

LOCREP

*The Newsletter of the Locating Surveillance & Target Acquisition
Assn Inc.*

December 2017 Volume 63



Christmas Edition, 2017



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

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Email: info@locatingartillery.org

Branch Presidents:

Hunter Valley:	"Wheels" Campbell
Northern NSW:	Dave Auld
South East QLD:	Terry Erbs
131 Locators:	Bob Billiards

Sun 11 Mar 2018: at Paddington RSL.

Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL

All meetings commence at 1115 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

How quickly time flies when you're having fun!

Preliminary talks have been held with Det 131 Assn re a possible merger with LSTAA. The proposal was well received by both sides and further discussions will be held in the New Year.

With no further reunions scheduled in Coffs, the Coffs Harbour Branch went into sleep mode and transferred their funds to the South East Queensland Branch to be used for the Oct 2018 reunion to be held in conjunction with the Regimental Open Day at Enoggera.

The proposed movement of the Association HQ to SEQ Branch is on track and continues to move forward.

I hope you enjoy this Christmas edition.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a joyous new year.

Drive safe!!

Ubique

Joe Kaplun OAM, CMC, JP
President



20th STA Regt Birthday Dining In Night

Concurrent with Birthday Celebrations for 20th STA Regiment, a formal dining in night was held at the Officers Mess, Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera Qld on Friday 13th October last.

Invited guests included Immediate Past President LSTAA Inc. MAJ Allan Harrison RFD (representing Association President MAJ Joe Kaplun OAM, CMC), Terry Erbs (President SEQ Branch LSTAA Inc.), and SEQ Branch Committee Members Keith Ayliffe BEM (Mil), BA, and Ian Board.

A good night was had by all, including the usual irreverent and very humorous harassing of numerous officers found "guilty" of all manner of crimes.



Second in Command 20th STA Regt MAJ Geoff Meekan pictured with his restricted ration allocation (a Hershey Bar)



Combat Support Services Battery Commander MAJ Wendy Wheadon pictured with Immediate Past Association President MAJ Allan Harrison RFD (Ret)



L to R COL Bede Galvin (Immediate past CO), LTCOL Rod Lang (incoming CO), LTCOL Phil Swinsburg (Ret), inaugural CO and Patron LSTAA Inc., MAJ Alexandra McDonald (incoming Commander 131 STA Bty), LTCOL Peter Grant, (current CO), Keith Ayliffe BEM, BA (Committee Member, LSTAA Inc. SEQ Branch) MAJ Allan Harrison RFD (Ret) (Immediate Past President, LSTAA Inc.), Terry Erbs (President SEQ Branch, LSTAA Inc.)

Unidentified Bank Deposit

On 4 July 2017 an unidentified deposit of \$20.00 was made to the Association Bank account. It was presumably made over the counter at a Westpac Branch.

It is not possible to identify the depositor in over the counter transactions so the Secretary does not know what it is for. We presume it is either a joining fee and a year's subscription or simply 2 years' subscription but belonging to ????

If it is yours, please let the Secretary know at robmor47@ozemail.com.au or by phone at 02 4861 6463.

A message for everyone, PLEASE identify yourself by phone or email to the Secretary if using direct deposit on line, or if paying over the counter,

Keith Ayliffe BEM (Mil) BA

Association Historian and Committee Member of the SEQ Branch of LSTAA Inc., Keith Ayliffe has added a further Post Nominal (BA) to his name having completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Deakin University.

Keith began his studies as a mature age student in 2014 and is pictured below receiving his degree at the Graduation Ceremony in Canberra recently.

He has contributed materially to the work of the Association over the years and continues to serve on the National Committee as Historian as well as being a Committee Member of the SEQ Branch.

We congratulate Keith on his latest achievement.



2018 LSTAA Re-union

As discussed and decided at the meeting of SE Qld Branch, LSTAA Inc. on 13th October last, the 2018 Locators' Reunion will be held in Brisbane over the weekend, 12/13th/14th Oct 2018.

Tentative Program:

Friday 12th Oct:

9am - visit & tour of 20th STA Regiment Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. [Arrangements for visitor's vehicle access to be organised by the Regiment]

Noon – Barbeque lunch at James Menz Club 20th STA Regiment.(cost TBA)

Saturday 13th Oct:

Free time to tour Brisbane and environs
Locators' Reunion Dinner - Kedron Wavell RSL [drinks 6pm dinner 7pm, cost TBA]

Dress - Gents jacket & tie with miniatures, Ladies after 5

Sunday 14th Oct:

Noon – farewell drinks/lunch (to be confirmed)

Merchandise

Full details of available merchandise is on our website www.locatingartillery.org

To order, enquire re prices, mailing costs etc., please contact Joe Kaplun:

Mobile 0407 741 473

Home 02 9774 1473

Email joekaplun@optusnet.com.au

6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213

Directions for our Website

Please send your stories and photos to Allan Harrison at allan@harrisonsolution.com.au

The website address is www.locatingartillery.org and Allan would be pleased to get your feedback on how the website is shaping up, at his email address above.

If sending group photos **PLEASE** include the names of people in the group.

Sydney 2017 Christmas Gathering and Re-union

The Reunion was held as scheduled - immediately after the Committee Meeting at Panania Diggers on Sunday 3rd Dec. A beautiful and sunny Panania day!!

About 20 Sydney members attended with about 10 apologies. The club, as usual, laid out a sumptuous feast of assorted hot and cold finger food.

A convivial time was had by all. Unfortunately, everyone was too busy chatting, no photos were taken.



Closure of NSW Branch Re-union Committee

After more than 20 years of re-union organising, the LSTAA Inc. Northern NSW Branch Re-union Organising Committee held its final meeting at Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club (CEx) on 11th October last. Given that future re-unions will take place in South-East Queensland, it was felt that the re-union committee should fold, leaving the Branch operational.



Back Row L to R Jim Hognno, Lois Doyle (Sec/Treas), David Doyle OAM, Jane Gow, Rosemary Auld, Geoff Carthew

Front Row L to R Allan Harrison RFD, David Auld (President), Shorty Gow

The Committee had accumulated surplus funds over the years and the Committee decided to hand over the bulk of those funds to the SEQ Branch to defray the cost of running the 2018 re-union.

In addition, donations were made to Coffs Coast Legacy, each of the three Cadet Units in Coffs Harbour, (27 AACU, 331 Sqn AAFCU and Training Ship Vendetta, all of which have contributed to past re-unions by providing Catafalque Parties) and the Coffs Harbour Men's Shed (builders of the LAA Inc. Banner display case)



President, NSW Branch LSTAA Inc. David Auld presenting the cheque to SGT Cliff Smith, 27 AACU.



Immediate Past President, LSTAA Inc. Allan Harrison RFD presenting the cheque to LEUT Ivor McMahon, CO, Training Ship Vendetta, at the final 2017 Unit Parade. The ship was dressed for the occasion



331 Sqn award-winning Cadets on Parade

Restoration of AN/KPQ-1 Radar A12
The Final Chapter



TS Vendetta Cadets on parade

David Doyle OAM presented the cheque to the CO, 331 Squadron AAFCU, FLT LT Deborah Hoiles.



20th STA Regiment's Soldier of the Year 2017

Report by Terry Erbs,

President, SEQ Branch, LSTAA Inc.

In front of a large gathering of family and friends the Regiment paraded in their hanger, due to inclement weather, at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera Thursday afternoon. During the parade newly promoted members had new rank badges put on uniforms by proud family. Next, awards and commendations were proudly presented by CO LTCOL Peter Grant to a number of members of the Regiment.

Then I had the pleasure of presenting to the "Soldier of the Year", BDR Greg Armstrong, a signed copy of "Tracks of the Dragon" and a mounted model of the UAV "Shadow 200" of behalf of the LSTAA Inc.



BDR Greg Armstrong, LTCOL Peter Grant and Terry Erbs, President SE Qld Branch, LSTAA Inc.

Reading Greg's long list of achievements, you can appreciate why he's fittingly 20th STA Regiment's "Soldier of the Year".

Greg, promoted to Bombardier in 2016, has achieved the unit distinction of "Soldier of the Year" for the year 2017. In his primary role as a Mission Commander (MC) he produced an exemplary performance as a TUAS MC. He was one of the MCs during Exercise Griffin Guns; pioneering the Laser Target Designation SOP for Australian SH200 TUAS. Greg was integral to months of lead-up dry rehearsals with ARH pilots to refine procedures prior to successfully co-ordinating the sensor-shooter orchestration between the two platforms.

His high performance resulted in selection to lead ongoing training with 1st Aviation Regiment to further hone MUM-T and SOP 901 skill sets. This activity was significant in the growing of the Shadow 200 capability. Greg's performance as MC during Exercise Talisman Saber 2017 showed great flexibility and technical excellence, ensuring safe Shadow 200 flight operations within complex airspace.

As a member of the 20th STA Regiment recruitment team, Greg has mentored and educated over 600 school age children who have visited the Regiment as part of the Defence Work Experience Program. The Program covers Defence Force Recruiting, Women in Defence and Australian and Torres Strait Island initiatives. He was also lead NCO for these programs, interacting directly with the attendees, overseeing the coordination of the visitors as well as ensuring the simulators and Command Post were manned and properly briefed.

The time and effort that Greg expended in support of the recruitment activities within the Regiment enhanced his ability to support external recruitment activities including the Avalon Air-show and Albany Creek Primary School where he continued to influence interested individuals in Army Unmanned Aerial Systems. His ability to impart technical information at multiple levels enhanced the positive engagements during these events to the wider community.

Greg's representational role has been significant, showing a genuine capacity for work that isn't normally required of his rank or position. This was formally noted in numerous performance reports and informally in comments made by senior members of the battery and regiment on many occasions. Greg is an exceptional NCO, a proud member of 20th STA Regiment and who has taken on more responsibility and performed at an excellent standard continuously throughout the past year.



LTCOL Peter Grant, BDR Greg Armstrong, Terry Erbs & RSM WO1 David Nutini