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See Distribution

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**PRELIMINARY CALLING NOTICE**

**ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION GIBRALTAR WEEKEND 2018**

**FRIDAY 18 – MONDAY 21 MAY 2018**

1. **Introduction.** After a tremendously well supported 2017 event, you are cordially invited to celebrate the strong and resilient ties that we maintain with our birthplace, Gibraltar and its wonderful people in 2018. The Royal Engineers Association Gibraltar Weekend 2018 will be held in Gibraltar between **Fri 18 and Mon 21 May 18**. The event will be organised by the members of the Gibraltar REA Branch.

We are currently sourcing venues; entertainment and structuring the programme for the 2018 event but have provided below some preliminary details.

2. **Location.** The scheduled events will take place in various locations throughout Gibraltar.

3. **Event Format.** A full and varied programme is anticipated and it is likely the weekend will have the following outline format. At this stage, venue and function details are still to be finalised, dependant on attendance numbers and so these activities are subject to change.

a. **Meet and Greet.** A Meet and Greet function will be held on the afternoon of Fri 18 May. The location will be confirmed but will include hot food; entertainment and the REA Gibraltar Branch raffle/auction. This is likely to run into the early evening. It is an informal function in order to welcome all our friends, both old and new. Dress will be casual.

b. **Parade and March Past.** On Sat 19 May, there will be a March through Main Street from Grand Casemates Square up to Bomb House Lane. We hope that the Mayor of Gibraltar will be available to take the salute (tbc). Dress will be REA/Corps Blazer, tie, beret and medals for the REA attendees. We hope to secure the Royal Gibraltar Regiment band for the event. REA Branch Standards are most welcome and it would be fantastic if we could improve further on the 5 Standards that were on parade in 2017.

c. **REA Photograph.** After the march, we will hold an REA photograph for all members and Standards. We will congregate by the Sapper Statue in Main Street for the photograph

d. **Mayoral Reception.** We hope to have a Mayoral reception after the parade, dependant on numbers and availability of the Mayors parlour and appropriate funding.

e. **Dinner Dance.** A formal Dinner Dance is scheduled for the evening of Sat 19 May and will include food; entertainment; disco; and raffle/auction. We hope this event will be

attended by local VIPs. For 2018, we hope to include a special surprise. Dress will be lounge suit or blazer for gentlemen and appropriate dress for the ladies.

f. **Church Service.** A Church Service will be held at Kings Chapel on Sun 20 May at Kings Chapel. The Command Chaplin will lead a multi-denomination service of thanksgiving for the RE. REA Branch Standards are most welcome. Dress will be as per the parade.

g. **Farewell Gathering.** There will be an informal social gathering to bid farewell to friends on Sun 20 May. This will be run through the afternoon with a casual dress code and will include hot food, and maybe a few rounds of bingo!

4. **Tours.** We hope to provide at least two discrete and stand-alone tour options during Mon 21 May – details will be published in due course. If there is sufficient interest, we may also try and negotiate a discounted dolphin tour in the bay or sightseeing taxi tour.

5. **Cost.** We will continue to source local sponsorship and funding to ensure the cost of the Weekend is kept to the very minimum for the 2018 event. Costs will be published in due course once we have a better understanding of attendance numbers. We will be requesting payment via cheque for the 2018 prior to arrival – this is simply because the overall event has grown to such a size that we now are required to pay significant deposits for venues; entertainment etc – further details will be published in due course. We also hope to negotiate some reduced rates with local restaurants; bars and shops specifically for those attending the REA Weekend – details to follow.

6. **Travel from UK and Overseas.** Guests are to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Gibraltar. British Airways, Easyjet and Monarch fly into Gibraltar from Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol. Within one and a half hours drive of Gibraltar, are the international airports of Jerez or Malaga, served from almost all UK airports. Both have car hire facilities, although we are able to arrange taxi/coach from these locations to Gibraltar if required – this will attract a cost to those travelling payable at the time of the journey.

7. **Accommodation.** Unfortunately there is no military accommodation available for the REA Weekend, therefore use of local hotels or staying with friends is recommended.

A very useful and economic approach to arranging your visit (both flight and/or hotel) is **MYGIBALTAR** at <http://www.mygibraltar.co.uk> – we would recommend trying this initially.

Another useful mechanism for sourcing private accommodation (rather than hotel) is via **AIRBNB** at <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/>

If you prefer a hotel stay, local hotels include:

Bristol Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20076800	<a href="http://www.bristolhotel.gi">www.bristolhotel.gi</a>
Caleta Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20076501	<a href="http://www.caletahotel.com">www.caletahotel.com</a>
Cannon Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20051711	<a href="http://www.cannonhotel.gi">www.cannonhotel.gi</a>
O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20070500	<a href="http://www.elliotthotel.com">www.elliotthotel.com</a>
Rock Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20073000	<a href="http://www.rockhotelgibraltar.com">www.rockhotelgibraltar.com</a>
Sunborn Hotel	Tel: 00350 20016000	<a href="http://www.sunbornhotels.com/gibraltar">www.sunbornhotels.com/gibraltar</a>
Asur Hotel Campo de Gibraltar La Linea	Tel: 0034 956 691211	<a href="http://www.campodegibraltarhotel.com">www.campodegibraltarhotel.com</a>

Hotels are constantly busy and therefore spaces are generally in demand; we suggest that you identify and book accommodation as early as possible.

8. **Medical.** Guests are to ensure they have appropriate Medical Insurance arranged before travelling. UK Citizens are able to use the services at St Bernard's Hospital when in possession of an E111 European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Access to medical services will be denied

otherwise. An EHC can be obtained online at <https://www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card> or <https://www.e111.org.uk/> or by calling 0845 6062030. There will be emergency medical cover arranged for the events where required. Please ensure adequate personal arrangements are in place for family notification.

9. **Finance.** Gibraltar's currency is pounds sterling and it has its own notes and coins – please note that these cannot be used or exchanged in the UK upon your return so please feel free to get rid of any remaining 'Gibraltar' currency during the raffle. There are familiar bank names within Gibraltar including NatWest and Jyske banks, and Newcastle and Leeds Building Societies. NatWest cashpoints will issue UK pounds sterling. Most retail outlets and hotels will accept credit and debit cards and also cash (UK pounds sterling; Gibraltar pounds or Euros). Please note that Euros are required for Spain.

10. **Welfare.** The event organisers will be able to offer advice on welfare matters but guests must treat the Weekend as you would when travelling abroad anywhere else in the world and make the necessary arrangements for any known welfare matters.

11. **Additional Information.** Additional information and a more detailed Admin Instruction will be published in due course on:

- the REA HQ website;
- the REA Gibraltar Facebook page;
- via REA Branch Secretaries, and
- via personal email.

For any other pressing queries at this early stage, please contact the following:

Contact	Name	Email	Landline	Mobile
Secretary	Mr Jack Noble	jack.noble@ramboll.co.uk	+350 200 51987	+350 58008085
*Chairman	*WO1 Ritchie Hicks	DIOSDOS-PJOB3d3GibProg@mod.uk	+350 200 55372	+350 58009961

*\*please note that WO1 Ritchie Hicks will be leaving post in July 2017 – details of his replacement will be published in due course.*

This year's events received tremendous support with a total of 170 guests in attendance, along with 5 Standards and 14 branches represented. On behalf of all 'Sappers on the Rock', we very much look forward to your company and hope that we can have even more friends join us in 2018 to celebrate our friendship and heritage with Gibraltar and its people.

Warmest REgards



Jack Noble  
Secretary  
REA Gibraltar Branch  
for Chairman

Distribution:

External:

REA HQ – Controller REA 

REA Branch Secretaries 

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REA Gibraltar Branch Members 