

CO'S DISPATCH – August 2022



LTCOL Chris Gilmore

G'day Tigers,

It is great to get the opportunity to write to the 5 RAR Tiger community and provide an update on what has been going on around the Battalion. The last few months have seen our Tiger teams employed across a vast array of security cooperation activities, training serials, courses and the commemoration of the Battle of Binh Ba (Binh Ba Week) here in the Battalion. Whilst the Companies and Headquarters have been busy, these Tigers are in great shape and continue to impress everyone they come across with their professionalism and humility.

I write this having come off an excellent month of June for the Tiger Battalion, where we have completed two key events; Binh Ba Week over the period 6-9 June, and then Exercise Norm Womal over the period 10–23 June. Additionally since I last wrote, we have had D Company redeploy after a successful rotation #135 of Rifle Company

Butterworth in Malaysia, and the team from B Company have successfully completed their mission on the Joint Australian Training Team – Philippines (JATT-P), a four month deployment supporting one of our most important partners. Both of these activities were of significant importance and the respective Company's will provide a more detailed overview and update of their activities in their articles. Our Support Company formed the training team currently providing instruction to the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor Leste (F-FDTL) in Timor Leste and C Company are preparing to deploy to Garuda Shield in Indonesia. In July - September, we will form BATTLE GROUP TIGER to conduct EX PREDATORS RUN 22 in the Northern Territory, and then pivot straight into Support Company courses. One thing is certain – we are not bored!

Binh Ba Week was an opportunity to commemorate and reflect on the history of 5 RAR and commemorate not only Binh Ba, but all of the combat actions the Tiger Battalion have been involved in from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Most importantly for the current generation was the opportunity to host a number of Veterans of the 5th Battalion, and the 5th/7th Battalion for the week. The energy, enthusiasm and stories of actions past provided us with sense of pride in what the Tiger Battalion represents, and the effort of a number of past veterans to travel to Darwin was brilliant; we will look to build on this again next year and make it even better. I must also extend my gratitude to MAJGEN Jake Ellwood for reviewing the Binh Ba Parade at the Darwin Cenotaph, MAJGEN Caughey, the COL COMDT of the RAR for hosting the parade, BRIG Mick Garraway (Head of Corps) and WO1 Rob Munro (former RSM 5 RAR and current Corps RSM) for their attendance. Most of all, I think it should be noted that the week would not have got off the ground without the tireless work and dedication of the RSM, WO1 Sean Casey. The Binh Ba Week article will be included in this Tiger Tales, and we hope that as many past Tigers as possible can join us next year.

We executed Exercise Norm Womal 22 at Mount Bunday Training Area over the period 10-23 June 22, with the focus being live-fire Support Company training and live fire platoon operations for C Company and the rear elements of B Company. It served as an excellent opportunity to shake off some of the dust and get back in the field and fire the weapons that make being in the Army special. The efforts of Recon and Sniper PL, Mortars and Heavy Weapons was excellent, and the opportunity for Heavy Weapons to live fire a Javelin missile was a highlight.

With everything the Tigers have already achieved this year, there is no slowing down – and as always these men and women of the Tiger Battalion continue to represent the battalion, the RAR, the 1st Brigade and the Army outstandingly. We have taken some time off over the Northern Territory School Holidays, and we are straight back into it in late July. Thank you to the Tiger Community for your continued support of the Battalion, and I look forward to hosting you in Binh Ba lines at the next opportunity.

Duty First!

LTCOL Chris Gilmore