



Clay shooting



The Flying Gunners



Lying down on the job

## Exercise Bustard Challenge

■ The evening of 8 February saw 80 members of 101 Regt RA (V) make their way to Salisbury Plain to take part in Exercise Bustard Challenge, the annual National Artillery Association training and prize-giving weekend. Upon arrival the troops settled in for a few hours' sleep followed by an 0600 reveille and breakfast. With the equipment detachments already deployed, the remainder of the regiment moved to the bombard OP to experience the effects of artillery fire and judging by the excited noises from a number of the younger soldiers this was at a somewhat closer range than expected. Meanwhile the old OP acks amongst us began to reminisce about being back on OP Ridge. Our thanks go 100 Regt RA (V) for providing the effective firepower throughout the day.

From the bombard the Regiment moved to the equipment stand at Brazen Bottom Farm where, once briefed, they split into groups and had the opportunity to investigate all the current equipment within the various Royal Artillery disciplines. The regiment provided a complete ASP sensor post detachment with an associated command post and a Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) manned by 204 and 269 Btys RA (V), alongside an MRLS launcher on which Gnr Pinnock of 205 Bty RA (V) carried out his first live firing in fine style.

After a lunch of traditional range stew, the activities continued with the command element moving to the Newcome Hall where they received a number of briefings including a state of the union address by the DRA, the TA on operations and an overview from the Capability Branch. This was both enjoyable and highly informative. Concurrently the other ranks, under the guidance of the RASM and with the support of the Royal Artillery Saddle Club, the Clay Pigeon

Left: Gnr Pinnock. Below: GMLRS

Club and the Flying Gunners got the chance to experience the finer points of the Larkhill country lifestyle. While it must be said that a new Lester Piggott may not have surfaced, a number of crack shots did, as well as one request for a posting to the Flying Gunners by an excited gunner from 203 Bty RA (V).

By 1630 hours everyone gathered in the Newcome Hall for the National Artillery Association Awards Ceremony during which Maj PD Winton, BC of 205 Bty RA (V), received the 101 (Northumbrian) Regt RA (V) Competition Cup. With the ceremony finished the regiment returned to Rolleston Camp to prepare for Saturday night's functions; the officers and senior ranks attending their traditional dinner nights in their respective messes while the remainder enjoyed the delights of a night out in Salisbury.

On this, the first National Artillery Association meal in the regiment's new home, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess performed with great style. There was great food with accompanying music from the 103 (Lancashire Volunteer) Artillery Band and, of course, the Pipes and Drums of 101 Regiment RA (V) who raised the roof with their rendition of such classics as *Highland Cathedral* and Queen's *We Will Rock You*, resulting in a well deserved standing ovation and an encore in the bar afterwards.

With the change in location from the Guildhall to Larkhill and the introduction of the Exercise Bustard Challenge format, the National Artillery Association award ceremony has been elevated to a new level. The various activities provided all members of the regiment with the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, while gaining an informed insight into the current issues affecting the Territorial and Regular Army as a whole.





# Hot shot Territorials win National Artillery Competition

■ Territorial Army soldiers from 106 Regt RA (V) have just brought home seven out of eight of the Royal Artillery's most coveted live firing trophies for 2007. Also, for the first time ever in the long history (awarded annually since 1863) of the competition, 106 Regt RA (V) has brought home the Queen's Cup for the best overall regiment in the competition.

The awards were presented by Gen Sir Alex Harley, Master Gunner St James's Park, at a ceremony held at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill on 9 February.

Throughout 2007, the regiment's three batteries, who are based in Southampton, Wolverhampton and at Grove Park in London, were judged and tested on their artillery firing and other military skills. 106 Regiment RA (V) swept the board, winning seven out of the eight trophies, including overall 'Best Battery' and overall 'Best Regiment'.

Two trophies were awarded to the regiment for their live firing scores. Four further trophies were awarded for their skills in aircraft recognition, driving, first aid, navigation and finally of course the Queen's Cup awarded to the Best Overall Regiment.

Lt Col Mike Waymouth, CO 106 Regt RA (V), praised his soldiers and said, "It was a long competition and I have been impressed at the sustained commitment of all of my soldiers over a long and busy year." He added, "Each of our batteries has won at least one trophy and every one of our soldiers has contributed to the award of the Queen's Cup, we have truly achieved something to be proud of."