

Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (NSW) News Letter



P.O. Box 14 BLAXLAND NSW 2774
Email aro@pnc.com.au
Telephone 0409 644 210



Of Special Interest

ANZAC DAY 2008

1st TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON.

Victoria Barracks Plaque.

ANZAC Day,

The weather was kind to us again this year we finished the march and our annual meeting under the Morton Bay Fig Tree near the Red Cross Tent before the rain set in.

Considering the weather condition we had a good turn out. The ranks of our older generation are thinning and this year we only had 6 WW 2 veterans'.

A total 36 marched under the Survey Corps banner and the purple berets were sprinkled amongst the ranks of the marchers.

The RSL capitulated at the last moment about family members marching with the old diggers so we were able to form up in our usual position.

The crowds lining the street were 10 deep in places and again it was great to see the number of young people celebrating the day along with the old and new diggers.

The Topographical Survey squadron from Holsworthy provided the banner party and the Survey Association appreciated the effort of Cpl Jason Bevis in arranging the banner party and the excellent turn out of the banner party.

With regards to our banner it was decided at our annual meeting that we should renew the banner to reflect the changes that have taken place since World War 2.

Richard Jackson-Hope President / Secretary

May 2008 Issue 2

Marchers who signed the attendance list ANZAC Day 2008

Michael Kinkead, Damien Stafford, Mark McInerney, John Hill, Jamie Martin, Graham Symes, Paul Boulton, Charlie Tran, Mac McKenna, Frank Gould, John Siddons, Terry Topham, Bob Campbell, Rob Hunter, Tony Haseloff, M. Giannoukas, G. Stratis, S. Burke, S. Ledingham, Jason Bevis, Jim Miller, Steve Miller, Bruce Williams, Charmain Williams, Richard Jackson-Hope, Peter Tierney, Bernie Cain, Ted Hunter.



Martin Place Sydney



Banner Party Members of Topo Squadron



Survey Association members after ANZAC Day March

1st TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON

Another year for 1st Topographical Survey Squadron (1 Topo Svy Sqn) is almost over but not without a large ongoing effort in operational support and other support to the 1st Division. The role of the Squadron has changed subtly from 2006 from supporting Army to supporting the 1st Division as the main effort.

The Squadron has maintained between 10 and 20 soldiers deployed on operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Timor Leste and domestic operations. Of these, significant deployments have included the first overseas deployment of the Squadron's air camera and the deployment of five members to Afghanistan with the 2nd Reconstruction Task Force, with more rotations preparing to relieve other teams in place on each operation. The fine work being done on operations is achieving a good effect for the supported forces, as well as a widening of the experience base within the Squadron. With deployments to Operations Slipper, Astute, Catalyst, Deluge, Outreach and the Army Aboriginal Community Program, our members have often been the only sappers on these operations.

The Squadron's commitment to exercises has mirrored the high rate of deployment. Exercises Poziers Vision and Poziers Int; Mulgogger (with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN)); Motionless Cartwheel; Vital Launch and Vital Prospect and Predators Strike and JRAC were supported throughout the year in Townsville, Darwin, Whyalla, and on Navy ships in the Pacific. The standout exercise commitment for the year was Exercise Talisman Sabre, where over 40 Squadron members gained experience working alongside US geomatic technicians and RAN hydrographers in a large joint, coalition effort. Members were spread from Royal Australian Air Force Base Williamstown, to Shoalwater Bay and Bradshaw Training Areas where they were embedded with all levels of command from the CTF HQ down to battle groups as part of amphibious manoeuvre forces. The Squadron also carried out a number of overseas visits to Canada, United States of America, Malaysia, and most recently the United Kingdom.

In addition to providing 'geo support' overseas and on military exercises, our sappers put in a good showing at sporting events and a military skills competition. 1 Topo Svy Sqn turned a few 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (and 6 ESR) heads as the surprise winner of the 2007 Gallipoli Barracks Obstacle Course Competition 2007. A contingent of Squadron members competed as part of an Australian Defence Force team placed well in the international biathlon championships in Austria and Switzerland in January and the Squadron turned out in force

to help 6 ESR win the 2007 Gallipoli Barracks King of the Hill race to the top of Mt Enoggera.

Like most Army units, the considerable tempo felt at 1 Topo Svy Sqn is a continuation of that felt in recent years and is unlikely to change in 2008. The future under Hardened and Networked Army holds expansion of the Squadron by a troop — a change that will be welcomed by those carrying the current load. The Squadron looks forward to continuing its professional and demanding roles supporting Army operations throughout the world.

Geospatial Analysis on the Front Line

Within Iraq, coalition forces have experienced a large density and frequency of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks. IEDs are a strategic weapon and the largest casualty producing attack method utilised by insurgents.

Since 2005, 1 Topo Svy Sqn has been providing support to the Combined Explosive Exploitation Cell based in Baghdad, Iraq. This involves one geospatial analyst working within a multinational team. His job is to plot, collate, manage and analyse geospatial information and intelligence related incidents involving IEDs. This purpose is to extract technical intelligence on IED location and distribution to identify bomb-making trends in space and time. This analysis can then provide support to offensive and defensive counter-IED operations by coalition forces.

Recent deployments of Squadron members to this position have revealed the daily routine of a Military Geographic Information (MGI) technician in the work of the CEXC to be physically and mentally arduous and hazardous, yet professionally rewarding.

Aerial Digital Imagery Acquisition System Goes Operational

Army has successfully deployed and operated its airborne image acquisition capability on its inaugural overseas deployment. The Aerial Digital Imagery Acquisition System (ADIAS) deployed operationally to Timor Leste in support of Operation Astute. The system was operated by geomatic technicians aboard a platform flown by Army aviators. The system had just finalised operational testing and evaluation when ordered to deploy in Mar 2007. The ADIAS comprises of a Leica Geosystems ADS40 Digital Sensor operated by the 1 Topo Svy Sqn and is fitted to a gyroscopic mount aboard a B350 Beechcraft Kingair aircraft as its platform. The Kingair is operated and maintained by 173 Surveillance Squadron, 16th Brigade (Aviation).

During its deployment on Operation Astute, ADIAS value added to operations through capture of high-resolution colour aerial imagery with a resolution ranging from 15 to 50 centimetres. Imagery collected by the ADIAS was rapidly integrated into mapping products by the MGI cell in theatre to provide Image Maps of major and minor population centres throughout Timor Leste. This capability enabled force elements to conduct planning and gain situational awareness with the most recent imagery from a dedicated platform under control of the local commander.

ADIAS provides its high-resolution imagery through a new digital workflow which does not involve film or photographic processing laboratories. Up to 100 gigabytes of imagery is captured by the sensor and is later downloaded to a computer on the ground for processing. From there, geomatic technicians can produce numerous outputs for military applications, including 3D terrain models, land cover updates for built-up areas requiring a high level of detail, and customised image maps. One of the biggest advantages of the equipment is that it produces very high resolution imagery, compatible with Army geospatial software and does so at the unclassified level. Whilst these processes normally take up to two weeks of dedicated processing, during the deployment, the speed of processing became critical and the entire process was reduced to 'much shorter timeframes' thanks to teamwork by the geomatic technicians and aviators.

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Ted Hunter, Frank Gould & Bruce Williams at the start of the March



Queen Victoria Building George Street

Two PNG Surveyors at the march

Survey Corps Plaque Dedication Victoria Barracks.

The arrangements for the dedication of the Royal Australian Survey Plaque at Victoria Barracks in Sydney. It has been decided to hold the Dedication at **Victoria Barracks on July 1, Corps Day, at 1100 hrs.** It would be appreciated if members wishing to attend the dedication would be kind enough to advise the Secretary by **the 7th June 2008.**

We need to know the numbers for catering purposes and to advise the OIC of Victoria Barracks who will be attending.

- I will be attending the Dedication. **Cost of Catering \$ 15.00**
- I will not be attending the Dedication.

Name.....

Address.....

City / Town..... State..... Post code.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Enclosed is my Cheque / Money Order for Catering \$.....

**Please return to: Secretary Survey Corps Association (NSW)
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