

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

1994 has been and gone in the blink of an eye. The Battalion has crammed in a hell of a lot over a relatively short period of time so far this year. I often wonder if we don't try and do too much with the limited resources and time available. But the attitude and initiative inherent in the Australian soldier ultimately drives us toward achieving the goals placed upon us, despite the limitations. Therein lies the challenge for commanders at all levels. To maintain a high level of morale and realistic training is not an easy task in today's climate. So I would ask us all to look closely at everything we do and ensure that we always remember one thing - THE SOLDIERS. Because without them we cannot possibly operate effectively as a unit.

But don't worry, the "buck" doesn't stop there. YOU, the soldiers must also take time to assess your commitment and loyalty to the unit. If you have given your all in everything you have done this year (and that is all we can ask for), then you have had a good year. If you haven't, then I suggest you reassess your commitment over the leave period and I would expect to see a whole hearted effort in 1995.

I must say that when I was offered the posting as the RSM of the PREMIER Battalion, that I had absolutely no hesitation in accepting. I am proud to say that I have been more than impressed by the standard of the soldiers within the Battalion. We have had a very good year and I don't say that without justification. Our results in shooting (especially AASAM) have been top class, our efforts in the Commanders Trophy and on the sporting field (although a mixed bag) have been excellent and the results from the 2/4 RAR personnel on

career courses has also been top class. The efforts put in by the majority of people on exercise Angel Trump, Red Back, Maxi Beagle and the Battalion Military Skills have also been first rate, however there is always room for improvement and I'm sure there is plenty that we can all do in 1995 to lift the Battalion to greater heights. As you can see, it has been a very busy year this year and I know you are all looking forward to spending some time with your family and friends over the leave period (it is certainly well deserved). So make the most of it - you've earned it.

After almost three years as the 'on-line' Battalion, 1995 will hopefully give us the opportunity to regroup, gather our thoughts and refine some of our skills, that we may have glossed over during the last two years. Don't get the idea that next year will be an easy year, because it won't. It is still going to be a very busy time, but we should be able to slow things down a little and get more quality training done rather than quantity. Our commitments to courses, exercises and overseas deployments will remain and the prospect (and that's all it is at this stage) of a second rotation to RWANDA, will certainly present us with plenty of challenges in 1995. But with the spirit and dedication of you, the soldiers in the Premier Battalion, we will succeed.

I look forward to a demanding and rewarding year in 1995. Enjoy the time you have available with your family and friends over Christmas, don't do anything foolish and I will see you in the New Year, keen and hungry to do well.

PACESTICK

Warrant Officer Class One G. Hughes

