



"Sitrep, Over!"



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

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Exercise Rhino Run 25

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Hard copies of
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the Office of
Senator Andrew
McLachlan CSC
MP
Senator for SA

Exercise Rhino Run 2025 was conducted in the Adelaide Hills, Warradale Barracks and Murray Bridge Training Area.

To understand the complexity of what we faced and just how truly great the Battalion members were, nearly a 1/3 of the Battalion that participated haven't completed their initial employment training, coupled with our amazing engineers and clerks that also conducted all aspects of live firing.

We followed a very disciplined approach to the training continuum with all members participating in blank fire activities, then moving through the live aspects of group and zero, demonstrating combat behaviours by passing combat shooting serials on our marksman ranges, then commencing the field firing practices involving sneaker lanes, ambushing, section defence culminating in our trench clearance with practice grenades and support by fire.

You will see our hardworking safety supervisors throughout the practices in their high visibility vests. This is done to differentiate the firers from safety.

Although there were plenty of lessons to take away, we are pleased to say that Exercise Rhino Run 25 was an outstanding success, paving the way for some great training opportunities.

As we move into 2026 where we will also look to introduce some new exciting capabilities and look forward to the challenges that lay ahead.



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About Rhino Run

Australian soldiers have changed in recruitment methods, transitioning from mass conscription and volunteers of WWI to modern, all-volunteer forces with significant recruitment surges. Their diversity has increased, moving beyond the historical dominance of Anglo-Celts to include men and women from a greater variety of backgrounds. Furthermore, training and equipment have modernized, with contemporary soldiers benefiting from advanced technology, complex warfare training, and a focus on complex operations. This is very evident in the recent exercise of Rhino Run 2025.

This supplementary newsletter is all about Exercise Rhino Run 2025, which has recently been run and won. Our Vice President Des Hawkins was lucky enough to be able to visit the soldiers as they conducted vigorous training and live firing exercises at the Murray Bridge Range and was very impressed with his observations. Some of Des's photos can be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/1027RSARA/

The majority of photos have been lifted from the 10th/27th Battalion Facebook page, but others have been provided by some of the participants, WO2 Mark Blondell, and Sig Andrew Foote, who produced the RSAR Association promotional videos. I thank them for their contributions.

As I and my fellow "Old & Bold" look at the difference in the training now compared to ours back in the 60's, 70's and even 80's, we can see how far our Army has advanced, and how well the various Corps interact with each other. The equipment they carry and the weapons they use are far advanced to what we carried, and we wonder what the next steps of military evolution hold for our boys and girls!

RSAR Association Committee Member WO2 Mark Blondell was in the thick of Rhino Run right from the start. He took Part in the planning and execution of the exercise and gives us an insight of what he and his soldiers did throughout the exercise. His words are on Page 5-7.

David Laing

Stay well and stay safe.

Exercise Rhino Run 25



Australian soldier Pte Benjamin Hamilton of 10/27 Battalion, the Royal South Australia Regiment at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills during Ex Rhino Run 2025.



10/27 Battalion soldiers patrol the streets of Woodside during Ex Rhino Run 2025. Part of the exercise was designed to get the locals used to seeing their own soldiers in action in their own environment.

ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

2025 END OF YEAR LUNCH

WARRADALE BARRACKS

Warradale Barracks Sergeants Mess

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER

1100 to 1500 hrs



All members of the RSAR Association AND members of the Battalion are invited. Wives and partners welcome.

All food is provided FREE OF CHARGE by the Association. Wine, Beer, and Soft drinks available at generous bar prices. Lunch @ midday.

RSVP required for catering purposes to the President David Laing on davidlaing49@bigpond.com or 0407 791 822 NLT Sunday 1st December

Come along and have a drink and a chat with your mates!

Exercise Rhino Run 2025. By WO2 Mark Blondell.

Mark was CSM for the Combat Team which was a combination of A, B Coy and 3 Field Engineers

On Friday 31 August, members of 10/27 RSAR began to arrive at the Assembly Area (Warradale Bks) ready to deploy onto Exercise Rhino Run 2025.

2 PL SGT's would be acting as Platoon Commanders (PL Comd's) as both Lieutenant's would be attending a course in Singleton for the duration of the Exercise

By 1730hrs Weapons, ammunition and rations were issued. Coy Orders had been delivered, and the PL Comd's were ready to back brief their plans to the OC of the Combat Team (CT)

At 1800hrs a message came from the CO that all vehicle movement would be delayed for 12 hours. This was due to the Extreme Weather Warning Across SA.

This was a great call by the CO as members were due to travel in Pax Mods (Troop Carrying Trucks with open sides).

Care for soldiers' wellbeing was put to the top of his list.

So, at 0600hrs Saturday morning PMV Bushmasters and Pax Mods rolled out of Warradale Barracks. The move would be entirely made with green fleet vehicles. No coaches or hire cars would be used

Our first Mission was to secure 2 separate locations inside the Murray Bridge Training Area, then move to Woodside to carry out Key Leadership Engagement (KLE).



Mixing with the locals in the Adelaide Hills town of Woodside!



Orders delivered.



Ambush lies in wait!

Even with the imposed 12 Hour delay both locations were secured by 1000hrs and the meeting at Woodside would be conducted on time.

The KLE was a new experience for most of the soldiers. Walking down the Main Street of a town, carrying weapons and chatting to members of the public. The advantage to this part of the Ex was that we did get to visit the Bakery and coffee shops, bringing both a lift to morale and supporting local businesses.

The following day saw a move to RAAF Edinburgh where 1PL conducted a building clearance along with some Engineer attachments using both training and experience to identify and disarm a potential explosive threat.

Once back at Murray Bridge the various scenarios continued to be thrown at us, these ranged from shots being fired onto our position to a car crash with injuries testing our reactions and procedures.

The blank firing part of the Ex culminated with a Company attack on the Enemy village.

The week prior 3FLD Construction troop had removed the Vietnam Era Straw Huts and replaced them with new solid corrugated iron huts.

After 4 days the focus then moved to LFX (Live fire Exercise).

We changed our location but still remained in a tactical posture continuing to train, conducting short informative lessons utilising engineer and Infantry assets within our call sign.

Orders were practiced and delivered from the OC down to section commanders.



After the confirmation group and zero of weapons a live fire ambush was planned.

Both PL's were dropped separately by PMV and then inserted silently into position. This activity was one that most members (Both reserve and ex full time) had never taken part in before.

The following few days were used to build up skills from individual fire and movement up to PL size. Saturday morning saw a group consisting of Employers, representatives from SES MFS Navy and Air force plus our own Association Vice President Des Hawkins collected from Range Control and driven in PMVs to the eastern side of Murray Bridge to witness the live fire clearance of a trench system which had been prepared by 3FLD

Rhino Run 2025 was executed at a very high standard.

Some Lessons were learnt at all levels allowing to improve our skills even more.

The Battalion returned to individual subunit locations to complete the re-fit to fight, and will return to Murray Bridge in late October to take part in The Simpson Trophy competition.

WO2 Mark Blondell.



1 Platoon. Call Sign “India 11”





Exercise Rhino Run 25



The lineup of G Wagons, Bushmasters and Logistics vehicles prior to leaving Warradale Barracks.





Invited personnel, including Emergency Services, Defence Employers, RAAF and Navy and RSAR Association Members were shown the might of the Army's vehicles and weaponry as part of their visit to the Murray Bridge Range.

Civilian attendees were permitted to handle the weapons (under supervision) and sit in the vehicles while the workings were explained to them by the Battalion operators.

Exercise Rhino Run 25



Sappers from 3 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers used their extensive Plant Equipment to dig and prepare bunker systems, trench complexes and shelters during the exercise. The largest earthworks at the Murray Bridge Training Area for years. Well done Sappers!

The Partners of Veterans Association SA proudly presents

AROUND THE WORLD

Featuring the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR

Please join the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion as they present a program of music featuring composers from around the world.



SCAN ME

Sunday 12th October 2025
2:00pm

Saint Peter's Girls School
Stonyfell Road, Stonyfell

Tickets: \$25



For tickets and information
scan the QR code or contact
Angela (0416 221 328)
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