

The National Artillery Association Competition is the premier competition for all the RA TA units in the UK. The competition is contested over a weekend, where all aspects of gunnery are tested by members of the Gunnery Training Team; all the TA units being marked individually over separate weekends. It is a long and nervous time, waiting for all individual units to complete the competition to find out the results. 103 Regt RA (V) carried out their test at Warcop and after a narrow defeat last year we felt we were due for a result. All regiments performed well, especially considering many had recently been re-roled, including ourselves who only five years ago were air defence!

The results were announced and we found we had won the major prizes and were therefore given the privilege of providing the Honour Guard for the NAA prize-giving at the Guildhall in London. The Honour Guard was formed by members of each battery in the Regiment, 208, 209 and 216 Btys RA (V).

The long journey to London was worth it when the Regiment, on parade in number one dress, delivered a near faultless parade, backed by the Lancashire Artillery Band. The Master Gunner commented that it was the best march past he had witnessed at the Guildhall. The thorough inspection (which tested the endurance of all those on parade) was completed by the Lord Mayor of the City of London and the Master Gunner.

The blood, sweat and tears of the competition were finally justified when 103 Regt RA (V) received the Queen's Cup and the NAA Challenge Cup, which were accepted by Maj John Davey and WO2 (BSM) Wayne Illingworth. The prize-giving ended with well-deserved drinks and canapés as we made our way down to the crypt for the pictures. All those taking part did themselves proud as 103 Regt RA (V) put their name on the map for the right reasons and raised the bar for next year's competition.

by 2Lt Chris Wood

