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THE 12th FIELD REGIMENT (VIETNAM) ASSOCIATION

Gentlemen of the 12th Field Regiment of Artillery and supporting units, Vietnam 1968/69 and 1970

To the many who don't know me my name is Rob Costello and I am the inaugural president of the above association. The idea to form an association was bought about at a very successful reunion 12th Field Regiment first tour held in Newcastle in February this year. This idea was voted upon and got almost total support by all those present. A representative of each Battery on that tour was called on to be the committee to set this project up. We have on our committee a representative for each Battery and support unit who were with us on the first tour. And this includes the Kiwis. We welcome them with open arms, and know that their inclusion will be great for the continued Trans Tasman goodwill and fellowship that has been shared between our two countries in war and peace since the ANZACS. We do however require representatives from all units in the second tour to put their hands up to assist us in any small way they can. I can assure you that the work load will not be heavy, however that may change once the first goal is passed, but we do have to get mailing lists of these units so as many people as possible are informed of this exciting endeavour.

The objects of our association are outlined on page 1 of the rules (see attached) our rules are modified marginally to those of The Royal Australian Artillery Association. At this point of time I would like to state that the help given to us from the R.A.A.A. has been outstanding and has made it very easy to get where we are now, in what we hope will be an association to be very proud of and I think it will be at the very forefront of any present incorporated Regimental Associations if any, or any that may follow. The President of the R.A.A.A. Colonel Don Tait has been more than helpful right from our first approach to him and we thank him and his committee sincerely.

As outlined in our objects (5) to provide social gatherings of members and families of our Association is one of our primary aims. Now this is not to interfere with any individual unit reunion that any of the many units may have. You all know that in 2008 the first tour will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the tour. And in the year 2010 it will be the second tours turn. We plan to hold gatherings for both tours of the Regiment. As I mentioned earlier we do need volunteers' from the second tour to take up the baton after the first reunion as it will be your turn to organize the second one, however if we can't get any volunteers the present committee will do it.

We have a bank balance at this stage of time of \$2900.00 which will be depleted somewhat after our initial mail out, all of which was raised at our last reunion of the first tour. And we started of with nothing. All of this funding is being transferred to the new association. So as you can see we are

being totally selfless in this regard and all we want is gatherings of like minded people to reflect on the camaraderie that we experienced all those years ago. Our books will be under scrutiny of the R.A.A.A. and our committee agrees that they should be, and welcomed the request. Gentlemen this organization will be entitled to a minimum \$3000.00 grant from the government in 2008 as part of their Saluting their service campaign it will also be the same in 2010 should it remain the status quo as both tours are celebrating a significant 40th anniversary.

The way I see it, we can do this together and cut down a lot of work for either group, who after this, should be known as one, if our efforts are successful or do it the hard way and go it alone. Like it or not, our individual ranks are slowly dwindling with some of our members passing away at an early age. Let's get on with it and get us all together as we should be.

In the Vice presidents report which follows, you will find an application form to join our association. I do ask that you fill all the relevant details in and send it back to our P.O. Box in Gosford a.s.a.p.

The first yearly sub is \$20.00 and this includes a badge. There after it is \$10.00 per year. We would anticipate that a large part of the sub will go to the upcoming reunions. We also have to pay our contribution to the R.A.A.A for insurance coverage which is a good thing should anything untoward should happen at any function held by us. Should you not respond to this letter no more will be sent as the cost of postage is too high. You are most welcome to join our association at any time. But to be fair to any member who joins now we must start your membership between now and 2007. Thus every one involved will be paying the same amount for the same benefits. Remember it is you that can make this work or fail and to see it fall over after the hard yards have been put in would be tragic. Should you not wish to join the Association you are still most welcome to attend our reunions, however your entrance costs would be dearer due to the member's fees helping cover such events and also the insurance equation comes into it as well.

Further communication will be way of one more mail out this year and three next year as we approach the 40th anniversary of the first tour. In the next communication we will have an after action report of the last reunion and warning notice for the big one in February 2008.

I do hope you can join us and I can assure you that you won't be sorry. In closing I do want to make it quite clear that we are here for **ALL UNITS OF THE REGIMENT AND SUPPORTING GROUPS** and there will be neither fear nor favor bestowed on any particular unit. We have our unit pride and that should be kept at your own individual unit reunions. We do require A.S.A.P. names, addresses and email addresses for the following on the second tour. A Battery and HQ Battery. We do have a reasonable listing on 104Battery. We have two females as committee people with this association who are doing a wonderful job in its inaugural year and we do hope that we can get some of the members of the Regiment to put their hand up in coming years. Thank you so much ladies, we would not have been able to do it without you. I would also point out that widows and families of deceased Veterans are most welcome to be members of the Association and do encourage you to do so.

Kind Regards to all, Rob Costello,


President