



Royal Australian Army
Ordnance Corps

Ordnance

The Journal of the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps – 2023 Vol 48



In every unit

On every operation

Integral to success

CONTENTS

HOC Message	3
DHOC Message	5
Corps RSM Message	6
RAAOC Colonel Commandants	7
RAAOC Mentor Messages	8
RAAOC Conductor Messages	11
Honours and Awards	18
News – Personnel:	
RAAOC RMC Graduates	20
Introducing Some of RAAOC’s Senior People	22
Thoughts on Leadership - Anyone can wear a hat	26
APSU North Queensland ECN 150 Morning Tea	28
RAAOC Association (WA) Inc ANZAC Day – 2023	29
The CTC RAAOC Day Storyboard	32
My Time at Defence Science and Technology Group	33
Discomfort, Pain and the Brain	35
Exercise Long Look 2022	36
News – Technical:	
The new hub for Ammunition Technical Officers?	37
120mm Tank Warshot Surveillance	38
News of Note	
2023 RAAOC Conference	40
Formation SITREP	43
Support to Operations	
OP ACCORDION - RAAOC Birthday Celebrations 2023	97
History	
A Special Rover in Bandiana	99
Vale	100
RAAOC Corps Fund Subscriptions	102

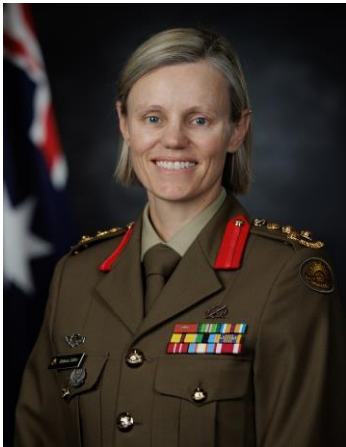
Submissions for the 2024 RAAOC Journal

Please submit your 2024 RAAOC Journal Articles by 31 Aug 24 to: raaoc.matters@defence.gov.au
(Attn: Journal Editor)

More information on the RAAOC Journal is at:
<http://drnet.defence.gov.au/Army/RAAOC/Heritage/Pages/Journal.aspx>

Welcome Message

Head of Corps



BRIG Rebecca Talbot

This is my first edition of the RAAOC journal as Head of Corps, and I must first thank Brigadier Nicole Longley for her achievements, dedication and passion for the Corps during a very successful tenure. Thank you for all that you and DHOC, LTCOL Scottie Morris, achieved; the Corps is better off for your leadership.

It is a real honour and privilege for me to assume the appointment and it gives me immense pride to reflect on what the Corps has already achieved in 2023 in this year's Journal. Having had an opportunity to speak with many of you throughout the year, it is the quality of the individuals and your commitment to teams of teams that stands out. Motivated and skilled members, leaders, at every level, dedicated to achieving excellence is evident everywhere. Examples of this excellence include: advancing joint training initiatives with our RAAF colleagues while also undertaking logistic and administrative document reform (ECN 150 and 104); demonstrating our innovative mindset and technical skills via VLOG/ podcasts while also advancing fuel interoperability possibilities with partner nations (ECN 269); our ability to inform delivering and sustaining the ADF's strategic munitions requirements while continuing the provision of detailed technical support (ECN 401); and remaining agile in the face of change while still providing high standards of capability support (ECN 345). We've also been informing officer training continuums, including opportunities for RAAOC to support a HR officer stream in the near future. This is just a snapshot of the excellent work; I know there are many more examples at the individual, unit and formation level that you can reflect on as you read this edition of our Journal.

Looking forward, 2024 promises to be every bit as busy and exciting. Now, more than ever, in these dynamic times, the Corps has renewed relevance and utility, but we must not rest on our laurels. To keep pace, we must remain engaged and reinforce where we can best offer Army, and the Integrated Force, value and competitive advantage. Our mind set, agility and professionalism provide an excellent foundation for this support. There will, of course, be challenges that I know we will face head on along the way and I know you will be there with your best foot forward. One way to do this is to engage with the RAAOC and Trades portal in ADELE; this excellent tool enables you to access information, as well as contribute to the discussion. We want to hear your views, so please get involved and support us to inform, inspire and influence far beyond the RAAOC family.

Speaking of the RAAOC family, I'd like to recognise the support provided by the Head of Corps Cell that includes the DHOC, RSM, and Trade Conductors and Mentors. The team undertake these roles in addition to their normal posted position, and without their passion and professionalism we would not have gained the attention and outcomes we have recently enjoyed. I'd specifically like to thank the outgoing ECN269 team, COL Mark Baldock and WO1 Jason Hartley, for their efforts over the last five years. These two RAAOC professionals have directly and positively contributed to shaping current and future capability for the Operator Petroleum employment category; no mean feat given the change that has occurred over their time. I congratulate the incoming ECN269 Mentor and Conductor, COL Tim Stone and WO1 James Sinclair, on their appointments; both have extensive subject mastery and experience to continue advancing the trade capability and I look forward to working with them.

Welcome Message Head of Corps

I'd also like to congratulate WO1 Craig Smith, appointed Distribution Operator Conductor in March this year; his willingness and ability to advance the profile and capability of ECN104 has already been felt. Another welcome is extended to LTCOL David Hill, who will be appointed as the ECN345 Mentor. LTCOL Hill has a long history with the trade, directly supporting the capability throughout his career, so he brings a wealth of experience to the team. Importantly, I'd like to thank our outgoing Corps RSM, WO1 Daniel Gissane, for his outstanding support to the Corps. His advocacy of the vital capability we, as a Corps, provide to Army and the Integrated Force has been tireless and invaluable. Through steadfast leadership, unwavering dedication, and a good sense of humour he has guided and supported the Corps through opportunities, challenges and change; his legacy leaves a positive imprint and sets a strong foundation for our incoming Corps RSM, WO1 Serge Pirard, to build upon.

Finally, thank you for your work during 2023 - I am very proud of your achievements. The commitment, skills and humour you have shown throughout this busy year perfectly demonstrates the Corps' adaptability and innovation in contact. Keep it up, as together we will continue to make a real difference to the Army and the Integrated Force.

To the Warrior Their Arms

Rebecca Talbot

Welcome Message

Deputy Head of Corps



LTCOL Gareth Humphreys

Being the first edition in my role as Deputy Head of Corps I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have now departed corps roles but remain part of the RAAOC family. Firstly, to my predecessor COL Scottie Morris for commencing changes to training systems because of the Defence Strategic Review. Next, I would like to thank WO1 Dan Gissane for his leadership in maintaining Corps and trade links as Army emerged from COVID-19 – not an easy task. Lastly, I would like to highlight the years of dedication and passion COL Mark Baldock and WO1 Jason Hartley provided as the Mentor and Conductor Operator Petroleum – the trade could not have asked for better advocates.

It is a privilege to be the Deputy Head of Corps and work on behalf of the five trades and in support of the Head of Corps to achieve directed outcomes. Additionally, it is exciting to be part of a corps that as a collective offers so much to Army and the integrated force.

Reflecting on upcoming opportunities, 2024 is shaping to be another exciting year for each of the trades – all of which are undergoing iterative changes. ECN 104 and 150 ab-initio and promotion training integration with Navy and Air Force continues at pace. ECN 269 is preparing for the introduction into service, programmed for initial operational capability in Q1 2025, of Joint Project 8190 Phase 1 - Deployable Bulk Fuel Distribution. ECN 345 is readily absorbing new maintenance capabilities and ECN 401 is postured to respond to priorities set by the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Group. Your trade conductors remain pivotal in enabling these changes and I implore you to engage them at any opportunity to ensure all perspectives are considered.

A word on the journal, it is your journal so please remain engaged and all submissions to raaoc.matters@defence.gov.au will be included. In preparing for writing this message, I read previous editions from just after the Vietnam War through to the present. Apart from the amusing advertising revenue of earlier editions, what struck me was the contest of ideas presented from all ranks and across the ADF. Please keep these submissions coming.

On a personal note I would like to highlight the efforts of MAJ McLatchey and WO1 Greaves in keeping the Head of Corps cell running on a daily basis. Their efforts in ensuring corps members, both current and newly departed, receive recognition; ensuring the finite budget is spent to best effect and the continuity of information to maintain customs and traditions are exceptional. Where we can do better please let us know.

To the Warrior Their Arms

Gareth Humphreys

Welcome Message Corps Regimental Sergeant Major

WO1 Dan Gissane



For many years now this Journal has provided a great opportunity for all of us to showcase what it is that the Corps does, and the lengths we go to, in support of Army's Mission. It has been a privilege to have been able to contribute as the Corps RSM for the last two years. Before going any further I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest soldiers as they begin their career journey within the Corps, and acknowledge those who continue to serve and provide capability above that of their rank and position.

It is very difficult to get around and see our nearly 4,000 people across the whole of Australia, but I have been very fortunate in having the opportunity to speak to a large number during course attendance or on the rare occasions we have travelled on HOC business. I am constantly impressed with the critical thought and curiosity of our soldiers, and I am confident that the Corps remains in good hands into the future.

I have asked for two simple messages to be shared by our WO & NCOs, and they are the same messages that I pass on to each IET soldier that passes through ASO:

- **Our reward is actually in the silence** – It is a fact that what we do isn't always apparent to those we support, but it is also a fact of human nature that we will let someone know when we don't receive something we believe we have an entitlement to. The smallest lapse on our part we will hear about, therefore hearing nothing at all doesn't just equal good...it equals outstanding.
- **We may not appear on many recruiting posters, but nobody can do anything without us** – This should be self-evident, but we forget it all too often. Whilst we may exist in small numbers in many areas of the ADF, the capability we provide is mostly well out of proportion to those numbers. An ill-equipped and ill-administered soldier is unable to provide their best possible capability, and the fact that you all strive to prevent that on a daily basis is not lost on our leaders.

The sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 08 September 2022 left us without a Colonel-In-Chief for the first time since 1953. Our HOC Cell, along with those of the other Corps (and other ADF Organisations) who also enjoyed the status of a Special Relationship with Her Majesty, has since commenced the process seeking the appointment of a new Colonel-In-Chief of RAAOC. At this time the requests are being consolidated at ADF level. I am hopeful that we will have a positive answer during 2024.

As I conclude my time, I wish to thank each of you for the support you provide to the HOC Cell in building and maintaining esprit-de-corps. You might not believe that it is very strong, but I genuinely think you would be surprised if you were exposed to what I have seen over the last two years. To the incoming Corps RSM, WO1 Serge Pirard, I again offer my congratulations – I am sure that you will be supported exceptionally well...just as I have been.

Please continue to engage your Regional Representatives with regard to conducting activities, such as Ball & Cannon functions, in order to further promote our Corps and what it is that we do. As always, for any Corps related questions or issues you can contact the HOC Cell via raaoc.matters@defence.gov.au.

For the last time,

Sua Tela Tonanti

RAAOC Colonels Commandant

Acting pursuant to *Army Standing Instructions (Personnel) Chapter 6 – Honorary Appointments*, Chief of Army has appointed two senior retired officers of the Corps to perform the roles of Representative Colonel Commandant and regional Colonel Commandant.

These roles for the Representative Colonel Commandant include:

- Coordination of functions and visits of Colonel Commandants and matters of customs and traditions within the Corps.
- Participation in the activities of the Corps committee.
- Advice to the Head of Corps on matters within the purview of Colonel Commandants.
- Sending and receiving customary messages to and from our Colonel-in-Chief.
- Representative duties on behalf of the Head of Corps.

For the regional Colonel Commandant these include:

- Fostering esprit de Corps.
- Maintaining links with Associations.
- Advising on any matters on which they are consulted in their capacity of Colonel Commandant.
-

The current Colonel Commandants are:

Representative Colonel Commandant – BRIG Jane Spalding, AM



BRIG Spalding joined the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps in 1983 and joined RAAOC in 1984. She qualified as an Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) in 1985 to become the second female officer to complete this course. BRIG Spalding's appointments included postings as an ATO in Explosive Ordnance Depots; Aide-De-Camp to the Governor-General and OC Proof and Experimental Establishment, Graytown; CO/CI of the Integrated Logistics Division and Director General Explosive Ordnance from 2012-2015. BRIG Spalding was RAAOC HOC from 2014 until 2018 after which she deployed to Afghanistan on OP HIGHROAD as the Commander Task Group Afghanistan. BRIG Spalding's last posting in 2021 was as Director General Sensitive Issues Management-Army.

Colonel Commandant – BRIG David Shields (ARES)



Brigadier Shields retired from the ARA to the Standby Reserve in 2015, after 30 years in RAAOC. Notable appointments included instructor and OPSO at RAAOC Centre, OC 6 Field Supply Company, CO/CI integrated Logistics Division (Deputy HOC RAAOC) and COMDT ALTC. He has served on operations with the UN in Syria and South Lebanon and in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is currently employed in a Reserve capacity in the Australian Military Sales Office (CASG) and in AHQ, as the mentor to Army's Capability Life Cycle Management staff.

Mentor Message ECN 269 Operator Petroleum

COL Mark Baldock, CSC

Greetings Fellow Operator Petroleum (Pet Ops) and Corps members.

What an exciting time to be a member of the trade. There are a number of current programs and initiatives that the trade will benefit from in the near and distant future. As the Australian Defence Force's only full-time fuel workforce, the ECN 269 Operator Petroleum trade will continue to be at the forefront of Defence fuel capability. Going forward, the trade will be asked to solve Defence's most complex fuel problems, hence it will benefit from these investments in capability.

Firstly, the Defence Strategic Review mentions fuel over twenty times. In response to the review, the Government will invest in the Australian Defence Force's fuel capability, including fixed and deployable storage, distribution, testing and dosing capabilities. Added to this will be the additional fuel challenges posed to recent force structure changes to Army and the development of the Air Force agile air basing capability. All of these will require trade focus and input to ensure professional standards for fuel quality and supply are maintained.

Next, Joint Project 8190 will modernise trade capabilities. There has been excellent collaboration between Army, Capability and Sustainment Group, Joint Logistics Command and the other Groups and Services to better align whole of Defence fuel capabilities. The initial phase of JP8190 will modernise the deployable component of an integrated, safe and resilient Defence fuel supply chain. Subsequent phases of this project will also build upon the extant trade capabilities to introduce deployable fuel capabilities to support the Air Force. Army and Air Force are linked in to ensure all capabilities are integrated. The trade will be the premier workforce using these capabilities.

In addition, the trade has reconnected with a number of our closest coalition partners. It is evident from our initial interactions that each country is experiencing similar fuel challenges, hence we will stand to benefit from sharing lessons with each other. I want to single out the efforts of the Trade Conductor, Warrant Officer Hartley, for his effort to resurrect these long lost connections.

I want the trade to know that you are in good hands with regards to remediating workforce pressures. Whilst the trade has impressively risen to meet workforce gaps and challenges in recent years, Army has decided to provide additional resources to address workforce gaps. This will take time; hence I want all members of the trade to be fully involved in this important work in the near future.

Finally, I want to thank Warrant Officer Jason Hartley for his passion and drive as the Conductor. He has achieved significant gains for the trade and everyone has and will benefit from his success. I wish him the best for what comes next as he continues to serve on as a senior member of the trade. I would also like to welcome the new Conductor, Warrant Officer James Sinclair, who will bring his usual energy to the appointment and build upon the great work of Warrant Officer Hartley.

As I hand over the role of Mentor to Colonel Tim Stone, I would like to thank all of the members of the trade for your pursuit of professional mastery. You have upheld the standards in fuel capability and safety, which in turn has directly contributed to whole of Defence capability. I would also like to acknowledge the trade members that have been recently recognised for outstanding achievement, be it through promotion or award. I have been privileged to have been the trade mentor for many years and I am proud to be a member of the trade.

COL Mark Baldock

Mentor Message

ECN 401 Ammunition Technician

COL Tony Watson, CSC

Once again it has been an incredible year for ECN401, in particular seeing the trade continue to go from strength to strength. I have been very fortunate to witness first-hand the technical skills, competence and professionalism of a number of the members of trade, across all ranks, execute their trade responsibilities across capability development, test and evaluation, supply, EOD and logistics disposal. I am continually impressed with the professional mastery that is applied, and the passion and personal drive you all apply to our trade.

On 01 July 2023, as recommended within the Defence Strategic Review, the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) Enterprise was brought under one accountable ADF officer and become the GWEO Group. The wider GWEO organisation continues to grow at a significant rate, and with it the demand for our ammunition technical expertise that underpins availability, stock surety and supply chain resilience of ADF's EO needed to sustain combat operations. I encourage you all to read COL Matthew Dwyer's Article in the Journal for more information on the establishment of GWEO Group.

The knowledge, skills, experience and attributes of ECN401 are more so than ever in high demand, and the Army trade of choice, for supporting GWEO Group initiatives. Opportunities to work within the GWEO Group will become increasingly available, so I encourage you to keep these on your radar and consideration for future postings.

Last year I advised on the establishment of a new post Graduate degree of Master of Science in Explosive Ordnance Engineering that commenced earlier this year. As the program matures, there will be greater availability and options to undertake this study as part of your professional and personal development.

We should all recognise the outstanding efforts of the staff of the Army School of Ordnance that has led to the graduation of new Subject 4 for SGT qualified ATs. I had the great privilege to attend their graduation on 30 Aug 23.

I wish to again recognise the efforts of WO1 Luke Elcock, the Trade Conductor, for this leadership and building esprit de corps across the trade and our Corps this year, and COL Matthew Dwyer who took on the duties of Trade Mentor for a period of four months while I disappeared for some much-needed leave (including lots of Mountain Biking – Yes I stayed upright most of the time!).

Keep your powder dry!

Colonel Anthony Watson
Director GWEO Industrial Foundations - Domestic Manufacturing
GWEO Manufacturing Development Branch
GWEO Capability Development Division

Mentor Message
ECN 345 Parachute Rigger



LTCOL Dave Hill

It is an honour to have been appointed by the Head of Corps as the Parachute Rigger Trade Mentor. I am excited to have the opportunity to be involved with the Trade once again and to work alongside WO1 Wilson as we negotiate what is arguably the most important period in the Trade's history to date. While the trade amalgamation is currently paused, to allow further analysis, the Conductor and I are committed to ensuring that the best possible outcomes are achieved for Defence's aerial delivery capability.

The Conductor and I are proud to represent the Trade across a variety of forums; your active engagement with us enables our ability to influence the future of the Trade. In particular, we encourage you to let us know what we can do to assist recruitment, retention and job-satisfaction.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the Army's newest Parachute Riggers that graduated from the IET course at the end of last year. In addition, I extend my congratulations to those that were promoted at the end of 2023; good luck in your new appointments. While the Trade faces similar staffing pressures to the other RAAOC trades, I am extremely confident in the quality and professionalism of the Army's Parachute Rigger workforce across all ranks; furthermore, collectively you can be proud of your achievements throughout 2023.

I look forward to the opportunity to engage with you over the course of the year particularly as we negotiate the future of the Parachute Rigger trade.

Be Sure Always
Rigger 497

Trade Mentor & Conductor Message

Command Support Clerk ECN 150



BRIG Melanie Cochbain, CSC



WO1 Sharon Knight, OAM, CSM

On behalf of BRIG Cochbain and myself we would like to say thank you for all your efforts in 2023. It has been another big year and as always, there has been a significant number of ECN 150 personnel providing exceptional support across the nation, and your work is commended.

We would also like to acknowledge and congratulate LTGEN Natasha Fox, AM, CSC, Trade Champion and BRIG Rebecca Talbot, CDS, Head of Corps on their recent significant promotions and appointments. We thank them for their continuous guidance, support and championship to meet Army's mission to prepare Land Power to enable the Joint Force in peace and war. To achieve the mission, Army generates structures, employs and postures our teams to be ready for domestic, regional and global tasks. We are a pivotal trade in support of Army to achieve its Mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate BRIG Cochbain, Trade Mentor on her significant recent promotion to BRIG and appointment as the Deputy Head Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Taskforce. BRIG Cochbain enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in 1986. On completion of Recruit Training, she was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps as a Clerk Administration. BRIG Cochbain enjoyed a successful career as a soldier, attaining the rank of WO2. In Jan 2002, BRIG Cochbain commissioned and was appointed to the rank of CAPT. In Jan 2024, BRIG Cochbain assumed her current role. BRIG Cochbain is an *Inspiration and Role Model* for what she has achieved. Our careers are what we make them and having a *want to succeed* we all have the potential to be whatever we choose, noting we truly are Masters of our destiny.



We would like to offer our congratulations to all personnel promoted this year, each promotion should be relished. Ensure you wear your rank with pride and confidence, and continue to challenge yourself and advance your skills. Importantly, support and mentor your subordinates and peers. Take pride in our Trade and the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps. To our personnel currently posted overseas and on operations, stay safe and we look forward to your safe return.

With effect, 01 Feb 24 the ECN 150 IET soldiers will be training at RAAFSALT Wagga, with our Army facilitators SGT Sharon Kirwan, CPL Anthony Marshall, CPL Ripley Hill and PTE Elizabeth Devereux.

Common Module. The Common Training Course is training in an integrated classroom environment with Army and RAAF facilitators.

Trade Mentor & Conductor Message

Command Support Clerk ECN 150

Single Service Specific Module – Army. Learners will undertake the Single Service Module where the training is focused on domestic and off-shore operations (Command Post), introduction to cash office and resource management. We wish a warm welcome to WO1 Brett Shields who has now marched into RAAFSALT as the Army Liaison and Training Officer - STWO.

Initiatives for Retention and Recruitment. These are important issues to us as a Trade and BRIG Cochbain and I are always looking for ways to contribute noting the current state of the Trade.

The following areas of opportunity are currently in place or in development in support of Retention and Recruitment:

- Training reserve personnel prior to recruit training.
- Training recruits at 1 RTB Digger James.
- 12-month course sessioning, rolling starts with the TE panelling as required.
- Working with DFR and changing the trade name for recruitment only – Human Resource Administrator.
- Embracing the FORCOMD Skills Enhancement Program.
- Flexibility in learning for Trade Transfers.
- Trade Network / Mentoring Program.
- Continue to work towards a Human Resource Officer pathway.

Communications Platforms. We continue to utilise ForceNet and ADELE as our communication strategy. We will move to THE COVE in 2024.

- The RAAOC ECN 150 HOC ADELE page has been updated. This platform now includes videos from the School, CSC PL which include, the future of Ordnance Training within the Corps, changes to the Finance Supervisor Course (to be renamed the Resource Specialist and Subj 4 CPL CEJ). The Trade Network / Mentoring Program link can be found in this location ([Link](#)).
-
- ForceNet is currently being utilised to notify members of information on the Trade, and I encourage everyone to join our ECN 150 ForceNet Group. It is a great forum to share information and stay up to date on trade/policy changes. The POC for ForceNet is WO1 Sharon Knight.

As your Trade Mentor and Conductor, we will continue to champion the skills and expertise of ECN 150 Command Support Clerk as valued contributors to Army and Australian Defence Force capability. We will support the Corps, the trade and most importantly, you.

Thank you for your contributions thus far and I look forward to receiving your thoughts and suggestions via ecn150tradementor/conductor@defence.gov.au

Conductor Message

Distribution Operator ECN 104



Warrant Officer Class One Craig Smith, CSM

Hello fellow suppliers and fellow Corps members. I would firstly like to congratulate CPL Ethan Sapsford from 1 CSSB who was awarded the RAAOC HOC Soldier's Medallion for 2023.

Moving through 2024 the supply work workforce has a challenging and busy year ahead. With the introduction of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Tranche 1B Supply Chain Management. Tranche 1B sets the foundation for an integrated supply chain where current and future processes are refined and more efficient. SAP will reduce duplication of effort, increase interoperability and enhance supply chain data transparency and visibility across Army and Defence more broadly.

The rollout of ERP Tranche 1B combined with the Army re-org and rebalance of equipment across the organisation, alongside the many Operations, Actions and Investments Army is committed to throughout 2024 will provide some challenges for the trade. The ERP upskilling of the supply workforce, change over to the SAP and with the finalisation and release of the Defence Logistic Suite that will replace publication such as DEFLOGMAN, (including the ESCM) will consume a great deal of the trade's time through the latter half of 2024.

As a great start to 2024 Workforce and Training Group has confirmed the removal of the Manoeuvre Range Safety Supervisor Course from the Protected Mobility Vehicle Mounted Leader course (PMV-ML) as of 01 May 24. This removal significantly reduces the resources required to run the PMV-ML course at the unit level and provides our SERCAT 5 members greater access to complete the trade progression requirement as unit/home base training. The offering at the Army School of Transport will continue into the future for those units that can release members.

A milestone achieved in 2023 is the establishment of a five week common IET supply component delivered at the ASO for Army and RAAF. This is a significant step forward in joint supply training and supports the wider review of the logistics workforce being undertaken by Joint Logistic Command.

ASO, in-conjunction with the 2nd Australian Division, is looking at opportunities to deliver IET training within the home location. This is partly due to the backlog and SERCAT 5 personnel ability to commit the required time away from their home location. Moving forward this will hopefully be incorporated into the 8 Brigade home base training offerings.

A friendly reminder to all Supervisors that have an ECN 104-2, you need to invest your time in developing the soldier and conducting a workplace assessment via the workplace journal. This will ensure the soldier has met their workplace requirement and they progress to PG3. Please reach out to WO1 Shaun Harper for assistance.

Please reach out if you need any trade assistance or advice.



Conductor Message Operator Petroleum ECN 269



Warrant Officer Class One Jason Hartley, OAM

Greetings Fellow Operator Petroleum (Pet Ops) and Corps members.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge and thank Colonel Mark Baldock for his mentorship to the trade over the past six years. As the Trade Mentor, your guidance, knowledge and experience has been valuable in progressing trade matters. The Trade thanks you for your Mentorship; the Trade is better off for your efforts. The trade extends a warm welcome to our new Trade Mentor, Colonel Tim Stone, we all look forward to working with you in the future.

Secondly, I inform you of the end of my tenure as the Petroleum Trade Conductor. I have been very fortunate to have held the prestigious appointment of Petroleum Trade Conductor for the past six years. The appointment as Trade Conductor is the pinnacle of my career; I highly recommend every Corps member to aspire to one day hold this prestigious position for your trade. As the Trade Conductor I have been able to provide mentorship on Bulk Class III capabilities, not only to our trade members but also across the entire defence organisation. I am extremely thankful for having been the voice and face of the Petroleum Trade for the past six years, I feel together we have progressed the trade in so many ways.

It is difficult to single out any one individual to say thank you to. To the past and present trade members of every rank, you deserve my initial praise, you all provided me the drive and motivation to work harder as the Conductor to ensure you were the ones that benefitted from my work. To past and present Heads of Corps, Corps committee and RAAOC Corps members, you have provided the support to RAAOC and myself allowing me to progress the trade well into the future. Lastly to my fellow Trade Conductors, working together with you all within the team we have built has ensured RAAOC to continue to develop. The passion and enthusiasm we have all shared for our trades has ensured my six years as a Trade Conductor was most enjoyable. Thanks to everyone.



RAAOC Conductors at the Corps Conference – see page 45.

Conductor Message

Petroleum Operator ECN 269



Our Pet Op units have been heavily involved in various activities throughout this year. These activities have enabled the employment of a wide range of trade capabilities. The various activities occurring under the Exercise Talisman Sabre banner provided an opportunity to support RAAF trials, supply of bulk Class III to both Australian and International forces, and observation of the US Joint Petroleum Over the Shore deployment in Weipa. The conduct of Exercise Overland Nautical Petros (EX ONP) provided further chances to refine trade skills in employment of the Bulk Liquid Distribution system in an austere setting. These activities drew members from across the entire trade to work together collaboratively to achieve outcomes. At each activity it was evident that the trade has motivated skilled members and leaders at every level; dedicated to achieving excellence.

EX ONP, hosted by 9 FSB, provided an international visit for Petroleum Operators from UK Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force, with both forces sending their Petroleum Conductor. The visit has enabled further discussions on developing Bulk Class III Fuel interoperability with our coalition partners. The trade plans to continue building Fuel interoperability through understanding each other's capabilities and conduct of International Engagement exercises. Developing Fuel Interoperability will assist the trade in meeting outcomes linked to the Defence Strategic Review.

The 2023 RAAOC Corps Conference proved to be a successful event. The use of technology to combine face to face engagement with local hubs and online users through ADELE, allows the Corps Conference to reach further across the corps than ever before. Please continue to engage with the RAAOC and trades portal in ADELE as an excellent tool to enable you to access information, as well as contribute to discussions. We want to hear your views, so get involved and support us to inform, inspire and influence far beyond the RAAOC family.

The trade continues to face challenges in recruiting potential candidates for growth of the petroleum workforce. Through engagement with Defence Force Recruiting (DFR) we have developed an Explore Careers Podcast and VLOG explaining and demonstrating our skills. These tools will be used by DFR to promote the trade and break the myths of what is an Operator Petroleum. Trade retention initiatives continue to roll on from 2022. The Pet Op JNCO Professional Development Scheme (PDS), five-day program at Defence Science Technology Group, proved successful in generating interest from our JNCO workforce. CPL Alfred Yuggu from ASO has been selected as the JNCO of the year to attend the 2023 PDS. CPL Blenman has provided an article in this journal on his exposure from the PDS.

The ranks of the Trade continue to be filled with high performing members. Throughout 2023, we have seen various promotions from Lance Corporal through to Lieutenant Colonel. I congratulate you all on your promotions and the trade looks forward to you applying yourselves within your new roles. To each of our departing trade members, thank you for your service and good luck in your future endeavors.

I am very proud of your achievements. The commitment, skills and humour that you have shown throughout this busy year perfectly demonstrates the Trade's adaptability and innovation in contact. Continue to develop yourselves and the trade as you actively mentor your subordinates and peers to further build trade skills and professional mastery of the Petroleum Trade. Thank you for your work this year, together we will continue to make a real difference to Army and the Integrated Force.

Cheers
Conductor Petroleum



Conductor Message Rigger Parachute ECN 345



Warrant Officer Class One Greg Wilson

Hello Riggers and fellow RAAOC members. I would firstly like to welcome LTCOL David Hill in as the new ECN345 Parachute Rigger Trade Mentor. I echo the Trade Mentor's sentiments and also look forward to working alongside him in what will be a challenging first half of 2024. As the current Trade amalgamation is on hold, we are both committed to securing optimal results for the ADF's Aerial Delivery Capability. I strongly encourage all members to visit the ECN444 website to familiarise themselves with the "ECN444 Communication Plan".

Throughout 2023 the Trade provided support to all three services and our members had some excellent opportunities to participate in Exercises both in Country and OS. I acknowledge and thank the members of ECN345 for your unwavering dedication, exceptional service, and remarkable achievements throughout the past year. Your commitment to excellence has undoubtedly made a significant impact towards the ADF, and I commend each member for their selfless contributions in upholding our Trade values and professionalism.

In December I had the privilege of attending the graduation parade for our newest Parachute Riggers. Congratulations to you all on successfully completing your IET CSE and the Military Static Line Operator course at the Australian Defence Force Parachuting School. I look forward to seeing your growth in the future of our Trade.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Trade members who were promoted at the end of 2023. You now have the responsibility and opportunity to maintain the high standards that have been set before you within our unique Trade. I trust that you will continue your career to the highest standards you have previously displayed earning you this recent promotion, however you now have an added responsibility to conduct your duties to an even higher standard.

For those of you that attended the Corps Conference you would know that after 6 years as the Trade Conductor for ECN269 Petroleum Operator, WO1 Jason Hartley finished his appointment and WO1 James Sinclair was appointed as the new ECN269 Trade Conductor. James, congratulations on the new appointment and I look forward working with you into the future. I'm sure you will continue to take your Trade forward as strong as possible.

Jason, it is my pleasure and privilege as a fellow Trade Conductor to express my appreciation for your friendship and contribution to our cohort. Your enthusiasm, humour, mentorship, and knowledge has been sincerely welcomed and I'm sure I can speak on behalf of the other Trade Conductors when I say, Thank You. Your earnest participation as the ECN 269 Trade Conductor has benefited not only your Trade, but also our service members. Congratulations on a job well done.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year and I continue to encourage you all to communicate with the Trade Mentor and I as we work through what will be a busy year for our Trade.

'BE SURE ALWAYS'
Cheers,
Rigger 485

Conductor Message

Ammunition Technician ECN 401



Warrant Officer Class One Luke Elcock

Well I started my journal article last year by saying how busy it was for everyone and from what I have seen this year nothing has changed in that regard. Everywhere I go vacancy rates are the first topic of conversation and this will continue for the immediate future. Therefore, we must focus on what we can do with the people we have. This means, what can we realistically do with the number of people we have without circumventing safety or security just to get job done. Sometimes this involves hard conversations to clearly articulate the risk our commanders are holding when short staffed areas are expected to produce the same productivity levels as a fully staffed team. We must look out for our personnel, make sure we consider workloads, ensuring as a team, we do the best we can, but not at the detriment of our personnel. Ploughing ahead just getting the job done, while an admirable trait, can be a little short sighted if our personnel are being burnt out in the process and unable to sustain the effort long term.

The Ammunition Platoon continues to refine and enhance the suite of Ammunition Technical courses. Accelerating the skill and knowledge for the newest personnel joining our trade. Remember the Accelerated Training Continuum is designed with the following focus; leveraging the large aptitude of our junior workforce, empowering soldiers to take ownership of their professional development, enhancing Ammunition Troop capability while providing a challenging and rewarding environment for our trade members. As the newest personnel get to the units, support them, while they continue the learning experience. Remember we must strive to support, and mentor our subordinates, so they can eventually step into our shoes and hopefully enhance the work we have done.

There are some excellent opportunities out there for professional development, and I urge you all to think about this and where ever possible participate, engage and take those opportunities where ever you have capacity. If you are interested let me know, there are always opportunities to upgrade our knowledge and skills.

For our personnel in the Ammunition Troops, those working in the Infantry, Engineer, Artillery, Aviation Regiments, Signal Squadrons, Schools, JCG, HQs, out in Far North Queensland and Butterworth you all play an important and highly valued role in supporting the EO assurance, management, and response requirements of your units. You should all be extremely proud of the work done this year, and I look forward to working through the challenges we will face next year.

As always if your Chain of command is unable to answer your question, feel free to email me directly.

Federation Star

Brigadier Rebecca Talbot presented SGT Alan Martens with his Federation Star on the 7th March 2023. The ceremony was conducted at the Army School of Ordnance with the Royal Banner as a fitting back drop for such an auspicious occasion. The Federation star recognises SGT Martens' 42 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps and the Australian Army.



RAAOC AWARDS 2023

The RAAOC Awards have been established to allow Commanders at all levels to recognise exemplary performance by Soldiers, JNCOs and Junior Officers. RAAOC Regimental Instruction 5 provides detailed information on the nomination process.

2023 RAAOC Award Winners

The PTE Gale Award – RAAOC Soldier of the Year – PTE Jamee Hogno, – 1st Intelligence Battalion

The CPL Breavington Award – RAAOC JNCO of the Year – CPL Brianna Hole – University of New South Wales Regiment

Lieutenant Schmidt Award – RAAOC LT of the Year – not awarded in 2023

Regional Awards

Regional RAAOC Awards were granted to the top performing Soldiers in each region.

North Queensland – PTE Jack Symons – 10th Force Support Battalion

New South Wales – PTE M – 6th Aviation Regiment

Northern Territory – PTE Caley Lampard – Army Personnel Support Unit Northern Territory Kimberly

South Australia – PTE Agnieszka Lisowska – 16th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery

Western Australia – PTE Emily Hodder, 13th Combat Service Support Battalion

Corps News

Honours and Awards

The top performing Regional Junior NCOs were also recognised by the HOC, BRIG Talbot, with a Regional Award.

North Queensland – CPL Amy Chung – 5th Aviation Regiment

South Queensland – CPL James Kuczera – Land Warfare Centre, South Australia Wing

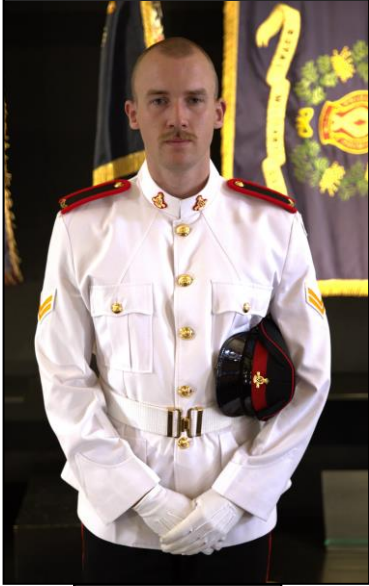
New South Wales – CPL L – 6th Aviation Regiment

Victoria / Tasmania – CPL Jolene Miller – Melbourne University Regiment

South Australia – CPL Wai Ho – 9th Combat Service Support Battalion

Western Australia – LCPL Michael Collins – 13th Combat Service Support Battalion

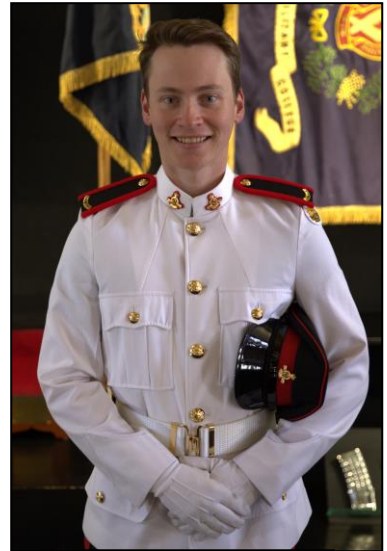
Personnel
RMC Graduates 2023



Noah Arber



Danni Cardona



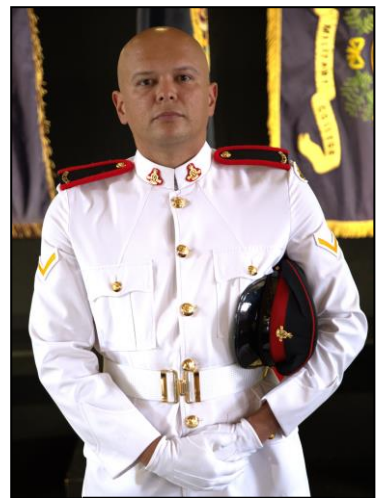
Luke Davenport



Esteban Espinoza



Riley Friso



Caio Galvao

Personnel
RMC Graduates 2023



Beth Hinds



Sonia Kali



Jessie Salamon



Zoe Shipley



Peter VonHauser



Hayden Page

Introducing Some of RAAOC's Senior People

You have just met some of the people in the previous pages who have more recently joined RAAOC. This is a new segment highlighting the achievements, diverse roles and the spheres of influence of senior RAAOC personnel. The intent is to highlight the contribution that RAAOC makes to Army and the wider Defence organisations as well as introducing some people whom you may not know or have only heard a little about. Perhaps it will give you food for thought as to what you might like to achieve and the contributions and influence you could bring to bear on the future shape of your trade, the Corps, and Army, not to mention, the wider ADF.

It is not an exhaustive list for this volume of the Journal, but rather something that will grow and evolve year by year in the future.



LTGEN Natasha Fox, AO, CSC
Chief of Personnel
Military Personnel Organisation

Lieutenant General Fox was appointed as the Chief of Personnel (CPERS) on 5th June 2023. Under the joint staff system, she is the “J1”. In this role she is responsible for the oversight of the personnel capability and is the principal military strategic advisor on personnel-related matters, including strategic workforce planning, employment policy, conditions of service policy, and recruitment and retention policy. In this regard, CPERS is responsive to the requirements of the Service Chiefs and Chief of Joint Operations.

On top of this, not only is she a principal military strategic advisor, but she is also the capability manager for Joint Health, Joint Military Policing and Military Legal Services.

Preparation for these roles began with her early foundation appointments in logistics specialising in combat supplies and logistics planning, and in training positions culminating with her being the Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Further postings in Forces Command, Joint Logistics Command, Special Operations Command, Training Command - Army, Defence People Group and Army Headquarters provided a breadth and depth of knowledge across Defence. LTGEN Fox honed these attributes through application and experience on deployments to Lebanon, Syria, and Israel and in her role as the Chief of Staff for Joint Task Force 633 in the Middle East.

The hard work didn't stop there though. LTGEN Fox also has civilian qualifications with a Masters of Business Administration, Master of Politics and Policy, and Masters of Management in Defence Studies. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore), The Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania), and The Said Business School (Oxford University).

It brings to mind the RAAF motto, “Per Ardua Ad Astra” – ‘reach for the stars by hard work’!!!

News Personnel

Introducing Some of RAAOC's Senior People



**Warrant Officer Class One Andrew Crook
Regimental Sergeant Major
17th Sustainment Brigade**

Warrant Officer Crook commenced his current appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 17th Sustainment Brigade in January 2024. As you would be aware, this is the senior soldier role within the primary logistics unit of the Australian Army and is a Tier B position. The 17th Sustainment Brigade generates flexible and tailored Force Elements that are able to provide sustainment support to the Joint Force. These include the Force Sustainment Group as well as niche Force Elements that are necessary to support the deployed Joint Force.

Although this is technically a regimental posting, Warrant Officer Crook ascended to this role via RAAOC trade training and a long list of trade related postings. As a soldier, he served in the 2nd Field Logistics Battalion and was an inaugural member of 10th Force Support Battalion. He also had trade related roles within 1st Supply Company, 1st Combat Service Support Battalion.

Warrant Officer Crook's trade knowledge and experience have played a vital role in his regimental appointments. These include being the Company Sergeant Major of 1st Supply Company and later, of Supply Wing, Army School of Ordnance at the Army Logistic Training Centre. His Senior Enlisted appointments include being the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 9th Combat Service Support Battalion and as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion. The knowledge and experience he obtained in these roles contributed to his later appointments as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 11th Brigade and Joint Task Group 629.3 (Queensland).

Interspersed with the foregoing trade and regimental appointments, have been a number of Training related roles. These include being an instructor at the Warrant Officer and Non Commissioned Officer Academy – Northern Territory Wing and being the Senior Instructor of the North Queensland and South Australian Wings of the Warrant Officer and Non Commissioned Officer Academy.

The depth and breadth of knowledge and experience provided by such a diverse range of postings and employment opportunities has been vital to the success of real life missions. Warrant Officer Crook has served in Tallil Airbase in Southern Iraq as member of the Overwatch Battle Group (West) (OP CATALYST). He has also served as a Staff officer on the Force Headquarters of UNMISS in South Sudan as a member of the ASC Rotation 6 (OP ASLAN), and later in Afghanistan where he served as the Regimental Sergeant Major of Australian Task Group Afghanistan (OP HIGHROAD). He has also deployed on numerous domestic operations in support of Australian communities including natural disasters such as the North QLD floods in 2019, and the South QLD floods in 2022.



Introducing Some of RAAOC's Senior People



**Major General Craig Dobson, AM, CSC
Head Military Workforce Design Division**

MAJGEN Dobson is the Head of Military Workforce Design (HMWD) and works to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Vice Admiral David Johnston, AC, RAN. Amongst the multitude of tasks that he is required to deal with, one key task is setting the design of the Objective Force for the ADF. As such, he is also the single authority for the military workforce establishment and leads the critical category analysis for the ADF.

This key capability, again, has deep roots in Ordnance. MAJGEN Dobson was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps and he served in predominantly Townsville based units as a junior officer. His career is characterised by command and staff appointments in logistics, career management and personnel roles. He was posted as the Career Advisor Ordnance before assuming the role of Senior Officer Manager – Army. MAJGEN Dobson was appointed as the Commanding Officer 10 Force Support Battalion (10 FSB) before subsequent roles as the SO1 Domestic Commitments, Chief of Staff within Military Strategic Commitments Branch and Director General Support (J1/4), HQ Joint Operations Command.

The knowledge and expertise gained in these roles was refined and enhanced through operational experience with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation on Op PALADIN; as the Officer Commanding Force Support Squadron on Op ANODE and as the Commanding Officer Force Support Unit – 2 on Op ACCORDION and Op HIGHROAD.

In 2019 MAJGEN Dobson deployed as the Deputy Branch Head for Operational Sustainment in Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan. This role encompassed logistics, medical, information communications technology and strategic acquisition for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. MAJGEN Dobson then commanded the 17th Sustainment Brigade.

As is often the case, these senior roles require additional study and qualifications over and above the military related courses. MAJGEN Dobson holds qualifications in Commerce from Deakin University as well as qualifications in Management (Defence Studies) and in Engineering (Integrated Logistics Management).

News
Personnel

Introducing Some of RAAOC's Senior People



**WO1 REG PILLAY
RAAOC ECN 104-7B
VCDF Group
ADF Force Structures**

Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) Pillay was born and raised in Fiji Islands and completed seven years of service with the Fiji Military Forces as an infantryman before he enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in 1995. He was subsequently allocated to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps after his recruit training.

Upon completion of his initial employment training, WO1 Pillay was then posted to 1st Combat Engineer Regiment. Subsequently WO1 Pillay has seen various logistical postings, which include Headquarters 1st Brigade, Headquarters 17th Brigade, Joint Logistics Unit-East, School of Military Engineering, Headquarters Forces Command, Headquarters 2nd (AS) Division, 5th Aviation Regiment, 10th Force Battalion, DMO Maritime and Army Headquarters. He is currently posted to the VCDF Group with Military Workforce Design Division as the equipment warrant officer working on ADF Force Structures.

WO1 Pillay has been able to effectively employ his extensive experience, and the knowledge he has gained from a wide variety of logistical roles, both in Australia and overseas on operations. His deployments include Afghanistan, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. WO1 Pillay has also brought his significant skills and abilities to bear within the Border Protection role as well as the tri-service environment.

Even more critically now, WO1 Pillay is applying his vast insight to help shape the future through his work to help “realise an affordable and sustainable ADF work force focused on the warfighting domains as part of the integrated Defence workforce”.



Force Structure Operations

Where can you go in your career and what will you contribute to Australia's future?

Anyone can wear a hat.
Emily Chettle

*I was tasked to define a great leader with just one word,
Yet the depth of true leadership, cannot be stirred,
Into 1 single acronym, as its much more than that,
To me, it's a blend of crucial values, woven into a very complex hat.*

*A hat that anyone can put on,
And direct a crowd,
But doing it with compassion and devotion,
Is not easy to be found.*

*Encouraging and empowering,
That's where leadership unfolds,
Emphasising and listening,
Is how we evolve.*

*Providing a safe space of communication,
For each human soul, a foundation built on trust and respect,
No matter whose story's told.*

*To balance the needs,
Of yourself and the team,
Nurturing aspirations,
And being, the example you lead.*

*Encouraging growth, empowering each other,
To be our best selves, is how we uncover.
That special something, we all have to offer.*

Because giving our orders is easy.

*For anyone to issue or take,
But facilitating, that requires devotion,
Not shake.*

News

Personnel

Thoughts on Leadership

Anyone can wear a hat.

Emily Chettle, continued.

*With diligence and guidance,
And building each other up,
No matter our backgrounds, or scars on our hearts.*

*Creating a team, that's compassionate and kind,
And honest and able, to do their job right.
And not fearing repercussions, of mistakes they might make,
But owning them, and growing from them,
As a collective take.*

*Because mistakes are human,
And they demand to be made,
For its how we grow,
And pave our way.
Of being worthy for our nation,
We must stick to the basics,
Of respect, love and patience.*

*Because having an Army and having a Team,
Although, they sound very similar,
Are two different things.
And at the end of the day,
Beneath all our green,
We are all human beings,
With feeling's, and a need to be seen.*

*So no, I cannot define a great leader,
Using just one word,
As to me, true leadership encompasses,
Much more, then is heard.*

APSU North Queensland

On 26 Oct 23 APSU NQ invited all PTE and CPL ECN 150s from across the Townsville area to come for lunch to encourage greater social networking amongst the junior soldiers. The majority of correspondence between APSU soldiers (majority on their first posting out of IETs) and other Command Support Clerks within the area is conducted over the phone or email, with very little social interactions.

The main intent of the function was to improve the social networking of the junior soldiers so that there is a name to the face at the end of the phone/email, encourage esprit de corps and shed a light on the work that APSU NQ conducts.

The RAAOC Corp Fund graciously catered for the event, which provided subway sandwiches for over 70 ECN 150s that came together. The feedback from participants was positive, and all attendees were passionate about making this an annual event. The social event brought a sense of purpose, belonging and mateship.

PTE Sino enjoying some subway provided by the RAAOC Corp Fund



Townsville Region ECN150 CPLs and below enjoying the camaraderie of the Social Gathering



News

Personnel

RAAOC Association (WA) Inc ANZAC Day – 2023

Mr John Arco
Secretary RAAOC Association (WA)

The 2023 ANZAC Day Dawn Service was the first in four years which was open to the public. We awakened to heavy rain and a cool breeze but this did not deter the estimated 25,000 people that made their way to the State War Memorial.

Dawn Service



Like many making pilgrimage to offer homage and remembrance, it was a silent walk from Kings Park Road along Fraser Avenue towards the WA State War Memorial, Kings Park. Fingers of blue light emitted from the memorial guiding veterans and the community to where the Dawn Service was to be held

Members of the community and veterans gathered to pay homage to those that are serving, have served and to those that paid the supreme sacrifice.

Warren Evans (President) laid a wreath on behalf of the RAAOC Association (WA).

The ANZAC Day address was by Graham Edwards AM. Graham's address reflected on the 50th year since Australia's end to the Vietnam war where 61,000 troops served in this war. For the troops that did come home, struggles and hostilities directed at the war and them awaited. 3000 were wounded and 521 were killed. These figures do not include the numbers that suffered from their non-visible wounds which led them to take refuge within themselves. For some suicide was their only release. The Vietnam war has, over time, been forgotten by main stream

Australia. For those that served their nation in Vietnam, their experiences, struggles, and sense of duty remain with them and are remembered as if it was yesterday. Graham spoke from the heart and is proud to be a Vietnam veteran. Lest we Forget.

Gunfire Breakfast

Many attended the gunfire breakfast held at Government House. The breakfast BBQ was well appreciated as a cold wet wind blow across the lawns of Government House. Breakfast consisted of eggs, bacon, sausages served on a bun and washed down with hot coffee, tea, or water. The Rotary Club of Perth organised and prepared the breakfast, a job well done.

RAAOC Association (WA) Inc ANZAC Day – 2023

City Parade

The City Parade stepped off at 9am with serving members of the ADF leading the parade. Thousands of West Australians gathered in the Perth CBD to watch the ANZAC Day City Parade and to show their appreciation and support to veterans. This year, we commemorated the 70th year of the end of the war in Korea and 50th year of Australia's end to the Vietnam war.

The RAAOC Association (WA) Inc., formed up leading Group J. Attending the march were Vietnam veterans: Warren Evans, John Clark, Kevin Judge, Jim Brearley, and Allan Gronow. Together with: Mary Vassallo, Warren and Alison Abbey from Townsville, Andrew Ryan from Sydney, Rick Clark from Kalgoorlie, and myself. Many members were unable to march due to poor health or other commitments.



The RAAOC Association marching to the music from the Trinity College Pipes Band. Warren Evans, President, leading the Association

Partners and family of those marching attended to support and cheer us on.

The City of Cockburn Pipe Band led our Group and kept us in step, stirred the blood and made us forget our aches and pains. Job well done.

A special thank you to the two members of the Army Cadets that held the RAAOC Association (WA) banner high and taut.

After the march we dispersed to other commemorations, such as, The Commemorative Service, home to family and friends, ANZAC House, or other venues where a cold drink was the order of the day.

On invitation from the WRAAC Association WA: Allan and June Gronow, Chris Hays and friend Dianne, Margaret and I attended its ANZAC Day lunch. There we met other members of the two associations, Mary Vassallo and Sandy Lockyer and others. It was a great event with great company. Well done to the WRAAC Association WA.

News
Personnel

RAAOC Association (WA) Inc ANZAC Day – 2023

Members' Roundup

Association members commemorated ANZAC Day differently: spending time with loved ones; attend local RSLs; spent time to reflect on their experiences and mates. Listed below are how some members commemorated their ANZAC Day:

Pamela Paton (nee Palmer). Pamela and John held their own driveway commemorative service and listening to the Dawn Service via the radio. It was serene & poignant. Their thoughts were of the late Rosa and BRIG Laurie Palmer. This year's ANZAC Day was the first since the passing of Rosa which made it special with so many wonderful memories of past years. The rest of the day was spent watching many events on TV including seeing the RAAOC Association WA march in the City Parade.

Leon Antoine. Leon and Jan attended the Dawn Service (ANZAC day) at Blackboy Hill.



Members marching behind the Banner



The RAAOC Association marching past the saluting dais



Know Yourself
Know Your Enemy
Know Your Environment

The CTC RAAOC Day Storyboard

Combat Training Centre
Logistic Service Support

The RAAOC members of CTC were put through their paces with some small team building activities all in the name of fun. We celebrated our comradery with some light hearted banter playing off the red team against the blue team. The teams participated in a WTSS shoot out, a concealment game, shredded hunt, a minefield (of sorts) obstacle and ending the activities with Trivia. Blue team was victorious winning bragging rights for the day. After the activities we enjoyed a BBQ lunch and cutting of the cake with our youngest soldier PTE Bizilis.



News

Personnel

My Time at Defence Science and Technology Group

CPL Blenman

In November 2022, I was the recipient of the ECN 269 Professional Development Scheme (PDS), Operator Petroleum JNCO of the Year Award for 2022, for outstanding service on HADR OP TONGA ASSIST, IPDS Fuel Flush Trails and EX OVERLANDER NAUTICAL PETROS 2022.

During my time on PDS, I worked closely with Dr Dave Evans (Dr Dave) and his team in Melbourne at Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG). Dr Dave is one of the most trusted sources for SME knowledge for petroleum in Defence and civilian industry. You're all probably wondering what DSTG actually is. In a nut shell: a lot! It's incredible; there are several different departments within DSTG. For example, there is an engineering cell and a cyber and space cell, the list goes on. I was lucky enough to get an insight into a couple of their departments and their work. Dr Dave and his team work on new petroleum technologies, current fuel types and innovative ways to develop Defence's fuel structure for the future. As side projects, the team help investigate aviation incidents in defence and civilian workplaces, a few of these incidents have made news headlines of late. During my time there we experimented with different ways to heat fuel, before it is used in the engine of an aircraft.

I also had the pleasure of performing a real test sample for Southern Oils and their artificial fuel concept. This involved producing combinations of fuel of 30%-5%-50% blends of Southern Oil's synthetic diesel with ATJ (alcohol to jet), Aviation fuel and shelf diesel. We then ran a series of tests on these blends, in order to assess the overall integrity of the fuel compared to traditional fossil fuels. These tests were qualification program tests for an in-country renewable diesel, produced from used motor and cooking oils by Southern Oil. Another type of qualification test we conducted was a synthetic aviation study at the maximum concentrations that commercial and military will allow for this particular pathway going forward. This testing will help understand if there is any real risk for Defence using synthetic fuels as blends, and in the future, as replacements for fossil fuel. For the renewable diesel a 5% blend with conventional diesel was prepared and tested.

Dr Dave and his team have every sort of apparatus you could imagine. We ran multiple different tests over the course of the week. My favourite was the JFTOT or thermal stability test. The test results are indicative of fuel performance during gas turbine operations, and can be used to assess the level of deposits that form when liquid fuel contacts a heated surface that is at a specified temperature. This test method covers the procedure for rating the tendencies of gas turbine fuels to deposit decomposition products within the fuel system. We use this to evaluate a fuel's thermal stability and can screen fuels that have a tendency to form deposits that can block injectors on fowl fuel systems.



Another favourite of mine was the IQT Ignition Quality Tester. This test method measures the ignition delay of a diesel fuel injected directly into a constant volume combustion chamber containing heated compressed air. An equation correlates an ignition delay determination to the Cetane number.

Each apparatus that I used during the week wasn't just a plug and play attempt. All apparatus required a prestart, set up, conducting of the test, analysis of results (sometimes even a second test was conducted depending on those results), and then the pack up. You can imagine they all take a lot of time. I was able to construct and plumb in all the pipe work on different machines. It was very hands on and I had a tonne of fun with setting up and running all the different testing we did.

My Time at Defence Science and Technology group (DSTG)

Another great insight was a gallery walk through the museum on base. The museum illustrates what work and inventions come out of DSTG. Some examples are black box recorder, hypersonic work and aero dynamics for aircraft.

There are some really good incentives to go with this award. You have the opportunity to enhance your laboratory skills or fine tune other areas. For example, you can covert donuts (or even a quarter pounder meal!) into diesel. You can dive right into understanding hydrocarbons, and examine every type of test there is for diesel and aviation fuels. For the trip I got the flexibility to book my own hotel within budget and I had a hire car to get me around Melbourne.



This is a great opportunity to refine your LAB skills that may have faded and can greatly add to your knowledge and understanding of the chemistry behind petroleum. I also had the opportunity to operate new apparatus coming into or on trial to service, as well as equipment that is utilised for higher degrees of testing outside of a Petroleum Operators scope at a DFI or field environment. I gained great insight to fault finding on instruments, all these little things are great to have in your tool kit if you ever get stuck on your own.

This week was a fantastic reward as the inaugural recipient of the Operator Petroleum JNCO of the year. I would highly recommend this experience and would encourage everyone to strive for this award in the future.

News

Personnel

Discomfort, Pain and the Brain

PTE C Madan

It was tight. To the extent that my mandible was forced backward and upwards in a weird uncomfortable, painful position. I tried my best to adjust the straps, but that was the maximum length the helmet would allow- so tight that the helmet seemed almost a part of my skull itself. It would hurt if I tried to open my mouth, swallow, or, leave alone talk. The thought that the helmet was so snugly fit, it would offer maximum protection to my head- somehow seemed to momentarily relieve the scale 3 out of 10 discomfort, “the smaller pain”- only momentarily - till my brain would realise that the 20 kilo plus weight on my back was pinching my shoulders hard and also tightening my chest- to the extent that I had to put in so much extra effort into breathing. The weight on my back, combined with effortful breathing was sending stressful signals to my brain, about “the bigger pain”, the 6 out of 10 scale discomfort - my reflexes would then make me try to breathe deeply through my mouth, bringing back my brain’s focus to the tight helmet, not allowing me enough room to open my mouth, cycling back to the smaller pain.

The tight helmet and the weight on the back were not a negligence, or a punishment, or an excess (even though it may seem like one to a novice recruit!). It was the part of a well-planned pack marching exercise, another day in the life of a budding soldier at the Recruit Training Battalion. As with different drivers moving on a freeway, some on P plates, some novices, some experts, the recruits doing the pack march had different endurances and strengths. Some of the recruits, like me, were struggling. Some of the jets, (for whom the pack march was a cake walk) were trying to talk the slow ones into not giving up and keep moving forward. The jets are the ‘fast laners’, who loved the overtaking zone, for them any P plates are just a hindrance, another obstacle to go past. Some of the jets grew irritated by the slow pacers, some understood the values of working as a team and being considerate.

“What’s your favourite food?” was one of the questions I heard a jet tossing to a “slow recruit”, who was struggling to continue. I don’t remember what the slow recruit replied, nor did I bother to ask him later if such a conversation had given any comfort in that painful realm- all I remember is that everyone finished the pack march.

Another breed of drivers on the pack march freeway was the pain bearers- they had an injury or discomfort, they would magically seem to endure all the pain just by saying the F word, especially by adding the F word to the body part that was hurting (my F**ng leg/arm, F** this leg/foot). Just adding the F word to every pain related phrase or sentence they would say seemed like a magic password- that allowed them to keep moving despite their injury or pain- for hours, days, weeks and even months, till they knew it was tactically safe to give up.

After the seemingly never- ending pack march came to an end, we got instructions to drop the weight on the back- the bigger discomfort, the 6 out of 10 pain, suddenly vanished in seconds as soon as the weight and armour was removed - there was a feeling of instant relief, only momentary again, till the brain cycled back the tightness of the helmet and suddenly magnified it, as if it was now the 6 out of 10 scale pain. Removing the helmet after about 5 minutes brought another wave of relief, only to be overcast by the minor bruise on the finger caused by the impinging part of the weapon I was carrying.

I found it so ironic- the bruise on my finger was always there, even before the pack march started, even before I put on the helmet or the body armour, but somehow my brain decided to ignore it when the bigger discomforts showed up. Equally strange was how all the participants in the pack march were coping with the pain in their own unique ways. As I ponder over my memories of the pack march, one of the phrases which a jet often told me seems to be true enough: “The pain is in your mind”.

Exercise Long Look 2022

CPL Lee Male

During Ex Long Look 2022, I was attached to 9th Regiment's 66th Fuel and Transport Company, providing me with a unique opportunity to develop myself as a JNCO. Within this platoon, the traditional in-barrack role for Petroleum Operations (Pet Ops) was virtually non-existent. Instead, the troop frequently found itself tasked with Non-Platform Support Request (NPSR) duties. This arrangement stemmed from the fact that all bulk fuel equipment was centrally located at KBR, an entity quite similar to the Joint Logistic Unit (JLU). At KBR, they handled crucial tasks such as CES checks, equipment testing, and maintenance. Similar to the JLU, KBR operated on a three-month lead time for equipment orders needed for exercises. Nevertheless, they did maintain short-notice deployment caches to support any High Readiness tasks.

It's worth noting that the structure of 66th Fuel and Transport Company differed somewhat from the norm. In our case, all bulk fuel assets, excluding IPDS and marine assets which fell under the engineers, were consolidated within one company.

During this period, the passing of Her Majesty the Queen added another task to the unit's responsibilities. The unit was placed on public duties to support any requirement needed during that time while simultaneously preparing for a deployment to Cyprus, scheduled within the next three weeks. My focus was acclimating myself to the unit and catching up on deployment administration for Cyprus. Additionally, I underwent weapon training with the SA80 the general service rifle similar to the EF88 to prepare for conducting live-fire shoots at the range while in Cyprus.

I eventually deployed with 66th Fuel and Transport Company to Cyprus, where we operated the Joint Operational Fuel System Capability (JOFS) bulk fuel installation (BFI). This centrifugal pump-operated system was a comprehensive kit designed with eight 75,000-liter tanks. Furthermore, it had the capability to extend to an enhanced storage module (ESM) via rigid pipelines if needed. Notably, the JOFS BFI system utilized Victaulic fittings on all hose manifolds and pipes, with the exception of the bulk inlet and outlet, which employed dry-break connectors.

While stationed in Cyprus, the unit also took some time for adventure training. Activities included rock climbing by the beach and a visit to the buffer zone in the north of Cyprus to observe the UN peace tour.

Upon my return from Cyprus, I attended the Remembrance Day march in Chippenham and I participated in a series of unit tours, notably visiting the Commando Logistic Regiment and the 13 Air Assault Regiment, both of which held Pet Op capabilities.

Once the unit tours concluded, I was granted a two-week break to explore and sightsee. I embarked on a journey across the UK, spending time in London to visit iconic landmarks such as Big Ben, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, and Camden Markets. Following my time in London, I ventured to various hiking destinations and took in landmarks like Stonehenge. In the final leg of my journey, I travelled north to Scotland, where I explored hiking spots in the Highlands and sought out the legendary Loch Ness. Traveling back south, I made a stop at the Wallace Monument and explored Stirling Castle.

In summary, this experience was truly unforgettable, and I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone looking to explore the United Kingdom.

News

Technical

Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise – Is this the new hub for Ammunition Technical Officers?

Colonel Matt Dwyer
Executive Director GWEO Industrialisation Branch

The Defence Strategic Review was published on 24 April this year, followed closely by a media release from the Deputy Prime Minister. A key focus of these two documents was Australia's explosive ordnance capabilities and the establishment of a 'senior official or officer with the sole responsibility for leading the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) Enterprise, with an appropriate underpinning organisational structure'. This recommendation is the birth of the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Group (GWEO Group) which officially launched on 01 Jul 23.

Where historically the most senior position charged with the management of explosive ordnance was the Director General Explosive Materiel (DGEM) the establishment of the GWEO Group realised the creation of a 3-star Chief GWEO, a 2-star Head GWEO Delivery Division and the movement of the First Assistant Secretary GWEO from the Joint Capabilities Group to bring the Capability Management and Delivery of explosive ordnance together into a single Group. More detail is available on the DPN.

The establishment of the GWEO Group provides significant opportunity for the Ammunition Technical Officer workforce across all ranks, and arguably this may set the scene for ATOs becoming more streamlined as a technical trade than they have previously while still maintaining career progression.

Where previously the only ATO positions within EMB were a small number including the Colonel Director LEOSPO, a Lieutenant Colonel, and 2-3 Captains and Majors, the building out of the Group will realise significant growth and potential for the trade. As the Group establishes these positions they will span the full spectrum of the capability life cycle including Capability Sponsor roles, Delivery (project acquisition and sustainment) roles, Ammunition Safety and Performance as well as being involved in the Explosive Ordnance Industrial Base. More opportunities may well appear as the decisions on the future command and control of the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit and other Explosive Ordnance Branch entities continue. The existing ATO workforce within the GWEO Group are highly sought after and are becoming an invaluable asset across the Divisions.

As the ATO workforce continues to grow within GWEO Group, and the opportunities to progress within the Group are realised, is now the time to debate the potential for the ATO workforce to be managed as a specialist, more like medical or pers, rather than a generalist. It is also the time to argue that a course of a limited number of ATO per two years is insufficient to meet our emerging workforce requirement both within Army, Army Joint Staff and the GWEO Group. There is immense benefit in working in the Ammunition Platoons and gaining first-hand experience in the way ammunition and explosive ordnance is handled and used, but do the non-trade postings provide this benefit or hinder in the skills maintenance? Rather than posting into a Brigade S4 role to perform general logistics roles, could these ATO skills be further refined within the GWEO Group as a technical posting and provide a benefit to Defence at the same time. How can we integrate the completion of the newly established Explosive Ordnance Master's program into this career pathway to achieve maximum effect?

Whatever the outcomes of these deliberations, the prospects for the ATO workforce in GWEO Group is vast and exciting. Keep your eyes out for more positions as they are created and I encourage you to seek out these postings as beneficial options as you progress in your careers and look into the EO Master's program for 2024 if you have not already commenced.

About the author. Colonel Matt Dwyer is currently out posted from Director Land Explosive Ordnance SPO to Executive Director GWEO Industrialisation Branch, GWEO Group. COL Dwyer has experience across a range of trade and non-trade postings including 1 CSSB, 9 FSB, CASG, JLC and a secondment to the AFP. He was Officer Commanding of the Adelaide CSST in 1 CSSB and Commanding Officer of the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit. He holds a BSc in Chemistry, a Master of Systems Engineering (Weapons and Ordnance), a Master of Strategic and Defence Studies and is currently completing the Explosive Ordnance Masters program.

Explosive Ordnance Safety & Reliability – 120mm Tank Warshot Surveillance Guided Weapons & Explosive Ordnance Delivery Division

Explosive Ordnance Safety & Reliability (EOS&R), previously Ammunition Safety & Performance, is the resident agency within the newly-established Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Group responsible for supporting the planning, scheduling and execution of in-service surveillance tasks involving current in-service explosive ordnance (EO) inventory. In addition, the organisation provides a conduit between the service headquarters and Explosive Materiel Branch within the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Delivery Division to capture, monitor and address technical EO incidents.

Currently supported by an ATO MAJOR and SAT, the organisation aims to provide data on the reliability and performance of munitions to assist the Integrated Project Teams managing the explosive ordnance in making robust engineering decisions governing the safety and suitability for service of our current EO inventory.

A recent highlight involved the surveillance of the ADF's current Cart 120mm operational tank inventory, with dedicated surveillance activities conducted for the M1028 Canister Anti-Personnel Round in 2021 and the M830A1 High Explosive Anti Tank Multi Purpose Tracer in late 2022, culminating in the first-ever ADF live-fire of the KE-W A2 long-rod penetrator at Woomera in March this year. These tasks not only captured essential objective quality evidence required to ensure the ongoing safety and suitability of the Cart 120mm tank capability, including functionality, condition, reliability and performance, but also provided an excellent training opportunity to the tank crews from School of Armour and 1 Armoured Regiment, noting that only limited personnel in Australia would have been exposed to the operation and firing of the Cart 120mm warshot series.



Cart 120mm HEAT MP-T M830A1 – In-service Surveillance – Puckapunyal, supported by Joint Proof and Experimental Unit – Oct 22

News Technical

Explosive Ordnance Safety & Reliability – 120mm Tank Warshot Surveillance



Cart 120mm APFSDS-T KE-W A2 – In-service Surveillance – Woomera Test Range, supported by Joint Proof and Experimental Unit and Thales Australia – Mar 23

These activities were not only attended and coordinated by EOS&R Ammunition Technical (AT) staff, but also supported by the wider AT community from FORCOMD and JLC, assisting in the inspection of rounds pre-firing, recording data and supporting technical analysis of reliability, performance, defects and malfunctions and, where required, providing disposal support.

This provided an excellent opportunity for hands-on experience, exposing Ammunition Suppliers, Technicians and Technical Officers to some of the more unique ammunition natures currently in service with the ADF.

About the author:

Major Julian Böhm
In-Service Surveillance Manager – Explosive Ordnance Safety & Reliability
Directorate of Engineering | GWEO Delivery Division HQ
Guided Weapons & Explosive Ordnance Delivery Division

News of Note 2023 RAAOC Conference

Over the period 27-28th November 2023, the Army School of Ordnance was the primary site for the annual RAAOC Conference. However, as the focus of the conference was on the trades, and given the geographically dispersed nature of the Ordnance Corps' members, the conference was conducted virtually. The Corps was able to gather online, either individually or together at central sites in the major regions.

BRIG Talbot was very keen to have solid, considered feedback from the RAAOC trades which could then be used to accurately inform the planning process at higher levels. To this end, each of the trades met under the auspices of their respective Trade Conductor and Mentor to discuss the current situation and the future paths of each trade. A summary of these outcomes is outlined further below.

The conductors also took this opportunity to meet with each other face to face and discuss their perspectives on the trades. While doing so, they farewelled WO1 Jason Harley as the outgoing Conductor ECN 269.



Conductors (L-R):

ECN 401 WO1 Luke Elcock; ECN 104 WO1 Craig Smith; ECN 150 WO1 Sharon Knight; ECN 345 WO1 Greg Wilson; and ECN 269 WO1 Jason Hartley.



WO1 Hartley was very appreciative of the support from the Trade that he enjoyed during his tenure as the Petroleum Conductor and especially for the kindness shown by the Trade members in the form of his farewell surfboard. It will provide some memorable, and welcome, relief from his current work in Force Modernisation!!



News of Note

2023 RAAOC Conference



Front (L-R): DHOC, LTCOL G Humphreys; HOC BRIG R Talbot; Corps RSM, WO1 D Gissane.
Rear, RAAOC's Current Conductors (L-R):
ECN 401 WO1 Luke Elcock; ECN 104 WO1 Craig Smith;
ECN 150 WO1 Sharon Knight; ECN 345 WO1 Greg Wilson; and ECN 269 WO1 James Sinclair.

At the same time, BRIG Talbot welcomed WO1 James Sinclair as the incoming Conductor ECN 269.

Each Conductor is presented with a Parchment and a Conductors Cane (Leather Swagger Stick). The Parchment is signed by HOC RAAOC and formalises their appointment as a Conductor.

The role of the RAAOC Conductor is to act as the key representative of their employment category to HOC and the Army, with particular emphasis on improving wider Defence capability. Becoming a Conductor is a prestigious appointment, with a history traceable back over 600 years. (You can read more in RAAOC Regimental Instruction Number 2.)

Trade Feedback

ECN 104

The Army School of Ordnance (ASO) and Royal Australian Air Force School of Administration and Logistics Training (RAAFSALT) have completed the first trial of common training for supply operator Initial Employment Training (IET). The organisations are negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement for ASO to lead Army and Air Force Supply and ECN104 IET from 2024. This will see Air Force Supply IET training be delivered by ASO from Jan 2024 at Bandiana. This will include and maintain the skills and culture of aviation safety and airmindedness to ensure an integrated supply and logistics workforce

Trade has confirmed that the current IET course meets the workplace needs and could not find any efficiencies without transferring learning to the unit level where it is currently not achievable in the majority of units due to the lack of SGT/WO2 ranks. The discussion focused on the main job function of a store person and their ability to conduct basic sustainment functions at the unit/formation level warehouse. Based on Defence's current LOGIS systems and processes no efficiencies could be found. It was acknowledged that ERP/SAP will reduce multiple processes for a single function and in turn deliver a reduced training time.

The trade has identified a training gap being the requirement for Soldiers to be trained on the medium weight trailer and in Dangerous Goods Pack & Accept (All modes).

ECN 150

Train Your Way is a revolutionary delivery methodology of Initial Employment Training for the workforce. It will provide immediate access to IET for recruits and Service / internal transfers. Using the latest technology supported through facilitation, coaching and mentoring, students will have an improved training experience, which will allow for better work life balance and lead to a healthy lifelong learning culture. The training is based on achieving the required standard and not through an artificial date. The training will remain residential but be delivered through a blended training model of online education, tutorials and experiential learning.

ECN 150 (continued)

Initiatives for Retention and Recruitment include:

- Training reserve personnel prior to recruit training
- Training recruits at 1 RTB Digger James
- 12 month course session, rolling starts with the TE panelling as required
- Working with DFR and changing the trade name for recruitment
- Embracing the FORCOMD Skills Enhancement Program
- Flexibility in learning for Trade Transfers
- Trade Network / Mentoring Program.

ECN 269

The agreed workplace training requirement for an Operator Petroleum to be deemed qualified, is completion of elements of module one and two of the 120066 IET RAAOC Operator Petroleum course. The trade identified risks such as this soldier can only operate a BFI/BSA (ground or Aviation) or a KRP and multiple other Employment Categories are required to support petroleum capability. It was noted that Littoral capabilities should be considered in the Near Region (Asia Pacific region).

COL Baldock (Mentor) noted that it is an exciting time to be a member of the trade. There are a number of current programs and initiatives that the trade will benefit from in the near and distant future. As the Australian Defence Force's only full-time fuel workforce, the ECN 269 Operator Petroleum trade will continue to be at the forefront of Defence fuel capability. Going forward, the trade will be asked to solve Defence's most complex fuel problems

ECN 345

The trade agreed that the workplace training requirement for a Rigger Parachute to be qualified is completion of elements of module 1, 2 and 3 of the 120067 IET RAAOC Rigger Parachute course. Module 4 may be able to be removed from the IET course and carried out as a trade progression to CPL. However, the soldier would have to rely on the existing work force for Log IS functions and MHE. Additionally, Units may have to take on a training burden and the inability to pass MSLO may hinder career progression past PTE and will conflict with the current court book.

The conductor noted the need to capitalise on the current ECN444 pause, IOT harvest the ECN444 LMP's LO's and thereby modernise the current ECN345 LMP's (IET, SUBJ 4 CPL / SGT CSE). There is also a need to look for training efficiencies within ECN444 which can be implemented into the ECN345 continuum. Completion of the LWP updates and modernisation with AKG are still required.

Hollowness of the ECN345 Rigger Parachute Trade at the SGT level has risks. Moving forward, promoting PTE's through to CPL at an expedited rate brings with it a potential lack of corporate knowledge due to the minimum time spent at the PTE/LCPL level.

ECN 401

Trade feedback identified that allowing IET/PTE to start the EOD training Continuum has increased career satisfaction and decreased PTE separation rates and the newest version of the IET course will significantly increase ETM/DMEO/EHR capability in the Ammo Troops. Further reduction in training time could be achieved if the elements not trained are converted to a Work Place Journal and are met over a 12-month period before obtaining PTE(P). Current On Pavement forklift training needs to be upgraded to Off Pavement training.

However, career satisfaction for CPLs was significantly degraded by a lack of opportunities to attend CMD/IEDD courses and it is likely that ECN 401 will move into the Critical Trades category in 2024. Flexibility to conduct the EOD suite of courses is seen as critical to ensure that we can continue to build capability in the SGT rank and reverse the severe impacts on CPLs' pay and promotion.

News

Formation SITREP



First (Australian) Division

Our Mission:

"The 1st (As) DIV is to conduct operations to fight and win the land battle".



Second (Australian) Division

Our Mission:

"The 2nd (As) DIV is to prepare, command and control forces as part of the Integrated Force to meet theatre requirements".



RMC-A



CATC

Forces Command

Our Mission:

"FORCOMD is to prepare land forces in order to enable the joint force".



ALTC



DCSTC



News Formation SITREP

17th Sustainment Brigade
HMAS Adelaide Sea Series 23

WO1 Jon McLennan
Senior Ammunition Technician
HQ 17th Sustainment Bde

Due to a few non acceptors and some late scratching's, SEA SERIES 23 got lumped with the top weight SAT. With CPL Hunter and PTE Barry providing very good preparation in the absence of their WOAT, the scene was set for 8-9 weeks at sea.

And they're off. CPL Hunter and PTE Barry leave Sydney heads well, and make haste for Townsville where they conduct ammunitioning for HMAS ADELAIDE in preparation for the staying test renowned around the world as SEA SERIES (or at least on the east coast of Australia). These experienced sea goers found the going cruisy and conducted the EO tasking with ease coming into the first turn. From the beginning the pace was on, which saw the SAT get some lessons in how the Navy conduct business; a little different to the Land based service. The early mornings and late nights saw the EO flow out then back in as the Wader training commenced. Not all days were flat out as there was the opportunity to visit Bowen, QLD, for the day to get the sway out of the legs. At the completion of SEA EXPLORER, the crew enjoyed some time in sunny north Queensland.

Continuing on up the back straight saw the commencement of SEA RAIDER, stepping the pace up and now the embarked forces were serious about their tasks. EO transfers, issues and receipts were in full swing. This saw PTE Barry take a unique fancy to counting Cart 7.62mm link and conducting history refresher training for all who would give him time. By the time we were on the sweeping bend the pace had come off and the journey was now a slow gallop. More rest for the wicked in sunny north Queensland in anticipation for the home straight, better referred to SEA MASTER (or for you land lovers, TALISMAN SABRE).

As we hit the top of the straight there were more lessons for the SAT and once again the pace was intensified, joined now by the UK, Korean and Indonesian forces this was set to be a cracking finish. The repacking and inspection of EO was underway for the final evolution of the WEEOs supersession and his time at sea. The hard work had been done for the embarked forces, now for their big day to storm the land and secure the objective. There was some interference in the last furlong that saw command priorities change. Once SEA MASTER was complete we headed for the stables of Eden New South Wales to conduct de-ammunitioning and then returned to the paddock also known as Garden Island.

CPL Hunter and PTE Barry had conducted themselves professionally throughout the SEA SERIES activities to ensure the amphibious force had received EO support in order to complete the amphibious kill chain.



United for the Common Good.

That is all.

News

Formation SITREP

HQ Joint Explosive Ordnance Support

Explosive Ordnance Branch

LTCOL Andrew Shipton – Deputy Director
WO1 David Smythe – Senior Ammunition Technician

JEOS, through the regional offices, has provided exceptional support to the joint services over the year, and will continue to do so. While predominantly staffed by Army with our integral APS assurance officers, we have a smattering of RAN and RAAF such that we can complete our two main roles: Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Improvised Explosive Device Disposal support to the states and territories, and EO advice and assurance to Defence on behalf of the Director General Explosive Ordnance.

The challenges that we experience now are similar to those in the past, namely, the challenge of qualified and experienced people posted to the unit in competition with the services, a broader Defence enterprise with vastly different experience and expertise in explosive ordnance operations, increased tempo by foreign and visiting forces, and complexity in the interaction and liaison with various stakeholders in a post-Defence Strategic Review world. Of note, JEOS remains part of Joint Logistics Command – we'll see if this still remains the case in a future issue of the RAAOC magazine!

By way of stats and figures, over the last 12 months with a staff of about 60, we've completed over 400 Explosive Ordnance Disposal tasks, driven over 200000km doing those same tasks and assurance visiting units, and 45 re-ammunitioning activities in support of RAN. We've had staff undertake Explosive Ordnance Disposal on North Keeling Island far off North-West Australia, participate in major exercises and wargames locally and overseas, and undertake training with NATO in Europe. The opportunities for ATs and ATOs in JEOS to develop, learn, train, and build experience, but more importantly to demonstrate our value, expertise and professionalism in the Joint force are as good or better than ever before.

JEOS-SA Range Clearance in Cultana

MAJ Jason Martin - Senior Ammunition Technical Officer



Joint Explosive Ordnance Support-South Australia (JEOS-SA) recently shook out for a range clearance exercise in support of the Cultana Training Area. This activity was a combined effort with medical support coming from 3 HB, Ammunition Suppliers from 9 CSSB and an Armament Officer from 11 SQN. It was a great team and all members conducted themselves professionally in an environment that required everyone to be on the ball.

With these sorts of activities everybody has to rely on the person next to them to be vigilant and safe.



**HQ Joint Explosive Ordnance Support
JEOS-SA Range Clearance in Cultana**

The exercise was conducted over three phases. The first phase was an area clearance on the Cultana DFSW Range. The objective was to create a safe route and work area for the Range Control Staff to access the range targets. This allowed them to conduct some much needed remediation work. Providing this service was a great way to demonstrate our capabilities and provide a safer working environment for range staff. This was also a good opportunity to practice both visual and equipment search techniques.



This clearance led to the discovery of eight items of various natures of unexploded ordnance (UXO). These items were destroyed by our junior members so they could practice their demolition disposal skills, one of the core functions of the Ammunition Trade. Hundreds of items of explosive ordnance waste were also removed off the range making it easier to identify UXO for future range users.

We then shifted focus for phase two where we conducted a demolition activity on the Cultana Demolition Range. We practised with shaped charges and explosive cutting techniques to attack some of the inert items recovered in the public domain. These items, often consisting of large inert steel projectiles, are back loaded to metal recyclers for disposal. Being able to put some large holes in these items gives the recyclers surety that they are safe to handle and scrap. It was also used as a way to practice our range management skills with several members fulfilling range appointments. This has become even more important now with the implementation of the Land Range Safety Management Tool.



The last activity was the clean-up of an old Rocket 3.5 inch M29A2 Target Practice dump site. This ammunition was fired from the M20 "Super Bazooka" and saw service with the ADF during the Korean and Vietnam War prior to being replaced by the M72 SRAAW. It's not known how they wound up there but it was more than likely an old field firing site back in the 1960's. These items are often recovered from members of the public by our organisation after they take them from ranges. As this site was located close to the public range boundary we decided to remove the risk of them being 'souvenired'.

News

Formation SITREP

HQ Joint Explosive Ordnance Support

The week was a great opportunity to practice and test our skills in a real world environment whilst supporting one of our local training ranges. With the striking scenery of the Eyre Peninsular and Spencer Gulf as a backdrop it was great place to spend some time out of the office.



JEOS-NT

MAJ Rory James – Senior Ammunition Technical Officer

Located in Robertson Barracks, Darwin, the small team at Joint Explosive Ordnance Support-Northern Territory (JEOS-NT) has been busy in 2023!

In addition to routine JEOS business, we have conducted In Service Surveillance (ISS) of various ammunition natures in support of CASG, supported numerous Visiting Forces (VF) including the US Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) and the UK's Royal Gurkha Regiment from Brunei, and provided ammunition technical support to several major exercises in 2023 including Exercise TALISMAN SABRE and 1 Bde's own annual exercise, PREDATOR RUN.

For the past 2 months, FSGT Lance Fountain has worked with the Combined Joint Theatre Support Component (CJTSC) for Exercise TALISMAN SABRE in Brisbane. His technical knowledge and mastery of the Green Tree has been extensively tested during the last few months. Lance has also attained the title of 'Pops' becoming a Grandad in August.

Back in Darwin, WO2 Carl Stanley and CPL Damien Evans have been busy 'holding the fort'. Amongst their other responsibilities, they have been arranging and supporting DG training for the MRF-D. Due to an exemption in policy, the MRF-D can now transport their own EO by road, providing them with a significant increase in capability and flexibility.

Working closely with the MRF-D EOD team, WO2 Stanley will also help to coordinate an end of year demolitions range at Mount Bundy where a much needed range clearance and training opportunity will help close the training season.

Military business aside, our MRF-D friends will return to the US having experienced ANZAC Day at Adelaide River, Two-up at the Berry Springs Tavern, feeding crocs, Chicken Schnitty, and numerous Aussie phrases. She'll be right!



News Formation SITREP

Joint Proof and Experimental Unit Update from JPEU



LTCOL Mat Brooks (CO)

It's been a testing frenzy at JPEU; from domestic manufacturing to platform and integration trials! The Ammunition Technicians and Ammunition Technical Officers of the Unit are honing their engineering, threat and logistics skills support future Defence capability. Each Establishment has provided an update on their operations and we're always keen to support PME sessions on test, explosive degradation or ballistics (remember: it support your DESTRA PD!).

Keep your powder dry!
CO JPEU



Update from P&EE Graytown CAPT Adam Roksa (SAPO)

It has been a busy year within P&EE Graytown. However, this is no different from any other year down here in the promised land. This year saw the expansion of testing as well as the addition of new munitions which have now cut their teeth against Defence's stringent requirements.

30mm testing

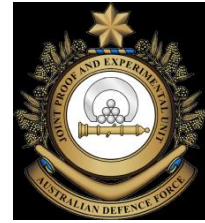
The long awaited Boxer reconnaissance vehicle's 30mm munitions suite has now begun testing at Graytown. Early this year, Rheinmetall sent their representatives along with the relevant testing systems to enable staff to inspect, train and gain knowledge on the systems. With the team buzzing with excitement regarding the new kit, the first order of business was to get the representatives bush hats in order to deal with the Australian sun. After they had cooled down, the team went hands on, gaining familiarity with the new acquisition. This knowledge was found in good stead when firing it for the first time, sending 30mm Kinetic Energy Timed Fuze rounds hurtling down range for the first time on Australian soil.

120mm APFSDS-T

Graytown has also been on the move, with testing being completed this year at Woomera SA. With the assistance of 1 ARMD, the Unit conducted the evaluation of the 120mm Armour Piercing Fin Stabilised Discarding Sabot (Trace) rounds. The testing took place over several days in unforgiving conditions; however, even the ever elusive OC Graytown MAJ Bryan Brown was in attendance to witness. Task Officer Dale Wallace, manoeuvred the M1A1 tank troop with ease, as he had done in the previous years with the Multi-purpose with trace round. The testing was successful, resulting in the gaining of crucial information and training on the munition.

News

Formation SITREP



Joint Proof and Experimental Unit

Nitromethane

The nitromethane test trial went off with a literal bang in mid-July. Nitromethane is a powerful explosive compound which is most commonly found as fuel in racing engines, but can also be used as an explosive in the correct circumstances. The substance is naturally highly volatile and holds a low ignition temperature, which makes it highly susceptible to heat shock and friction. When nitromethane explodes, it releases a large amount of energy in the form of heat and expanding gasses. This rapid expansion of gasses creates a shockwave which has the ability to shatter surrounding structures. These nitromethane tests will prove useful as a scalable analogue test in order to compare the effects of thermobaric weapons and their properties.

Update from P&EE Port Wakefield



CAPT Andrew De Hoog (SAPO)

Running over from 2022, the Port Wakefield EO SMEs finalised the breakdown of an SM2 missile rocket motor. The composite rocket propellant, AP, fuel, HMX, and HTPB binder, was potentially compromised with water ingress, and needed to be broken down and analysed at DSTG. The effects of moisture on composite propellant could cause SM2 rocket motors to fail to propel the missile from the launch canister. A remote-operated custom-made band saw rig, operating slow enough as to minimise heat from friction, was used to cut the motor into coins of varying thicknesses. The large quantity of exposed propellant posed significant risk; ignition from heat, propellant dust ignition or inhalation, static discharge, and RADHAZ to Ordnance had to be mitigated through real-time IR and standard video, engineering, PPE, and controls.

Port Wakefield has also run trials making use of the unique tidal flats; enabling gunners to skip artillery projectiles, through shallow water, off the sea floor and come to rest on the surface without significant impact damage. This enables collection and subsequent assessment of the projectile and ordnance interaction from firing to exiting the muzzle. Other significant artillery trials conducted this year include a 5"54 cartridge case proof, for performance data on new cartridge case design, as well as sound and pressure level assessments on M777 firings to determine hearing protection requirements and maximum exposures. We've also had a number of M82 primer lots broken down for sensitivity testing; dropping a ball of know weight from varying heights onto the primer cap to assess whether primers will function from less than the minimum required force as they age. Even simple trials like this are critical in ensuring EO Lots remains safe to use in combination with their systems.

A set of more unique and complex tasks are the arena trials. Based off international standards, Port Wakefield has a reputation for extremely rigorously and exact conduct. In our case, a domestically filled, unfused, air-delivered bomb is placed in the centre of a circle of panels. Surveying techniques ensure exact distance from the ordnance to a half circle of thin aluminium screens, and another half circle of fibreboard to capture frag. Using high speed video and accurate triggers, the speed of fragmentation pieces is calculated from screen time-of-arrival and distance from ordnance. The frag collected from the fibreboard packs allows development of average fragmentation mass and spread patterns. With multiple arena tests and ancillary information, AESPO can develop lethality data to support mission planning, range safety templates, and weapon platform integration.

Looking forward, Port Wakefield staff have commenced planning the integration of the new Assegai suite of EO into the incoming L8116 platform. A huge undertaking requiring, among other things, the firing of many combinations of projectile nature, fuse type, charge type and zone, primer, and elevation in order to collect data on everything from time of flight and accuracy, to ramming force and levels of toxic propellant fumes in the cabin. Involving hundreds of projectiles and associated EO, thousands of individual data points, and likely years of firing, the integration is promising to be a huge undertaking.



WO1 Jason Kennedy
RSM APSU

Overview 2023

As an entity the Army Personnel Support Unit has changed over the course of 2023, and will change further following the creation of the new Military Personnel Organisation (MPO). So far in 2023, the Regional Indigenous Liaison Officer line of effort and responsibility has shifted to the Directorate of Workforce Strategy – Army to better reflect the alignment within the culture, diversity and inclusion elements and programs within Army.

APSU continue to provide Payroll and Personnel Administration to supported Army units, management of individuals posted to Army Position Not Related to Establishment and (for now) Transfer and Transition Support to all SERCAT 6 and 7 soldiers and officers. Having said that we provide advice and assistance to supported units fails to highlight one of our key themes for 2023, which has been to find ways to say “Yes” to support any person or organisation that seeks our support.

We have provided individuals to support training centres, units, exercises, RCB deployments, RFSU activities, while processing back-of-house HDA applications and continuing to remediate COVID and flood Op Log issues amongst many other activities, with more to come before the end of the year. On top of that, we have had soldiers travel across the country for representative Touch Football, Netball, AFL and overseas to complete a trek along the Kokoda Trail; some of which are mentioned in detail in the articles from the sub-units.

With the ongoing changes within the MPO, it is likely that elements of the Transfer and Transition Detachments will move across to the Joint Transition Authority towards the end of 2023. The make-up of the TTD means that is mainly going to affect the Detachment Commanders and Warrant Officers. APSU expect to provide clerical support to the TTD on an MOU basis into 2024, so that we can rotate people through those organisations and develop their holistic skills and exposure accordingly, while maintaining trade-specific skills in the sub-units. In the near future APSU as a whole will become a Direct Command Unit (DCU) of AHQ, which in turn means that APSU will still provide direct support to Army Units and others who require it.

Good Soldiering in APSU

For all units in Army, 2023 saw the inception of the Good Soldiering Competition. With 11 TTD, and 8 sub-units all over the country, measuring a team activity for APSU would be hard in comparison to a unit where people operate together on a daily basis. The Good Soldiering Competition prize consists of a coin, certificate, and PMKeyS proficiency; but more importantly the prospect of short leave and \$500 per person to undertake a team building activity for the winning team of up to 15 people.

The decision was made to group some of the smaller unit elements together into teams of 15, with the larger sub units and TTD selecting a team of 15 from across ranks and SERCATs to truly highlight the team building element of the competition. The competition was focused on building and improving the basics, with physical, shooting, and written challenges being held to decide the inaugural Good Soldiering Competition winner. APSU Northern Territory / Kimberley took home the honours for 2023, winning three of the eight events. Standby for the write-up of their activity in the 2024 RAAOC journal.

News
Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit



Farewell from RSM APSU, WO1 Jason Kennedy

It has been an immense privilege to be appointed as APSU RSM since 2022. Since I have moved into the RSM appointment I will admit I have really become an advocate for what APSU can provide both to garrison units within each brigade, but also to AHQ. I'm sure most soldiers and officers across Army really don't know what ECN 150's do in general from day to day but I have gained a greater appreciation of what APSU do in the background to support Army.

One opportunity that APSU HQ has secured is an enduring position on the OSD for future Rifle Company Butterworth rotations; something that has been ongoing for almost 10 rotations. APSU has also been asked to provide ECN 150 support at short notice to a number of other deployments over the past 12 months which have included rotations on OP LILIA, and OP RESOLUTE.

Again from an ECN 150 outsider like myself, I believe that APSU has its place for assisting Defence with back of house transactions (in spite of not being role APSU relinquished several years ago) and corporate governance, and provides great opportunities for Combat Clerks to attend promotion courses, possible overseas and domestic deployments and to interact with many units within their supported locations.



News Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit Victoria and Tasmania

Army Personnel Support Unit (APSU) in Victoria and Tasmania is proud to reflect upon this year and previous years' collaborative achievements. Transitioning from high tempo domestic operations, which was complicated by the Victorian Government lock downs and now refocusing on core business functions. Being a small sub unit of fourteen members it is important to have a team that understands all facets of each other's role and how best to support our internal partners.

APSU VIC/TAS played a pivotal role in providing support to various domestic operations in 2022, and this year supporting Exercise Talisman Sabre, Exercise Chapel Gold in Thailand, and provision of re-enforcing of administrative support to the Army School of Health (ASH) and Defence Force School of Signals (DFSS), supporting our transitioning personnel in Victoria and Tasmania which demonstrated our agility to support the requirements to wider Army and sustain Combat Support Clerk capabilities in units whilst also value adding to ADF training exercises.

APSU VIC/TAS conducted an 'Advise and Assist' Program to support dependant units in policy advice, adherence to Army Admin Battle Rhythm, strengthen trade networks within region and support outstanding CAR remediation where necessary. This was well received by supported units and marked our desire to work collaboratively with dependencies., APSU VIC/TAS continues to seek opportunities to nurture internal relationships by understanding our stakeholders' requirements and provide guidance and assistants where necessary.

Soldier On afforded the team, opportunities to take part in a golf driving range practice with other previous and current serving defence veterans, which was conducted over a few sessions. This was important to hear transition stories and understand the challenges that some veterans had face on separation and the important to have a support network.

APSU VIC/TAS has also had the opportunity this year to look at team building exercises. Recently the team conducted a holistic activity by introducing a revitalisation session of hot yoga and then breakfast. This initiative not only promoted physical and mental wellness among personnel but built strong comradeship.

In reflection, our combined contributions to domestic operations, domestic and international exercises, administrative support to wider Army, and participation in the 'Advise and Assist Program' stand as a testament to the solid deliverables that emerge from our collective efforts. With APSU VIC/TAS seamlessly working with external and internal stakeholders and engagement with veteran support networks, our positive influence resonates not only within the military realm but also reverberates positively in the civilian community.

News Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit Western Australia



On 24 March 2023 APSU WA in conjunction with the RAAOC “Ball and Cannon” held a morning tea at the Irwin Barracks Sergeants Mess.

It was identified in 2022 that there were ECN 150 members working in isolation. 2023 saw a large exchange of ECN 150s posting in and out of the Perth Metro area, providing the opportunity to organise a trade gathering. The intent of the morning tea was to bring all ECN 150s together to meet and get to know their fellow brethren; to put a face to that voice on the end of the phone or Skype/emails. The morning tea was also used to remove that feeling of isolation for newly posted in members, as well as providing pathways of where to seek assistance if required and build clerical networks for the WA based clerks.

The background research into the ECN 150s in WA provided some interesting figures. The initial planning conference provided an estimated figure of 30 clerks who would attend. After initial invitations were sent out, the calendar invite list grew to 60 members providing the implication the event would be positively received.

The event was well supported with a total of 42 members attending. ECN 150s attended from 13 BDE HQ, 11/28 RWAR, 16 RWAR, 10 LHR, 13 CSSB, 13 ER, WAUR, the Pilbara Regiment and SASR, and the 13 BDE Chief of Staff.



APSU WA stated it was very pleasing to see the ECN 150s getting to know each other and in some circumstances reigniting old acquaintances from previous postings. On some occasions where this occurred both individuals did not know they were both posted to WA.

The event was deemed a success, with APSU WA receiving positive feedback from attendees as well as the 13 BDE Chief of Staff.

Many attendees enquired as to whether another similar event would be occurring again. In light of this, APSU WA, in association with the Ball and Cannon, intend on holding a similar event again later in the year.



The cost of catering for this event was covered by the RAAOC Fund, who were eager to hold the function and many more in the future if deemed viable.



Army Personnel Support Unit - Australian Capital Territory

WO2 Bee O'Rourke – Technical Manager

2022 finished with a highlight, with APSU HQ, APSU ACT, APSU TTD ACT, APSU NSW and APSU TTD NSW enjoying a team building exercise, which was completing the Mt Kosciuszko summit walk. Who would have thought snow would still be on the mountain in late November? Other than spectacular views and having my first trip to snow in Australia, I did enjoy throwing snowballs to (at) those around me, no one was safe.

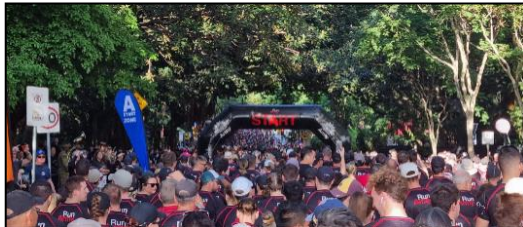


In late 2022, we welcomed PTE Muhammad Siddiqui (Sid) to our team. In 2023, we welcomed SGT Angel de Sade, CPL Fasheena Young and CPL Allah Dowling. CPL Fasheena Young transitioned on 18 Mar 23 where we wished her all the best for her career outside of Defence. CPL Allah Dowling joined the team at APSU TTD ACT.

A posting to APSU ACT is unique in nature as it operates like no other APSU subunit due to our clients. APSU ACT provides payroll and personnel administration (PPA) support to a large portion of the Army located within the ACT region with a small team that can range from 5 – 7 personnel. The team provide administrative support and advice to a range of ranks, which makes the working environment like no other within APSU. PTE Leelaratna arrived at APSU ACT in August 2022 and as his first unit, has had the opportunity to provide support to several Chief of Army Dinner's and to Colonel's Day at Command and Staff College. A posting to APSU ACT provides you the opportunity to participate in activities that is unique to a posting to ACT.

News Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit - Australian Capital Territory



On 23 April 2023, I participated in the Run Army 10km event held in Brisbane. I participated with my family. This event highlighted to my family what Mateship really is, by witnessing me interact with Army members that I have had the pleasure to serve with over my 25 years of Service, and they were very quick to request to participate in the event in 2024.

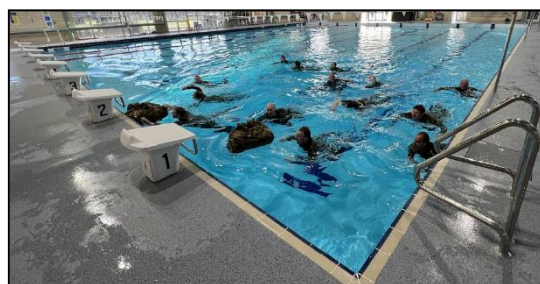
I attended the Dawn Service held by Currumbin RSL at Elephant Rock. This ANZAC Day was a special one for my family as it will be the last ANZAC Day as a serving member for my husband (WO2 David O'Rourke, RAAOC) after serving 41 years of ARA/SERCAT 7 service.



The CO (LTCOL Adam Kavanagh) set a challenge for APSU, by participating in the Army Team Award – Good Soldiering. This has seen the team from APSU ACT region participate in LF6, the Overwater Obstacle course at ADFA and a 100 m swim with a floatation device. I found it very interesting as this showed how diverse the posting and life experiences members within ACT have had, some have never attempted an Overwater Obstacle course before and others had never heard of or seen a “Mintie” pack.



I was blown away by a comment by one member that they had never swam 100m in a pool before, in their defence they have mainly swum in the ocean. These activities put members out of their comfort zones however; all stated how they thoroughly enjoyed the activities.



Lastly, APSU ACT will farewell MAJ Adam Hill, WO2 Berlinda O'Rourke and CPL Ripley Hill, with all members leaving APSU ACT with memories and experience of serving not only with APSU but also within Canberra.



Army Personnel Support Unit – South Queensland:

After a tumultuous 2022, APSU SQ finished the year with two days of Adventure Training. Conducting a gruelling day and night of sea kayaking that saw members kayak from the Navy Depot TS Vampire at Tweed Heads, along the Tweed River and out to the ocean. Strong currents and choppy conditions saw members physical and mental resilience challenged, and saw many members upside down in the water...

The fun didn't end there, with an early start driving to Binna Burra on day two in the hinterland of the Gold Coast, where a 21.6km rainforest walk from Binna Burra to O'Reilly's was set to begin. A great and scenic walk showing a different view to the traditional Army Canungra Hinterland. Teamwork, a sense of humour and fortitude played a large role in the success of the activity.



It was a good start to 2023, welcoming new march-ins, including our Tech Manager, WO1 Simon Lanser and the return of CPL Brinkley from OP ACCORDION. Once all of the mandatory and initial training was completed, WO2 Kevin McMahon was on top of soldier development with preparations and nominations for courses: SUBJ 1 and 4 CPL, SUBJ 2 and 4 SGT. The successes from 2023 courses have seen several promotions to the ranks of LCPL, CPL and SGT.

We have been lucky enough to deploy CPL Alison Ockenden Soto on RCB 139 with 8/9 RAR. We have also deployed four members on EX TS 23 to support and reinforce FORCOMD and 1 AS DIV. SGT Rose detached to CJTSU SQ coordinating accommodation for FE, PTE O'Connell with HQ 7 BDE, PTE Gov with 1 SIG and PTE Kendrick with HQ 1 AS DIV.

Since May, APSU SQ have been conducting All Corps Training with a focus on preparing soldiers for future roles within combat Units. Lessons included; weapon (WTSS), navigation, first aid, TCCC, QDE, orders, RATEL and tactical deployment of a CSS. This has given the CPL's an opportunity to command and instruct their subordinates and peers, enhancing their skills and developing capability for APSU.



APSU-SQ is commanded by:

- OC/OIC - MAJ Tony McKindley (RAAMC)
- 2IC – CAPT Mitchell Crowley (AACC)
- Tech Manager – WO1 Simon Lanser (RAAOC)
- CSM/PERS SPT WO – WO2 Kevin McMahon (RAAOC)

News Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit – New South Wales:



A Day in the Life of a Command Support Clerk at APSU NSW

RAAOC is a large and integral part of the Australian Army. With such a vital part to play, Command Support Clerks require a sound daily routine to keep this well-oiled machine called APSU running smoothly. Take a little peek into the working week at APSU NSW, our routine keeps us energised and engaged as Command Support Clerks!

Make time for physical activity.

In order to start the day off right, a solid morning PT session is crucial. Whether PT be an outdoor stroll, group PTI session, a run or weights, it is important to find the time. There is no better feeling than sitting down at the desk in the morning, knowing we challenged ourselves and put in 100 percent. Besides being an instant mood booster, that dopamine hit increases our productivity, facilitates creative thinking and helps us find innovative solutions to the daily challenges we face in our role.

Coffee...it is a necessity!

Next up, a quick coffee run is essential! Our morning ritual of strolling to the local café and treating ourselves to an espresso motivates us to complete a hard PT session and is an awesome act of self-care! It gives us something to look forward to and enjoy after a gruelling PT session. That caffeine hit magically empowers us to tackle the numerous forms, RFIs and tasks we have waiting for action in our inbox!

Get out of your comfort zone and put your hand up for any available opportunity.

Being a Command Support Clerk does not always have to mean sitting behind a computer screen staring at emails or forms! Here at APSU NSW, members have had the good fortune to deploy overseas on ships with our RAN counterparts, be attached to other Units and also do OJT, attend exercises and participate in community engagement activities such as Legacy and RSL events. Each of these amazing opportunities provides us with a chance to meet an array of interesting people and step outside of our comfort zone, which is a great way to learn and grow. It is vital to stay in the loop and be aware of what opportunities are coming up, but more importantly, to say yes when they do!

Create something to look forward to as a team.

Here at APSU NSW we never open our calendars only to see a never-ending list of tasks! Whether fortnightly or monthly, APSU NSW plan something outside of our normal job routine to enjoy as a team. During the EOFY PMKeyS outage, we took the opportunity to walk around North Head at Manly and finished with a team lunch. This was a great way for us to bond and partake in conversations that usually would not be facilitated by sitting behind a computer.

Integrating the above aspects into your routine may have a positive impact on how you feel after a long day. Like us, you hopefully leave with a sense of satisfaction and have learnt something new, no matter how small. With morale high, there is excitement to return to work the next day due to the happy and enjoyable atmosphere we have created.....and do it all over again!



News
Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit – New South Wales:

A Day in the Life of a Command Support Clerk at APSU NSW



APSU NSW team building day at Manly, NSW

News Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit –
Northern Territory and The Kimberly (APSU NT/K)

Darwin The Final Frontier – Why Go Anywhere Else?



MAJ Wayne Marsh



Darwin, the front line in Australia's defence. There is nowhere else quite like it. Home to Headquarters 1st Brigade, its combat and support units, along with NORFORCE (ARes), an element of the Regional Force Surveillance Unit (RFSU), spread over more that 2 million square kilometres.

APSU NT/K

The job is rewarding and the supported direct command units conduct exciting and interesting field exercises, working closely with members of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Our ECN 150 personnel routinely deploy in support of these activities.



The primary role of the Unit Support Section (USS) is to provide SME advice and guidance to unit Commanders, Chief Clerks and their teams, in order to ensure personnel, pay and administration for **ALL** soldiers is conducted in a timely and accurate manner.



News Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit – Northern Territory and The Kimberly (APSU NT/K)

Darwin The Final Frontier – Why Go Anywhere Else?



PTE Luafutu and PTE Muller



PTE Vicary (GA)

The OPS Cell is manned by PTE Kapahi who manages the OP LOGS, primarily for 5RAR OP KUDU, when not getting involved in every non work-related activity.

The Coord Cell is the heartbeat of the sub-unit. The team manages daily administration, much like any unit orderly room.

The Governance and Assurance (GA) team conduct in depth audits of documentation passing through APSU NT/K. One individual was reimbursed in excess of \$8000 as a result of the GA Cell conducting a thorough and professional audit. **THIS ROLE IS CRITICAL.**

Promotions

SGT Sarbach, CPL Mills, CPL Clout, LCPL Gregory, LCPL Indra, LCPL Magill and LCPL Lampard

APSU Transfer and Transition Detachment (TTD)

This team is the best at what they do. They work closely with the Joint Transition Authority Team to ensure our veterans transitioning from SERCAT 7 do so with assistance that allows for a smooth, dignified and pleasurable transition.

The APSU TTD clerks are well trained to work within a mixed environment (APS/Contractors and Military). They interact closely with all ranks with differing personalities and are in constant liaison with units and CM-A.

APSU TTD also has a Member Support Coordinator (MSC) that assists members who are wounded, injured or ill or are being medically transitioned. The Trade Transfer and Retention Officer (TTRWO) provides guidance to members who enquire about corps/trade transfers, commissioning or service transfer.

News

Formation SITREP

**Army Personnel Support Unit –
Northern Territory and The Kimberly (APSU NT/K)**

Darwin The Final Frontier – Why Go Anywhere Else?



External Support activities

A large number of individuals have been promoted within 1 BDE prior to completing their relevant career courses. PTE Muller has worked closely with the BDE S7 Training Cell to produce a new tracking document that has allowed unit RSMs to audit and evaluate training activities that will ensure individuals remain at current rank.

PTE Vicary and PTE Yossef deployed to Mt Bundy training area with 8/12 REGT RAA. This was their first field exercise since completing their recruit course and provided them with valuable experience by witnessing how an artillery unit deploys and lives in the field.

PTE Badcock and LCPL Indra supported Ex Talisman Sabre 23, working with the Combined Joint Theatre Support Unit – North West (CJTSU-NW) Combined Joint Theatre Support Component (CJTSC) in a multi-national environment including USMC and Indonesian Army.

CPL Mills completed a unit photography course and subsequently deployed for two weeks on Ex Predators Walk with the 1 BDE Media Cell, where she was able to put her newly acquired skills into practice.



Photo by: CPL Mills

5RAR are deployed on OP KUDU which involves training Ukrainian soldiers in the UK. APSU NT/K assisted with pre-deployment training for their instructors, which provided a good refresh of basic military skills.

CPL Meighan and PTE Kapahi ventured across to Arnhem Land in support of Arnhem Squadron, NORFORCE on Ex GARRKMAN, gaining exposure to aboriginal culture and learning the intricacies of an RFSU. Both are now fully qualified lumberjacks and have dined on local delicacies, fresh oysters and sea turtle.



Army Personnel Support Unit –
Northern Territory and The Kimberly (APSU NT/K)

Darwin The Final Frontier – Why Go Anywhere Else?



Cultural Training Arnhem Squadron – NORFORCE



CPL Meighan – that's not a laptop

RAN Patrol Boat Group (PBGRP) provided two excellent days for our teams. They were given a tour of HMAS Cape Capricorn and spent the day at sea participating in fire-fighting drills and man overboard rescues in the RHIB. Apparently the highlight of the day was having salmon for lunch!



Prepare to launch



PTE Wong, a Wiggles wanna-be

News

Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit –
Northern Territory and The Kimberly (APSU NT/K)

Darwin The Final Frontier – Why Go Anywhere Else?



Social and Adventure Training

Eight members attended a Try Dive activity organised and funded by Mates 4 Mates (M4M) Darwin.



The activity was designed to build team cohesion and confidence, taking most out of their comfort zone, especially the weaker swimmers. After receiving instruction on how to set up and test their equipment, they then received further instruction on safety and basic drills, culminating in a final unassisted swim around the pool.



PTE Kapahi



CPL Oataway



Army Personnel Support Unit –
Northern Territory and The Kimberly (APSU NT/K)
Darwin The Final Frontier – Why Go Anywhere Else?

PTE Kapahi and PTE Vicary were rewarded for their hard work this year with a six week Learn to Sail course funded by M4M Darwin. The course allowed both individuals to learn new and valuable skills whilst interacting with ex-service veterans.



PTE Wong



PTE Muller

Community engagement

Individuals have also volunteered to assist the Happy Paws Happy Hearts foundation where they provided valuable, hands-on assistance to kennel staff. They participated in positive reinforcement-based training and learnt new skills, as well as building self-confidence through purposeful engagement with staff and animals.

WORK – SUPPORT – ENJOY

News

Formation SITREP

Army Personnel Support Unit – South Australia



APSU-SA's 2023 saw an organic increase in our population alongside a redirection of our administrative focus from the seemingly, never-ending support to domestic operations to a more traditional role within the admin chain.

Firstly, we farewelled Flora Stewart on Promotion to CPL and Stephen Cooper on promotion to SGT. Keegan Knoll left seeking higher-flying pastures on his way to a transfer to be an Aviation Technician. In turn, we welcomed Andrew Williamson from the Soldier Recovery Centre, Pat McCarthy and Stephanie Sims from 1 Armd Regt, Silfati Nyiraneza from IETs and a shiny new OIC in the form of MAJ Mark Prideaux. PTE Lucy Lowe transferred to APNRE shortly before welcoming babies Ivy and Noah. Kelly Spence and her partner Chantell welcomed Louie, bolstering our pool of future ECN 150s.

Other notable events include PTE Arshdeep Hundal's marriage to Aman in India during Christmas leave. PTE Kyle Young becoming a Combat Fitness Leader and PTE CC Sorerenen's efforts to climb every mountain bigger than a molehill in South Australia. CPL 'Willie' Williamson's second place in the Anzac Cup 23 Warhammer wargaming event at ADFA and our Reserve members Erin, Grace and Gemma each managing to juggle not only their roles within APSU-SA but their day-time pursuits as well.

We've also had some opportunities to recognise members of the unit for their various service milestones. PTE Pat McCarthy was awarded his third clasp to the DLSSM for 30 years of service and MAJ Tracey Feillafe of TTD SA was finally paired up with her Commission after the two have played postal tag for nearly a year. Bec McEwen lost her digger card when she was promoted to LCPL in April.

For a few months this year the members of APSU-SA have been competing against the other APSU members around the country in an Australia-wide competition in a wide variety of administrative, soldierly and physical training skillsets with APSU-SA needing to dust off weapon pams and remember the vast difference between "your" right and "the" right on the drill square.

Limited opportunities have presented themselves to partake in the field elements of our role but Arsh flew that flag for us with 1 Armd Regt earlier in the year to remind our client units that we're not actually afraid of scrub time (for the right tier of FA).

2023 will close with significant manning changes with WO2 Simon Dettmer, SGT Adrian 'Joe' Cocker and six other team members moving on. However, as always, admin will simply happen. The beating, yet unseen, heart of capability will continue ticking away administratively in support of Army in South Australia.



News Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

The Angels Jump At Dawn

Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division
EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023

CPL J. Margetts

Talisman Sabre 23 presented a very unique and exciting opportunity for a small crew of Jump Masters posted to 176 Air Dispatch Squadron, an opportunity to support a Company sized airborne insertion onto Kapyong DZ in Shoalwater Bay.

The US Army 11th Airborne Division (Arctic Angels) would be parachuting Able Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne) into the last days of TS 23 in order to seize an airfield and other objectives. At the same time, they planned to use the opportunity to earn their Australian Parachute Wings and in order to do this they were required to jump from Australian aircraft, onto Australian soil and be dispatched by Australian Jump Masters.

A Parachute Jump Master is an advanced paratrooper who is trained to provide oversight, control and safety checks during a parachute operation. A good proportion of ECN 345 Parachute Rigger Corporals are qualified Jump Masters having gone through the 4-week Military Static Line Supervisor course at Australian Defence Force Parachute School in Nowra, NSW.

Four members of 176 AD Sqn were selected for the task: Parachute Riggers CAPT James Heap and CPLs Brenton Georgiades and Jonathan Margetts from 39 Aerial Delivery Equipment Maintenance Platoon and CPL Mark Vergara an Air Dispatcher.

Lead up training was conducted prior to departure beginning with all members conducting a refresher parachute jump before conducting PJM duties during the monthly parachute activity held at RAAF Richmond. After some negotiation, time was also secured to use the old C130E fuselage located at RAAFSALT (the unit responsible for training RAAF Air Movements personnel), and this was used to good effect, allowing the PJM Crew to work together as a team for the first time, in a realistic setting without the added pressures of being in a noisy, turbulent aircraft.

Moving to Townsville on the 31st of July the 176 AD Sqn members met with their American counterparts and the RAAF C17 crew that would be flying the mission, to begin the process of integrating, prior to the jumps on the 2nd of August.

Joint training began on a crude C17 mock-up created out of para-cord, camp stretchers and jerry cans, the Australian PJMs being instructed by their US counterparts. All who participated agree that it was an excellent and informative experience and, despite being from opposite sides of the world, the shared experience of being paratroopers and jump masters made for easy friendships.

Able Company, 3-509th Infantry is based in Alaska, forming a part of the 2nd Brigade, 11th Airborne Division and has the distinction of being one of the oldest airborne formations in the US Army, the 509th were the first US Paratroopers in action in WW2, while the newly re-raised 11th Airborne has the distinction of being the only Airborne Division to fight in the Pacific Theatre in WW2.

Midday on the 1st of August saw the entire American contingent begin conducting 'ground training' under the close supervision of both American and Australian Jump Masters, beginning with flight drills (simulating controlling a canopy in descent), Parachute Landing Falls and then aircraft drill in the mock C17.

News

Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

The Angels Jump At Dawn Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



This proved to be another eye opening experience, the Australian Jump Masters had never experienced ground training on this scale before. Typically, in Australia, PJMs will ground train and dispatch around 30 paratroopers on average, Talisman Sabre saw them assisting in the ground training of over 150. The sheer size of a fully-fledged Airborne Operation is truly a sight to behold.

After completing ground training, the entire contingent moved to RAAF Garbutt to begin the process of issuing parachutes, weapons and ammunition, conducting the pre-jump brief and fitting equipment. This was where another stark contrast between Australian and American practices became apparent; in Australia, paratroopers won't don their parachutes until they absolutely have to, the US on the other hand get their parachutes on HOURS in advance. The first sortie for this jump got their parachutes on 4 hours ahead of time!

While all this was going on in the background the Australians also took the opportunity to meet and engage with the American Parachute Riggers who were supporting this jump. Easily identifiable in their red baseball caps, US Riggers are highly regarded in the US Airborne Community and are very much a part of the unit they support. These Riggers would also be jumping that night in order to effect the drop zone recovery of the parachutes and it is for this reason that all US Riggers are Airborne Qualified, this is one of the reasons Australian Parachute Riggers are also all parachute qualified.

American Riggers are also responsible for performing Air Dispatch functions as well, the US Rigger trade having been designed that way from the beginning, and with the proposed amalgamation of ECN 345 Parachute Rigger and ECN 099 Air Dispatcher, here in Australia, it is hoped that the new ECN 444 Aerial Delivery Technician will be able to successfully perform both functions as well.

However, after speaking with their American counterparts, the Australians were surprised to learn that, while they are qualified in both areas, US Riggers will typically end up streaming into a specific area of their Trade, be it Air Drop, Static Line Parachutes or Free-fall Parachutes. The US Riggers supporting 3-509 worked strictly in the Static Line space and would likely never rig an Air Drop load again.

At some time around 2200h the C17 arrived and US and Australian PJMs were able to conduct pre-jump inspections of the paratroop doors and aircraft training with the RAAF loadmasters to ensure interoperability. The paratroopers waddled out to the aircraft around 2300h with the first sortie of 90 paratroopers struggled up the ramp at around midnight, finally getting airborne around 0100h.

Things began to move quickly now and 30 minutes out the red lights inside the aircraft were turned on and the doors were opened. Staring out into the blackness below, seeing the waterways illuminated by the moon and the clouds glowing silver in the sky above was a truly surreal experience.

Looking down at that darkness one thousand feet below and knowing there were hundreds of tired and cold soldiers sitting up on piquet, driving under night vision or tripping over for the umpteenth time during an all-night tactical move, the Australians spared a sympathetic thought for all the soldiers doing it tough down there. Every one of them had been in that situation themselves before transferring into their current trade as an Air Dispatcher or Parachute Rigger.



News Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

**The Angels Jump At Dawn
Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division
EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023**

20 minutes out, the action started. The US Jump Masters, hitherto un-laden, stood up and 'hung' their equipment. Hooking their static line to the anchor cable overhead they made their way to the door and their 'safeties' took up their position beside them to the rear of the aircraft. As the clock ran down the PJMs again checked the exit aperture for sharp edges, observed the weather conditions below and, at 10 minutes, stood the first pass of paratroopers up and hooked them on.

This was when the Australian PJMs stepped in to assist, inspecting each paratrooper in rapid succession and taking up a post beside the American 'safety' ready to begin giving jump commands.

"ONE MINUTE!"

"ACTION STATIONS!" the paratroopers close up on the door, 30 seconds to go.

"STAND BY!" and the first jumper stands in the door, the second man pressed up against him.

The green light comes on and with a slap on the thigh from the Jump Master and a shout of "GO!" the first jumpers steps out into the night.

In rapid succession each paratrooper follows the other into the gaping blackness, a rush of air hits the Jump Masters in the face as each man enters the slip stream, the yellow static line going taut as it activates each man's parachute.

There is no rush for the door, each trooper walks calmly, but rapidly, towards the door, passes his static line to the safety, turns and jumps, being violently thrown towards the tail of the aircraft and down by a blast of air, disappearing from sight as they begin their descent to the drop zone below.

Once the last man has gone both the American 'Safety' and Australian Jump Masters take turns to grip each side of the door and lean out into the night, looking rearward to confirm that no paratroopers have been hung up and to watch the grey canopies drifting down to the drop zone below.

This is the favourite part for a lot of Jump Masters, hanging out the side door of an Aircraft, 1000 feet in the air, feeling the rush of the wind and seeing the canopies develop as they fall to earth. Despite how risky it sounds, it is quite safe, the wind deflector that extends on the leading edge of the door ensures you are protected from the worst of the slip stream.

Meanwhile the next pass is standing up and hooking on and the process begins again...

The opportunity to participate in an Airborne Exercise with a coalition partner is one that none of the Australians involved will ever forget. For the Americans this jump was small in comparison to what they normally do, but this is a rare occurrence in Australia since 3 RAR was relinquished its airborne role back in 2011.

News

Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

The Angels Jump At Dawn Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



From a 176 Air Dispatch perspective it was revealed, in hindsight, that the Squadron could have provided so much more to 3-509th than just Jump Master support. 39 ADE Platoon could have provided Riggers to supplement the US Riggers to jump in assist in DZ recovery and the Air Dispatchers could have rigged door bundles to drop heavy equipment, or quad bikes to enhance mobility.

If the Squadron is lucky enough to ever conduct this activity again, no doubt these will be some of the capabilities offered to the 11th Airborne Division. As it stands now, however, it has enhanced and refreshed the Squadrons understanding of conventional airborne operations and the capabilities it can provide to coalition partners.



CPL Mark Vergara (RACT) conducting Fitter Front checks on PTE Steph Schweitzer. Steph is a former Olympian and is the first fully qualified female ECN 444 having completed both Rigger and Air Dispatch IETs. CPL Vergara found himself caught up in the final evacuation of Afghanistan while on deployment to AMAB, forward deploying to Afghanistan to provide boots on the ground.



News
Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

The Angels Jump At Dawn
Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division
EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



Rigger Officer Capt. James Heap prepares to give Action Stations to Rigger PTEs Harry Thompson and Rhys Trinca, inside the RAAFSALT C130E fuselage, located at RAAF Richmond, NSW.



Camp Stretchers and 550 chord amount to what is a C17 mock-up used to conduct Aircraft Drill, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville.

News

Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

The Angels Jump At Dawn
Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division
EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



Captain Heap keeping a close eye on US Paratroopers while they conduct the 'Hook On'. Note the subdued 11th Airborne Division shoulder sleeve insignia with its unique 'Arctic' Tab, reflecting the unit's role in Arctic Warfare.



Full to overflowing, a C17 with all seats taken, despite how it looks a C17 is far roomier than the C130s 3-509th is used to jumping out of.



News
Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

The Angels Jump At Dawn
Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division
EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



Red lights on and the Jump Masters begin to ready themselves.



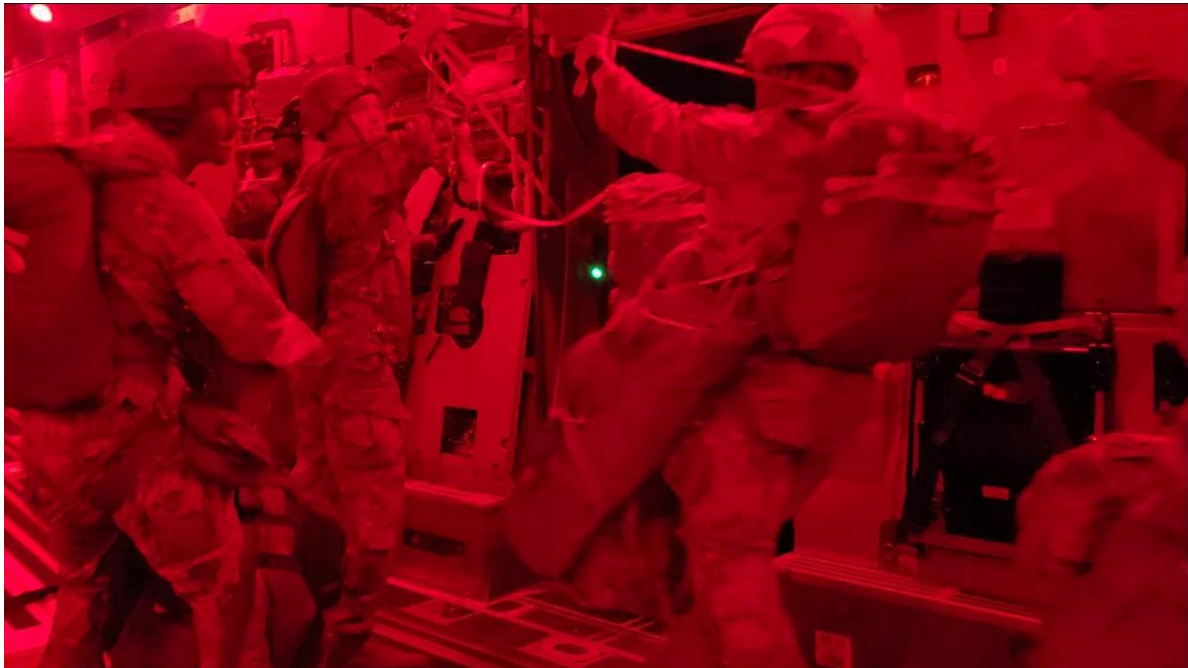
'ONE MINUTE!' CPL Georgiades gives the command, warning the second pass that its almost time to jump.

News

Formation SITREP

176 Air Dispatch Squadron

The Angels Jump At Dawn
Parachute Riggers in support of the US 11th Airborne Division
EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



“GO!!!” the first man jumps into the night while SFC Perdue as ‘Safety’ controls the static lines and Jump Master (left) urges the troopers on.



CPL Mark Vergara - note the 176 Air Dispatch insignia, the Pelican dates back to the 1960s and was originally associated with the now disbanded 1 Air Transport Support Regiment, formerly the headquarters for 39 ADE Platoon, 176 and 177 Air Dispatch Squadrons.

RAAOC marches again in Melbourne
Victoria Barracks – Melbourne

LTCOL Ash Crosby

Esprit de corps is alive and well in Melbourne, with RAAOC members celebrating milestones and re-establishing some old traditions at Victoria Barracks Melbourne in 2022-2023.

RAAOC members gathered over the last two years to celebrate the Corps birthday with photos outside of F Block at Victoria Barracks Melbourne on 1 July. It was this building where General Order 104 was signed in 1902 formally creating the Australian Army Ordnance Corps.



RAAOC Plaque on VBM F Block



RAAOC Association Banner march past ANZAC Day 2023

After a COVID19 influenced hiatus, and the rediscovery of the RAAOC Association banner at Simpson Barracks; past and present members of RAAOC marched in the ANZAC Day procession in 2023 up St Kilda Road to The Shrine of Remembrance. Commentary by the ABC live television coverage included RAAOC as the most important people on earth. It was great to see the mix of legacy and current serving members of the Corps marching as one and catching up on Corps matters.

News

Formation SITREP

**RAAOC marches again in Melbourne
Victoria Barracks – Melbourne**



RAAOC Association Banner and members at The Shrine ANZAC Day 2023

Reinvigorating an old tradition, past and present members of RAAOC marched on The Shrine of Remembrance on 29 November 2023. After marching up the forecourt, past The Shrine steps, World War II cenotaph and eternal flame, members paused to reflect and lay a wreath at the post 1945 memorial on the southern side of The Shrine. The Corps prayer and key milestones were shared at the 1st Ordnance Field Park stone located in the gardens of The Shrine



RAAOC Members at The Shrine 2023

RAAOC marches again in Melbourne
Victoria Barracks – Melbourne

Members then participated in fellowship in the Victoria Barracks Officers Mess and discussed the key topics of the Corps conference held in the immediate days prior.

A plaque was presented to the Victoria Barracks Officers Mess, to commemorate the site of the Last Loyal Toast to our Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022 at the Victoria Barracks Sergeants Mess regimental dinner.



Activities such as regimental marches, corps milestones and ANZAC Day presented great opportunities for reconnection with fellow RAAOC members, and sharing of customs, traditions and history amongst fellowship.



RAAOC Birthday photo VBM F Block 2022



RAAOC Birthday Cake cutting 2022

News Formation SITREP

Headquarters Forces Command
ECN 401 In The Bay – EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



WO2 Mick Cameron and CAPT Ash Medway

Talisman Sabre 2023 (EX TS23) was billed as potentially the biggest and most complex ADF exercise to be undertaken in a number of years. The ECN 401 trade contributed 223 Theatre Ammunition Troop consisting of 10 FSB personnel (with one solitary 9 FSB Ammo Sup attached) to the Shoalwater Bay phase, which culminated in a large LFX. The Troop had a far reaching overall impact on the activity, and supported the successful conduct of the LFX, which included personnel and platforms from The Japanese Self Defence Force (JSDF), Republic of Korea Army (ROK), and United States Army and Marines, accompanying elements from Australian Army, Navy and Air Force.

The ATO had just returned to the Ville after working on his tan/conducting EO licencing and assurance tasks in the MEO just in time to join the Troop, whom were loaded up and ready to get on the road south (bar two soldiers whom were marched up 'north' to support 10 FSU in Ingham). The WOAT position required a back fill for this trip, so the WOAT FORCOMD arrived to get some more field time up. The deployment to Shoalwater Bay successfully tested the Troop concept of being self-deployable with minimal reliance on heavy lift support for unloading containerised stores and equipment.



Deployable workshop and Stores Modules

In the lead up to the concentration of visiting forces, 223 TAT took the opportunity to shakeout the EO workshop and conduct some troop level PD activities to build on the outcomes of the 10 FSB shakeout conducted earlier this year. It felt like the exercise took a little time to gather momentum, but once 223 TAT became established on Yellow Route (working under the 37FST banner) the Troop got to work.

Relations with the JSDF initially had to overcome some language and cultural barriers to establish their ADF support requirements and determine the ongoing 223 TAT support that they would need throughout their time in the Bay. Some unplanned, but beneficial, PTE-CPL international engagement was undertaken by Troop members with the JSDF EO personnel throughout the activity. This effort smoothed out some language related misunderstandings and helped to set them up for successful participation in the LFX.



JSDF Induction

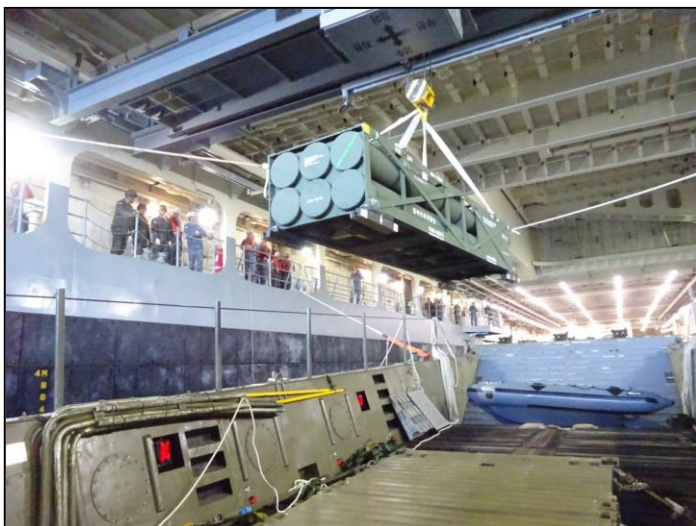


The Troop directly supported the reconfiguration task for the JSDF to prepare their Live Chu-SAM missiles on the launchers. Each Live missile was paired with a CATM missile on the launch vehicles. This gave some valuable insights into how the JSDF elements operate with the missile platform operators and the support staff operating their MHE and cranes.

JSDF Reconfiguration



The in-load of ROK EO and platforms into the Bay provided some interesting challenges for all involved. The WOAT was tasked to travel with an LCM8 out of Port Alma to conduct the EO transfer from the ROK Navy LHD Marado onto the LCM8, with the plan to either bring the EO into Port Alma, or onto Sabina Point as COA 2. A considerable amount of COA development was done by the 37 FST OPS staff in the Bay for the potential problems that could be encountered during the task. The task pulled in support from 'Movers' and support staff at DSG Rockhampton, 37 FST Transport, JEOS SQ and civilian crane operators at Port Alma. The sea state during the transfer was problematic with the LCM8 crew dealing with significant swell as they attempted to dock inside the Marado. After being bounced around and getting lines hooked up it still took some time for the crew to get the LCM8 stable enough to crane the EO on board. The Marado had to drop ballast and raise its hull higher in the water at one point IOT to ground the LCM8 to stabilise it enough for crane operations to continue.



Loading an LCM8

Throughout the transfer, the seemingly insurmountable language barriers between the LCM8 crew and the Marado crew were worked through with a lot of shouting and some interpretive dance to get the EO slung safely onto the LCM8. Significant swell was encountered again on exit from the Marado which managed to wash up and across the starboard rear quarter high enough to swamp the crew racks on that side of the wheel house. The LCM8 lost power in one engine once clear of the Marado and the maintainer then got to work below deck in the rough swell to get the engine back up again.

He got the job done while being tossed around by swell in a confined space, so it ended up being yet another day where an LCM8 Crew member might be re-evaluating their past life choices. #MaritimeDisabilityAllowance

News Formation SITREP

Headquarters Forces Command
ECN 401 In The Bay – EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



The only damage sustained during the transfer was a snapped ROK Navy braided line that broke off onto the LCM8 well deck on the way out of the Marado. This was added to the decent haul of other souvenirs including 2 x Rocket Pods, a QUADCON of Artillery ammunition, random challenge coins and a bunch of patches. The next day the EO was successfully transferred across the Licenced EO Wharf at Port Alma and was then moved by road up to the Bay. The support that was on hand in Port Alma from the other agencies proved crucial in completing the move successfully. With the EO successfully offloaded the Marado was then able to go to Gladstone to unload troops and equipment.



Unloading ROK EO

The short notice, ever changing, insertion plan for the ROK EO and equipment meant that the Troop had to accommodate segregated Bond Customs clearance for the EO within the storage area with the platforms being segregated IVO EXCON. Diplomacy and language barriers were tested for a number of days whilst awaiting Customs clearances as the Live Fire activity drew closer. The ROK personnel were rather enthusiastic for their EO and equipment to be released, but they were not all that receptive to the nuances of Australian Government bureaucratic processes. Nor were they sympathetic to the obligations placed upon the Troop to ensure that the EO could obtain Customs clearance in time for the LFX.

The US Army had their HIRMARS and 155mm munitions under the management of 223 TAT; some coffee orientated discussions between the US Battery COMDs and the ATO saw a number of US Ammo Soldiers attached to 223 TAT for over a week. The 223 TAT soldiers took the opportunity to teach the Americans Monopoly Deal which soon became their new favourite card game. Trade related taskings were completed between evening marathons of Monopoly Deal, with the US soldiers introduced to some of our SOPs, and a mutually beneficial understanding of similarities and differences between the American MOS and the Australian ECN. Fortunately, the US Ammo soldiers were able to RV with 223 TAT when they RTU to 10 FSB, with the American's joining for some in-barracks refit-to-fight taskings.



News
Formation SITREP

Headquarters Forces Command
ECN 401 In The Bay – EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023

The 9 FSB element under the 37FST banner supported 223 TAT throughout the activity, and this was reciprocated with regular 223 TAT caffeine consumption-related patronage of the Congo Club.



ADF US - 223TAT and US Army in Townsville

The 72-48 hours leading up to the LFX saw a flurry of activity from the various C/S obtaining their required EO in preparation for some test firing, as well as getting ready for the actual demonstration. The JSDF reconfigured the Chu-SAM, the ROK had their EO released from Bond at the 11-th hour, and the US did what they do best, concentrating overwhelming fire support, which impressed all involved including the assortment of VIPs that were on the ground for LFX day.



News Formation SITREP

Headquarters Forces Command
ECN 401 In The Bay – EX TALISMAN SABRE 2023



The LFX had an impressive gun-line consisting of: 2 x Australian Army M777A2 from 107 Battery, 2 x US Army M777A2, 2 x US Marine M777A2, 2 x ROK K9 SP artillery gun, 1 x Chu-SAM launcher, and a HIMARS Battery. The LFX also consisted of a range of air capabilities including F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter and an AC-130 gunship. The joint fires were supported by JTAS from France, Germany, and New Zealand. On call EOD support for the LFX ended up being provided through a bespoke solution between 223 TAT, SATO FORCOMD embedded in EXCON and JEOS SQ. This was due to 20 EOD SQN deciding not to be in location for the festivities. Although we were ready and willing, standing by to fix any HE related problems, the LFX went off without a hitch.



The LFX fire mission was an orchestra of lethal precision featuring the JSDF Chu-SAM achieving air superiority; 107 Battery setting the 155mm tempo with the US Army and Marine Batteries trying to keep up; culminating in some F35 launched 500-pounders, laser-guided missiles; and a final salvo from the HIMARS. The redeployment went as planned and 223TAT then transitioned into Fit to Fight activities awaiting further tasking in Townsville.



News Formation SITREP

Army School of Ordnance Trainee Development Wing

CAPT S Lawler

Trainee Development Wing (TDW) was raised at ASO at the beginning of 2023 in response to a number of converging influences with the way ALTC manages its Trainees through the Training Establishments.

Typically, On-Pathway are those moving towards beginning Initial Employment Training, and Off-Pathway are those undergoing rehabilitation or transitioning and separating from Defence. To achieve this, TDW was tasked to develop and deliver targeted, contextualised and relevant training. To focus on both trainees' physical and mental resilience, foundation warfighting, and vocational skills.

This training falls under three Training Priorities:

1. Training which accelerates the employment training or transition for Trainees.
2. Training which enhances foundation skills and resilience
3. Training which provides an upskilling or motivational effect to Trainees

TDW is structured with five Platoons, these being: On-Pathway Platoon, Off-Pathway Platoon, Communications Training Team, Parachute Rigger Platoon (which now includes the Aerial Delivery Technician Implementation Team based at RAAF Richmond), as well as the ALTC PTI Cell. The staff within TDW come from a variety of Corps backgrounds, including RAAOC, RACT, RAEME, RAAMC, RAInf, and RASigs.

On-Pathway Platoon – SGT M Fealy

This year, Army School of Ordnance, Training Development Wing, On Pathway Platoon was raised and has formally replaced the ALTC Holding platoons in the Albury Wodonga Military Area.

The platoon staff, that consists of Army personnel from RAAOC, RACT, RAEME and RAInf, had their jobs cut out for them with some manning issues from the get go. The staff have overcome the shortfalls and successfully designed and are currently implementing a foundation training programme, fit for tri service personnel.



Gone are the days where a Holding Platoon was just relentless tasking or sitting around doing nothing, now trainees endure tailored PT sessions at least once a day, weapon, field craft, communication, navigation, history, customs and traditions lessons, adventure training and much more. Additional to the On Pathway platoon programme, trainees that have some time before their IETs start, can be put on skill enhancement courses and gain proficiencies useful to them in the future, such as drivers courses or other IET courses.

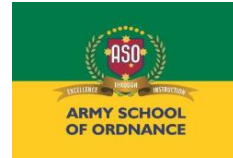


I highly recommend On Pathway platoon as an out of trade posting for any corps, you will be exposed to a multitude of different trades and managing the high throughput of personnel, and it teaches you some valuable planning and personnel management skills.

News

Formation SITREP

**Army School of Ordnance
Trainee Development Wing**



Off-Pathway Platoon – LT S Wyllie

The purpose of 'Off Pathway PI' is to facilitate the day to day management of soldiers undergoing training, that have steered away from their course. This includes those undergoing short or long term rehab, separating from Defence or those awaiting a corps transfer. The stressors that can occur through this chapter can be quite overwhelming. Therefore 'Off Pathway PI's' purpose is to see these soldiers receive the administrative and welfare management required to enable them to move forward towards their future goals and career success within Defence.

2023 has seen one instructor deployed to the Philippines and three instructors attend promotion courses. During this staff development, the Platoon has also administered multiple separations from Defence, multiple instances of trade transfers, engaged and enacted skills enhancement opportunities, seen to the on-going management of long term rehabilitation goals in conjunction with rehabilitation staff from Gaza Ridge Health Centre and a few short-term rehab programmes to enable the soldiers to return to the training establishments and progress with their trade training.

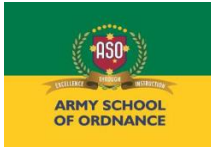
The Platoon has processed applications to support Corps transfers allowing these soldiers to serve in different roles within Defence. The vast array of reasons for which soldiers are sent to 'Off Pathway PI' requires the staff to be flexible in the management of each individual. This means the number one priority for each soldier within the Platoon is to focus on the reason they have been sent to us, be this rehabilitation, separation and transition appointments, pre-course and administrative requirements for upcoming courses.

Second priority is to keep the soldiers engaged through PT, Off-base activities, personal development courses, basic/intermediate soldier skills, meaningful engagement opportunities and assistance to the other training establishments. Ideally the future of 'Off Pathways PI' could see a structure that can facilitates a large number of trainees that have steered "off pathway" within ALTC.

Off Pathway PI has become the conduit engaging with a vast array of Military and Civilian organisations responsible for coordinating a diverse range of effects and results within ALTC. We have reduced the time soldiers remain out of trade and endeavoured to return them to course upskilled, more physically and mentally robust with a positive outlook within their trade and their careers within Defence.

The facilitated rehabilitation of injuries in consult with Rehabilitation Coordinators within ALTC have seen soldiers feeling supported and individually appreciated for their continued drive to remain in trade in pursuit of their definition of career success.

We understand that times are changing within the ADF and with such, the requirement to provide individualised support, encouragement, motivation and direction to our most vulnerable junior soldiers is of high importance. As members of the ADF, we are advocates and representatives for fundamental soldierly traits of supporting one another throughout tough times. Within Trainee Development Wing Off-Pathway PI, we are responsible for the welfare of our junior enlisted, to achieve their ideal goal, reintegrate with their trade and to go on providing capability and effects throughout wider Army.



Aerial Delivery Technician/Parachute Rigger Platoon

WO2 A Allen, CPL C McKenzie

At the close of 2022, the Australian Logistic Training Centre (ALTC) made a pivotal decision to relocate the ECN 345 Rigger Platoon from Army School of Ordnance to the Air Mobility Training and Development Unit (AMTDU) at RAAF Richmond. This relocation aimed to centralise the training of ECN 345 Parachute Rigger and ECN 099 Air Dispatch in anticipation of the introduction of ECN 444 Aerial Delivery Technician.

Two buildings at RAAF Richmond were designated for parachute training purposes; a large hangar on the flight line for cargo, ram air, metalwork and parachute repair and a smaller hangar for Static line tables.

The relocation of stores and equipment commenced in late 2022 following the conclusion of the Rigger IET course and extended through early February 2023. Subsequently, the ECN 345 and ECN 444 gap training team instructors initiated the setup of the facilities ready for the first promotion course commencing mid-February. Unfortunately, the cargo hangar was found unsuitable for immediate use due to significant work being required.

The Rigger Parachute Sub 4 CPL Course commenced as scheduled on February 15th, 2023. This course saw a full panel of future JNCOs carry out the safety checking component over two locations. Due to the hangar intended for cargo and Ram Air training being non-operational, cargo training was relocated to JLU-E Moorebank, JLU-E accepted the training into their location to allow all training to be covered.

Due to the extensive time required for the remedial work in the cargo hangar, alternative solutions were considered for current and future training. After numerous meetings with key state holders it was decided the best place currently for all Rigger training was at ASO. After the decision was approved and disseminated to instructors, the process began to have everything packed up and moved back to Bandiana.



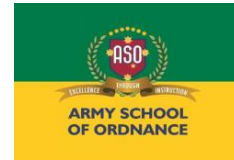
It was decided that the Sub 4 Sergeant course would continue to be conducted at RAAF Richmond. Simultaneously, the instructors and staff not delivering training began moving back to Bandiana to initiate the setup of the building for the commencement of the IET course in June. They received valuable support from the ECN 345 (IETs) situated at Trainee Development Wing On Pathway PI, aiding in the reorganization of stores, equipment setup, and platoon layout prior to the commencement of course.

Prior to the commencement of the IET course, the panel size was increased in order to provide a valuable upskilling opportunity to Air Dispatch soldiers prior to the implementation of ECN 444. This prompted a request for additional staff to support the expanded cohort.

News

Formation SITREP

**Army School of Ordnance
Trainee Development Wing**



Aerial Delivery Technician/Parachute Rigger Platoon (continued)

This increase in IETs required adjustments to the training program, adapting to the limited training aids available to prevent any disruptions in training outcomes, the advantage to this is it should see an additional number of Riggers qualified in the units.

With a complex start to the year, the relocation back to ASO had minimal impact on training and the purpose-built facilities at ASO have facilitated a seamless transition, making the return remarkably smooth.

While the decision to centralize ECN 345 and ECN 099 in preparation for ECN 444 was a commendable step toward future readiness, it faced significant challenges due to the facilities. The movement of the PI has shown the importance of having a purpose built facility for a safety critical trade, and will stay at the Army School of Ordnance for the foreseeable future.

The ECN 444 Gap Training Team (comprised of both Parachute Riggers and Air Dispatchers) have throughout the year supported the ECN 345 instructors on a regular basis, they have also been instrumental this year in drafting and raising all Section 4 material ready to begin gap training both ECN's in 2024.

With all the work the training team has prepared this year with support from the STWO, the first ECN 444 gap training courses should commence early in 2024. This will then see the first of all rank levels be crossed trained from both ECNs in preparation for the eventual implementation of ECN 444.

As it has been a very complex year with both ECN 345 and gap training teams relocating due to the demands of training, command and control, viability of facilities and suitable home location, the PI is now back at ASO for the foreseeable future and the ECN 444 training is poised to begin delivering training once the conditions are set.

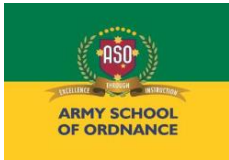
Communications Training Team - SGT B Hangan

The Communications Training Team at the Army School of Ordnance has kept busy during 2023 with delivering BCCC (Basic Combat Communications Course) to over 700 trainees and staff in the AWMA (Albury Wodonga Military Area), with that number forecasted to reach up to 900 by the end of 2023.

The structure of the Combat Communications Continuum is currently undergoing a review by CATC, which is looking to better deliver the required skills at the required level through the restructure of modules towards a common, mounted and dismounted model. This will also assist in the more effective transition of soldiers' Communications into their Combat Behaviours.

Once the LMPs have been released and are Active, we will be able to fully understand the training to be delivered and allow us to provide further clarification.





News Formation SITREP

Army School of Ordnance Supply Wing

2023 has seen the conduct of the Subject 4 Sergeant Ammunition Technician Course, with students completing the course over a seven-month period. The students performed to an excellent standard throughout the course and should be rightly proud of their achievement. Having now returned to their home units, these soldiers will deliver increased capability through their detailed knowledge of the Defence explosive ordnance system.

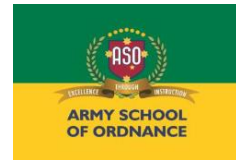
In 2023 Ammunition Platoon has commenced the Accelerated Training Continuum for the Ammunition Trade. A proof-of-concept for the IET Ammunition Technician Assistant course is being conducted during Q3 and Q4, which will deliver a greatly enhanced skillset to our newest soldiers. The new IET course includes the new EOD Team Member course that replaces EOR and will expose our soldiers to the EOD continuum from the outset of their career in the trade.



News

Formation SITREP

Army School of Ordnance Joint Supply Training



CPL Luke Gordon, Army School of Ordnance

Throughout my tenure at ASO, I have been employed as an instructor within the Distribution Operator IET PL. This has been an interesting experience to see how we influence the reinforcement cycle of recruits into the wider Australian Defence Force. The biggest change has been due to the CDF's intent of "Same by default, separate by necessity and similar by exception" CDF Directive 16-2022. With the CDF's intent, the Distribution Operator IET PL has been engaging with the other Services for a period of 12 months to compare the training style, the content being delivered, and the assessment requirements. By no mean feat, this has taken some adjusting by all involved. Although we essentially deliver similar content, the contextualisation and culture that is in each of the Services, creates an element of individualisation.

Through the training year 22/23, there were several engagements between RAAF School Administration and Logistic Training (RAAF SALT) and the Army School of Ordnance (ASO), where reviews were conducted of content and assessment materials. This has come to a point in Q2/23 where ASO and RAAF SALT conducted their first "trial" within their respective single-service location. Additional to this trial training, both training establishments sent instructors to the other services' training establishment for a period of five weeks, as a part of an immersion activity.

Moving into Q4/23, the Distribution Operator IET Platoon, in conjunction with RAAF SALT Supply, will be conducting the first uniform agnostic course in August 2023. This will be the beginning of the transitional period, IOT meet the CDF's intent.

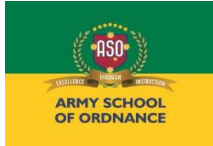
Over the last 12 months we have been trialling and gearing up to run an official RAAF and Army supply course. It has been a rather tumultuous time as is expected. It is no small feat merging two inherently different roles, but with the stellar work from both the RAAF and Army instructors, a "Common" package has been agreed upon and slowly modified until we can deliver the best package we possibly can.

The first official trial of the RAAF/Army common package will be delivered on the 14 August 2023 at both the ASO and RAAF SALT. The first five weeks will have both Army and RAAF ab initio trainees learning content that has been vetted, approved and will be delivered by both Army and RAAF instructors to mitigate any degradation of any content/delivery. At the end of the five weeks of common learning, the trainees will return to their respective services and conduct service-specific training prior to being posted out to their gaining locations.

The successful implementation of this new package will pave the way for the inclusion of Navy, making joint training for all three services possible in the near future from the IET level to potentially evolving up through the promotional courses space.

An initial engagement with Navy has been planned to start the process of incorporating them into future trials where staff from ASO will travel to HMAS Cerberus to observe how they deliver content and collaborate to ensure it is a seamless transition to Tri-service.

The Ponder Warehouse received various upgrades and additions in 2020/21. The implementation of Tri-Service training will eventually lead to further modifications that are more extensive to encompass the single service training requirements of each service.



News Formation SITREP

Army School of Ordnance Integrating Combat Behaviours into Distribution Operator Training



CPL Phillip Hunt, Army School of Ordnance

The merging of the Quartermaster Storeman and Operator Supply Chain job roles into the newly created Distribution Operator role has greatly streamlined training throughput. This has resulted in trainee soldiers marching out of ab initio training and providing effective service at an accelerated and scalable rate. However, post the 2023 Defence Strategic Review, it is evident logistics training needs to place greater focus on distribution in a threat environment.

The Army School of Ordnance has taken measures to address this through the implementation of a Combat Behaviours Program. The program expands on the basic skills attained during recruit training with a focus on mounted distribution methods, mounted navigation, and mounted combat behaviours. Concurrently The PMV Mounted Soldier course is run as related training ensuring all Distribution Operators are equipped with the recognised skills necessary to support drivers and commanders. This is especially relevant for soldiers who are unable to achieve a driver qualification.

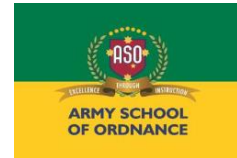
Feedback from the program has been positive. Trainees have expressed they feel more equipped to operate in the field or on operation and enjoy the practical nature of the program. Gaining units have likewise complimented the greater competency of soldiers in the field, as soldiers who often conduct exercises shortly after completion of initial employment training can now function with reduced supervision.

The program has been an objective success and continued development is ongoing. With constructive feedback from both trainees and the wider Army, the Combat Behaviours Program is becoming an example of how training can be tailored to Army's needs while achieving existing learning outcomes.

News

Formation SITREP

**Army School of Ordnance
Petroleum Platoon**



**WO2 Dave Bettany
WOPET/Lead Instructor**

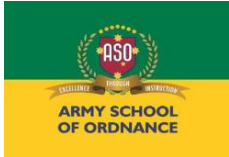
2023 has been an extremely busy year for Petroleum Platoon. This year has provided many opportunities for the ECN 269 Operator Petroleum trade to bring training into a futuristic approach, to support the incoming JP8190 project and to also promote and sell the employment category through a number of different initiatives.



Petroleum Platoon has been heavily involved in promoting the ECN 269 Operator Petroleum Trade through support to Defence Force Recruiting. Petroleum Platoon has also been avidly entrenched in many different events ranging from the Avalon International Air show, supporting careers expos for local secondary schools in the AWMA, to participating in open days at Defence Force Recruiting locations and undertaking VLOGS and online forums aimed at potential defence candidates.



These initiatives have been designed to promote the ECN 269 trade to address the critical manning of the employment category. These events have been successful in supporting not only Defence Force Recruiting but also promoting the Operator Petroleum to the wider ADF.



News Formation SITREP

Army School of Ordnance Petroleum Platoon

Petroleum Platoon has also been instrumental in delivering and adapting training that produces a better quality learning experience, enhanced capability to Brigade units and also the reduction in training delivery times. This has seen ab-initio trainees and trained soldiers spend more time within their units providing capability. This has all been achieved through the facilitation of ADELE packages which now sees all ECN 269 courses being blended in delivery.



Training in Brigade locations was also adopted which saw Bulk Fuel Vehicle and Module courses run in Townsville and Brisbane. These courses were a success and saw each session doubling the Directed Training Requirement.

A main highlight of the year has been the development of the Army VLOG episode which takes viewers inside the life of an Operator Petroleum. One key aspect has been the Fire Fighting Suppression training conducted at the Army School of Ordnance. This was a unique opportunity for Petroleum Platoon to showcase a

small but important part of training, whilst also promoting the employment category to the wider ADF and the public.

While the throughput of trainees has not been as expected, Petroleum Platoon has worked tirelessly in promoting the employment category and ensure that the training delivered when required is second to none. 2024 looks to be a busy year and the success of 2023 will have set Petroleum Platoon up to succeed.



News Formation SITREP

Training Support Wing
Australian Defence Force Parachute School
SOCOMD



OC TSW

The Riggers at the Australian Defence Force Parachute School (ADFPS) have had a challenging but exciting year in 2023. All Riggers posted to Training Support Wing (TSW) deserve credit for the accomplishments, which have principally seen support to ADFPS personnel parachute course suites. Aside from parachute training, the Riggers at TSW have contributed International Engagement (IE) activities across three continents, internal SOCOMD support, and community engagement through the Red Beret parachute display team.



Riggers participating in the Red Beret demonstration at the ADFA Open Day

The heart of the Rigger trade, much like the rest of Army, is its people. Unfortunately, TSW has suffered a heavy manning deficiencies throughout the year. Regardless of the strain this has left on the unit, the Riggers of TSW have achieved a lot this year and their efforts are to be applauded. Overcoming this limiting factor, the Riggers of TSW have provided support to a Military Static Line series, four Military Free Fall series, Military Tandem and Military Tethered Tandem Bundle series. Managing detached training support requirements, in-unit maintenance, and repack objectives with a positive and committed attitude speaks to the excellent culture that exists within TSW and also the trade at large.



An air dispatcher rigging a load

News
Formation SITREP



Training Support Wing
Australian Defence Force Parachute School
SOCOMD

Outside of the training support commitments, the wings secondary effort has been the development of it Riggers. In support of this effort, five riggers have complete trade promotion courses, and three riggers will complete all corps promotion courses by the end of the year. The trade has had six members complete their Basic Military Free Fall Operator course. TSW takes pride in their parachute qualifications, building a strong culture that nests within the trade motto “Be Sure Always” always willing to jump a parachute they packed themselves.

Riggers within TSW have also been participated in IE activities overseas throughout the year, a highlight of which includes the efforts of those who chosen to compete in the UK Military Skydiving Competition in July. It is to their credit that that those members won gold in their participated fields. Riggers also directly participate and support to the Red Beret parachute display team’s activities all over Australia.



The Red Beret parachute display jump into Allianz Stadium ahead of the NRL Anzac Day 2023 match.

With one final Military Static Line series before the end of the year, the Riggers of TSW will be looking forward to some well-deserved rest over the holiday season. As we look to 2024, The Riggers at ADFPS look to maintain their exceptional team work and culture to support and develop their craft in the world of ADF Parachuting.

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Training Support Wing
Australian Defence Force Parachute School
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Stock Spirit.

As RAAOC members, no matter where you go, no matter what you do, we all know one thing's for certain - there will always be a need for stock management. Even as a Parachute Rigger one should not expect to escape this obligatory fate – stock needs to be maintained, new equipment needs to be ordered and MILIS needs to be actioned.

ADFPS has yearly Parachute Rigger rotations into Stock Section as an integral part of Training Support Wing. 2023's Stock Section manning consists of a; SGT F, CPL H and LCPL E. SGT F explains some of the responsibilities this role involves; "A vital part of the job is ensuring we accurately forecast re-pack requirements in order to fulfil equipment requests essential when supporting internal Military Static Line and Free Fall parachuting courses." This year has seen ADFPS run multiple successful Military Free Fall Operator and Military Static Line Operator courses capturing Ab-initio students from various SOCOMD units.



CPL H is spending her second year at the unit in Stock Section and is relying heavily on her 5 years' prior knowledge and experience as an Operator Supply. "I thought transferring over to a Parachute Rigger I wouldn't have to ever touch MILIS again...yet here we are" she laughs.

Parachute Riggers are often travelling from one Drop Zone to another to support courses, although she still makes it out to the DZ from time to time, CPL H explains; "It's been very satisfying to spend time in one place and have an opportunity to develop Stock Section and complete time consuming projects such as RSG of damaged and unused equipment."

Being adaptable and agile is definitely needed when working in Stock, "One minute you could be sizing up and issuing students HAPO masks and equipment – the next you're out at the Drop Zone packing parachutes" LCPL E explains. "We still do our core trade role as Parachute Riggers, being in Stock Section just gives us an opportunity to expand our knowledge in Supply and take accountability for the administration that comes with that." LCPL E continues to develop her skills as a third year Parachute Rigger completing Basic Military Free Fall, Sub 1 and Sub 4 CPL courses.



Since being posted to the unit in 2021, CPL H has been fortunate enough to participate in several leadership forums as a representative of ADFPS SOCOMD as well as completing courses such as; Drop Zone Safety Officer, Basic Military Free Fall and Human Performance Optimization. "Being a part of the initial stages of forming a HPO team here at SOCOMD has been a fantastic opportunity to develop the unit and its members." CPL H headed the development of the ADFPS library project. "Funding was approved for numerous new books concerning Leadership, Management, Philosophy and Finance for members to borrow as they please." Since the library has been developed a large quantity of military history literature has been donated and is available for members to read. Next on the Horizon for the HPO team is a recovery section complete with float tank and Infrared Sauna; "We are optimistic about acquiring funding for this new project" CPL H explains enthusiastically.

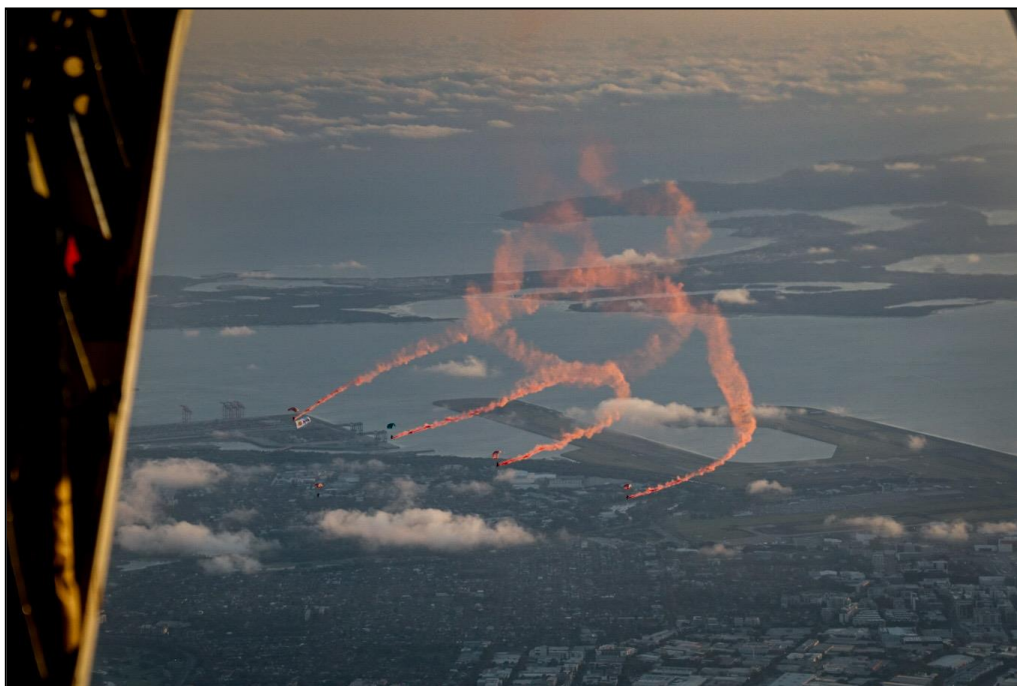


Training Support Wing
Australian Defence Force Parachute School
SOCOMD

Parachuting within RAAOC

I have been a Parachute Rigger ECN 345 a specialty trade within RAAOC, since 2011. The hands on technical work is one of the satisfying components of maintaining Aerial Delivery Equipment (ADE). Everything from packing Static Line (SL) and Free Fall (FF) parachutes to sitting behind a sewing machine and conducting intricate parachute and canopy repairs. The diversity of the job is what keeps job satisfaction high, but a key aspect of that is being able to obtain jump qualifications.

Parachute Riggers are given the opportunity throughout their career to acquire multiple SL and FF courses, especially if you have a chance to be posted to Australian Defence Force Parachuting School (ADFPS). I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct advanced FF courses such as Free Fall Instructor (FFI) and Advanced Military Tandem Operator (AMTO) as a result of my trade, which has greatly enhanced the rewarding nature of my job. Possibly one of the most satisfying things you will ever see is strapping someone to you with no previous parachuting exposure and watching the expression on their face as they experience the weightlessness of sub-terminal velocity upon exiting the aircraft, for the first time.



Another fantastic opportunity that Parachutes Riggers posted to ADFPS can be involved in is the Red Beret (RB) Display Team. Being a part of the RB Display Team means travelling all over Australia and jumping with flags and smoke into events such as Australia Day (Sydney Harbour), Bathurst 1000, Gold Coast 500, air shows and many more.

News

Formation SITREP

Training Support Wing
Australian Defence Force Parachute School
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My favourite display would have to be ANZAC day this year where we jumped into Allianz stadium for the first time for the Rooster vs Dragons game.

2024 has seen some great opportunities for exposure for the Parachute Rigger trade within mainstream media. I personally have been involved with the Sunrise visit to the unit, which provided a great opportunity to speak to the virtues of the trade.



During this visit, I was also involved in the “Behind the Scenes” Army Parachute Rigger Vlog, which you can watch utilising the adjacent QR code.



News Formation SITREP

Training Support Wing
Australian Defence Force Parachute School
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At the end of every year, the Australian Defence Force Parachuting Association (ADFPA) runs a military wide skydiving competition to put on display soldiers' skill and talent. As a member of a winning team at the 2022 MILNATS, I was fortunate to be chosen to participate in the UK Military Skydiving Competition in July 2023.

I am proud to say that the ADF contingent who participated in the UK competition won gold in both the two-way vertical formation skydiving and four-way formation skydiving fields. Credit is due to all ADF member, which included three Parachute Riggers, who participated against some stiff competition.

The UK Military Skydiving Competition was a fantastic experience for me personally, and a great international engagement opportunity for the ADF.



News Support to Operations



OP ACCORDION - Headquarters Middle East (HQME) RAAOC Birthday Celebrations 2023

CPL Mary Yakuac

It is with great honour and pleasure that I contribute to the 48th volume of the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC) journal. As we enter the middle of 2023, I am reminded of the changes we continue to see within our Defence Force and the adaptability many have shown.

I write to you all from Op ACCORDION, Head Quarters Middle East (HQME). HQME supports global mobility and provides support to outstations across the Middle East Region (MER). RAAOC members currently deployed to AMAB support a range of dependencies across the MER including SOCOMD and coalition partners in providing both logistic and administration support.

The current HQME logistics team bring with them a variety of experience. This has particularly aided in success during the DFAT led Op CARNELIAN (Military Assisted Departure in Sudan). Post JTF-633 the HQME logistics team continue to adjust to the support changes in the MER. Many remember Camp Baird to be a buzzing place with a hive of activity, it is still that, however with a much smaller ADF footprint that continues to support operations in the region.

Recently we have commemorated ANZAC Day at the original Camp Baird JTF-633 memorial for the final time; the memorial was decommissioned in May this year- something we were fortunate enough to be a part of.

Today, we celebrate the 121st Birthday of the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps with a small morning tea and custom cake. It is great to be representing RAAOC on operations! Supporting the many outstations and enhancing professional relations with our coalition partners is particularly rewarding and a measure of success for myself.



MAJ Maxwell Allansen and CPL Liam Haverty (youngest RAAOC member) cutting the RAAOC cake.





News Support to Operations

OP ACCORDION - Headquarters Middle East (HQME) RAAOC Birthday Celebrations 2023

I would also like to acknowledge the Locally Employed Contractors (LECs) who work alongside us in the warehouse providing integral support to daily operations. These individuals work tirelessly and play a crucial part in the success of ADF logistics within the MER. Thank you, Seby, Bhaskar and Shibu.



HQME Logistics staff and Locally Employed Contractors



History

A Special Rover in Bandiana

PTE C Madan

While casually walking through the displayed vehicles at the Army Museum Bandiana, which boasts of its largest Military Museum collection in Australia, I happened to stumble upon a special LandRover Ceremonial vehicle. The details provided alongside the vehicle indicated that it was specifically built for Queen Elizabeth II. On exploring the QR code on the information kiosk about the vehicle, it led to a beautiful video titled "Queen in Canberra 1954". As I watched the royal couple traveling in the purpose built vehicle waving to the Australian public in the video, my jaw almost dropped in awe and respect when I realized it was the same vehicle in front of me.

As the whole world mourns the loss of our beloved queen, I could not help myself research more about the special ceremonial vehicle. The displayed vehicle in the museum was the LandRover which was specifically built for Queen Elizabeth II's 1954 Commonwealth tour. In all, six such vehicles were prepared, of which, two were retained by the Australian army. The queen travelled 10,000 miles by air, boarding 33 flights and travelling a further 2000 miles by road in about 207 trips. The Queen's journey in Australia included every capital city (except Darwin). Besides being a beautiful vehicle, the LandRover enabled the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to stand and greet the crowds, thus enabling over 75% of the Australian population to be able to see the queen. Standing next to the vehicle, I couldn't take my gaze off of the rear modified section of the vehicle, where the Queen and the Duke would have been standing, as well as sitting, when they would have wanted.

As I came back from the museum, I couldn't help researching more. To my amazement, I read that another unique LandRover Series 3 was built for the Queen in 1978, featuring a 'traffic light' system which she used from the rear to tell the driver when she wanted to stop, slow down or continue the journey. No wonder, one of the motoring journalists had claimed that both the Queen and the King had a special liking for the LandRovers.

I have now been spending time watching the archive videos of the Queen to check if I could find such a vehicle in any of the videos. In the meantime, I plan to visit the museum once again, this time, as a mark of respect for the Queen, with some flowers, and hopefully, I may find some more hidden treasures.

Vale

Warrant Officer Class 2 Elizabeth Grenfell

ECN 150 Command Support Clerk

Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp – IRAQ 2003
Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp – ICAT
Australian Operational Service Medal – Greater Middle East Operation
Afghanistan Medal
Defence Long Service Medal with First and Second Clasp
Australian Defence Medal
NATO Non Article 5 Medal with Clasp – ISAF
NATO Non Article 5 Medal with Clasp – Afghanistan
Operational Service Badge – Military
Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service
Australia Day Medallion
United States of America Army Commendation Medal

WO2 Grenfell joined the Army in 1993 as a Clerk Administrator with the 9th Royal Queensland Regiment. With over 30 years of service, WO2 Grenfell was worked in a wide variety of units such as the 4th Preventative Medicine Company, Land Headquarters, 21st Construction Squadron and Career Management - Army.

WO2 Grenfell passed away on the 25th of November 2023, peacefully, at home amongst her family. She had been battling cancer since a diagnosis on Anzac Day this year. She is survived by her husband, Rocky and daughter, Samantha.

She will be sorely missed.

Forces Command Unit Affiliation

Lieutenant Colonel Gareth Humphreys

Army is seeking improved ways to retain our people. The Unit Affiliation initiative is a great way to maintain contact and contribute to Army. For many people who separate from full-time service, the feeling of loss from the 'tribe' is quite sudden and emotionally difficult to process. This provides another option rather than severing the connection. First launched in 2019, Unit Affiliation is a flexible work option under SERCAT 3. It allows personnel to remain connected with their current unit or unit of choice, while providing part-time service that matches an individual's career goals or personal commitments.

Unit Affiliation does not replace the extant Service Spectrum options that are available to members who no longer wish to render full-time service; however, it does provide an additional individual work choice where members can seek to remain affiliated to their previous unit or an alternate unit.

I want to see more people remain connected to our 'tribe'. It's been a great family, a great teacher, and great social part of my life – as it is for those who have served. Consider Unit Affiliation, and share this with your Army mates and networks and across Social Media. I'd be keen for anyone that would like to maintain an affiliation with the Army School of Ordnance, as would other COs.

For those able to access the DRN, the embedded links will assist with more information via the [HQFORCOMD Personnel Management](#) intranet page, under the Unit Affiliation tab:

- [Information Brochure for Personnel.](#)
- [Information Brochure for Managers.](#)
- [Additional resources](#) including Social Media tiles.

If you've recently left Army, no longer have DRN access and Unit Affiliation is something that has sparked your interest, please contact the HOC Cell via email raoc.matters@defence.gov.au and the team will assist you and provide material.



RAAOC Fund

RAAOC Fund Subscriptions

The RAAOC Fund collects monies from RAAOC Fund subscribers that go towards supporting Corps activities. These include the production of Recognition of Service Mementos and 'Farewell from the Corps' framed certificates. Funds raised through these subscriptions also pay for Ball and Cannon events throughout Australia and to purchase or produce a number of gifts, prizes and awards distributed to Corps members. These include the LT, JNCO and PTE of the year, the RAAOC prize at RMC and Student of Merit awards for RAAOC courses conducted at the Army School of Ordnance.

Defence does not contribute any money to these Corps initiatives. All gifts, awards or prizes listed above are possible through Corps Fund subscribers. This is why it is important to be a subscriber so that the Head of Corps Cell can acknowledge you and your mates' service.

Currently in RAAOC we have just over 6,000 RAAOC Regular and Reserve personnel but we only have 465 paid subscribers to the RAAOC Fund. These people are graciously providing a real contribution to building and maintaining *esprit de Corps* as well as providing tangible recognition for the dedicated service of others, for all this, we thank them.

RAAOC SUBSCRIPTIONS

The *esprit de Corps* of any organisation is based on effective communication at all levels and a strong sense of belonging to something worthwhile. RAAOC members are given opportunity to communicate with Corps representatives through gathering at Ball and Cannon events held across Australia. These events provide a relaxed environment to foster and encourage communication across ranks as well as opportunity to socialise with RAAOC members from other units.

Prizes, gifts and awards given to RAAOC members for accomplishments, reaching career milestones or when leaving the Corps help promote a sense of value in the organisation, increasing every individual's belief in belonging to something worthwhile.

Apply now to become a RAAOC Fund Subscriber.

Completed applications can be sent to:

Email: RAAOC Fund Manager raaoc.matters@defence.gov.au

OR Post: RAAOC HOC Cell, Army School of Ordnance, Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA VIC 3694

Payment method

Subscriptions of \$2.00 per fortnight or **\$52.00 per annum (preferred payment method)** are made through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the account details below. Please use your PMKeyS number as the 'reference' for your transaction.

Defence Bank

Account Name: RAAOC Fund

BSB: 833205 Account Number: 20507472

Editors Comments

Many thanks to all that contributed articles to the Corps Journal. Showing our wears, acknowledging our achievements and sharing ideas is the principle motive behind this document. This year's volume is no exception with so many great and thoughtful articles irrespective of rank.

At times, there is a need to edit articles to enable the Journal to be distributed to our membership and more broadly to our RAAOC Associations around Australia. If an article has been edited, every effort was made to retain and convey the author's original intent.

If you have comment or concern regarding this year's Journal, please email:
RAAOC.matters (raaoc.matters@dpe.protected.mil.au)

BACK COVER

Army School of Ordnance - Parachute Rigger Cargo Lanes

