



08/12

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

AUG 12

1. 1ST BATTALION

August saw a slight reduction in the pace of life for the battle group as Ramadan continued. We took advantage of the reduced Afghan Tempo to celebrate Minden Day in style. The CO and RSM toured the AO, presenting roses and enjoying activities in each company location. It was especially nice to share the day with C Company from 3 RIFLES (a Minden Regiment) and show them how the day should be celebrated! Operationally the battle group has remained busy, conducting operations on the fringes of Nad e-Ali to protect the Afghans at their most vulnerable, as the impact of fasting during daylight hours in punishing heat takes effect on their ability to deliver security.

The closure of bases and transfer of areas to Afghan responsibility has continued apace, with the ANA occupying a series of new patrol bases along the Nahr e Bughra canal. These patrol bases will allow the ANA to meet the insurgency head on, while leaving the peaceful areas of the Canal Zone to be secured by the AUP.

A (Norfolk) Company had another busy month. Having left Shazad on its closure, they occupied PB Pimon, as our attached Estonian Company departed on block R&R. In addition to securing the Pimon area of operations, they supported other AOs with multiples in the more volatile areas of Nad e-Ali to prevent insurgent incursions. This 'thickening' yielded rewards as the insurgents were unable to take advantage of the reduced ANSF ability to operate and they were unable to mount their planned end of Ramadan offensive.

B (Suffolk) Company continued to build their experience as the first Advisor Team Enabling Company (ATEC) in Afghanistan. The concept has gained a vast amount of traction as this experiment has proven to be highly effective in enabling the Afghans to take the lead in delivering security. The Company has attracted a significant amount of attention and praise and are rapidly becoming the sub-unit of choice for visiting senior officers to show how the concept of transition is delivered on the ground.

C (Essex) Company has continued to hold and develop the area of Kopak. The Company experienced a significant set back as the police chief for the area was sacked and his Afghan Local Policemen (ALP) walked off the job in protest. Fortunately the strong relationships that had been built with the ALP meant that they soon returned without any impact on security in the area.

D (Cambridgeshire) Company continues to provide specialist Fire Support Group and Mortar support, all of which have been kept busy across the AO. The Recce and Sniper Pls remain in high demand and their novel Afghanistan-specific tactics have resulted in some remarkable successes. These have been noted by other battle groups in TFH, who have recognised their Tactics, Training and Procedures as best practise and are now employing them with success against the insurgent.

In Bulford the Rear Operations Group celebrated Minden Day, with GOC 3rd Division

presenting roses. The weather held for the majority of the day and the families enjoyed a variety of activities. Meanwhile the Battalion's families continue to be kept busy. The Welfare Office have delivered a host of activities, including a visit to Moors Valley Park with the CO on his R&R.

To keep up with the Vikings on Op HERRICK 16 please go to the following web sites, featuring regular updates and photos.

www.facebook.com/1RANGLIAN
www.twitter.com/1_Royal_Anglian

2. 2ND BATTALION

Over the end of July and the start of August, the Poachers finally departed their base in Alexander Barracks, Cyprus and flew the 3,000 miles back to their new home at Kendrew Barracks in Cottesmore. This move has been eagerly awaited ever since it was announced in November last year and it is with a sense of delight and pride that we move into a home so central to our recruiting area.

The local community have welcomed us with open arms and the scenery of rural Rutland is a sight that is enjoyed by everyone after the heat and dust of Cyprus. The Battalion has already been graced by the visit of HM Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Laurence Howard OBE JP and further visits anticipated next month.

While there is still final construction work and renovation being carried out around Kendrew Barracks to finalise its change from an RAF base into an Army barracks, every soldier has been allocated their accommodation and every family has moved in to their house. The Battalion was released shortly after their arrival on their very well earned summer leave which lasted for the majority of August.

September will see the Battalion regroup in Kendrew Barracks and begin the last push of training ready for our deployment on exercise in Kenya in November. This period of activity is keenly anticipated as it will be the first large scale training we have done in the UK since July 2010.

3. 3RD BATTALION

Operations:

OLYMPICS

Truly a summer like not other...Op OLYMPICS became all-consuming during the month of August, with members of the Bn deployed to a number of locations throughout both London and the surrounding counties. While the majority of the 70 soldiers spent their time working at the main Olympic Park, Battalion Headquarters (CO, RSM and Adjt) were placed in command of the military contingent for mountain biking at HADLEIGH FARM (HAD). Those troops deployed to London continued to enjoy both the benefits of their central location and also a huge wave of public support. Notable was the exceptionally high esteem in which the military is held and possibly for the first time in many individual's careers they were faced with large crowds of cheering happy civilians! The command group found HAD to be a case study in both the positives and negatives that using civilian contractors to provide security brings. While the ability of G4S to reliably predict who would turn up varied quite substantially from day to day the ability of the organisation to dynamically reconfigure itself was something that the military could learn from. The LOCOG security team quickly decided that the military

provided the best level of security combined with a refreshingly positive attitude, having previously worked with G4S for a number of months. At the high point during the event three Regular Infantry Companies (over 350 soldiers) were deployed, acting in a number of supporting roles to provide the security and assurance that the task demanded. The commitment passed with no incident save some bruised pride, but more to follow in the next issue of Castle magazine.

HERRICK

With the mid point now fading into distant memory the majority of 3 R ANGLIAN soldiers have now had their mid tour leave and are back on the final push. Looking forwards, the 1st Battalion has kindly offered Reservists the opportunity to take part in selected homecoming parades; this should be a fitting final piece to what has been another good example of pan Regimental co-operation and integration of Regular and Reserve forces.

Training:

With the Annual Deployment Exercise (ADX) commencing in mid-September the tempo of training has markedly increased. A fixed ORBAT and some very aggressive force generation has seen the Battalion in position to deploy their largest ever number of troops, in role, to Germany. At the time of writing and despite having over 100 Reservists deployed on other tasks the aspiration of a 2 Company deployment is looking very likely to become a reality. This is all the more impressive when compared to other Reserve units... Companies have now conducted their final MCCPs and individuals have been briefed as to the format and extent of the training. With the first pax departing on the 10th September and the Main Body 15th September it will be a landmark Reservist exercise. Thanks should also be passed to 1 R ANGLIAN who have taken the opportunity to send a formed section of soldiers who have been unable to deploy to HERRICK; another great example of cooperation and integration and, next year, similar activity with the Poachers is already planned.