

OFFICIAL

Dear Fellow Gunners,

It has been excellent to observe that despite the restrictions and friction of COVID-19 all Regiments continue to train and exercise, keeping the RAA at the high standard we have come to expect. Time in the field, tactical deployments and pursuing technical mastery is a no fail for all gunners. I commend all ranks on their dedication and professionalism to our art and science. It should also be noted that across Australia that there are gunners embedded in each of the COVID task force elements, fulfilling a variety of roles in support of state and federal efforts. Whilst thankless and at times frustrating, this task is important and demonstrates the versatility and commitment of the RAA.

I acknowledge that the suspension of the RAA 150th activities resulted in sadness and disappointment within the wider gunner community. However, it would appear that given the number of uncontrolled variables and the recovery trajectories in New South Wales and Victoria, our plans would not have been feasible. The DHOR is coordinating the contingency planning that will see the execution on the high-profile RAA 150th activities in 2022. Have no doubt that our 150th anniversary will be appropriately recognised and celebrated.

We should also unpretentiously celebrate that the RAA is in the midst of the most significant modernisation and upgrade of systems, procedures and structures since its formation. This includes additions and enhancements across all Offensive Support, Air & Missile Defence, and Surveillance and Target Acquisition capabilities. I really must call out the sterling efforts of Colonel Andrew Langford and his Joint Fires – Army Team, who have been persistent and unyielding in stewarding through these modernisation efforts. The next ten years will see the RAA achieve new levels of range, lethality and protection, as well assume a pivotal role in how the Army and ADF operationally deploys, manoeuvres and fights.

Finally, there is no doubt that the ongoing situation with COVID-19 is a particular challenge for our people and their families and the impacts remain largely unpredictable because of the way the changes to restrictions come at very short notice. Keep fighting the good fight, maintain support to each other and our people, and continue to demonstrate the drive and professionalism all gunners are known for. The Regiment is doing good things and this is not going unnoticed.

Ubique

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Head of Regiment

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