

DELTA COMPANY REPORT – JULY 2020

Delta Company brought in the new year in the chilly air of Karga, Afghanistan. Delta Company, then on Operation HIGHROAD, performed to the highest standards that is expected of the Australian Army overseas. Delta Company's rotation on Operation HIGHROAD came to an end in February, with the Company returning to Australia just as COVID-19 was starting to spread.

As the soldiers of Delta returned to Australia, the world was starting to react to the spread of COVID-19. As the Australian federal and State governments

started implementing their travel restrictions, Delta Company was tasked with assisting the Northern Territory (NT) and Federal Police with biosecurity checkpoints around the NT. Delta Coy deployed into the Southern AO of the NT, manning biosecurity checkpoints to stem the flow of potentially infected personnel entering its population centres. The first rotation saw the soldiers of 11 and 12 Platoon move south with the assistance of 1 Combat Service Support Battalion. The Joint Task Group 629.7 (JTG 629.7) was allocated the AO of all access points into the NT south of Katherine, this led to Delta Company stationing its soldiers in Tenant Creek, Alice Springs and on the Tanami Highway east of the WA border. Upon insertion, soldiers immediately set to work with half of the task force occupying the Biosecurity Check Points (BCP) and conducting contact tracing alongside the Australian Federal Police.



Hamed Kazai International Airport, Afghanistan – Elements of D Coy provided Force Protection July 2019 – February 2020.



Remote location on the Tanami Highway near the WA-NT border. Elements of D Coy supported Police Biosecurity Check Points.

Rotation one ended 4 weeks post insertion, they had set the conditions for 10 Platoon to conduct a relief in place and continue manning the BCPs. After 6 weeks in Alice Springs Delta Company's part in the fight against the pandemic came to a finish handing over the established positions to local reserve units. Valuable experience was gained by Delta working with local law enforcement and in a tri-service environment, while interacting with the local population. Enhancing not only the 5th Battalion's public image, but also of the Army and Defence Force as whole. With almost half the year already having passed, Delta Company switched its focus to infantry training.

Switching from a Defence Aid to the Civil Community role into a warfighting one, saw Delta Company conduct progression of training from individual soldier skills, through to pair, team and section training. With only a few weeks before EXERCISE TIGERS RUN (EX TR),

Delta Company's training was hard and fast. Section commanders started to remove the cobwebs and get the soldiers in the combat mindset. After a month of training the sections were ready, Delta conducted EXERCISE BONDI NORTH to test and assess the training standard. After good results across the board, Delta settled into a well-deserved reduced tempo period.

Delta Company will see the rest of the year out by getting straight out into a, high tempo, EX TR followed by the Bn Section Comp "Kennedy's Cup" before shifting into the jungles of Tully Training area to once again be excellent at the basics.

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