

SUPPORT COMPANY REPORT APRIL 2019

CHQ: This year Support Company is commanded by MAJ Redmond Dale, formerly ADJT and OC D Coy. WO2 Joel McMahon has moved across from D Coy to become CSM SPT Coy; and CAPT Schumacher remains Coy 2IC.

Direct Fire Support Weapons: This year DFSW is commanded by LT Christopher Thorburn, and his PLSGT is SGT Matthew Bovell.

After a busy three months in South Australia at the end of 2018, where the platoon exercised and conducted a DFSW Basic Course, the platoon has many fresh faces after Christmas leave. The first few months of 2019 has seen platoon training focussed on individual and team drills; with an emphasis on the provision of anti-armour capability for the Battalion. The platoon has also been developing, and refining motorised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

LT Chris Thorburn

Signals: This year Signals is commanded by LT Malcolm Cloete, and his PLSGT is SGT Nicholas Nesbit.



Signals Platoon establishes command posts as part of Ex Carbon Predator.

Signals platoon has had a busy start to 2019. The company detachments have conducted training with their respective sub-units focusing on basic infantry radio procedures. We have developed robust SOPs working towards mastering the employment of radios in a contested electromagnetic environment.

We have commenced a Specialist Combat Communications Course, training the next generation of signallers; as well as conducting our very first Harris 117G course, which will greatly increase Recon Platoon's capability by combining HF and VHF on the one system thus decreasing weight, and by providing additional range.

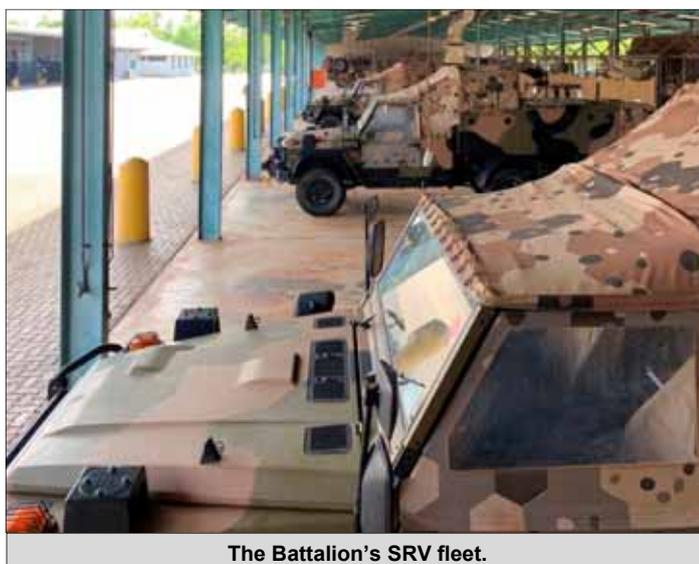
The Battalion Command posts have worked tirelessly, under LCPL Trow, to revamp the new-look, agile, motorised command post which we are trialling on EX CARBON PREDATOR and future exercises.

LT Malcolm Cloete

Reconnaissance and Sniping:

Reconnaissance and Sniping (RS) Platoon, this year commanded by LT Nicholas Pullinen (PLCOMD), SGT Jason Leuken (PLSGT) and SGT Matthew Mack (Sniper Supervisor), has had a busy start to the year. It has seen the patrols and teams begin to develop SOPs through working within their new teams. It has also seen members begin to develop the motorised capability with an emphasis placed on working with the Platoon's organic lift, being the G-Wagon Surveillance and Reconnaissance Vehicle (SRV).

RS PI, with members from across 1 BDE, also conducted a diagnostic Special Forces Entry Test (SFET). This was done to ensure that the large number of members from within the PL



The Battalion's SRV fleet.

attempting SASR selection this year were physically ready. The results achieved by all of those whom attempted it were very good, with all members, even those not attempting selection this year meeting



Members of RS Platoon being qualified on the Patrol Persistent Surveillance System.

all of the benchmark standards. This goes to reaffirm that RS PL is currently the fittest PL within 5 RAR.

RS PL also conducted its first Patrol Persistent Surveillance System (PPSS) course run by members of the PL. This course will see RS increase its overall capability in detecting hostile forces within the battlespace whilst remaining undetected themselves. Members were also instructed and then qualified on the Harris 117-G Radio – this new piece of equipment, organic only to the PL, will further enhance their capability tactically in the field environment, increasing the effectiveness of their Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) tasks on the battlefield.

Towards the end of March, RS PL will also conduct a navigation package out at Kangaroo Flats Training Area (KFTA) and a Live Fire Range Practice at the Mickett Creek Rifle Club. This will see RS ready for EX TIGERS RUN at Mount Bunday Training Area (MBTA) in May.

LT Nick Pullinen

Mortars: This year Mortars is commanded by CAPT Darren MacDonald, with the Mortar Line Officer being LT Alexander Baldry. The Mortar PLSGT this year is SGT Paul Slaviero.

An exciting year lies ahead for Mortar Platoon. This year will see 80 endeavour to build organic fires capability within the Battalion by planning and executing a Mortar Basic Course in Mount Bunday Training Area. In conjunction to this, the sections will also continue their progression through the Live Fire Standards, this will include basic fire missions, link shooting and coordinated illumination serials with the end state being the conduct of a Mortar Battle Practice in support of troops on Exercise Talisman Sabre 19. Further to this, Mortar Platoon will refine their skills motorisation TTPs, networked communication and physical endurance through a progressive training program incorporating supporting callsigns from signals platoon, 8/12 REGT and the Motorisation (MOT) cell.



Mortar Platoon conducts dry training as part of their start of year shake out.

Good luck and good mortaring.

LT Alex Baldry

Compiled by CAPT Matt Schumacher