

Hello from hot, muggy, rainy Malaysia!

We are now past the half way month for our tour, and so I thought it pertinent to touch base and let you know how everyone is going. We have survived the heat, leeches, monkeys, jungle, snakes, scorpions and giant centipedes, and have met some fascinating people and had some fantastic experiences!

The first month of the tour was spent at Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth, near Penang in

Northern Malaysia. We worked on our skills on the base before deploying to the jungle on a number of different exercises (Exercise Sik, Kulim and Gurun), where we enhanced our existing field skills and learnt plenty of new ones (turns out routine things are a LOT harder in the jungle). The jungle is a challenging environment to live and fight in, and all of our people stood up to the challenge



with gusto! We have gained new weapon qualifications (84mm, 66mm, GLA, Mag 58) and participated in live fire activities that we wouldn't normally have the opportunity to do (pairs, fire team and section attacks).



One of our platoons deployed on Exercise Bersama Lima, which was a combined exercise including soldiers from Malaysia, Singapore, UK, and New Zealand. This was a two week activity that saw the platoon conduct skills training with the other nations, spend time on a Singaporean ship, and practise non-combatant evacuation operations. The conditions on this exercise were quite confronting for many people,

but the opportunity to train with such a mixed group from other Defence Forces proved to be the highlight.

The company deployed to Pulada Army Base, which is in the very South of Malaysia. We have been staying at Camp Burma, which has been maintained and used by British and Australian soldiers for over 70 years. Here we have continued our weapon qualifications, range shoots and firepower

demonstration, and in true Aussie style we have been playing plenty of sport and working off all of the lovely Malaysian food at PT! We have had some excellent engagement with the Malaysian Army in Pulada, including a very impressive demonstration of urban operations for the Young Officers Combat Course. We are looking forward to some more interaction with the Malaysians; although we have quite different cultures and backgrounds, it's great to see that soldiers are the same across the world!

The company spent just over a week in Singapore where we were able to use some world class training facilities, including a custom built urban facility and an indoor live fire range complex. The program allowed some down-time, and we spent a couple of days exploring Singapore, and a day doing a history tour of some of the key locations from World War II.

We are now back in Pulada, and will be undergoing survival training over the next few days. The Malaysian Survival Training is world-renowned, so I've no doubt we will learn some very handy skills. The last month of the tour will see the company return to Butterworth where we will have a visit from the Commander of 6 Bde for Remembrance Day, and conduct some final adventure and leadership training before getting ready to return home.

It has been so fantastic to see everyone push themselves outside of their comfort zone and try new things. I am so proud to see some of our quieter members jumping in and taking charge, and to see the amazing level of teamwork and mateship amongst all members. Everyone is missing home, but overall I hope they are enjoying the experience of living and training in a foreign country. Unfortunately we have had a couple of our members return home due to medical and family reasons. They are missed here, but we are glad to know they are home safe where they need to be.

On behalf of RCB127, I send all my best back to everyone at home and hope all is going well as the year starts to wrap up. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Warmest regards,

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