
RECON/SNIPER PLATOON

LT D.J. Smith, SGT S.A. Moore, SGT S.A. O'Connor, SGT P.E. Stanton, CPL A.G. Marr, CPL M.J. Torrens, CPL S.P. Watts, CPL P.J. Young, LCPL T.A. Johnson, LCPL C.M. Stoddart, PTE M.J. Aplin, PTE A.C. Beddoe, PTE G.M. Brown, PTE P.V. Commerford, PTE R.G. Cotton, PTE M.W. Dellaway, PTE M.J. Enever, PTE J.F. Newton, PTE D.T. Nitschke, PTE A.M. Taylor, PTE N.J. Vinson, PTE M. Vogel, PTE T.J. Walsh, PTE R.P. White, PTE D.R. Wilson, PTE A.S. Zimmermann.

The year began at a cracking pace for the Battalion's Champion Platoon with LT Smith and SGT O'Connor marching into the platoon and SGT Moore sidestepping into the Platoon Sergeant's role. This internal posting activity was quickly followed by the 1/93 Basic Reconnaissance Course from 8 March - 8 April 93 which occupied the majority of the platoon's resources and ultimately saw 5 new members march into the platoon prior to Easter.

After Easter Standdown the platoon settled down into the business part of the year, beginning with range shoots, and followed by a skills and navigation exercise at High Range. This was followed shortly after by a surge of activity with Sniper Cell running the 1/93 Sniper Pre-Selection Course and the recon patrols out on Battalion Air Week 2.

SGT Moore and CPL Marr spent a significant part of May in the Northern Territory on the Survival Instructors Course. This resulted in CPL Marr applying his new found skills of bush furniture construction and SGT Moore gazing into the night sky during the Battalion LFX. In addition to these important events, EX DEADLY SPIDER saw the recon patrols deployed in support of company level activities and the snipers providing timely information and highly effective fire support for the platoon attacks. All those involved produced quality results.

The annual Battalion Mil Skills Competition

loomed once again in July, with CPLs Marr and Watts being selected to head up the platoon's representative sections. Once again, the boys produced the required results when it counted, with CPL Marr's section coming sixth overall and CPL Watts' section winning the competition. The excellent performance by both sections saw the platoon win the Champion Platoon Trophy, a result which was well deserved by all the boys.

Following Mil Skills, the platoon ventured to Mt Vince with the remainder of the company to complete their annual range qualification shoots. By the end of the 5 days, there was little doubt that SGT O'Connor was the champion shot of Support Company and there was no way that the Boss would qualify for the Sniper's Badge.

The platoon then travelled direct to SWBTA to undertake the now infamous EX DAKTARI in conjunction with BASC Rockhampton..... the less said the better. After returning to Townsville, the platoon deployed on the 2 day Support Company test exercise at MSTA in early August, with both Recon and Snipers producing quality results.

Battalion Birthday Week passed without incident and the platoon deployed on EX EAGLE FLIGHT II with SGT Moore at the helm. The patrols were quickly seconded to Brigade for tasking and immediately began to provide valuable information to Battalion and Brigade alike. Snipers also enjoyed what was an excellent exercise for the whole platoon, seeing the pairs employed on a

number of diverse and challenging tasks in support of the Battalion.

With the training year drawing to a close, the platoon welcomes its latest addition, SGT Stanton, as the Surveillance Sergeant. A number of platoon members will also be farewelled at the end of 1993, including SGT Moore, who travels to 8 Platoon, Mac to DFSW Platoon, Youngy to Singleton, and Johno, Brown, Newts, Walshy and Bedds on promotion to rifle companies. We also wish good

luck to Tails as he takes discharge in order to begin university study in 1994, and all the best to the boys from the platoon undertaking the Cadre Course in 1994.

Whilst 1993 has been a year of ups and downs for all, 1994 promises to be a year full of change with a new platoon structure and new faces, which will provide enough variety to keep everyone occupied.

All the best to all the best in '94, F.O.F.E.B.A!!!!



1/93 Basic Recon Course

Recon PL providing the rappelling display for the Townsville Suns first home game.



Recon PL lighting a few fires with the CIG Flames!

