



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
Head of Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

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**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 2011

Traditionally, we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day in a variety of ways across the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Today, I ask you to celebrate bearing in mind the achievements and tragedies of 2011 and prepare yourself for the challenges ahead in 2012.

2011 has seen a continued high tempo with individuals, troops and batteries required to serve Australia through deployment to support cyclone and flood recovery and a wide range of overseas operations. Today as we celebrate, there are gunners whose tours of duty are ending that are looking forward to their up-coming return to Australia whilst the next rotations are preparing to deploy over the Christmas and New Year period. I would like to thank those who have deployed this year for your continued high levels of readiness and wish you all a safe and speedy return to Australia. Our special thanks must go to their families for their outstanding and unwavering support.

2012 will see the Regiment continue to develop, as the Air Land concept matures and we continue conversion training to the M777 Light Weight Howitzer and the further development of the digitised Artillery capability with the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System. The successful deployment of the Counter Rocket and Mortar system and the capability multiplier that is the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in Afghanistan highlights the professionalism of the Regiment in all its capabilities. As the Regiment undergoes these fundamental changes it is both an exciting and challenging time for all of us regardless of rank.

I take this opportunity to congratulate those of you that will assume your appointments in January 2012 as Commanders of Units, Sub Units and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors. Today also signifies the change of appointment of our Colonel Commandant Northern Region with Brigadier Mike Paramor completing his appointment. Please accept our thanks for your continued service to the Regiment. I would like to welcome and congratulate Colonel Steve Goltz who has assumed his appointment as Colonel Commandant Northern Region with effect today.

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

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S. ROACH
Brigadier
Head of Regiment

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/ December 2011