



# THE PLANET 7 EXPRESS



28 Mar 03

Welcome one and all to another year of fun, frivolity and rampant escapism. As you have no doubt already seen, it is a very busy year ahead for all. Unfortunately, the dates for EX CROC 03 keep changing, but we will keep you informed and updated to all the amendments. The current timings are 23 AUG 03 - 6 SEP 03; stay tuned.

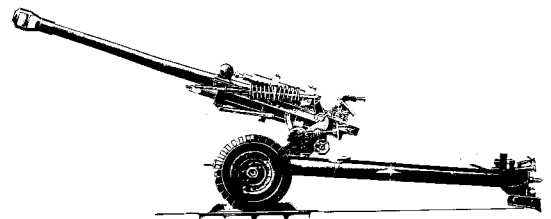
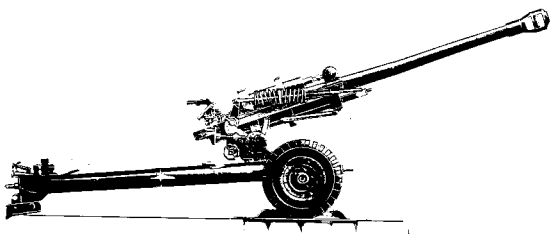
So far this year there have been a number of activities completed and a short tale about these will appear in later pages.

There are also a number of new faces in the Regiment this year, and on behalf of the Regiment I would like to welcome them to the finest Regiment in 2 Div. These people are:

CAPT Andrew Keogh	ADJT,
WO2 Keith Hall	SMIG 28 FD BTY,
WO2 Glenn Ryan	OPSWO / BSM CSS BTY,
SGT Mark Linney	TPT SPVR,
SGT Steve Mason	QM, and
SGT Wayne Piggott	CCLK

This year there is also some special projects being undertaken by each of the Gun Batteries. At Dee Why, there will be a L5 Pack Howitzer placed in the compound as a Garden Gun. Adamstown will do the same with a 25 pdr. Locations for these guns will be finalised later. Also, the Regimental Catafalque will be unveiled at Dee Why on ANZAC Day where the Regiment will congregate to commemorate the day.

I now invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the experience that is the Planet 7 Express.



# FROM THE COLONEL'S DUGOUT

For the first issue of Planet 7 Express for this year, I thought it appropriate to review where the Regiment has come from, what we have achieved, and where we're going for this year.

As many of you know the Regiment undertook support to the 8th Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA) together with an evaluation by LCArty staff in November 2001. The evaluation indicated that the elements deployed were at what is termed "minimum level of capability". Since that time we have seen quite a number of key appointment changes, and the unit did not undergo an ARTEP evaluation last year.

Last year, we began our live firing activities with support to a Forward Air Controller Course in March. During that activity we suffered a bore premature with illumination ammunition and a number of other serious safety related incidents which resulted in my decision to stop the unit live firing for a time, in order to address the levels of competency in gunnery. We did this by changing our emphasis from collective training back to individual training in a courses camp environment in lieu of going on exercise "out west" with 12/16 HRL.

What did this achieve?

Firstly, it enabled individuals to complete or commence their IET thus raising the level of individual training within the Regiment. The side benefit of this was also to raise the profile of this unit as a capable and competent training provider in the eyes of outside agencies such as LCArty and the School of Artillery.

Secondly, through a fortunate marriage of operational support requirements, it enabled the unit to be in a position to support the conduct of a FAC course for SASR personnel deploying on operations. The side benefit of this being the ability to live fire when we would not otherwise have been able to do so and using someone else's allocation of ammunition.

Thirdly, the direct result was a raising of the level of individual confidence amongst the various detachments.

In my view, and that of all outside observers, the courses period in July was an unqualified success.

The limitations imposed by the ammunition restrictions, forced us to find other areas in which we could train. Given the brigade's requirement to produce force elements capable of rear area security operations at "90 days" notice, we used the time to raise the level of experience of unit personnel in peace enforcement type operations and general security skills. This training produced mixed results. It did highlight the necessity for all personnel to attend lead up training and especially for junior

leaders to do the necessary prior preparation before attempting these types of activities. It also highlighted the need to complete further training in Rules of Engagement and Orders for Opening Fire.

By end July we had finally gained the OK to use our new recruiting material after a long battle with agencies in Canberra. The result was an increase in the effectiveness of our recruiting efforts, particularly in the 113 Bty areas. We now need to focus our attention on the northern beaches and the north west sectors of Sydney in order to help 28 Bty and CSS Bty along.

In November, we successfully held a nine day live firing exercise and concurrently, a Mod 3 Gun Course. Despite the obvious limitations imposed by the extreme weather conditions, this activity was an outstanding success. I was very pleased with the turn out for this exercise, which initially looked disappointing.

The support provided by 12/16 HRL at very short notice, enabled the Regiment to train in an area which would otherwise not have been possible, the result being that we are now ready to commence some low level combined arms collective training activities in 2003. We will also commence fire and movement collective training within the Regiment this year and build on the level of technical training achieved so far.

### **What's happening this year?**

Well, there remain some uncertainties with respect to CROC 03 but it will be a busy year.

I intend to continue the "parallel training" format we used last year with individual training courses being conducted, commencing in January with the Advanced Gun Number course at Dee Why. Overlayed on this will be a series of training activities targeted to produce operational capability in a collective sense together with NCO and Officer training.

We will evaluate our **fully qualified** force element capability in June with a five day live firing exercise (including LCARTY ARTEP) commencing the Tuesday after the June long weekend. We will again be assessed in September either through our participation in CROC 03 or whatever other exercise may take it's place if CROC is cancelled.

The new training programme for 03 is out, and you will see a vast increase in the number of live firing W/E programmed. This is deliberate. It will provide all members with a greater degree of flexibility to achieve satisfactory attendance and balance their civilian job requirements with the necessity to attend unit training.

I don't expect everyone to attend ALL unit training activities although it would certainly be great if you can. What I DO expect is that each of you will balance your social and work activities with those of your second career in the unit and ensure that you attend at least 75% of the programmed activities. This is particularly important for those of you who are posted to the high readiness element within the unit.

Basically, if you don't attend the lead up activities, don't expect to be allowed to attend major collective training exercises like CROC 03 – it's the same as playing for a football team, if you don't attend training you don't get a game!

The pace of training activity will be designed to match the level of expertise of the individual. In other words, I will not be asking you to suddenly perform beyond your present level of capability, rather to gradually increase your confidence and capability through participation in activities which gradually increase in complexity and level of difficulty. We will not progress to the next level without first consolidating the first steps. Expect to see an increase in inter-unit training this year, particularly between the Sydney RAA units.

**For all of this to work, I need each of you to keep your BSM and SMIG informed of your availability, and I expect that once you commit to attend, you do so and don't pull out at the last minute leaving your mates in the lurch.**

### **Recruiting.**

As some of you may be aware, an outside agency is to take over the "recruiting" role for both the FT and PT components of the Army. There will be inevitable teething problems in the implementation of the scheme, as was the case with its trial in 4 Bde (Victoria). My Recruiting Plan for 2003 is out and you will find an increase in our recruiting activity this year. I expect every soldier in the unit to actively promote the unit and support the recruiting effort. I must emphasise that recruiting is my number one priority and that it is everyone's responsibility, not just the recruiting staff. Our efforts may also be affected by the security situation, given current world events, and we may have to resort to more innovative means to attract the right people to the unit.

Finally, I wish all of you an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding time in the Regiment this year.

Good shooting,  
JVW  
CO



**The latest ploy to drive the Taliban and Al Qaeda out of the mountains of Afghanistan is to send in a team of Redneck Special Forces (USRSF). Billy Bob, Bubba, Boo, and Cooter are being sent in with the following information about the Taliban:**

- 1. There is no limit.**
- 2. The season opened last weekend.**
- 3. They taste just like chicken.**
- 4. They don't like beer, pickup trucks, country music, or Jesus.**
- 5. Some is queer.**
- 6. They don't like barbeque.**
- 7. They were responsible for Dale Earnhardt's death.**

**Should be over in about a week.**

# Australia Day Salute

For the men and women of Australia waking in the early hours of Sunday, 26 January 2003, the clear blue sky and the cool fresh air suggested that Australia Day was going to be good. For the members of 7 Field Regiment and the gunners supporting 7 Field, the smooth rehearsals of the 21 gun salute and the approving eyes of the Battery Guide suggested that Australia Day was going to be very good. And it was.

With the sun not yet high overhead, the 7 Field Regiment departed the Dee Why depot for the Garden Island Naval Dockyard with six guns in tow. The guns were in place and ready to go in no time, all that was needed was the appearance of the Young Endeavour. The gunners happily looked out over the sparkling waters of Sydney Harbour, basking in the sunshine and watching the numerous ships bobbing around in the water. Some of the public were enjoying the day on watercraft while others lined the foreshore to watch. Still others were no doubt spending the day at countless barbeques around the country. For one day, it seemed, it was possible to put aside – though not to forget, for that would be disrespectful – the sobriety of the recent bushfires, the potential conflict in the Middle East and the spectre of terrorism, in order to celebrate the birth of the Nation. In all things, this nation has met adversity with grit, loss with remembrance, and hardship with a wry smile of good humour, peculiarly Australian. On Sunday, 26 January 2003, Australia showed once again how well it can celebrate.

As the Young Endeavour finally wound its way out of Sydney Harbour towards Garden Island, the Regiment diligently took post and at the appropriate time fired the twenty one gun salute with a professionalism that did justice to the occasion. At the conclusion of the salute, the smiles and waves from the public captured perfectly the mood of the day.



We pretend it's chicken...You pretend it's chicken  
So let's all just call it chicken!



# WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO GLENN RYAN ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

Warrant Officer Class Two Ryan enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in September 1988 and after completing recruit and initial employment training commenced his career with the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, serving in 101 Field Battery as a gun number. During the period posted to the 1st Field Regiment, from January 1989 to March 1995, he was promoted through the ranks to Bombardier.

In April 1995 he was posted to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion as a Recruit Instructor. In January 1997 he was posted back to the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, on promotion to the rank of Sergeant. In July 1997 he was posted to Fire Support Company, the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. During his posting to the 6th Battalion, he performed the duties of a Section Sergeant and Command Post Officer. In June 1999 he was posted back to the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, as a Gun Sergeant and Battery Guide in 105 Field Battery. In January 2001, he was posted to the 4th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery serving in 108 Field Battery. During this tenure of service he was employed as a Gun Sergeant and Operator Command Post Sergeant.

In January 2003 he was posted, on promotion to the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two, to the 7th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, receiving the appointment of Operations Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Class Two Ryan is a single member, and his interests include Australian Rules Football, Rugby League, Golf and Cricket.



# WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO

## KEITH HALL

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

Warrant Officer Class Two Hall enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in June 1985 and after completing recruit and initial employment training commenced his career with 4 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, serving in 107 Field Battery as a gun number. During the period posted to 4 Field Regiment from October 1985 to December 1989 he was able to partake on Exercise Tropic Lightning (Hawaii) and completed all promotion courses and was then posted on promotion to Lance Bombardier at the Proof & Experimental Establishment, Port Wakefield. In January 1992 he was posted to 1 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery serving in 105 Field Battery as a Gun Detachment 2IC and Detachment Commander.

In January 1993 he was posted on promotion to 4 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery serving in 108 Field Battery as a Detachment Commander, in May that year he was then deployed on active service to ASC UNTAC (Cambodia) as a Transport Supervisor for the culmination of the United Nations Mandate. On returning to Australia he was then posted to 1 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery in January 1994 serving in 105 Field Battery and then 104 Field Battery as a Detachment Commander. While at Brisbane he completed all promotion courses for sergeant and was promoted in November 1996.

In January 1998 he was posted to 4 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery serving in 108 Field Battery as a Detachment Commander. In 1999 he and the Battery served in New Zealand during Exercise TASMAN EXCHANGE for one month. Shortly after returning to Australia the Battery was restructured into a rifle company and, on 20 September 1999, they deployed on active service on Operation WARDEN and Operation STABILISE in East Timor. He returned to Australia with the Battery in January 2000 to the position of Operator Command Post sergeant until December that year.

In January 2001 he was posted as an instructor at the Regional Training Centre, South Queensland (Canungra Detachment) as an instructor on the Subject One for Sergeant Course. On 06 December 2002 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and took the appointment of the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery of 28 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery on 20 January 2003.

Warrant Officer Class Two Hall is married to Camille and together they have two sons, Liam aged five years and Connor aged two years. His interests include Golf, Touch Football, Rugby and quality time with his family.





# THE ADVANCED GUNNERS COURSE

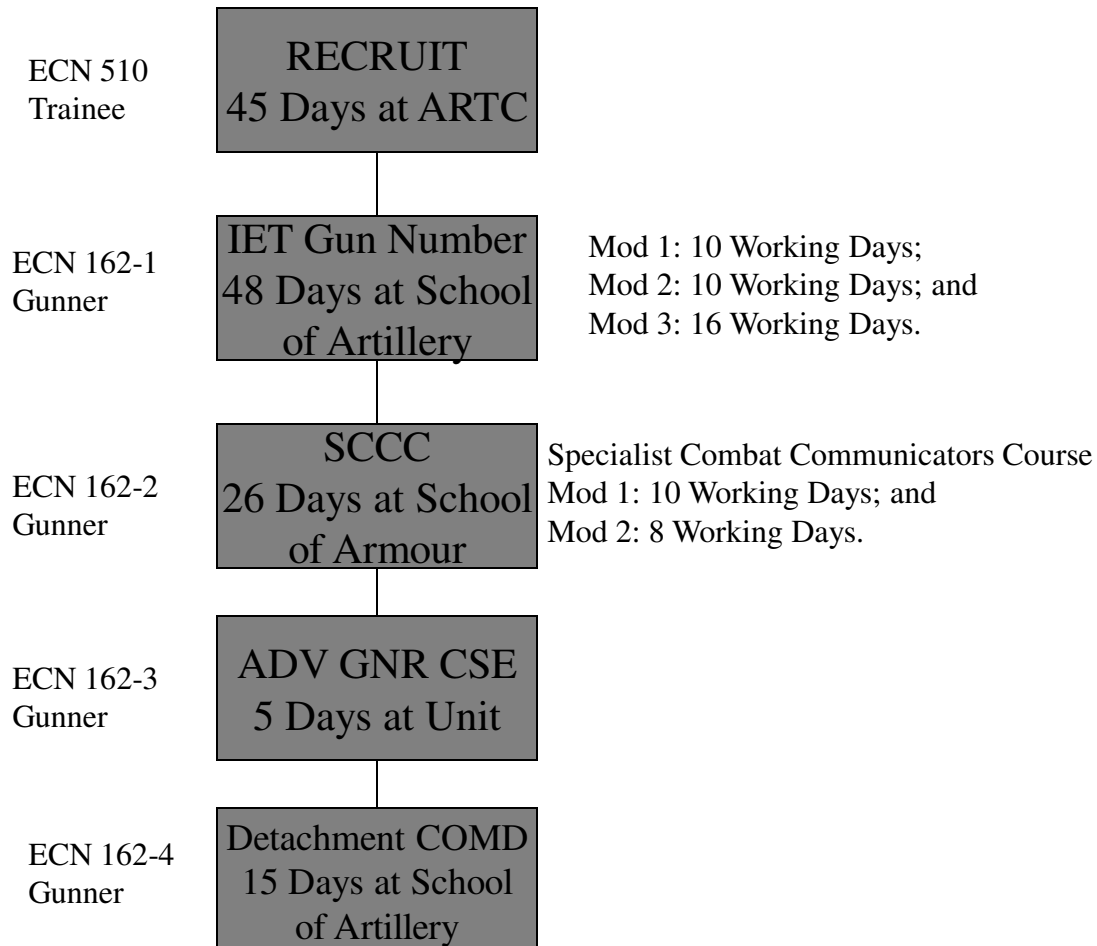
During the period 18-26 Jan 2003, 7 FD REGT conducted an Advanced Gunners Course at Dee-Why Training Depot. The cse had 12 trainees and 5 Instructional staff. The course culminated with the firing of a salute for Australia Day.

During the cse, there were many hard fought battles on the DCG, (Dee-Why Cricket Ground) after instruction was over for the evening. This kept everyone's morale at a high, particularly after test results were received.

The cse included trainees from 7 FD REGT, A FD BTY, and 23 FD REGT with instructional Staff coming from 7 FD REGT and A FD BTY.

Everyone successfully achieved all competencies for the cse and are now qualified Advanced Gunners.

This cse is designed to qualify senior Detachment Members as No 3, (LBDR for trade), of a Gun Detachment. It is the first promotion cse that Gunners attend and is crucial for soldier development. The course covers subjects like Supervise bring the gun into and out of action, Advanced ammunition handling, Supervise Maintenance, and Basic Equipment Principles. The main thing we need to understand is that at completion of the cse, a soldier is qualified (for trade) to be promoted to LBDR and is able to step up to the role of No 7 when required to do so. **IT DOES NOT QUALIFY THE SOLDIER AS A NO 7!** To be a No 7, a soldier must successfully complete the Detachment Commanders Course and be a BDR. Illustrated below is the Career Progression Flow-chart for a Gunner to progress to BDR in the Gun Number Trade.



# How to Launch a PWC



1. Load your PWC in the back of the SUV, and drive to the nearest launch ramp. Open the back doors of the SUV and back into the water. The PWC should float out into the water.



2. Once the PWC is afloat and the SUV is half filled with water, drive the SUV back onto the ramp. It helps to have someone stand on the walkway and point toward shore.



3. If at any point the SUV starts to disappear from view, you may be fairly certain that the operation is not going as planned. However, this is a viable alternative to crowded parking conditions at most ramps.



4. With your craft safely launched and engine revved, you're now ready for a great day on the lake.



How many times have we just thought...."If I just close my eyes the bitch will go away"

# WHEN I WAS.....

When I was a kid adults used to bore me to tears with their tedious diatribes about how hard things were when they were growing up; what with walking twenty-five miles to school every morning uphill both ways through year 'round blizzards carrying their younger siblings on their backs to their one-room schoolhouse where they maintained a straight-A average despite their full-time after-school job at the local textile mill where they worked for 35 cents an hour just to help keep their family from starving to death! And I remember promising myself that when I grew up there was no way in hell I was going to lay a bunch of crap like that >>on kids about how hard I had it and how easy they've got it! But....

Now that I've reached the ripe old age of thirty, I can't help but look around and notice the youth of today. You've got it so f\*#@n' easy! I mean, compared to my childhood, you live in a Utopia! And I hate to say it but you kids today you don't know how good you've got it! I mean, when I was a kid we didn't have The Internet--we wanted to know something, we had to go to the library and look it up ourselves! And there was no email! We had to actually write somebody a letter--with a pen!--and then you had to walk all the way across the street and put it in the mailbox and it would take like a week to get there! And there were no MP3s or Napsters! You wanted to steal music, you had to go to the record store and shoplift it yourself! Or we had to wait around all day to tape it off the radio and the DJ would usually talk over some part of it and f\*\$@ it all up!

You want to hear about hardship? You couldn't just download porn! You had to bribe some homeless dude to buy you a copy of "Hustler" at the 7-11! It was either that or j\$@\$-off to the lingerie section of the JC Penney catalog!

Those were your options!

We didn't have fancy s#\*t like Call Waiting! If you were on the phone and somebody else called they got a busy signal! And we didn't have fancy Caller ID Boxes either! When the phone rang, you had no idea who it was it could be your boss, your mom, a collections agent, your drug dealer, you didn't know!!! You just had to pick it up and take your chances, mister! And we didn't have any fancy Sony Playstation videogames with high-resolution 3-D graphics! We had the Atari 2600! With games like "Space Invaders" and "Asteroids" and the graphics s\$@#ked a\$\$! Your guy was a little square! You had to use your imagination! And there were no multiple levels or screens, it was just one screen forever! And you could never win, the game just kept getting harder and faster until you died! Just like LIFE!

When you went to the movie theatre there was no such thing as stadium seating! All the seats were the same height! A tall guy sat in front of you, you were f\*\$@ed! And sure, we had cable television, but back then that was only like 20 channels and there was no on-screen menu! You had to use a little book called a TV Guide to find out what was on! And there was no Cartoon Network! You could only get cartoons on Saturday morning... D'ya hear what the I'm saying!?! We had to wait ALL WEEK, you spoiled little bastards!

That's exactly what I'm talking about! You kids today have got it too easy. You're spoiled, I swear to God! You guys wouldn't last five minutes back in 1984!

Some Crusty old dude with a chip on his shoulder.

# FEBRUARY COURSES PERIOD

During the period 8 -23 Feb 2003, 23 FD REGT conducted a combined Mod 1&2 Gun Cse and a Mod 3 Gun Cse. 7 Fd Regt controlled the Mod 1& 2 cse for the period.

The cse was organised into a Rifle Platoon consisting of 2 Sections and a notional third section. 1 Sect consisted of 113 FD BTY Pers and 2 Sect was made up of 113 FD BTY, 28 FD BTY and 23 FD REGT soldiers. As you can imagine, there was a lot of rivalry between the 2 sections.

Throughout all activities on the cse, much enjoyment was had by all. Highlights of the mod 1 phase were the Gas Training and the Field Exercise.

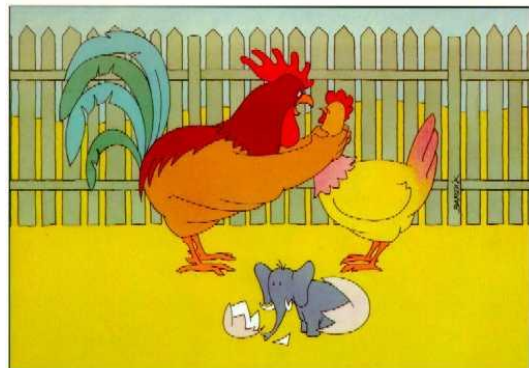
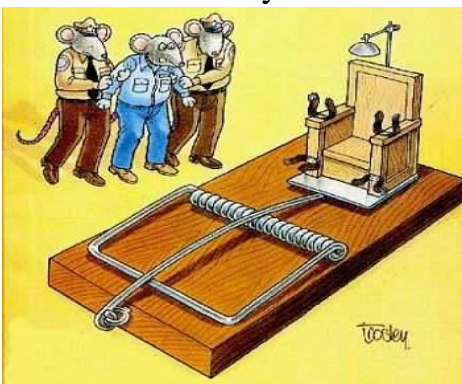
During the Gas training, a couple of soldiers decided it was OK to attempt to leave the Mask Testing Facility before the instructor told them to do so; consequently much merriment was had at their expense by the rest of the cse when they were put through the ordeal again.

The sight of Australia's finest desperately trying to escape the facility with arms wide open, (isn't that a Creed song? ED), and crying like babies was definitely entertaining for participants and instructional staff alike. On a positive note, I believe all sinuses were effectively cleared of any obstructions.

During the Field Exercise, the Platoon occupied a Defensive Location. Ah the sound of entrenching tools on rock; there is nothing like it. As the position was sited on bedrock, a lot of 'tinking' was heard throughout the day and night, between contacts obviously. The subdued cries of pain whilst erecting Barbed Wire Obstacles, and the sound of slipping and sliding soldiers as they made their way down to the environmentally friendly and out of exercise port-a-loos. Fun, Fun and still more Fun, (note the capital F. Ed). Still, it wasn't all beer and skittles out in the weeds. Each section was despatched out to patrol our AO and make the bad men go away. Armed to the teeth with over 1000 rds of link and 150rds per Steyr, off the soldiers went to defend the honour and integrity of the Australian Citizen.

With regard to our scurvy dog foes, the most notable thing that happened to them was the geographical embarrassment of one of theirs. He had to mve alone for approx' 100m to probe our defences and was lost. He was found the next am 3.7 Km from the position. How he got to where he was, only Ripley knows.

Fun was had by all and the Regiment graduated a further 10 fully qualified Gunners.





# DADDY'S TEN RULES OF DATING

## Rule One:

If you pull into my driveway and honk you'd better be delivering a package, because you're sure as hell not picking anything up.

## Rule Two:

You do not touch my daughter in front of me. You may glance at her, so long as you do not peer at anything below her chin. If you cannot keep your eyes or hands off of my daughter's body, I will remove them.

## Rule Three:

I am aware that it is considered fashionable for boys of your age to wear their trousers so loosely that they appear to be falling off their hips. Please don't take this as an insult, but you and all of your friends are complete idiots. Still, I want to be fair and open minded about this issue, so I propose this compromise: You may come to the door with your underwear showing and your pants ten sizes too big, and I will not object. However, in order to ensure that your clothes do not, in fact, come off during the course of your date with my daughter, I will take my electric nail gun and fasten your trousers securely in place to your waist.

## Rule Four:

I'm sure you've been told that in today's world, sex without utilizing a "Barrier Method" of some kind can kill you. Let me elaborate, when it comes to sex, I am The Barrier, and I will kill you.

## Rule Five:

It is usually understood that in order for us to get to know each other, we should talk about sports, politics, and other issues of the day. Please do not do this. The only information I require from you is an indication of when you expect to have my daughter safely back at my house, and the only word I need from you on this subject is: EARLY.

## Rule Six:

I have no doubt you are a popular fellow, with many opportunities to date other girls. This is fine with me as long as it is okay with my daughter. Otherwise, once you have gone out with my little girl, you will continue to date no one but her until she is finished with you. If you make her cry, I will make you cry.

## Rule Seven:

As you stand in my front hallway, waiting for my daughter to appear, and more than an hour goes by, do not sigh and fidget. If you want to be on time for the movie, you should not be dating. My daughter is putting on her makeup, a process than can take longer than painting the Harbour Bridge. Instead of just standing there, why don't you do something useful, like changing the oil in my car?



### Rule Eight:

The following places are not appropriate for a date with my daughter:

- Places where there are beds, sofas, or anything softer than a wooden stool.
- Places where there is darkness.
- Places where there is dancing, holding hands, or happiness.
- Places where the ambient temperature is warm enough to incite my daughter to wear shorts, tank tops, midriff T-shirts, or anything other than overalls, a sweater, and a goose down parka -- zipped up to her throat.

Movies with a strong romantic or sexual theme are to be avoided, but movies which feature chain saws are okay. Hockey games are okay. Old folks homes are better.

### Rule Nine:

Do not lie to me. I may appear to be a potbellied, balding, middle-aged, dimwitted has-been. But on issues relating to my daughter, I am the all-knowing, merciless God of your universe. If I ask you where you are going and with whom, you have one chance to tell me the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I have a shotgun, a shovel, and five acres behind the house. Do not trifle with me.

### Rule Ten:

Be afraid. Be very afraid. It takes very little for me to mistake the sound of your car in the driveway for a chopper coming in over a rice paddy near Hanoi. When my Agent Orange starts acting up, the voices in my head frequently tell me to clean the guns as I wait for you to bring my daughter home. As soon as you pull into the driveways you should exit the car with both hands in plain sight. Speak the perimeter password, announce in a clear voice that you have brought my daughter home safely and early, then return to your car -- there is no need for you to come inside. The camouflaged face at the window is mine.



## **7 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

On 15 March 2003 the Regiment celebrated its 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday by conducting a unit formal dinner. The dinner was well attended by All Ranks from the Regiment and members from the 7 Field Regiment Association and the Royal Australian Artillery, (Newcastle Branch), Association.

The Dinner was attended by the following Official Guests, Major General R.P. Irving, AM, RFD, Commander 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, Colonel Goltz, Commander Land Command Artillery and Warrant Officer Class One Darren Callaghan, Master Gunner Land Command Artillery.

The evening, as expected, was a great success and is likely to become a annual event for past and present Gunners of 7 Field Regiment.

### **REGIMENTAL HISTORY**

#### **General History**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment originates from the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, which was formed at “The Warren”, Marrickville, on 17 March 1916 and was then part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, AIF.

#### **World War 1**

On 11 July 1916, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade arrived in Portsmouth, England, aboard HMAS Argyllshire. After training at Larkhill, the Brigade was shipped to France, disembarking at Le Havre on 31 December 1916.

The first operational action was on 17 January 1917 at Armentieres and the unit subsequently took part in the battles of Menin Road, Broodseinde, Paschendaele, Morlancourt, Mont St Quentin and the Hindenburg Line.

On 18 August 1919, the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade was removed from the line of battle after suffering a total of 710 casualties. Members of the Brigade were awarded 128 decorations and awards.

#### **Between the Wars**

Between the wars some changes occurred. In 1921 the unit was re-raised as VII Australian Field Artillery Brigade, part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, at Mount Street, North Sydney. In 1929 the unit moved to Warrane Road, Willoughby.

#### **World War 2**

The unit was not deployed overseas during World War 2. However, it continued training and was used to defend beaches at Narrabeen, Manly, Coogee and Wollongong. Many individual members joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF in the first 12 months of hostilities, others joined after recruiting campaigns in 1940 and 1941. From July 1941 until October 1943 the unit, with a strength of 600 men,

operated in Western Australia as the 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Regiment (AIF) being part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Corps. The Regiment was disbanded in November 1943 at Wallgrove.

## Recent History

When the re-raising of the Citizens Military Force in 1948, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment was reformed at Willoughby. Although the unit title has not changed since 1948, the designations of the sub-units has fluctuated. Currently the Regiment consists of:

- \* Combat Service Support Battery – Pymble
- \* 28 Field Battery – Dee Why
- \* 113 Field Battery – Adamstown and Erina

7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery is currently under command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division.

## Is Dilbert in the Army as well?

### DILBERT



### BY SCOTT ADAMS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Of immediate interest to the Regiment is the JNCO Weekend 12-13 Apr 03. All Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers are to attend and the weekend promises to be of great benefit to all. The training has an ANZAC Day flavour and this leads up to the next activity which is ANZAC Day.

For the day, the Regiment will congregate at Dee-Why Depot on the evening of 24 Apr 03 and celebrate the day with a Regimental Dawn Service, a Gunfire Breakfast and other activities. You are all reminded that you are NOT to go into town and consume alcohol whilst in uniform. No exceptions.

Following ANZAC Day, we have the first leg of the Regimental Shooting Competition on the weekend of 3-4 May. This will be conducted at Holsworthy and will qualify people up to LF 9 on their personal weapon. Competition rules will be announced on the day, but basically the Bty with the smallest average group size and the highest combined points score will do alright. The competition continues throughout the year and culminates in the Field Firing Activity in November.

Be aware also that the dates for CROC 03 are a fluid thing. They are subject to change with minimal notice. Latest dates are 23 Aug - 06 Sep 03. Be flexible.

Thus ends the first issue for the year. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed the compilation!!!! Until next time,  
Au revoir, Auf Weidersen and Good-Bye.

