

Signals Platoon preparing their stand for the Open Day



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Signals Platoon

The year can be summed up in one word: "Hectic".

The mighty SIG PL took it all in their stride and answered all challenges in the only way we know how, with enthusiasm and professionalism. It all started two weeks from arriving back from BRL. Here we were with our beer bellies and still not over our Christmas cheer loading FFRs for our Road Run to the Atherton Tablelands. As it turned out this road run proved to be invaluable to the platoon. The knowledge and experience gained on the Raven put the platoon in great stead for the rest of the years activities. As an added bonus the experiences learnt from our cricket matches enabled the platoon to take out the Indoor Cricket Grand Final.

Who could forget "Air Week". This activity proved very exhaustive and physical for some of the company dets. Not only were they to carry their radio and equipment some were also made to carry their spare NICAD batteries. "ARNOLD, eat your heart out".

On return some individuals equipment were weighed, with some operators carrying in excess of 50 kgs on their back. It was then off to Mt Vince, yes you guessed it, SIG PL opted for a Road Run to do more testing on Raven prior to "K92". This was of course put down as concurrent training on the range instruction.

K92 was next on the agenda, this was where all our hard work and training finally paid off. Without a doubt the platoon excelled in all aspects of communications. Although the platoon was not told directly, the word on the grapevine was that 2/4 RAR had achieved the best comms. Well done to all operators "Debrief to follow" (STILL!).

After a well deserved stand down the platoon was into Mil Skills. With limited preparation and training the sections did outstandingly well. Two of the sections placed in the first twelve. The platoon participated in the LFX, where it learnt its greatest lesson for the year - how not to put up a hitching rail. CPL Tulk would like to offer free lessons to Pioneers.

Who could forget "Maxi Beagle", with the flavour of the month being "SPE". This however didn't phase stigs, we simply adapted and overcame. For CPLTulk and his elite line section it was also an experience for they had to replace their line and actually draw radios. CPL Tulk was able to justify this decision by saying that now finally the companies would have professionals in their det, and this would only enhance the platoon's performance.

For something totally different eight glorious days on the luxury cruiseship "TOBRUK", sailing the high seas, sunbaking in the sun and fishing till our hearts were content. Was this "Swift Eagle" or just another name for adventure training, Either way who could forget Harry's theory about why comms couldn't be maintained. Harry we have heard of skywave, surface wave but certainly not sea waves effecting comms. For the remainder of the year after partaking in stand down the PL will start to disperse to Malaysia, UK and a few lucky members will be off to Tully. If any member of the platoon who is going to Malaysia or the UK wishes to take their own batman then they should contact SCT Lynn or SCT Caruana ASAP.

In conclusion it has been a hard year for Signals Platon but a rewarding one. For those members leaving at the end of the year we say farewell and good soldiering, for the new members who march into the platoon you will have a high standard of professionalism to strive for. Thanks again to everyone for their efforts throughout the year, I would like to leave with one last advertisement for the platoon-anyone who requires "Human Party Lights" ring CPL Crabbe, he is guaranteed to glow for 200 years as he is Lithium gas filled.