



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**  
Head of Regiment  
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

I3417167

**Representative Colonel Commandant**  
**Colonels Commandant**  
**Commanding Officers (Artillery Commanders)**  
**Regimental Sergeant Majors (Artillery Sergeant Majors)**  
**All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery**  
**Associations and affiliated friends of the Regiment**

**SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2012**

*Fellow Gunners,*

2012 has been a highly successful year for the RAA and has seen a continued high tempo with individuals and troops serving Australia overseas on a wide range of operations. Today as we celebrate as gunners, there are those whose tours of duty have concluded and who are looking forward to some well deserved time off at home, whilst the next rotations have deployed or are in the process of deploying. I would like to thank all gunners who have served overseas this year for your continued high levels of readiness and professionalism and wish you all a safe and speedy return to Australia. Our special thanks must go to your families for their enduring and unwavering support.

2013 will see the Regiment continue with the rapid pace of development as Plan Beersheba is implemented. The Air Land concept continues to mature and the Sense-Warn-Locate capability with the Counter Rocket and Mortar system continues to provide excellent capability on operations. We continue to embed the M777 Light Weight Howitzer and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System into the Regiments. The digitised Artillery capability will be further enhanced when the Digital Terminal Control System comes on line in late 2013, allowing a routine digital link from the observer to the gun for the first time in our history. The persistent success of the capability multiplier that is the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in Afghanistan underscores the professionalism of the Regiment in all of its integrated capabilities. As the Regiment masters these fundamental changes it is both an exciting and challenging time for all of us, regardless of rank and we continue to make very good progress towards our technical excellence goals.

2013 will also bring further changes to the Regiment in the Army Reserve. The conversion to the mortar based capability will conclude and be consolidated through the adoption of the new Light Battery sub-unit structures under Plan Beersheba. I must congratulate all members of the Regiment for their professional approach to planning and executing this significant change over several years. I am particularly encouraged by the commitment to formally acknowledge and mark for our history and heritage, with parades and celebrations across the country, the achievements of our retiring Reserve Regimental and Independent Battery organisations.

On 1 January 2013 the new sub-unit structures will be established and affiliated as follows:  
2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Light Battery of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment, 23<sup>rd</sup> Light Battery of 4<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Light Battery, of 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Light Battery, of 10<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Light Battery, of 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Battery, of 11<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Western Australia Regiment. We can all now look forward to a new chapter in the proud Army Reserve RAA history and to forging new relationships with the Batteries and Battalions.

Today is also the official change of appointment of our Representative Colonel Commandant from Major General Tim Ford to Brigadier Gerry Warner. Colonel Commandant Southern Region, Brigadier Neil Graham and Colonel Geoff Laurie, Colonel Commandant Central Region also complete their tenure. Please again accept our thanks for your service to the Regiment over the years and we welcome your continued support less formally in the future. I would like to welcome Brigadier Peter Alkemade who has assumed his appointment as Colonel Commandant Southern Region.

Today, I ask that we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day reflecting proudly on the achievements of 2012 and eagerly anticipating the challenges ahead in 2013. I take this opportunity to congratulate those of you that will assume command and leadership appointments in January 2013 as Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders, Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonels Commandant, I commend and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and former, for their service. Enjoy your celebrations today.

*Ubique*



**S. ROACH**  
Brigadier  
Head of Regiment

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