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Committeeman: Neil McDade

**Post Office Box 1748
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NT ARMOUR

**Newsletter of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Incorporated
(NT Branch)**

ISSUE NO 27 May 2013

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the May 2013 and 27th edition of our newsletter. We welcome back to the Territory and the Association to **Dennis Burke**. The New Year has started quickly and the momentum for the formation of ACRs, as part of Plan Beersheba, has gained pace. Although there is a lot of talk about who is doing what to whom and where, accurate information at this time is hard to come by. What is evident is a trial of the concept; based on 1 Armd Regt HQ will take place in the first part of this year.

What has been suggested however, that is, the repositioning of units around the country, resurrecting of the M113 and the expansion of the Bushmaster capability, will cost resources. Of course between now and the plan being fully agreed and implemented, are two events which have the capacity to influence any outcome, the May Federal budget and the September Federal election. Although no further raids have been made on the Defence Budget, they cannot be ruled out as the time approaches and the Government gets more desperate for money. Even if the Government were to change in September, it is difficult to see a new Government being able to allocate non existent resources to Defence.

Much hype was given to the agreement by Defence for homosexual members of the ADF to march in the Gay Mardi Gras in Sydney, **in uniform**. We were told by Defence leaders that this was a policy change that needed to occur and it was the modern approach to accepting diversity in the ADF. I just found it an inconsistent approach to the wearing of uniform in public. When I am reminded of the numerous times and locations , including ANZAC Day, around the country when soldiers who wanted to go into public places in uniform were told , by some of the same superiors now advocating this current policy, that they could not. I find it an interesting approach to being part of the **“team”**, spending so much time and effort identifying yourself as different to the rest of the team? What’s next, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs?

RAACA NT XMAS Gathering

A small gathering of members was held on Friday 30 November at the Karma Tavern. The event was organized by John and Patricia Holyoake. In attendance were **Peter and Regina Still, Denis and Annette Burke, Rob Lewis, John and Pat Holyoake and Neil McDade and John's daughter and partner.**

The President thanked the committee and members for their efforts for the year and farewelled those leaving the territory. It was also an opportunity to give out members copies of Ironsides 2012.

A very nice meal was had from the Tavern Bistro and the staff were very friendly, efficient and more than accommodating with a very nice Xmas theme. Drinks were provided from raffle money raised by Patricia and John over the year. The committee thanks Patricia and John for their commitment and asks that for future fundraisers, members support them more in their efforts.

2 Cav News

This year is looking to be another busy year for the 2nd Cavalry Regiment with the Regiment taking on a large number of commitments outside of its conventional role. The unit is now utilising multiple vehicle platforms including the ASLAV, M113AS4 and the Bushmaster. To facilitate this expanded capability, the Regiment has been restructured in several areas.

A Squadron has been re-tasked as an APC Squadron, which is now detached to the 1st Armoured Regiment in order to provide an APC capability for the 1st Armoured Cavalry Regiment (1ACR) trial. With this has come the challenge of taking on a new vehicle, the M113AS4, and learning a new role.

C Squadron is continuing to train within its conventional reconnaissance role. The addition of a new surveillance troop will provide a new and enhanced capability to the Squadron through the use of the surveillance variant of the ASLAV. C SQN is also manning the reconnaissance squadron mounted in the ASLAV family on vehicles for the ACR trials in addition to their other commitments.

So as to better facilitate 2 Cav's commitments for the year, RHQ has been divided into RHQ deployed and 2 Cav Rear. RHQ Main will deploy as the command element of ATF-2, while 2 Cav Rear will remain behind to ensure that the regiment continues to move forward during this busy time.

RHQ and elements of B Squadron (Bushmasters), along with a Company from 7 RAR, have formed Advisory Task Force 2 (ATF-2). Their role will be to advise the Afghan National Army's 4th Brigade as well as assisting with the withdrawal of coalition troops from Uruzgan Province.

Support Squadron will retain its role in supporting the Regiment, including the continued maintenance of A and B Squadron's vehicles as part of rear details within the unit. Some of its members will also be deploying with FSU to Afghanistan.

Additionally, the Regiment remains dedicated to various charities and public events, continuing its involvement with events and organizations such as Legacy, ANZAC day as well as the unit's birthday later in the year, to name a few.

TPR Gaut-Tye



Above: Above is a copy of picture of a partially completed **Barry Spicer** painting that could be completed if a suitable sponsor can be found. For further info contact the Editor.

AGM 2013

An AGM was held on Thursday 29 March at the North Darwin RSL in Marara. Despite having to compete with the local Karaoke singer, the business of the meeting was conducted to officially start 2013. Reports and financial record for 2012 were presented and accepted by the meeting.

The committee for 2013 is outlined below:

President and RAAC Corporation Council Member: Peter Still

Secretary: Rob Lewis

Treasurer: Hap Hanlon

Committeeman: Neil McDade

Committeeman: John Holyoake

Committeeman: Bruce Pearson

The meeting agreed to plans from CO 1 Armd Regt to try some closer involvement at unit social activities and discussed items to be presented to the RAAC Corporation Council, including the **Black Beret**. Upcoming social events will be published for members and members were reminded about the Hinton Scholarship and submission of articles for the newsletter. The plan to have a November 11 memorial service at the Leopard Memorial in Palmerston was agreed to. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2000hrs with a proposed committee meeting for May 2013. The meeting minutes have been posted to the local "P" drive and emailed to members.

THEY ARE BACK!

The latest group of Marines to train in Australia arrived in Darwin on April 21. 180 Marines from Lima Company, **2 Bn, 3rd Marine Regiment from Hawaii** off stepped of the plane at Darwin Airport on a steamy Darwin night to be met by US Ambassador Jeffery Bleich. They will stay at Robertson Barracks and participate in training including **Ex Talisman Sabre later this year**. This group is the second to train here and is just under 10 percent of the **expected 2500 by 2017**. **US President Barack Obama** announced the decision to have Marines based in Australia when he toured the north in 2011. **Defence Minister Stephen Smith** said it supports our long held strategic interest to support US engagement in our region in a manner that promotes peace.

1 Armd Regt Report

I write this SITREP on the eve of our deployment across to Townsville for the critical lead-up training prior to our participation in the 3 Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity. This field deployment marks an important milestone in the training we have conducted on the road to Ex Hamel/Talisman Sabre, and indeed brings together some outstanding work that has been done in support of Plan Beersheba and Armoured Cavalry Regiment development.

As you may know, the Regiment has been entrusted with a key component of Army's modernisation concept; the ACR concept will see significant enhancements in capability across all three of Army's combat brigades. There remains much work to be done however, and this trial provides us with a unique opportunity to shape, inform and enhance the ACR concept.

The trial ACR is based on a Battlegroup Headquarters (based on RHQ 1 AR), a Tank Squadron (A Sqn 1 AR), Cav Sqn (C Sqn 2 Cav), a newly formed APC Sqn (based on A Sqn 2 Cav) and Tech Spt Sqn (based on TSS 1 AR).

Bringing this together would not have been possible were it not for the outstanding professionalism and determination shown not just by members of the Regiment, but from across the RAAC and indeed the wider Brigade. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work done by the men and women of A Sqn 2 Cav to re-raise the APC capability, and by the Regiment's RAEME tradesmen and Q Staff to receipt in and prepare a large and complex AFV fleet. I would also like to acknowledge the work done by the Headquarters staff in building and preparing the ACR for the trial; we embark on this field phase with confidence that we can provide Army with a robust mounted close combat capability and importantly, inform Army's key modernisation initiative under Plan Beersheba.

In parallel to these preparations, much other activity is occurring. We completed the Regimental Officers' Basic course with a field phase down in Cultana, and the five young officers graduated with distinction. Under the guidance of Gunnery Sergeant Hines, USMC we have also conducted the highest standard of gunnery training I have seen in recent years with the development of an outstanding field firing range at Cultana; this set new standards for what we will seek to achieve in Gunnery in the future. Proof that we have been on the right track is the performance of SGT Mosedale and his crew during the recent USMC 1st Tank Battalion gunnery camp, where the crew placed third overall in a highly demanding and competitive shoot.

Our close links with our Marine brethren will continue to grow this year. At the time of writing OC and SSM B Sqn are conducting the recon for the US leg of Ex Gold Eagle. This year we will focus this training opportunity on gaining exposure to amphibious operations, as well as training on the mine plough and deep-water fording kits in preparation for receiving this equipment at the end of the year. In August/September we will host the return leg of Gold Eagle and expose our Marine counterparts to the pleasures of Mount Bundy.

Within the next month we will welcome home from Afghanistan several members who have been deployed as part of the Advisory Task Force. It will come as no surprise that their performance has been exemplary, and that I have received excellent feedback on the credit that they have brought on the Regiment. We also maintain the SOTG Bushmaster Troop commitment, who are achieving great things in the Regiment's name under CAPT Hoskings and SGT Harris. We wish them continued success and Good Hunting.

Earlier this year we had the privilege of hosting a visit to the Regiment by Gerry McCormack, former CO and distinguished member of the Regiment. I can sincerely state that it was like

welcoming home an old friend, and it was another great reminder of our rich history and traditions. As a follow-up Colonel Gerry sent through a signed picture of General Creighton Abrams, a connection through Gerry's time as ADC to the Task Force Commander in SVN – this photo now sits alongside our sterling silver Abrams tank centrepiece as a true link between the 'man' and the 'tank'. Any member of the Regimental family passing through Darwin is very, very welcome and we look forward to any opportunity to host you.

An important recent initiative has been the development of the new Soldiers' Club following our 'eviction' from the old premises. This Club has been named the Mick Rainey MM Club, with Mick kindly agreeing to us honouring our most decorated soldier in this way. We have a long way to go to develop this facility fully; however the Rainey Club is taking shape with the support of the Association and the efforts of the soldiers.

I recently had the pleasure of catching up with Stan Hanuscewicz down in Tasmania. Judith and Stan's courage and resilience represent a great example to us all. I was able to present Stan with a framed picture of 'Tanks for the Memories' to ensure that he has some small reminder of his outstanding service to the Regiment in their new home.

In between various field commitments, the RSM and I travelled to Sydney in February where we met with veterans of the 2/6 Armd Regt. Under the excellent guidance of MAJ John Baines and MAJ Peter Branagan from the Head of Corps Cell, we have been able to draw together and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the 2/6 Armd Regt, where 1 Armd Regt undertakes to keep alive the history of this proud and distinguished World War 2 unit. The lessons of Buna and Gona will be remembered.

On sadder notes in recent times we have farewelled distinguished members of the Regimental family. MAJGEN Latchford, a former CO of the Regiment, Joffre Gilchrist, a former RSM of the Regiment, and Fiona Tedman the wife of long-serving member of the Regiment and former 2-time 2IC Russ Tedman will all be sorely missed.

As we embark for Townsville, we look forward to hosting the Honorary Colonel General Roger Powell in the field where we will again benefit from his mentoring, advice and support during a demanding period. In this vein I would like to thank all members of the wider Regimental family for your enduring support, advocacy and active interest in our activities – it is greatly appreciated. With such support and the achievements of the Regiment's soldiers the future looks very bright indeed.

I will provide another update when we return from field in June.

Paratus

Scott Winter
CO 1 AR

WO2 JOE DAY, RAAC

In the lead up to the funeral of Trevor Springall an article was posted to the 1st Armd Regt face book page pointing out an article written by a Fairfax journalist, Rory Callinan, where he also talked MAGEN Smith, USMC rtd and Mr West. These two rehashed questions about the actions of Marines in Iraq in April 2003 under the command of WO2 Joe Day, RAAC.

This response is from LTGENERAL John Kelly, USMC, USSOUTHCOMD, but in April 2003 a BRIGEN and Deputy Div COMD of 1st Marine Division.

24 April, 2013

Peter,

Absolutely great hearing from you and the fact that your family is well and prospering. By the way you are too old to be a grandfather.

I am stunned this situation has come up again 10 years after the fact and after a formal investigation had put it to bed finding WO Day's action completely appropriate to the situation. The investigation which was not done in secret, nor was it unusual to do one, leveled absolutely no criticism of any kind of his actions that day. I know just about all there is to know about WO Day and his alleged actions on the river just outside of Baghdad, but remember I am doing this from memory. I was a brigadier general at the time and a long way from my days as a Marine infantry sergeant. I was the assistant division commander of the 1st Marine Division working for then MajGen Mattis the commanding general. I did not know Joe Day before the incident in question, but I later commanded him on the drive to Tikrit that ended the initial phase of the conflict in April 2003. I served with him again when we returned to Iraq in January 2004. I know Joe Day to be a stand up guy, a decent and moral man who is highly disciplined, and a tremendous leader. He was doing exactly what was expected of a light armored reconnaissance platoon commander that day, and doing it as an honorable soldier wearing the uniform of Australia one of our most steadfast and revered allies. As you know personally we Marines are pretty picky as to whom we let serve with us, who we let command our precious enlisted Marines, and that might tell you what the 1st Marine Division thought of Joe Day. I got to know him, see him in action, and I was proud to serve alongside him. All who knew him were. His actions, from Kuwait along a 600 mile attack axis past Baghdad and to Tikrit, were superb and above reproach. That is end of story.

The background to the incident is that retired MajGen Smith and Mr. West were allowed by higher headquarters to travel with the division for reasons I was never quite sure of other than they were to collect lessons learned for official post-war use. We later discovered that a book was written and published almost immediately after the first phase of the conflict ended in April 2003. In any event, after the conflict ended the division commander was made aware of accusations by MajGen Smith and Mr. West regarding excessive use of force along the river bank just prior to the division crossing and executing its attack on Baghdad. As the Marine Corps takes every accusation of this nature seriously, no matter how ridiculous or unfounded it might sound on first report, General Mattis launched an investigation. This is routine

and not in any way extraordinary. By the way the investigating officer assigned was a colonel, a lawyer, and a combat wounded Marine himself.

What the investigation found was that the Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) unit WO Day commanded that day was deployed along the river bank in hidden over watch positions covering a potential river crossing. Suddenly a civilian vehicle pulls up and as it turned out both MajGen Smith and Mr. West, two individuals completely unknown at the time to WO Day or anyone else in his platoon, got out. Once out of the vehicle—and reportedly against pleas by WO Day’s Marines to get away and under cover as they were on the extreme front line of the division’s thrust north, the enemy situation was unknown, and by their activity could and likely would compromise the platoon’s position and draw enemy fire—walked down the river bank and entered the water to bath! Neither gentleman had any command or authority of any kind. None whatsoever. WO Day and his Marines would have been absolutely within their rights to have apprehended and restrained them for their own safety and, more importantly, for the safety of the platoon.

The rest of the story as revealed by the investigation is pretty straight forward. An Iraqi military vehicle pulled up across the river and some armed Iraqi soldiers got out. The Marines engaged the soldiers and that is case closed. I personally viewed a picture of the scene taken from the friendly side of the river with an AK-47 in view among I think two Iraqi uniformed bodies. I do recall a Marine stating at the time that they’d fired out of concern for MajGen Smith and Mr. West since they were so exposed. Both gentlemen are undoubtedly respected combat veterans in their own right and I know and respect them both. In particular MajGen Smith is a personal hero of mine from the day I first met him when I was a second lieutenant, but I do not believe either man is justified in passing judgment on the actions of WO Day and his Marines. With all due respect to a man I respect more than almost any man I’ve ever known in uniform, they should have both stayed away from that front line position and certainly to the rear and out of sight. I believe today, as I did then, that WO Day and his troops deserved an apology and certainly a vote of thanks as they were very possibly endangered by the actions of the two gentlemen. In my estimation, and as I recall documented by the investigation, their actions were at best questionable particularly since they are both combat veterans.

It is interesting that when the investigating officer interviewed one of the two gentlemen after he’d returned to the U.S. he essentially stated that he did not see much of what went on because he has very poor eyesight and he did not have his glasses on at the time. In the other gentleman’s case when he was contacted by the investigating officer, again after his return to the U.S., he stated that he thought we in the division command group were making entirely too much of this incident and was surprised it was being investigated formerly. Again, we investigate any reported incident, or even rumored incident, of any Law of War violation regardless of source.

In closing, Peter, it was absolutely great to hear from you and that your family is doing well. Many in the force were new to war in 2003, but unfortunately none of us are today. It’s a terrible thing to see, to endure, and God knows we in uniform don’t start them....we just get sent off to fight them. The scars are deep, and the personal losses tremendous and none of us particularly the Grunts will ever be the same for experiencing it. I don’t think there is any glory in it, but there is honor and

guys like WO Day set the standard for honor and selfless service in the 1st Marine Division on our march up. I am privileged to have served alongside him even for a little while. Please offer Joe Day my respects, best wishes, and a heartfelt *Semper Fidelis*.

Kelly

I think the journalist concerned and the two American men should accept their own enquires and let sleeping dogs lie. If they are now having pangs of guilt, or PTSD or embarrassment for their undisciplined actions they should just shut up!

ED

Reprinted from: DVA NT

Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Military Compensation Review and Other Measures) Bill 2013

Amends the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 in relation to rehabilitation and transition management; the Military, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 in relation to: the date of effect for periodic impairment compensation; the inclusion of a lifestyle factor in the calculation of interim permanent impairment compensation; recalculation of permanent impairment compensation for certain people; an increase to the rate of periodic compensation payable for dependent children; expansion of the eligibility criteria for the special rate disability pension; superannuation; remittal power of the Veterans' Review Board; increase in the membership of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission; and access to rehabilitation and compensation for certain categories of persons; the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 to increase the compensation for financial advice and cover legal advice; five Acts to: expand the lump sum compensation options for wholly dependent partners of deceased members; and require that eligible claims for existing conditions aggravated by Defence service on or after 1 July 2004 be determined under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986; the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004, Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 and Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 to issue Repatriation Health Cards (for specific conditions) to certain eligible persons; the Aged Care Act 1997, Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act 2006 Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 to clarify the appropriation of costs for certain aged care services; the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 to extend the entitlement for travelling expenses to the partner of certain eligible persons; the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 to clarify administrative arrangements for the nomination of bank accounts for payments; and the Social Security Act 1991 and Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 to make technical amendments.

More information available from:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r5006

1st Armd Regt History Project

This project is well underway still needs contributors but time is running out. The project was **commissioned by CO 1 Armd Regt** and is under the stewardship of **Major Peter Branagan, OAM, from RAAC HOC**. It is to take an anecdotal style similar to that of the **“The AFV School”** publication. If you think of someone who can or you want to make a contribution please contact the HOC (03 57357460) or myself (08 89259901) or the Unit. I know we would all be glad to hear from you as there a number of gaps in our collective memory. Introductions to the various eras will be written by:

Foreword: Maj Gen RA Powell, AM
1946-48: Maj PG Branagan
1949-59: Maj NW Wilson (the 2nd CO)
1960-69: Maj Gen KW Latchford, AO
1970-79: Brig RE Bird, AM
1980-89: Col GM McCormack
1990-99: Col MB O'Brien, AM
2000-10: Brig PA Acutt
2011- Lt Col SA Winter

There have been a lot of contributions, but as a target date of Cambrai Day 2013, for release, all are welcome. **We will try to keep you informed.**



Above: The Barry Spicer painting **“Tanks for the Memories”** is hanging in RHQ 1st Armd Regt and will form the cover of the publication

“Personnel Update”

Unfortunately we will report that our inaugural committeeman and long serving RAAC member **Bob “Talking Bird” Parrott**, has reported in sick. Bob has been diagnosed with a form of Leukemia and has recently undergone treatment for it. He is currently resting at home and when we last spoke he was feeling better and his treatment was working well. He has stepped down from his role as committeeman and DVA Counselor **WEF the AGM 2013**. He assures me we will see him marching with us on **ANZAC Day** and I know I speak for all members when I wish him and his family the best and a speedy recovery in the future.

COMMAND APPOINTMENTS 2013

Commanding the SOArmd **LtCol Stuart Cree** – from AHQ
RSM 2 Cav Regt **WO1 Craig Cook** - from 1/15 RNSWL
RSM 1/15 RNSWL **WO1 Anthony Lynch**- from SOArmd
SSM B 3/4 CAV **WO2 Wade McFarlane**- from SOArmd

Ed note: These are the only ones known at this time, if you have more up to date info please contact me.

HEAD OF CORPS STRUCTURE 2013

The 2013 manning of the Head of Corps is outlined below:

Representative Honorary Colonel: Major General Roger Powell, AM (Retd)
Head of Corps: Brigadier John Mackenzie
Deputy Head of Corps: Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Cree (CO School of Armour)
Staff Officer Grade Two Head of Corps (GRES): Major Peter Branagan, OAM
Project Officer Head of Corps: (GRES) Major John Baines, RFD
Staff Officer Grade Two Armour: Major Mark Beveridge
Staff Officer Grade Three Armour: Captain William Morsehead
Regimental Sergeant Major RAAC: WO1 Peter McNeill (Corps RSM)
Regimental Sergeant Major SOA: WO1 Alby Chirrichilli

ANZAC DAY 2013

A small gathering of (approx 30) members from **the RAACA-NT, 2 Cav and 1st Armd Regt Associations** formed up behind the Associations banners and marched in the **2013 ANZAC Day Darwin march**. The numbers were down for a couple of reasons, unit deployments prior to ANZAC Day and unfortunately a lack of understanding and support from HQ 1BDE.

Our group formed up behind the RAR Association and in front of the Peacekeepers group and stepped off at 0900hrs on a steamy Darwin morning. The march was well appreciated by a large Darwin crowd and we finished in front of the **Darwin RSL Club**. We adjourned upstairs for a welcome drink along with hundreds of other people. I was particularly pleased to see a fit looking Bob Parrott march with us, in light of his recently reported illness. Some of our association stalwarts were away on other duties, but we must work hard looking towards 2014 to revive the focus, the numbers and the important of us, especially the younger veterans, getting fully involved in this march.

314360 Sergeant T. D. Springall

Following the ANZAC Day march, Regina and I boarded a plane for Perth to attend the funeral service for Trevor Springall. Many messages of condolence had appeared on the 1st Armd Regt facebook page since his illness and subsequent passing on Sunday 22 Apr at his home in Two Rocks WA. A small gathering of 50 people attended the **Salvation Army Chapel at Joondalup on Friday 27 April at 1315hrs**. Carol and her family were well supported by **Greg Campbell, Michelle Simpson and Bruce Radeamaker during this very trying period**.

Greg did a great of celebrant and organising the service and the occasion had a distinctive 1st Armd Regt/RAAC feel about it. Some notable RAAC members present included **Pat Deeker, Kym McClymans, Graham White, Wombat Wilton, Mick Botterill, Chris Fing and Geoff Gladman**. The RAAC WA Branch were represented by **Bob Snape and Terry Stidwell** while **Mick Rainney, MM** lay a wreath on behalf of the 1st Armd Regt Association. I was even approached in the car park by a person who I did not know and he did not know Trevor, but he was a friend of Rod Lang's and Rod had asked him to attend on his behalf. The service was concluded with an **excellent sounding of the last post, played live** by a member of the funeral company. Carol and her family thanked all those who had assisted and received a lot of messages from all over Australia and overseas. **RIP Trevor**.

FROM THE EDITOR.

What is printed in this newsletter are the views of the editor, private individuals and comments on events by others. If you wish to have your news or views printed here please contact the editor.



Lieutenant Renata Williams, pictured at High Range yesterday with Troopers Bradley Hawkless, Jarryd Moore and Sean Moran-Ramsay, is the first woman in the Australian Defence Force to earn a combat role | Photos: FIONA HARDING

LIEUTENANT Renata Williams was doing what she does best, working shoulder to shoulder with her mates in the Armoured Cavalry Regiment, when she learned she had officially become the first woman in the Australian Defence Force to serve in a combat role.

The 27-year-old, who had already passed her Regimental Officer Basic Course with flying colours, received the news on Anzac Day while on exercise at Townsville's High Range alongside 340 of her fellow ACR soldiers who together with more than 100 armoured vehicles, have relocated from Darwin to Townsville as part of a trial.

The ACR will continue at High Range until mid June and remain in the North Queensland area until August as part of an Australian-first trial to change the way army brigades are structured over the next decade under Plan Beersheba.

Under the new structure brigades will transition to become Light Multi Role Combat Brigades meaning each will have elements of armour, artillery, communication, engineer, infantry and logistics.

Lt Williams is now a troop commander meaning she is in command of four M1A1 Abrams tanks and 15 soldiers. Up at High Range she was covered in just as much dirt as any of her male counterparts, all of whom seemed to take the new troop commander's status in their stride.

Her commanders are glowing in their praise of the capable young woman who they say was chosen because she was simply the best person for the job, irrespective of gender. Women have been officially allowed to serve in all areas of the ADF, including combat roles, since the beginning of this year.

However as Lt Williams' previous role in Intelligence Corps, where she provided security to the Commanding Officer, illustrates, women have been serving in what are considered "front line" roles for some time.

"I'm pretty proud but it's sometimes a bit overwhelming," Lt Williams said.

"I've had a lot of support from the regiment and the hierarchy as well as from the soldiers.

"Having already worked with the regiment for the three years leading up to this has meant it was an easy transition."

Lt Williams said she had enjoyed working with the 140 soldiers from Townsville's 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and looked forward to exercising alongside other infantry units.

"It's been pretty good working with the infantry and getting that combined arms environment," she said.

"A lot of the infantry have never worked with tanks before so they're pretty interested too."

CURRENT RAACA – NT MEMBERS



Greg Akhurst	Chris Kerney
Dave Chalmers	Robert Parrott
Pat Deeker	John Hensler
Scott Winter	Grant Lindsay
Zachary Williams	John Holyoake
Peter Sykes	Neil McDade
Rob Lewis	David McCullough
Scott Fryer	Peter Still
Paul Hanlon	Chris Houghton
Denis Burke	Bruce Pearson
J.McRoberts	Peter Harden
Jeremy Collins	Michael Morton
Neil Russell	Travis Whitten
David Finch	Nickolas Bencsevich
David Morris	A. Riley
R. Penhalcon-Devine	Bob Parsons
Brian Heenan	Dean Martin
Jan Van Der Waal	Paul Rayner
Justin Dyer	Marty Gavican
Ronald Dunn	Nick Zerafa

JOIN NOW AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS

This is for planning only and was ratified by the committee in March 2013

RAACA NT Branch AGM

When: 28 March 2013

Where: RSL, Amy Johnston Drive

Time: 1900 hrs

Dress: Neat Casuals/sports attire

RAACA NT fundraiser

When: TBA 2013

Where: Bunnings Palmerston/ Bagot Road

Time: 0800 hrs 1630hrs

Dress: Neat Casuals/sports attire

Cavalry Cup Competition

When: TBA 2013

Where: Robertson Ovals

Time: 1530 hrs

Dress: Neat Casuals/sports attire

RAACA NT Branch Dinner

When: Sept 2013

Where: TBD

Time: 1700hrs

Dress: Formal

RAACA NT Branch Remembrance Day Service

When: Nov 2013

Where: Leopard Memorial Palmerston

Time: 1100hrs

Dress: Ceremonial

RAACA NT Branch Xmas Drinks

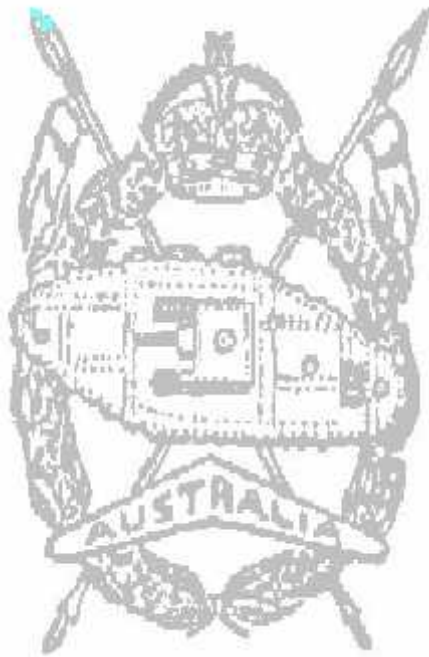
When: Fri 27 Nov 2013

Where: RSL Marara/ Palmerston

Time: 1630hrs

Dress: Neat Casuals partners welcome

ADVERTISE YOUR ASSOCIATION



RAACA NT BRANCH

RAACA Merchandise is now available

RAACA Tie	\$25
RAACA pocket Badge	\$25
RAACA Cap	\$18
RAACA Stubby Holder	\$8

(0401468963)	Contact	
	Peter Still	59901
	Rob Lewis	56322
	Hap Hanlon	56128

Sign up a new member soon!



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
RAACA-NT**

Rank/Title Christian Name Surname Post Nominals

.....

Unit/Postal Address:

.....
.....

Telephone Contact Work: Home:

Date of Enlistment/Appointment/Discharge/Transfer:

Service History: (Unit and Appointment)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Current Appointment/Occupation:

Membership Fees \$20.00 Enclosed: Yes/No

Please make cheques payable to RAACA-NT

Forward your completed Application with cheques/money orders (no cash please) to:

The Secretary

RAACA-NT

PO Box 1748

PALMERSTON NT 0830