

From: LTCOL Ash Zimmerlie
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Good afternoon Gentlemen,

I am writing to provide an update on the Binh Ba Commemoration scheduled for 17–19 June 2026.

This year's commemorative activities will be more modest than in recent years with 5 RAR. This is due to the Brigade exercise schedule, with Binh Ba Week falling between PREDATORS WALK and PREDATORS RUN, as well as several concurrent commitments. Specifically, the Battalion is required to conduct a full refit following PREDATORS WALK, and we will also undergo an Inspector-General ADF audit, which will require participation from all ranks in focus groups at various times, including all Commanders and our Headquarters staff.

Notwithstanding this, we are committed to ensuring the commemorations remain meaningful. Broadly, the program is as follows:

Wed 17 June:

1330: Jason Challis Memorial Australian Rules Football Match (Officers/SNCOs v Soldiers);

1500: Veterans Reception at Gary Holmes Club (combined Sports Parade);
and

Evening: State of Origin Game 2 (optional attendance) at the Gary Holmes Club.

The Veterans Reception will be a key event. We have organised food trucks, tap beer, and raffles, and trust it will provide a warm 'welcome home' to attending veterans, as well as an opportunity to socialise informally with our soldiers.

Thu 18 June:

TBC. Veterans-only dinner/social – Association-led program.

The Association is warmly invited to dine with the CO and RSM at a venue of your choosing; WO1 McMahon and I would be pleased to attend.

The intent for 18 June is to provide the veteran group with time together independent of Battalion activities. Additionally, the Battalion requires this day to complete parade rehearsals and facilitate personnel attendance at IGADF focus groups.

Fri 19 June ('Binh Ba Day'):

AM: Battle of Binh Ba Parade.

AM: Battle of Binh Ba Commemoration Service at the 5/7 RAR Memorial Wall.

PM: Battle of Binh Ba Veterans & Soldiers Dinner at Binh Ba Lines.

We have confirmed the attendance of BRIG Dave McCammon, DSM and Bar, Infantry Head of Corps, who will serve as the Parade Reviewing Officer and Guest of Honour at the Regimental Dinner on Friday 19 June.

Please let me know if you have any questions or further considerations from the Association. I would be grateful for your experience and insights in helping shape the activities.

From next week, I will be deployed in the field until Friday 12 June, but the Battalion 2IC, Major Steve La Rose (cc'd) will be available on comms to assist.