

Battalion name change

Photos by Able Seaman Jo Dilozenzo



Army's 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment – 4RAR (Cdo) – was officially renamed the 2nd Commando Regiment – 2 Cdo Regt – during a ceremony at Tobruk Lines, Holsworthy, on 19 June.

The ceremony, reviewed by Chief of Army Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, saw the march-off of the 4RAR colours and the unfurling of the new 2 Cdo Regt flag.

Lieutenant General Gillespie said the name 2 Cdo Regt more accurately reflected the roles and capabilities of the commandos and their command structure, which are distinct from the Army's conventional infantry battalions.

"I am very pleased that 4RAR (Cdo) is now nearing maturity as a special operations unit. The name change celebrated today recognises this achievement as well as the skills and qualifications of its members," Lieutenant General Gillespie said.

"The new name also reflects the unit's historical links to the Australian independent commando companies that operated in the south-west Pacific during WWII."

During the ceremony in June, 4RAR's colours were handed over to a School of Infantry Colour Party to be held in perpetuity.

Lieutenant General Gillespie said 4RAR would remain on Army's Order of Battle, with its history, colours and traditions preserved for future service as and when required by the nation.

"So too will we continue to celebrate the battalion's service and the sacrifice of those who served under its colours."

He said 2 Cdo Regt would not forget its origins and would continue to support the 4RAR Association where it could, specifically through the provision of facilities for annual meetings, unit birthdays and Anzac Day.

The 4th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment was officially raised on 1 February 1964, becoming the first regular battalion raised on Australian soil. It was linked with 2RAR on 15 August 1973 to form 2/4RAR but was delinked in 1994. It began commando transition in 1996 when the government directed Army to establish a second commando regiment with the ability to conduct special recovery and strike operations.

With that capability now matured, 2 Cdo Regt joins the Special Air Service Regiment, Incident Response Regiment, 1st Commando Regiment, the Special Forces Training Centre and the Special Operations Logistics Squadron under Army's Special Operations Command.



2 Cdo Regt