

CO'S DISPATCH

G'day Tigers,

It is great to get my first opportunity to write to the Tiger Battalion community and give you an update on how the Battalion finished up in 2021, and to provide you with an overview (as we currently see it) of where the Battalion is heading for 2022. In opening, I offer a very gracious thank you to my predecessor LTCOL Matt Dirago for the shape the Tiger Battalion is in – the grit, professionalism and fighting spirit that the Tiger Battalion is renowned for is evident in every corner of the unit. We all wish Matt, Ange, Ollie and Grace the best for the future and we look forward to having you back in Binh Ba lines as often as possible.

I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate a former Commanding Officer of the Tiger Battalion, MAJGEN Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, on being awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for his leadership of the 1st Division.



We finished 2021 in a sprint, deploying a platoon in support of Operation COVID-19 Assist in remote Northern Territory. Thankfully, that team were able to complete their task and make it back to Darwin by Christmas to enjoy some time off. It was also great for the majority of our Tigers to be able to travel to see their families and spend Christmas and New Year with their loved ones after a long period of COVID-19 restrictions.

Returning for 2022, we have hit the ground running. We have completed our induction and mandatory training and we have dived head on into the training year. Bravo Company have deployed elements to the Philippines, Charlie Company are deployed to Queensland in support of Operation Aged Care Assist, Delta Company are deployed as the current Rifle Company Butterworth and Log Company are deployed to northern NSW on Operation Flood Assist. Support Company are training our future leaders on the Section Commanders Battle Course; the Motorised team are executing driver training on our fleet of Bushmaster's; Charlie Company are planning small boat courses for May and Logistics company are supporting all of the above and swinging spanners to make sure we are in good order for the campaigning season. This will see the Tigers keeping busy right up to Binh Ba week.

This year, we are going to build upon the Battalions commemoration of the Battle of Binh Ba. The Regimental Sergeant Major and I are extending an invite to all Tigers to return home to the Battalion for Binh Ba week commencing 06 June 2022. We will be holding a Soldiers and Veterans Dining-In night in the Battalion, a combative night, Rugby, Aussie Rules, an evening parade and then an evening cocktail reception to close out the week. More details will follow, however we hope to see as many former Tigers as possible in Darwin and Binh Ba lines to catch up and have a chat with the current generation. We will make sure the Gary Holmes club is stocked with memorabilia and hope that past Tigers can see the effort the current generation have put into the 5 RAR museum.

Whilst the first half of the year to Binh Ba week looks busy, we will continue to keep ourselves occupied in the second half of 2022. We will be getting out into the region with Exercise Wirra Jaya and we will be working closely with our regional partners. In August, we will form Battle Group Tiger for the first time since 2016 and participate in Exercise Predators Run across the Top End. We will continue to link closely with our United States Marine Corps brethren; and in 2022 the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines will join us again as the Infantry Battalion of the Marine Rotational Force Darwin. Most importantly, we will look to maintain our close links with the 5 RAR Association and look for any opportunities to include our Tigers who have gone before us in our activities.

Overall, 2022 is shaping as a cracking year, and I look forward to working closely with all Tigers, past and present.

Duty First!

Chris Gilmore, CO 5 RAR