



12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association
(A Branch of the NSW RAA Association)

**12 Field Regiment
(Vietnam) Association**

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**AGM and EGM Agenda
1500H, March 13 at
Bankstown Sport &
Recreation Club**

Nomination Forms

Proxy Forms (AGM only)

**Don't forget to
renew your
MEMBERSHIP**

**\$10.00 Annual
\$100.00 Perpetual**

President's Letter

Gentlemen and Ladies

I hope this letter finds you well.

EGM, Bankstown, 13 March

The Association is moving in to a new era in terms of its long term future. We are looking forward to the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association on 13 March to consider a change of name of the Association to anticipate the emergence of the next generation of 12 Field Regiment, namely its convergence with the 8/12 Medium Regiment, RAA.

As my Treasurer, John Beer, reminds me from time to time, the 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association cannot survive past 2018 unless we have in place an organizational structure which ensures a viable future for the organization.

The Committee has agreed that we look to 8/12 Medium Regiment as our successors and that the organisational and financial structure that we have constructed be passed in due course from the post-war baby boomers to "Generation X and Y".

To this end, your Committee has developed an unconventional but legitimate strategy which permits the widest possible participation of Full Financial Members to vote on the motion that we rename the Association the **8/12 and 12 Field Regiment Association**.

This means that current and ex-members of 8/12 Medium

Regiment who are members of the newly-named Association will ultimately assume responsibility for the continuation of the Association after you and I are no longer here.

The Committee has determined that the EGM held at Bankstown Sport & Recreation Club on 13 March will table the motion (See EGM Agenda papers attached).

After the votes have been tabulated, the meeting will be adjourned to two other meetings, namely the 102 Battery reunion in Sydney and the 104 Battery reunion in Darwin on or about ANZAC Day, 2010. At both of these meetings, Full Financial members of the Association will be eligible to vote on the motion. At the end of these meetings, the consolidated vote will determine the wishes of the Members of the Association. The results of the consolidated vote will be reported to you in the Autumn Newsletter.

The current membership should be aware that the election of subsequent Committee Members will be drawn from the existing Full Financial Membership, be they 12 Field or 8/12 Members.

The onus is upon us as Old Guard to ensure that there exists a viable number of active 8/12 Members to manage the Association into the next decade.

AGM, Bankstown, 13 March

Moving on to other matters, after the EGM at Bankstown the AGM at which the Committee will report on the financial

Summer 2010

affairs of the Association over the 2009FY and vote for a new Committee for 2010 FY.

There are Nomination Forms attached so that you can nominate suitably qualified people to steer the Association through a critical 2010. Please note that you must have consent from individuals who accept your nomination.

Further, at the AGM only, you can nominate another member to cast a vote for you, a Full Financial Member, in the election of the Committee and any other resolutions put to the meeting. Again, a Proxy Form is attached to the Newsletter so that, if you are not able to attend, you can have your vote recorded.

Quora

Before I move away from the AGM/EGM issues, I must point out that we require a quorum of 17 to conduct an EGM. I ask that as many Sydney-centric Full Members attend as possible to permit this critical motion to proceed. Can I ask each of the Sydney members to encourage local members to attend the EGM and AGM.

VALE

We acknowledge the passing of three more Gunners who have died since our last Newsletter. From other sources, we are advised of the passing of Lt Isaacs, HQ Bty, 4 & 12 Field Regt and Gnr I Lewis, 12 & 1 Fd Regt.

Regards

John Sullivan
President

Where are they now????



Front Row L to R:

Kelvin Geddes (DLB), Jack Arnold (sig), Unknown, Ian Ryan (surveyor), Brian Magill (sig), unknown, Dick Smith (sig), Bob Pell (sig), Ian Aubrey (surveyor).

Bottom Row L to R:

Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Peter Storey (surveyor), Unknown, Unknown, Henry Richmond (surveyor), Ian Scott (sig.).

LOST GUNNERS

Terry Lee's (HQ Bty) ACB has been Returned To Sender by Australia Post.

Terry lived at Mossvale near Bowral. Anyone knowing his current whereabouts, please contact the Secretary on 0407 672849.

Where is one David Gratwick from WA who served in 12 Fd Regt in Vietnam in 1969/70 on his second tour, his first being with 1 Fd Regt in 1966/67. Pls contact Secretary as above.

This unlikely group of Ninth Intake gunners posing in front of an L5 in the Gun Park at North Head sometime in August 1967 are unrecognizable today, except for some characters who seem never to change.

The first week at S of A was a gun course. Perhaps fortunately for the grunts at the other end of the barrel, most of these young men did not have such a close relationship with the guns in Vietnam, ending up, in most cases, as battery surveyors or sigs.

A significant number hit the ground in SVN in early '68 as reinforcements for 4 Field Regiment and stayed on to be reunited with their Ninth Intake mates in 12 Field Regiment until they were sent home in late '68.

It was perhaps fortunate that there was very little if not any firing of the Italian pack howitzer (at Holsworthy) because the L5s had a bad reputation for falling apart at Charge 7 or when drawn along rough roads at any speed.

There were also occasions where L5s blew up when the DoD was testing Australian-made rounds, the original ammunition not being readily available and not interchangeable with US 105mm projectiles.

Fortunately, by 1968, L5s had been withdrawn from RAA use in SVN and the M2A2 became the Australian Army field gun of choice.

If you know any of these handsome young men, would you please contact the Secretary on 0407 672849, 02 9975 5537 or P O Box 312, Belrose 2085.

Emails to jallen@datamasteranz.com

AGM/EGM

Bankstown Sport & Recreation Club

Saturday 13 March at 1500H

8/12 Medium Regiment in Afghanistan

NEW MEMBERS

Jim Callaghan
16 Lodge Street,
Koorda WA 6475
jimboveteran@yahoo.com
HQ Bty '68

Geoffrey Mauger
Unit 43, 241 Horizon
Drive
Westlake Qld 4074
gmauger@bigpond.com
HQ Bty

WELCOME



Since March 2008, Gunners from the 8/12 Medium Regiment have conducted continuous rotations of service in Helmand Province, Afghanistan under the auspices of Operation Herrick. Their role is to man L118 Light Guns in support of British and Danish infantry

It is not all hard work on the Afghan gun position, Princess Mary of Denmark was a recent visitor and the current serving lads are looking forward to being home by Easter.



Forward Operating Base (FOB) Armadillo is home to the gun troop of which 15 Australians are members. The FOB also houses a company of Danish mechanised infantry, a Leopard II platoon, UAV, mortar radar in addition to all other accoutrements to modern warfare.

The significant number coalition armies present within Helmand gives Australian gunners the opportunity to utilize cutting edge fire support tools to hit hard, and be harder to

hit.

An example is the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS), a precision rocket with a range of 70KM whilst maintaining accuracy of 7.5 meters regardless of range.

Conditions are spartan.

Soldiers live by their guns, and food and water is scarce due to the requirement of all critical stores and ammunition being trucked into the region from seaports in Pakistan crossing the perilous Khyber Pass.

Australian gunners march out of their basic course having been trained on the L119. When posted to 8/12 they complete a conversion course on M198's.

Personnel deployed on OP Herrick do another conversion to the L118, with a digital sighting system.

Proposed trip to Visit US Unit Associations

S/Sgt Raymond Leslie CAFÉ (2nd tour 12 Field Regiment 1971) died at Ipswich Qld on the 18th November 2009 and is survived by his wife Pam, five children, 18 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Any contact with the family can be made through Carolyn Dartnell (daughter) at sckathome@optusnet.com.au

Bdr Peter Riley passed away on Friday, 5 February after a long battle with cancer. Peter's Funeral was held at the East Maitland Catholic Church. Peters funeral was attended by two ex 102 Battery members.

Peter will be remembered for his outstanding actions at F.S.B.Coral in supplying the guns with ammunition in a Land Rover with lights blazing.

RIP

Request to Members

It is Association policy to send a wreath to the funerals of our departed mates when we receive early notice of funeral arrangements.

Please keep this in mind so that the Association can send a wreath and our condolences to the family.

Contact any Committee Member or the Secretary.

The Producer of the Battle of Fire Support Base CORAL, Leonie Jones, is looking at the feasibility of a tour to visit the United States in late 2011 or 2012 (or both!).

The tour would comprise ex-members of 1ATF units which served in Vietnam to meet ex-members of those US units who supported or were supported by Australian forces.

The idea for the tour arose from the initial contacts to promote sales of the CORAL DVD. Early indications are that US ground and air units are keen for the Aussies to "buy them a beer".

There is also the possibility of extending the CORAL DVD to include interviews and film archive for specialist cable channels in the USA such as the Military Channel and the History Channel .

While Leonie is expected to work furiously on the expansion of the CORAL DVD content, the rest of us

will be busy enjoying the sights in LA, San Francisco, New York and Washington, as well as the US School of Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Visits to Arlington, the Vietnam Wall, Broadway, the Smithsonian, Fisherman's Wharf etc are a few of the opportunities to be considered, although, if you have other suggestions, please let us know.

Contact has already been made with US artillery and aviation units which have expressed interest in meeting

It is expected that the tour(s) will be scheduled over twelve days in mid-Autumn (Northern Hemisphere) and would cost approximately AU\$8 -9,000 pp.

If you are interested in more information on this proposed tour, please advise the Secretary on your preferred departure dates and any other venues you would like to visit.

02-9975 5537

0407 672849

jallen@datamasteranz.com

P O Box 312, BELROSE NSW 2085

Vale Graham Reid

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Graham Reid, a member of Don Tait's FO Party with B Coy 1 RAR in Vietnam in 1968.

Graham was an Eighth Intake National Serviceman posted to 102 Battery and HQ Battery, 12 Field Regiment in 1968.

Graham returned to Australia and was posted to 108 Battery 4 Field Regiment (Townsville) pending discharge.

Graham's funeral service was held at All Saints Anglican Church at Arana Hills (Brisbane) on Monday, 14 January, with a wake hosted by Judy and her extended family at her Cashmere home.

The service and wake was extremely well-attended and over forty ex-servicemen and ex-service organization representatives attended.

12 Field Regt (Vietnam) Association was represented by 12 members.

