

CO'S FINAL DISPATCH DECEMBER 2021

G'day Tigers,

Since our last update the Tiger Battalion has continued to train for our operational role without significant impacts of COVID 19 – another benefit of living and training in the Top End! Unfortunately the Duke of Gloucester Cup was again postponed for 2021 due to NSW restrictions, but our teams will be raring to go in 2022!

Since our last update the Battalion continued its participation in EX Koolendong, a War Fighting exercise with the US Marine Corps rotational force (MRF-D). This exercise provided excellent and unique opportunities for Delta Coy to participate in joint assaults of American and Australian force elements, providing a ground combat element operating across land and air platforms in the remote and challenging Bradshaw Field Training Area. We also led the Australian Army's premier Security Cooperation exercise with Indonesia, being Ex Wirra Jaya 2021. Again, led by D Coy, the teams trained together in Darwin for 3 weeks before a culminating early morning urban assault at Mount Bundey. B Coy has led the Infantry Section Commanders course, this year conducted in Perth in partnership with SASR and attended by soldiers of 3 RAR and 7 RAR. As sports week, Battalion Ball, and the end of year awards BBQ looms, it is obvious that another training year is coming to a close. C Coy continue to explore reconnaissance and watercraft opportunities while Support Company have been busy running a suite of support company courses.



The end of the year is also posting time for many of our people and their families. For some it is their first posting out of the regiment, and for me it will be my last. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our 5 RAR Association for the warm welcome that you provided me when I first arrived in The Battalion. From the first meeting with your then President, Col Roger Wainwright (ret'd), through meeting many of you at various reunions or commemorations, and to our ongoing relationship with the Association ably led by Mr David French, I have always known that the experience and support of Tigers past is only a phone call away. The Association is a proud and cohesive organisation with committed and passionate members. The Association has a pivotal role in our Veteran community and I hope that our younger members continue to take up the excellent platform that you have built for them.

As I depart the Battalion I am very pleased to welcome LTCOL Chris Gilmore into the Tiger Fold. I cannot think of a better Commanding Officer for the Battalion in 2022, ably supported by a consistent leadership team across the Battalion. I know that you will welcome him and that he will lead the Battalion through the coming years and whatever challenges or opportunities arise.

In parting, I thank you for the privilege to serve in our Battalion and contribute to our Association. I look forward to hearing of the fighting spirit and legacy of the Tiger Battalion and remain a committed servant of this Battalion.

Duty First

LTCOL Matthew Dirago

[The 5 RAR Committee and the Editor extend their gratitude to Matt for his contribution to furthering the close relationship between the Battalion and the Association members.](#)