

unit jottings

106 Field Workshop

On 28 May 2009, the 106 Field Workshop deployed on three back to back exercises; EX BATTALION READY, EX DIAMOND DOLLAR and EX TALISMAN SABRE. From the onset ANTEATER SNOUT was deemed to be our notional mascot for our time away. Whilst the lead up and preparation to the exercise period was at times hectic, MR Matt Burke was determined to make sure that the lovable 'Green Skin' storeman got out of his hair for a few weeks even if this meant helping to tie down loads on the RPS truck within minutes of knock off.



EX BATTALION READY was essentially a lead up to EX DIAMOND DOLLAR with majority of the time spent preparing the Battalion defensive position. The GE boys built the TCP to such a high standard, that other defensive positions within the Battalion had to be modified to replicate it. The lads on the floor performed 13 bushmaster services refining their power pack lifting skills to a fine art.

Life was pretty good when GE/EES established three re-deployable showers with an ingenious hot water system which was greatly appreciated by all elements in the field. One morning the two 60 KVA generators had a domestic which brought us to the front of the 2009 heater scandal. After an intense and thorough search the spanners worked out that the Battalion had to dedicate two entire 16 KVA generators just to power the heaters in the field.

Some highs and lows during our time away included CFN Mitchell



Lund being one of a few from the workshop to actually fire a blank round during the exercises. It was obvious that word got around about the workshops 'Man traps' and 'Snatch teams' prepositioned which seemed to keep any likely enemy contacts to a minimum. The overall winner for all round most accident prone person for the entire exercise period was CFN Shaun Martin. CFN Rob Thomas provided much morale, by performing various break-dance moves with his favourite being the dead fish and CFN Leon Westra's memorable un-RAEME like behaviour, forgetting his brew mug for all field trips.

Another highlight was when LCPL Steve Smart and LCPL Chris Eslick were both fortunate enough to have birthdays in the field. These were celebrated in 'true RAEME style' although you might need to ask those involved for the story. It was an event that was etched into our psyche, scarring many on lookers.



106 Field Workshop maintained a great level of morale and proved to the Brigade that they had the capabilities to provide necessary support to the Battalion. The workshops have come a long way in a short period and learnt many valuable lessons for future deployments.

Arte El Marte.