

SUPPORT COMPANY REPORT – August 2022

Support Company has been busy over the last few months. The Platoons have worked hard to train within their specialisations and get back on the tools following return from OP FLOOD ASSIST in mid-April. The specialisation training and development culminated with Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22, with the Company executing a series of ranges at Mount Bunday Training Area in mid-June. Support Company also focussed on regional security cooperation, hosting a shooting competition with teams from the East Timor Defence Force and United States Marine Corps.

Recon and Snipers Platoon (RS)



PTE McGowan demonstrates vehicle recovery techniques in WA.

RS returned from OP FLOOD ASSIST and underwent a period of qualification upskilling, with the conduct of an Image Capture and Transfer System suite of courses, and G-Wagon conversion courses. With these new skills under their belt, RS Platoon sent a contingent of nine patrolmen to Western Australia to take part in a mobility activity across the outback throughout the entirety of June and into July. Lead by LCPL Katen, the patrolmen gained experience with long range Surveillance Reconnaissance Vehicle (SRV) movement and

recovery. PTE McGowan managed to nearly fully submerge his SRV into the depths of the Salt Plains, as seen below.

The sniper cell looked at its next generation of snipers, with the conduct of a Basic Sniper Pre Selection Course. They then took part in Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22, conducting a series of live fire field firing at Mount Bunday Training Area over six days, alongside their US Marine counterparts. The field firing encompassed both 7.62 natures and .50 serials over the last few days. The range culminated with a moving target serial, to which PTE Cotter and LCPL Nguyen had no issue hitting at 1,400m with the .50.

Direct Fire Support Weapon Platoon (DFSW)

DFSW returned to the NT following FLOOD ASSIST and set its sights back on its trade. After a few weeks of barracks training and preparation, DFSW conducted Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22 across a series of ranges, incorporating many weapon systems. They managed to fire 71 HE, 22 HEAT, and 22 HEDP with the 84mm Carl Gustaf in the first 2 days. All 84mm firing was conducting using 1 man loading drills onto a 1m steel target at a range of 700m, with devastating effects on the target area.



An FGM148C Javelin Rocket in flight after engaging a light armoured combat reconnaissance vehicle at 800m.



PTE Whitney and PTE Hyland from DFSW PL in their Javelin observation post after stalking in and occupying earlier in that afternoon.

The Mag58s got a sufficient workout in the Sustained Fire Machine Gun (SFMG) role, firing 40,000 rounds of 7.62mm. Heavy Machine Gun and Automatic Grenade Launcher were also fired. I64C and I64E [Nodes of DFSW PI] worked hard, going on various tactical tasks including tank stalks, SFMG attack by fires, and Javelin observation posts. PTE Whitney fired the Javelin on the last day of the range, in front of the CO and a crowd. After a tactical ingress to an

aggressive OP, he kept his cool and succeeded in destroying his target on the verge of dusk.

Signals Platoon

This year, Signals Platoon has supported a number of exercises and operations in and out of Australia. Of note, soldiers from Signal Platoon deployed to Malaysia as part of Rifle Company Butterworth 135, Joint Australian Training Team - Philippines, to Brisbane for Aged-Care Assist, and Casino (regional NSW) in support of Operation Flood Assist 22. More recently, Signal Platoon returned from Exercise NORMAN WOMAL 22, where the platoon completed a mix of signals and live-fire training. The OA [a node of Sig PI] detachment supported CO 5 RAR running Director of Practice at Mount Bundy Training Area, while the other detachments established, maintained and collapsed company through to battalion command posts through a range of scenarios. The exercise culminated with a live-fire platoon attack, before a return to barracks in preparation for a busy July. Over the next two months, soldiers from Signal Platoon will support Charlie Company on Exercise GARUDA SHIELD in Indonesia and on Mobile Training Team-B in Timor-Leste. Those still in Australia will stay busy —Exercise KOOLENDONG, TIGERS RUN and PREDATORS RUN will see Signal Platoon shake out in support of the Battalion.



Signals Platoon practice soldiering in the field environment.

2022 has been characterised by a focus on integrating signals training and individual soldier skills. As soldiers promote and return to rifle companies, Signals Platoon continues to increase the versatility of the Battalion's communications, increasing signals literacy throughout the Battalion and promoting communications as a basic soldier skill.

Mortar Platoon (MP)



Mortar Platoon 5 RAR engaging dismounted threats at 4,200m with a PRAC round on charge 4 during a Platoon link shoot, achieving Army Training Level 2B as part of their annual progression of training. (From the left: PTEs Murphv-Riddel, Pavne and Kiloour.

MP returned home in early April after 5 weeks of Domestic Operations in South-East Queensland and Northern NSW. The month of May saw our NCOs travel to Puckapunyal to complete their Officer/NCO Mortar Course, in which they performed to a high standard, enhancing the Battalion's reputation as a cut above the rest. Upon their return home, the platoon had a short turn around before we deployed to the field for our first live fire shoot of the year, the long awaited Ex NORMAN WOMAL 22. The end state was for the Platoon to achieve Live Fire Stage 2 for the 81mm Mortar. The three day live fire exercise saw the Platoon engage targets out to 4500m in a link shooting formation. With an ammunition allocation of over 630 rounds for three days of firing, the platoon were able to refine their skills, build Platoon cohesion and develop Platoon SOPs, in particular night shooting and link shooting.