

## CO's Article



*Lieutenant Colonel P.L. Pursey*

The 2nd/4th Battalion has every reason to feel proud of all its accomplishments in 1992. It has been a year marked by high levels of training and exercise activity covering a wide variety of military skills. Our achievements on the sporting field have been as impressive as our military training successes.

Generally a training year can only focus on a few carefully selected military skills. 1992 has demanded much more and the response from all ranks to successfully meet the various challenges has been first rate.

Airmobile operation skills, including airmobile assault and OCL (tac-pac) are well developed in the Battalion and the demonstration on Exercise Kangaroo 92 of a Battalion (-) night airmobile assault across water, using NVG was a first for the ADF and one of which the Battalion can be justly proud.

The development of Services Protection Evacuation (SPE) procedures occupied a significant amount of time prior to Exercise Swift Eagle 92. The detailed planning and energy of so many people in the Battalion ensured this new skill

was thoroughly introduced and understood. Other significant activities included the introduction of the Minimi machine gun into service, the very successful Military Skills competition at Paluma and the annual Battalion LFX at HRTA.

It has been mentioned to me on occasions that airmobile operations or SPE tasks are not particularly difficult. I disagree with that view. They are no more or less difficult than many of the other tasks we undertake as infantryman, such as working with APCs, conducting an ambush or a company attack. The real challenge is being in a position to achieve success when things don't go to plan. In that regard I am very confident the Battalion would acquit itself very well no matter what the task.

Achievements in the various military competitions and on the sporting field have been very pleasing in 1992. The ingredients of a good plan, thorough organisation and accountability generally lead to good results whether it be a training, sporting or social activity. Congratulations to all the soldiers who contributed to our military and sporting success in competition throughout the year.

During our year as the 'on line' ODF Battalion I was always confident we could respond quickly to successfully meet any operational contingency. The 'no notice' training callouts were a sound indication of our ability to effectively prepare and deploy on a mission. Throughout the year individual soldier readiness levels were good while the more difficult aspects of administrative readiness across the Battalion were of a particularly high standard.

1992 has seen the first soldiers from the Battalion deploy on operational service to Cambodia as part of the UNTAC force. The thirteen soldiers involved are acquitting themselves very well and the selection process to replace them in early 1993 has already commenced.

The dusk church service held outdoors on the Battalion oval received a very positive response from all ranks again this year. I believe it is a very appropriate service for an Infantry Battalion and hope that the format is adopted as a regular feature of the 2nd/4th Battalion Birthday Week activities.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Commanding Officer for the last two years. I leave knowing the 2nd/4th Battalion can meet the challenges of 1993 with pride and confidence.

Best wishes for Christmas and the future.