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Wagon Lines	The area within a battery's position where the majority of its vehicles are deployed whilst not in use (eg. the gun tractors – the vehicles which tow the guns).
Wagon Lines Officer	The officer-in-charge of the unit's wagon lines is the unit's battery sergeant-major (BSM).
Warning Order	An order from an observer, to the relevant unit, requiring Artillery support. The order is normally coupled with the size of the fire unit required to engage the target, or the required number of guns (eg. "Fire mission regiment", "Fire mission battery" or "Fire mission three guns"). It also alerts the unit that all orders relating to the previous target are cancelled.
Warrant Officer	<p>An officer with a Warrant (as opposed to an officer with a commission); the rank structure between commissioned officers and senior non-commissioned officers (senior NCOs). There are three classes of warrant officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Warrant Officer Class Two: The rank held by, amongst others, battery sergeant-majors (BSMs) and battery guides (BGs).* Warrant Officer Class One: The rank held by, amongst others, regimental sergeant-majors (RSMs) and master gunners.* Warrant Officer: The rank of the RSM Army.
Warrant Officer Gunnery Course	The Artillery-related promotion course attended by Artillery sergeants to gain qualification for promotion to warrant officer class two. The Course is now named as the Manager Operations Offensive Support Course.
Weapon	A piece that causes damage to a target. Guns, howitzers, etc, are not, technically speaking, weapons; they are the projectors of a weapon. An artillery 'round' is a combination of a propellant and a projectile; the propellant 'fires-out' the projectile (the weapon) which causes the damage to the target.
Weapons Free	The situation when there should be no friendly aircraft in the area. All aircraft may be engaged by (Artillery) air defence units unless they are positively recognized as being friendly. The order is cancelled by 'Hold fire' or 'Weapons tight' (see: <i>Weapons Tight</i>).
Weapons Locating Radar	A generic term for all locating radars that are not specifically mortar locating radars (ie. they can also locate guns and rockets).
Weapons Tight	The situation when it is known that there are friendly aircraft in the area. Targets are not to be engaged by (Artillery) air defence units unless they are recognized positively as hostile, or are acting in a hostile manner (as defined in the appropriate 'rules of engagement'). The order is cancelled by 'Hold fire' or 'Weapons

free' (see: *Weapons Free*).

Wear

The life of a barrel depends mainly on the condition of its bore's rifling as the gas action is concentrated behind the driving band as the projectile moves up the bore when fired (see: *Bore and Rifling*).

Wedge Breech

A form of a gun's breech that operates by the sliding of a wedge block in a vertical or a horizontal direction (see: *Breech Mechanism*).

Windage

The difference in size between the external diameter of a projectile and the internal diameter of a gun's barrel. There is some difference between the two, otherwise the projectile would not be able to pass up the bore; however, the size of the 'gap' can be critical to the accuracy and efficiency of the projectile hitting the target. Too much windage means a loss of the propelling gas around the projectile when the gun is fired, thereby resulting in irregular movement of the projectile ('rattling' side-to-side) as it moves up the bore.

Workshops

In Artillery units the workshop is a sub-unit, manned by Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) personnel, which carries out the necessary maintenance and repairs of equipment such as guns, rifles, vehicles, radios and computers.