRIL 2019



LTCOL Travis Gordon

G'day Tigers,

Over December and January, the Battalion reduced training activity, with many taking some respite from the hot wet season in the Top End and headed south. The well-earned rest seemed all too short however, as the year kicked off at what seemed like the same pace it finished.

Firstly, I would like to thank Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) Sean Ransome for his outstanding leadership and dedication during his tenure as the Battalion's Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM). The soldiers and the unit are better for your service. Equally, I would like to welcome WO1 Rob Munro, who commenced his tenure as the RSM in January 2019. The RSM comes to the Battalion from the School of Infantry and, although not a member of the Tiger Battalion previously, he has served in our sister battalion, 7 RAR (but we won't hold that against him).

The Battalion is to commence supporting known operations in the Middle East in the second half of 2019, but this is not the focal point just yet. Recent experience highlights focussing too heavily on operational requirements, without sufficient planning for the sustainment of motorised and specialist capabilities, will have a severe impact on the unit post operations. The main effort for the Battalion therefore, is our core capabilities, with the plan to focus on known operations later in the year.

More than 30 soldiers were promoted to Lance Corporal and 25 to Corporal at the end of 2018, and when coupled with internal postings in and out of Support Company, each sub-unit started 2019 with a lot of new faces. The focus therefore, has been small team and section level training, re-establishing the solid foundations that served the unit well last year. The section and platoon commanders have grabbed this opportunity with both hands, designing, planning and executing excellent training for their soldiers. The command team continues to invest heavily in the development of our junior leaders, making sure we remain as strong at the coalface as the Tiger Battalion has been throughout its history.

From a ceremonial perspective and due to the rapid deterioration of the Battalion's current set of Colours, a new set will be presented and consecrated this year. The Presentation and Consecration Parade will occur on 1 Jun 2019 at the Cenotaph in Darwin, with the Governor-General, His Excellency, General, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC (Retd) to act as the Reviewing Officer (I am sure some of you reading this will have served with His Excellency when he was the Adjutant and a company commander in the Tiger Battalion).

The parade will be followed by a reception at the Darwin Civic Centre hosted by the Mayor of Darwin. The numbers for this reception are limited, but I am hopeful of securing invitations for members of the Association who have made the trip north. The laying up of the old Colours will occur at St Mary's Cathedral in Darwin on 2 Jun 2019. The parade will also be the Battalion's formal commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba, allowing the D Company guard, the Colours and Colour Party, the RSM and I to proceed to Canberra for the national commemoration on 6 Jun 2019.

It has certainly been a busy start to 2019 and there are plenty of exciting things to look forward to in the year to come, including great engagement opportunities with the Association. I look forward to seeing you all, either here in Darwin for the Colours parade, or in Canberra for the national commemoration of the Battle of Binh Ba.

Duty First!

Travis Gordon