

DELTA COMPANY REPORT – August 2022

Rifle Company Butterworth has a long and storied history, dating back to the 1970's until today. The names of all those who have rotated quarterly there adorn the walls of 2nd/30th Battalion headquarters and the local watering hole "Hong Kong Bar". Delta Company, 5 RAR, had the extreme privilege of deploying on the 135th rotation (RCB135) from February to May 2022.

The deployment can be broken down into four distinct parts; First, the painful introduction to the jungle that Soldiers experienced, the reprieve of conducting Ranges at the Malaysian Army Combat Training Centre (PULADA), followed by Cultural immersion Activities and ANZAC Day, before concluding with another stint in the jungle mixed with an urban training package.



Delta Company poses for a photo.

The six day Jungle training package at Sik National Park was a rude introduction to the jungle and, for many members of Delta Company, their first field exercise in the Battalion. Many slaved away, fighting off hordes of leeches, waterborne diseases and mosquitoes to come out the other side weary and dehydrated, but ultimately stronger for it. The exercise focused solely on section tactical tasks, providing the section commanders with excellent opportunities to train junior soldiers, as well as grow as commanders.

Post this exercise, the rotation travelled eight hours south to PULADA. Whilst en route, Delta Company was able to conduct a battlefield history tour, which focused on the actions of the 2/30th Battalion in Malaysia during World War II. Whilst in PULADA, the rotation conducted a series of high explosive, combat shooting and manoeuvre ranges in order to upskill junior soldiers in the application of different weapon systems and interlaying of effects.

On return from PULADA, the rotation was fortunate enough to participate in ANZAC day activities at Hellfire Pass, Sandakan, Kuala Lumpur, and Penang. Following this, the rotation was afforded two weeks to conduct cultural immersion activities. Groups participated in adventure training, as well as visiting culturally significant sites in Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. LT Ellwood and CAPT Etheridge were even fortunate enough to complete Ramadan with 1000 Muslims at the National Mosque.

With impending return flights to Australia, we were able to complete one last activity in the nick of time. The rotation completed a 10 day peer on peer Full Mission Profile at Kulim National Park, off-set by section and platoon level urban training with new man marking munitions. This was the highlight of the trip, and successfully rounded out the experience for the rotation.