

## Ex "Tropic Lightning 86"

In April Approx 150 personnel, 20 from 2/4 RAR, left Townsville to attend a CPX at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Our hosts from the EX were 2BDE 2SINF Division and on arrival at Area X Ray (Tent City), they showed us that no expense in money or manpower would be spared. We were provided with hired TV's, video recorders, fridges, soft drink machines, beer machines and to top it off six hire vans and 24 hour driver service with them.

The 1st week was spent in familiarization of the resources that would be available to us during the CPX and the usual tours of various military bases and equipment including a look at our new helicopter, the Black Hawk.

Our 2nd week was a rehearsal week and we learnt our roles and the scenario for the CPX. 3 BDE, as part of the US Division was in a defensive posture on the Japanese Island of Hokkaido which is their most Northern Island and closest to the USSR.

At last it was time to play and these skills and knowledge of our commanders was put to the test when the red army assaulted Hokkaido from the north and we found ourselves in a battle with Arty, Armoured and Motorized Infantry Regiments and Divisions.

After 3 days of fighting, the exercise finished without a battle ground result but with a definite appreciation of the lesson learnt in fighting on a scale that is not yet available in Australia.

## Mil Skills Competition

The 1986 Mil Skills demonstrated yet again that the level of personal and section skills within the battalion are something to be proud of.

The competition was fought out to the last with the winning results only becoming apparent on the last day of the event.

CPL Jimmy McGuire's, recon section won the event continuing the string of wins by the Recon Platoon which also won the platoon competition.

C Company won the company competition with CPL Mills guiding his section into the top company position and third overall just behind CPL Brooks of Recon platoon.

The result was pleasing and demonstrated a high level of infantry skill and competence throughout the battalion.



The rope traverse.



L/CPL Bergwerf loads his magazines.