



Special Air Service Regiment Sniper Concentration

Twenty Army snipers from SOCOMD [Special Operations Command] and FORCOMD [Forces Command] met in Perth from 12 to 23 November last year for the inaugural SASR sniper concentration, to test sniper pairs in all areas of sniper skill sets, with an emphasis on tactical sniper and field-craft skills.

Pairs from 1RAR, 2RAR, 5RAR, 6RAR, 2 Cdo Regt and the SASR took part. 3RAR and 7RAR could not attend because of operational commitments.

Special Air Service Regiment Sniper Cell supervisor Sergeant S hosted the competition with assistance from SASR sniper supervisors, 2RAR's sniper supervisor and the School of Infantry Sniper Cell supervisor in conducting and scoring various events.

The competition tested snipers in all skills required of a modern operational sniper pair with a total of 19 different scored events.

Extra sniper training and discussions were also conducted with an emphasis on learning from SASR sniper experiences – TTPs [tactics, techniques and procedures] gained over the past 10 years on operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and other

areas, to ensure a hand-back of sniper skills from SOCOMD to FORCOMD.

Unit cross-briefs were also conducted so that valuable lessons learnt from FORCOMD snipers were also briefed to the whole group to improve the understanding of each unit's sniper issues and operational lessons learnt.

Sergeant S outlined to the group the future direction of sniper training.

"SASR provided a future-sniper development brief and sniper rationalisation overview to enhance and inform the direction that SASR Sniper Cell is pursuing," he said.

"By providing for simpler sniper systems, this will result in cost savings across Army.

"I believe that rationalising all ADF sniper weapons and equipment in line with current SOCOMD sniper practice is an important step in improving wider Army sniper capabilities."

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Static and snap range serials with physical activities to ensure snipers maintained a higher heart rate during the shoots, out to 800m.

Moving targets by day out to 400m.

Night moving targets with thermal scopes against robotic targets.

Run shoots with firing from alternate positions.

Long-range timed engagements out to 2000m using .338 Blaser and .50 cal Barrett sniper rifles by day and night.

Observation activities using binoculars and spotting scopes, to detect military items hidden in a specified area, within a set time.

Range-estimation activities, which involved snipers gauging ranges to a number of targets without laser range finders, then engaging those targets.

Live-fire stalks over three hours conducted in urban and rural environments wearing all sniper field equipment. This activity was the culmination and tied together all the snipers' skills, with a higher point-scoring system.

