

# The Royal Engineers Association

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**Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**



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Reference: REA/A/

All Management Committee Members  
All Council Members  
All Group Secretaries All Branch Secretaries  
Controller REA  
Corps Treasurer

10<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**MINUTES OF THE 120<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, HELD IN 032 MEETING ROOM 07, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN BUILDING, LONDON, ON WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

## PRESENT

Maj Gen C J Boag CB CBE	Chairman
Maj I Drummond RE	Comd Wyke Regis
Mr M Payne BEM	Central Southern Group
Mr G Doughty	South East Group
WO1 (RSM) A Crossen	1 RSME Regt
WO1 (RSM) J Thomas	170 (Infra Sp) Engr Group
WO1 (RSM) K Morris	3 RSME Regt
Mr T Mitchley	East Anglia Group
Maj (Retd) P Gill MBE	South West Group
Mr M Crooke	North West Group
Mr R Price	North Midlands Group
Mr K Street	South Midlands Group
Mr P Markham	London Group
Mr W P Halloran	North East Group

## IN ATTENDANCE

Lt Col (Retd) N Jordan	D Con REA and Secretary
Maj (Retd) I Sidebottom	Corps Treasurer

## APOLOGIES

Col C N R Skeat ADC	Corps Colonel
Lt Col (Retd) R Murfin TD DL	Reserve Army
Maj (Retd) R Macgregor MBE TD	Scotland & NI Group
Maj (Retd) B Henderson	South Wales Group

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present especially those who had come from afar. He extended season's greetings to all assembled.
2. The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from those listed above. He welcomed the following new members to the Committee for whom it was their first meeting:

- Maj (Retd) Ian Sidebottom – Corps Treasurer
- Mr Kevin Street – South Midlands Gp

### **ITEM 1 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

3. The Committee accepted that the Minutes of the 119<sup>th</sup> Meeting were a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Trevor Mitchley - East Anglia Gp  
Seconded: Roger Price – North Midlands Gp

4. The Chairman signed the Minutes

### **ITEM 2 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 119<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

5. Paragraph 7. The Chairman provided an update on the Military Survey (Geo) Branch situation. He advised the Committee that a letter, supported by the Chief Royal, had been sent by him to the Chairman of the branch. He would brief the Committee on progress at the next meeting.
6. Paragraph 12. There was an action on the Controller to clarify the situation regarding The Royal British Legion's (TRBL) eligibility criteria for grants. The D Con attended a TRBL briefing on 21 Jan 14 and during the presentation he asked that the eligibility criteria be passed to all charities involved in the almonisation process. He was assured that this would be done. NFA
7. Paragraph 30. There was an action on the D Con to discuss the relocation of the North Midlands Group HQ with interested parties in light of the Army Reserves rebasing plan. This matter has been addressed and was covered at Item 9. NFA
8. Paragraph 31. There was an action on the D Con to check whether the Corps was planning any event to mark the disbandment of 28 Engr Regt in 2014. He said that there will be a series of events to mark the departure of troops from Hameln over the weekend 13 – 15 June 2014. Details of the event are on the REA website and the REA Facebook page.
9. Paragraph 33. The D Con passed on the Committee's thanks to all REA HQ Staff for their hard work in keeping the REA on an even keel during the periods of staff shortages.

### **ITEM 3 – TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE**

10. The D Con presented the Benevolence Report for the 12 month period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. The report is at Annex A.
11. He drew the attention to Paragraph 1 where it was explained that there had been a significant drop in the number of cases submitted by TRBL. He continued by saying that at a recent TRBL presentation attended by him, it was stated that there had been a drop in cases submitted to all charitable organisations, not just those dealing with the military.
12. The Chairman said that the drop in cases might be attributable to the early effects of the Community Covenant and the Armed Forces Covenant, resulting in Local Authorities stepping up to the mark to meet the requirement. The D Con said that another factor would be the massive changes being made within the TRBL, both in terms of manpower and procedures during 2013. He did not think any conclusions about the drop in cases could be reached until TRBL's reorg had stabilised.

13. Maj (Retd) P Gill – South West Gp, noted that during 2013 there had been a significant increase in the number of cases where grants had not been made. The D Con said the increase coincided with the period during which he was responsible for considering grants of up to £500. He continued by saying that as with all other appointments he had held that involved other people's money, he treated the money for which he was responsible as his own; the REA was not prepared to grant money to people who were clearly not in need. All those cases where assistance had been declined had been carefully discussed with REA benevolence staff before a decision was reached. He said that some of the cases involved the cancellation of Weekly Allowances. He cited one particular case where the finances of a recipient of a Weekly Allowance showed she was saving over £120 a month for family presents; the client was clearly not in need and the allowance was discontinued.

14. Kevin Street – South Midlands Gp said that he had studied the accounts and thought that REA funds were getting healthier. He suggested that if Local Authorities and other statutory organisations were stepping up to the mark to assist those in need, then perhaps the REA should be re-focusing some of its funds to make sure that they are being used each year and not building up as a surplus.

15. The Chairman responded by saying it was a fair point. It was important to carefully monitor our finances and we should not build up large reserves that might attract the attentions of the Charity Commission, however, he thought that at the moment the situation was satisfactory. The D Con continued by saying that we should not judge future years purely on benevolence spending in 2013. He suggested that once the TRBL reorg had bedded itself in, a more reliable picture might emerge. He also said that we needed to be very careful about our finances in light of the not insignificant reductions in Day's Pay Contribution as a result of A2020 cuts.

16. Mike Payne (Central Southern Gp) said that observers from 42 Engr Regt (Geo) had recently attended an REA Benevolence Committee meeting. He said they were extremely impressed with the way the Corps deals with its benevolence responsibilities and had been spreading the good word around the Regiment.

17. The Benevolence Report was accepted.

#### **ITEM 4 - TO NOTE THE CORPS COLONEL'S REPORT ON THE CORPS**

18. The Chairman presented the report. The report is at Annex B.

19. The Chairman said that as members had already had sight of the report he did intend to go through it. He said he was pleased to see the Corps Through Life Concept and most importantly the inclusion of the REA. He asked that the Corps Colonel consider the inclusion of a short paragraph on REA activity in support of the Through Life Concept. The Corps Colonel's report would be seen by members of the Corps and it was important that that wider audience knew how the REA was contributing to the concept.

#### **Action: Corps Colonel, Controller**

20. The Chairman thanked the Corps Colonel and the Corps RSM for such a comprehensive and informative report and urged Cttee members to share the information with branches and members.

21. The Corps Colonel's report was accepted.

#### **ITEM 5 – TO AWARD THE BADGE OF MERIT FOR 2014**

22. The Committee took great pleasure in awarding the prestigious REA Badge of Merit to the following members:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Group</b>
Mr R G Howes MBE	Wolverhampton	South Midlands
Mr R F Davies	Stafford	South Midlands
Mr P J Swann	Blackpool	North West
Mr M Doherty	Manchester	North West
Mr W G Wilson	Minley	Central Southern

23. The Chairman said whilst it was clear that some of the recommendation had been skilfully written, others were less so. It was also clear from the marks awarded that those recommendations of a high standard caught the eye and attracted the higher marks. He said it was the recommendation on which a candidate is really judged as being worthy, or not, of the award. Those nominated for the Badge of Merit are nominated because of the service they have given to their branches and the REA, it is incumbent upon recommending officers to produce a recommendation that reflected that service; time and effort must be expended, there were no short cuts.

24. The D Con suggested that it might be useful if HQ REA calculated the points awarded for service as a National and/or Branch Official before sending the Recommendations to Committee members. This would provide the opportunity for members to concentrate solely on assessing the written recommendation. This suggestion was enthusiastically embraced by all members. The Guide for Recommending Officers will be amended to reflect this change.

**Action: D Con**

#### **ITEM 6 – ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUMMARIES - UPDATE**

25. The Chairman invited the D Con to brief the meeting on the status of Branch and Group submissions for FY 2013. The D Con said that there were seven branches yet to submit Summaries; he read out the names of those branches and asked that Group representatives of those branches take the necessary action. He said that the quality of many branch Summaries had deteriorated, simply because the Summaries had not been checked for accuracy before submission. The number of mathematical errors was worrying and indicated that, in spite of a requirement for Summaries to be scrutinised by two branch members, this was, in many cases, not being done with any degree of responsibility. The D Con congratulated those branches that had supported his request for early submission of the Summaries, and paid tribute to the Group Secretaries who had actively monitored their branches submissions.

26. The Chairman requested that HQ REA contact Group Secretaries and identify habitual offenders guilty of late or inaccurate Summaries. He asked that Groups then take action with those branches to identify the reason why they were unable to comply with the requirement and then take remedial action. The D Con said he would provide Branch statistics to all Group Secretaries.

**Action: D Con**

#### **ITEM 7 - BRANCH MATTERS**

27. Formation of new branch – Willich (Germany). The Corps Colonel as Group Director of the Overseas & HQ Group of the REA had submitted a proposal for the formation of the Willich (Germany) Branch. In accordance with Association Rule 17.03 a list of 20 REA Life Members had been submitted to HQ REA. The D Con said HQ REA is content to accept the new Branch and would allocate it to the Overseas & HQ Group.

28. The Committee welcomed the proposal and hoped that it might prove the catalyst for the formation of other branches in Germany, particularly Hameln.

Proposed: Col CNR Skeat ADC  
 Seconded: Roger Price – North Midlands Gp  
 Carried

## ITEM 8. TO NOTE THE ALLOCATION OF GRANTS TO ANNUAL EVENTS

29. Grant requests have been received for the following events:

Event	Requested Amount	Amount Supported by HQ REA
Chatham Weekend	£8,000	£8,000 (£6,500 in 2013)
Minley Weekend	£6,000	£6,000 (£4,000 in 2013)
Chilwell Weekend	£6,500	£6,500 (£6,500 in 2013)

30. The Chairman asked WO1 (RSM) K Morris and WO1 (RSM) A Crossen why their requirement had increased since 2013.

31. WO1 (RSM) Morris replied that the Minley event was the only REA Veterans weekend where attendance costs were not subsidised. In order to increase attendance and bring the Weekend costs in line with both Chilwell and Chatham, he planned that future attendees would be subsidised making the event more affordable; the Chairman thought that a good thing.

32. WO1 (RSM) A Crossen explained that the REA function on the Saturday evening of the 2013 Corps Memorial Weekend had been set against one of the Mess' official functions in order to eliminate staff costs. He had been advised by ESS that they would not agree to do that in 2014. He said that to maintain the high standard set in the previous year, the additional funding was needed.

33. The Chairman congratulated the RSMs for the work they did in producing such fantastic and memorable Weekends.

34. The Committee recommended the revised allocations to Council.

## ITEM 9 – GROUP SECRETARIAT CHANGES

35. East Anglia Group. The Chairman reminded members that the East Anglia Group secretariat located at RAF Wittering as a Lodger Unit did not 'own' any facilities at which to hold Group functions. This was having an undesirable effect upon Group cohesion. A solution had been found and supported wholeheartedly by the Group's branches. The new Group secretariat for the East Anglia Group will be based on 33 Engr Regt (EOD) at Wimbish. Group Director will be the Commanding Officer and the Group Sec will be the RSM. Trevor Mitchley (East Anglia Gp) gave an update to the Committee and confirmed that on Tue 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014, HQ 12 Gp officially handed over duties of Group Director and Group Secretary to 33 Engr Regt, Lt Col Millar RE and WO1 (RSM) Kennedy.

36. North Midlands Group. The Chairman said that the demise of 73 Engr Regt in Nottingham meant that a new Group secretariat for the Group needed to be found. This has now been done and when 73 Engr Regt disband, a temporary Group secretariat will be based on 43 HQ & Sp Sqn at Chilwell. After six months a permanent Group secretariat will be based on 66 Wks Gp RE. WO1 (RSM) Thomas gave the Committee an update on the situation. He said that with the North and South Midlands Groups co-located, there would be some four Group weekend's a year plus the Chilwell Weekend within the camp. Whilst the Reinforcements Training and Mobilisation Centre (RTMC) are located in the camp, events and accommodation will be dictated by them as they have priority; weekends could change at short notice.

## ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

37. The following events of interest for 2014 have been notified to HQ REA:

16 - 18 May	Chilwell Weekend*
31 May	Trooping the Colour - Maj Gen Review
5 June	Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day Parade
7 June	Trooping the Colour - Colonels Review

11-12 June	Beating the Retreat, London
14 June	Queens Birthday Parade
4 - 6 Jul	Minley Weekend*
12-14 Sep	Corps Memorial Weekend*
11 October	REA AGM and Annual Dinner *
12 October	Sapper Sunday at Royal Hospital Chelsea
6 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
9 November	Remembrance Sunday

\*National Events

38. Maj (Retd) P Gill (South West Gp) asked if the Corps was planning any events to commemorate the start of World War 1. The Chairman explained that military and civilian events would be focused on commemoration and education and would be spread over some four years rather than just the anniversary of the start of hostilities. There was a government website that provided much of the detail - <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary>
39. Whilst the Corps will not be planning any commemorative events, it is involved educationally in Ex Plumer's Delight, which aims to train officers and other ranks in the delivery of battlefield tours.
40. Graham Doughty (South East Gp) told members that the Medway Branch of the REA was organising a battlefield tour in July. Details of the event can be found on the REA website ([www.reahq.org.uk](http://www.reahq.org.uk)) and the REA Facebook page. At the time of the writing there were vacancies.
41. Roger Price (North Midlands Gp) said that the rocks forming the centre piece of the Corps Memorial at the NMA were in need of a new layer of protective coating. The D Con explained that this had been done previously with a coating provided by 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp. He said he would liaise with 170 and other interested parties to take the matter forward.
42. Bill Halloran (North East Gp) said that there was a great deal of support for an REA national event to be held in Scotland along the lines of those held at Chilwell, Minley and Chatham. With 39 Engr Regt at Kinloss there would appear to be a unit capable of supporting such an event. He asked if the possibility of holding such an event could be re-investigated.
43. The D Con said similar requests had been raised on several occasions during his time and the main stumbling block was the lack of accommodation. With 39 Engr Regt in Kinloss, accommodation may not now be the problem it was. He said that the Scotland & NI Group needed to be aware of this wish to hold a 'Scotland Weekend' and for them to consider the viability of holding such an event. The Chairman was very open to the idea but suggested that those involved in considering such an event should contact the organisers of the current three Weekends to better understand the depth of planning required.
44. Mike Payne (Central Southern Gp) said that to mark the farewell of 42 Engr Regt (Geo) from Newbury to Wyton, he was arranging a Charity Gala Concert by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers on 21<sup>st</sup> June at the Corn Exchange, Newbury. All proceeds would go to the REA. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June the Regiment will exercise its Freedom of the Town. Full details of both events will be placed on the REA website once they had been received from the organiser.
45. Mike Payne had been asked by a branch if the rate of MMA paid to Standard Bearers could be increased from its current 25p rate. The D Con said that the rate of MMA is that agreed by the trustees and is the extant MOD rate, the current rate being 25p per mile. Until the MOD MMA rate changes and there is an agreement with the trustees to adopt those changes then the rate will remain at 25p. This was confirmed by the Corps Treasurer who added that he did not see it changing in the foreseeable future.
46. The Corps Treasurer said that Heroes Square at the Armed Forces Memorial was being rejuvenated over the next 18 months. As part of that process the Corps cap badge along with other Unit/Regimental badges will be engraved on paving slabs to be placed in the square. The RE cap badge engraving has been paid for by the Corps.

**ITEM 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

47. The date of the next meeting is planned for 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in MOD Main Building.

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

48. The Chairman said it was the last meeting for both WO1 (RSM) Morris and WO1 (RSM) Thomas. He thanked them both for all they had done for the REA and the Corps in general, particularly their involvement in the very successful Veterans Weekends at Minley and Chilwell. On behalf of the Committee and the REA the Chairman wished them both great successes in their chosen future careers.

10 February 2014

Deputy Controller

Minutes Approved

Date

Chairman

# Benevolence Report

## 120<sup>th</sup> Management Cttee Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014

1. **Trends 2013.** The total number of benevolence cases considered in 2013 was 24% less than the previous year. This is mainly attributable to a 43% drop in the number of cases submitted by The Royal British Legion (TRBL) and a 16% drop in cases submitted by SSAFA to the Association in 2013 compared with 2012. This is significant especially as the majority of the charity's cases invariably come through TRBL and SSAFA offices. It is clear from the data provided in Table 1 that the number of cases considered in some categories of benevolence has dropped significantly, though the reason for this is not known.

### 2. Benevolence Cases Considered 2013 – 2009

<u>Category</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Disabled & Illness	185	192	329	404	499
Old age	52	118	84	73	37
Widows	110	138	132	138	178
Unemployed	152	210	144	122	107
Miscellaneous	187	285	268	206	232
Grants not made	51	23	12	10	18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>1071</b>

**Table 1**

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2013.** The *unaudited* net cost of REA benevolence in 2013 made up of Grants, Christmas grants, weekly allowances and grants to other charities was in the region of £445,000; this figure does not include donated services support costs which are as yet unknown. This is substantially lower than 2012 where the *audited* net cost of benevolence made up of Grants, Christmas grants, weekly allowances and grants to other charities was £597,252; this figure does not include donated services support costs of £85,521 (£682,773 in total).

4. **REA Branch Observers.** Observers are always most welcome to visit REA Benevolence meetings in London to see how the committee carries out the business of making financial grants on behalf of the Corps. The Chairman and Controller REA invite REA Branch observers to attend and participate with the aim reporting back to their Branches on the breadth of cases that are considered and how we are able to help. We would hope that all REA Committee members would attend at least one meeting.

5. **Weekly Allowances 2013.** Regular weekly allowances were made to about 110 applicants and some have further assistance from the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) where there is a need to financially assist with nursing home fees.

6. **Christmas Cards and Gifts 2013.** Approximately 1400 Christmas cards and some 431 monetary gifts were sent out in November to those in elderly people homes, in hospitals or homes for the mentally infirm, to those who are in receipt of weekly allowances and those being treated through Combat Stress.

7. **Grants to Other Charities 2013.** REA Council approved grants to other Service charities who are involved in the care and benevolent work for our Sappers and their families.

- A grant of £35,000 was made to the ABF
- A grant of £7,500 was made to SSAFA
- A grant of £2,500 was made to Combat Stress, The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society.
- A grant of £2,500 was made to Veterans Aid.

8. **Benevolence Committee.** After 21 years' service, Mrs Cherry Bates, a key member of the Benevolence Committee, retired. On behalf of the REA, the Chairman thanked Cherry for her most valuable contribution and said that a huge number of people had benefitted from her knowledge, compassion and intervention on their behalf.



## **CORPS UPDATE JAN 14**

### **8 ENGINEER BRIGADE**

1. **Overview.** The Brigade is in the process of implementing A2020 moves and changes:
  - a. 8 Engineer Brigade is now at Initial Operating Capacity (IOC) and has relocated to Gibraltar Barracks, Minley.
  - b. 12 (Air Support) Group relocated to RAF Wittering and rerolled to 12 (Force Support) Group.
  - c. 36 Engineer Regiment (Search) has re-subordinated from 29 Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Group to 12 (Force Support) Group and is in the process of rerolling to Force Support Engineering.

### **12 (FORCE SUPPORT) ENGINEER GROUP**

2. **A2020.** Group rerolled, 36 Engr Regt re-subordinated, 73 Engr Regt in process of disbanding; a number of squadrons have also closed (10 and 25 Fd Sqns, and 15 Fd Sp Sqn).
3. **Operations.** Main focus is the broader Middle East in support of Op MAINSTAY and Op CATALINA. Permanent presence in Afghanistan, Qatar, Oman and UAE with additional deployments to Northern Ireland (G8 Summit), Kosovo (range construction) and Sierra Leone (Prince's Trust).
4. **Regular and Reserve Partnerships.** Established under Op FORTIFY to achieve Full Operating Capacity (FOC) by Apr 15. 39 Engr Regt are partnering 71 Engr Regt and 36 Engr Regt are partnering 75 Engr Regt.

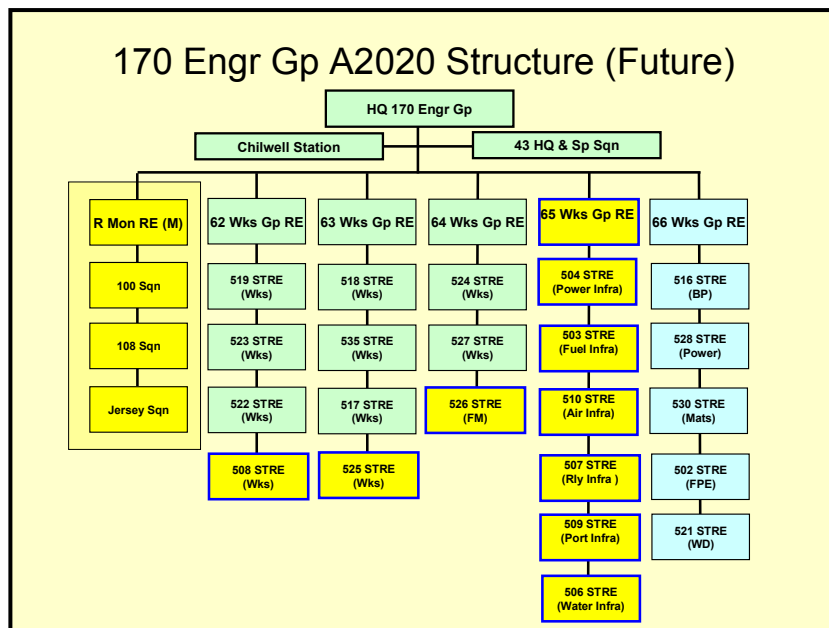
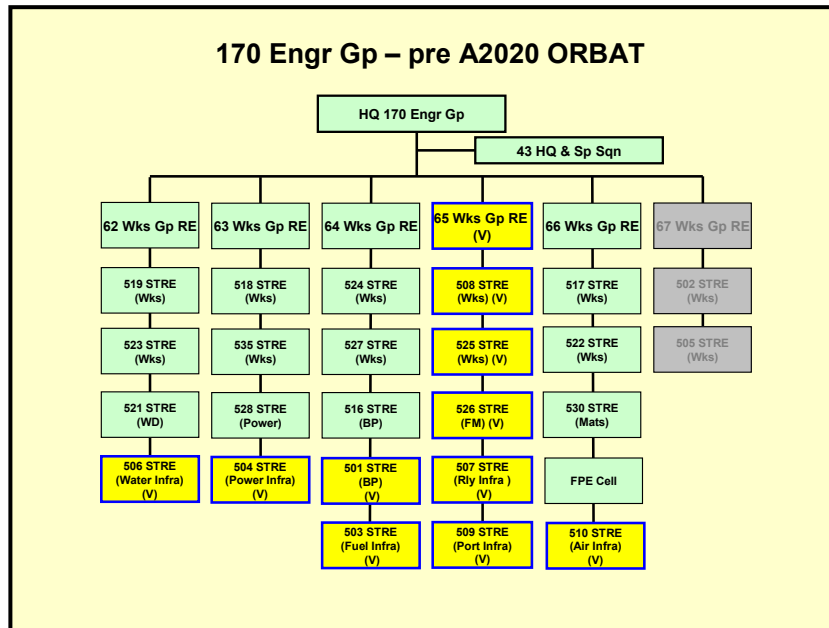
### **29 EOD & SEARCH GROUP**

5. **A2020.** Transformation for Contingency progressing by establishing combined EOD and Search Sqns in both 33 Engr Regt (EOD) and 101 Engr Regt (EOD) as well as a second integrated squadron in 11 EOD Regt. The group has provided EOD and Search support to BATUS on Ex PRAIRIE STORM as well as support to the Commando Group Amphibious Afloat exercise. Whilst achievable, A2020 timelines will remain a significant challenge for the group to meet IOC by Apr 2014 with FOC following in Apr 2015.
6. **UK Resilience.** The Group contribution to the security of high profile events such as the G8 conference in Northern Ireland and Conservative Party Conference continues to be delivered successfully. Planning for the Commonwealth Games has now commenced and is likely to be a significant focus for 2014. The responsibility for the provision of Search support to Special Forces for UK Resilience has transferred to 11 EOD Regt RLC alongside the establishment of a total of 135 RE posts, with UK Military Aid to Civil Powers (MACP) Search due to follow shortly.
7. **Operations.** Op HERRICK EOD and Search Task Force (TF) has merged with Task Force Helmand (TFH) Engr Regt. Upstream Capacity Building continues with deployments to PAKISTAN, LIBYA, NEPAL and COLOMBIA.

### **170 (INFRA SUPPORT) ENGINEER GROUP**

8. **A2020.** 67 Wks Gp placed into suspended animation combined with an overall re-evaluation of the structure and configuration of Specialist Teams Royal Engineers (STREs) and Wks Gps.
9. Structural changes:
  - a. R Mon RE (M) taken under Command (OPCOM).

- b. Heavy Teams; Power, Water, Fuel, Force Protection Engineering (FPE) and Materials, all brigaded under 66 Wks Gp.
- c. 62, 63 and 63 Wks Gp commanding exclusively STRE (Works) – Construction Teams.



**MILITARY STABILISATION SUPPORT GROUP (MSSG)**

- 10. **A2020.** Ongoing work to co-locate MSSG, 15 Psychological Operations Group (15 POG), and the Media Operations Group Volunteers (MOG (V)) at Hermitage
- 11. Short Term Training Teams (STTTs) to Somalia, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania; others planned to Uganda and Sierra Leone.

**G1 – PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION**

- 12. **Army Redundancy Tranche 3 (T3)** T3 is reaching the point where the applicants have departed - on 17 Dec c3300 left the service. This will leave approximately 900 working through their notice period as a mixture of non-applicants and those with an operational delay.

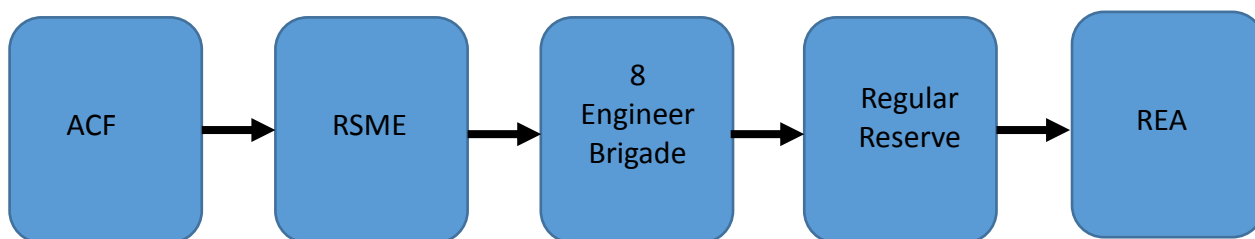
13. **Army Redundancy Tranche 4 (T4)** Corps planning for the final redundancy tranche, Tranche 4 began in Sept 13 and is now well underway. Initial field and yield estimates will be confirmed 9 – 13 Dec 13 to set the conditions to meet the anticipated announcement in Jan 14.

14. **New Employment Model (NEM).** The NEM Programme ran a stage of communication and consultation throughout Oct 13. This is the most extensive review of Service Personnel Terms and Conditions of Service (TACOS) for a generation covering four broad areas, terms of service, accommodation, training and education and pay and allowances. The Army call this Project 21 and allow soldiers to feedback their thoughts through an Intranet page.

15. **RE Regular Reserves Launch.** The Corps held an event in the House of Commons on 16 October 2013 to formally launch the Royal Engineers Regular Reserve programme. Working under the extant FR2020 and Op FORTIFY constructs, this process was a mechanism to bring together senior Army and Corps representatives (CGS, Ch RE), MPs, including MinAF and key stakeholders from business to explore and understand what the Corps has to offer the individual reservist and the wider benefits for the business. The event was extremely successful, solidifying some embryonic relationships and creating a thirst for inclusion and partnership in the Corps brand. We must now work hard to capitalise on this great start. Any opportunities serving or retired soldiers get to embrace the reservist and the businesses that release them must be done positively. This is a significant change but something that is happening and must be embraced fully. This is the future, invest in it.

16. **Corps Structure.** To assist in understanding the full Corps structure, a wiring diagram illustrating the changes is attached.

17. **Corps Through Life Concept.** Notwithstanding the Manning and Geographic piece, soldiers will join the Corps, move through the RSME and then serve within 8 Engineer Brigade (8X) for the remainder of their careers. If we include the Army Cadet Force (ACF) at the front end and the Regular Reserve and Royal Engineers Association (REA) after regular service is complete, we can not only understand the serving construct but the through life opportunity of the Royal Engineers.



18. **Deaths.** The Corps sadly lost Captain Richard Holloway RE, KIA, whilst deployed on operations in Afghanistan on 23 December 2013.

19. **Honours & Awards.** The following personnel were honoured in the New Year Honours List 2014:

#### **Appointment to the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath**

**As Commander (CB)** Major General CL Wilks CBE (Late RE)

#### **Appointments to the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire**

**As Officers (OBE)** Colonel GHL Baxter (Late RE)  
Colonel AM Mills (Late RE)

**As Members (MBE)** Lt Col RCD Fawcus RE  
Capt SM Wright RE  
WO1 C Seymour RE  
WO2 BA Eshelby RE

## **Queens Volunteer Reserves Medal (QVRM)**

Colonel AJ Cooper TD (Late RMonRE)

## **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)**

WO1 (RSM) M Brookfield RE

WO1 (SMI) MJ Griffiths RE

## **Commander Land Forces (CLF) Commendation**

WO2 Thomas

WO2 Monkhouse

WO2 Thapa

SSgt Davies

## **Commander Force Development & Training (CFDT) Commendation**

Sgt Amey

This illustrates the volume of high quality personnel who serve in the Corps. Many congratulations to all those who received an award.

## **G3 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY (ACROSS THE CORPS).**

### **OP HERRICK**

20. **Overview.** Afghanistan remains the Defence Main Effort with the mission now firmly focussed on the drawdown and redeployment of troops and materiel by the end of 2014. Mentoring at the Kandak (battalion) and District levels for the Afghan National Army and Police has been disengaged as the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) prove their increasing ability to successfully deliver security without the supporting aid of ISAF. A reducing footprint creates its own issues - a significant number of bases to be remediated, transitioned or closed as part of the BRAC/T programme; the large quantity of Engineer logistics materiel requiring rearward redeployment; the maintenance of an effective Force Protection across all remaining sites. Finally, looking towards the future beyond Op HERRICK, engineers have been central to the construction and facilitation of the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) in Kabul.

21. **TFH Engr Gp and EOD&S TF.** The merger of the TFH Engr Gp and EOD&S TF occurred during Op HERRICK 18. Base Realignment and Closure/Transition (BRAC/T) has dominated the workload of the TFH Engr Gp during recent months, with the number of UK bases in Helmand now reduced significantly. The remaining bases are mainly larger level 3 bases, which will be closed through the remainder of 2013 and into 2014. The next significant structural change within the Engr Gp will be the merger of the EOD&S and MWD Sqns.

22. **RE Geo Sp Gp.** RE Geo elements from HQ TFH and JF Sp(A) have now merged to form a single team at Camp Bastion. UK Geo elements within HQ RC(SW) have also reduced, with greater synergy across all elements within Camps Leatherneck and Bastion. Work is ongoing to disengage ANSF reliance on ISAF Geo with continued investment in the Afghan Regional Corps Battle School (RCBS) for the continued training and development of the ANSF.

23. **Engr Wks Gp.** The Engr Wks Gp continues to oversee key infrastructure projects and has been central to the design and commissioning of FP across the AO. Despite an ever increasing requirement to facilitate drawdown and remediation, there still are many ongoing infra projects to complete not to mention the careful management of FM contracts which must remain in place until the final redeployment. As the UK focuses towards longer term, so the Engr Wks Gp effort has also begun to switch with an increasing number of tasks outside of the Helmand Area of Operations.

24. **Commitments.** The commitments plot for Ops HERRICK 19 and 20 are detailed below.

	<b>Op HERRICK 19 (Sep 13 – Jun 14)</b>	<b>Op HERRICK 20 (Jun 14 – Mar 15)</b>
TFH	7 Armd Bde	20 Armd Bde
JF Engr (9 mth tour)	Col Phillips/Col Lawrence	Col Lawrence
Engr Regt	32 Engr Regt	35 Engr Regt
HQ & Sp Sqn	2 HQ & Sp Sqn	44 HQ & Sp Sqn
CS Sqn 1	39 Armd Engr Sqn	Engr Sqn TBC
Talisman Sqn	31 Armd Engr Sqn	77 Armd Engr Sqn
TRP Engr Surge Sqn	26 Armd Engr Sqn	26 Armd Engr Sqn
Log Node	65 Fd Sp Sqn	65 Fd Sp Sqn/ 35 Engr Regt
Engr Gp TA Backfill	73 Engr Regt (V) 131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE(V)	71 Engr Regt (V)
Engr Wks Gp	63/64 Wks Gp	64 Wks Gp/62 Wks Gp
Wks Gp TA Backfill	65 Wks Gp (V)	65 Wks Gp (V)
EOD Sqn	17 Fd Sqn (EOD)	58 Fd Sqn (EOD)
MWD	103 Sqn, 1 MWD	1 MWD
EOD&S TF TA Backfill	29 EOD & Search Gp	29 EOD & Search Gp
MSSG	MSSG/ OCE	MSSG/ OCE
RE Geo Sp Gp and Svy Surge Team	42 Engr Regt (Geo)	42 Engr Regt (Geo)

## **OTHER COMMITMENTS**

25. **Philippines.** Disaster relief to the Philippines proved the concept of an Army at readiness for Contingency as a wide number of options were scoped. At present, a troop from 24 Commando Engineer Regiment are deployed on HMS Illustrious as part of the Lead Commando Group Task Force with specialist Infra, Force Support and MSSG personnel on short notice to move forward if required.

26. **Libya.** The UK remains committed to the development of the Libyan armed forces. 29 EOD and Search Gp currently have a small team deployed supporting the development of an EOD and munitions school.

27. **Pakistan.** 8X continue to support the delivery of CIED, EOD and Search development in Pakistan through the deployment of STTTs and 1\* engagement. The third iteration is due to deploy in January 2014.

28. **Cyprus.** 28 Engr Regt are currently deployed on Op TOSCA from Oct 13-Mar 14.

29. **Falkland Islands.** No change. The RE provides a maintenance team of eleven personnel.

30. **Kenya.** No change. The Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) in Kenya continues to be the focus for the Joint Force Enabling exercises (JFEs).

### **31. UK Resilience**

a. **Industrial Action to fuel strikes.** 8X has trained 12 personnel as fuel hauliers complete with HAZMAT training as relief for ongoing fuel strikes. These individuals were stood up for Op GLUTOSE – industrial action at the Grangemouth Oil Refinery in October 2013 – but eventually were not required as a settlement was reached.

b. **Fire Service Industrial Action.** 36 Engr Regt provided an Operational Support Team and RLS in support of relief to the fireman strikes in autumn 2013. This commitment looks set to endure throughout the Christmas period and into 2014.

32. **Defence Engagement (DE) and Upstream Capacity Building (UCB).** The Corps continues to lean into UCB utilising the experiences of MSSG. DE work has been most effective through Short Term Training Teams (STTTs) – small groups of SMEs providing subject matter advice and expertise to indigenous populations. Notable deployments include:

- c. 12 (Force Sp) Group deployed a 3-man artisan team to provide basic construction advice to Kenyan Nationals as part of the Prince's Trust Foundation.
- d. 170 (Infra Sp) Gp Well Drilling in Sierra Leone in support of IMATT.
- e. 29 EOD&S Gp EOD and Search - STTT in Pakistan.

8 Engineer Brigade takes Regional responsibility for the Far East<sup>1</sup> under the Army's new Defence Engagement Strategy. Commander 8 Brigade will conduct personal one star engagement and control FEs conducting DE activity in the region. Priorities will be set by International Policy and Plans branch of the MOD and the Defence Attachés.

## G7 TRAINING ACTIVITY

33. **Reserves.** In Jul 13<sup>2</sup> the Secretary of State for Defence presented the government's White Paper on the vision for the future Reserves. As a result the RE Reserve Corps has seen a major restructure with the loss of two Regimental HQs; closer integration of RE Reserve and Regular units in similar roles and a refocus of role with one major unit focused on Wide Wet Gap Crossing and others on FM and Infra. A vision by Defence is that that Army Reserve will be able to deploy on operational activity up to sub-unit formation, with a lesser requirement for individual Reserve augmentation on operations. Key to achieving this is a focus on demanding and engaging training linked to a predicable commitment cycle. So there will be an increase of collective training opportunities, FTXs and overseas exercises with Regular and Reserve counterparts. It is envisaged in 2014 that RE Reserve units will take up on Ex LION STAR exercises; providing support to BATUK exercises alongside supporting area infra-structure development initiatives in Kenya, participating on BATUS exercises and continuing with M3 Rigs collective capability training in Germany.

34. **Ex LION STAR.** The Reserves continue to provide 2 x 2 week Military Construction Force (MCF) in support of HQ BFC:

- a. **73 Engr Regt.** Deployed on Ex LS 2 over the period 6 – 21 Apr 13 completing:
  - (1) Dredging of Dhekelia diving club (Watsons Mole) entrance point using Plant and MEXE Float.
  - (2)
  - (2) Laying of large concrete slab for K1 triathlon club to enhance the transition area.
  - (3) Removal and replacement of 2x large sun shades for local HIVE and community centre.
  - (4) 2 day AT package utilising all facilities on the island.
- b. **R Mon RE (M).** Deployed on Ex LS 6 over the period 04 – 16 Jun 13. Tasks were provided by DIO and CE:
  - (1) Installation of concrete ramps for wheeled access into the Episkopi Nursery.

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<sup>1</sup> Burma, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup> Reserves in the Future Force 2020: Valuable and Valued, Jul 13 MOD Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of state for Defence to Parliament. Published by the stationary Office: ISBN: 9780101865524

- (2) Refurbishment of fuel bund at Akrotiri station to facilitate Ship-Shore fuel delivery.
- (3) Enhance the facilities of Akrotiri HIVE.
- (4) A 2-day live fire package using both Akrotiri and Dhekelia.
- (5) A 2-day arduous AT package was in the Troodos Mountains.

35. **BATUK Infrastructure Development Plan (BIDP) JFEES.** 8X continue to deliver 4 JFEES in Kenya as part of the BIDP. The work that the MCFs have and will be engaged in is shown below:

Serial (a)	Ex Name (b)	Unit (c)	Remarks (d)
1	NORTHERN QUEST Jun – Sep 13	23 Engr Regt (AA)  51 Para Sqn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete snagging for washdown point</li> <li>• Complete interior fit for Bowman Block</li> <li>• Erect steel frame and structures for LEC Block</li> <li>• Minor CE projects in conjunction with HQ BATUK.</li> </ul>
2	CRAB APPLE Aug – Nov 13	26 Engr Regt  30 AES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete BOWMAN Block as required</li> <li>• Internal fit out and Complete LEC block</li> <li>• Construct LEC Duty Bunk building</li> <li>• CE project, in conjunction with HQ BATUK which included Nanyuki bridge &amp; Karuru Falls.</li> <li>• Strip out of resources yard and tented camp</li> </ul>
3	OAK APPLE Feb – May 14	21 Engr Regt  4 AES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up of resources yard and tented camp.</li> <li>• Complete LEC Bunk as required</li> <li>• Initiate construction of RMP building to include foundations</li> <li>• CE projects in conjunction with HQ BATUK to include Kathandi bridge</li> </ul>
4	SAILFISH May – Jul 14	39 Engr Regt  48 Fd Sqn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete stage 2 of RMP buildings, to include first fittings</li> <li>• Complete phase 1 of the Finance building</li> <li>• CE projects, identified by HQ BATUK to include Aberdare bridge and Aberdare fall tasks</li> </ul>

## CORPS SPORTS

36. **Events and Achievements.** The following is a list of the sporting events and subsequent achievements to date this year.

- a. The Corps Water Polo Team conducted a training camp in Cyprus in preparation for the Inter Corps Championships on 19 – 20 Feb 14 held at Aldershot.
- b. Royal Engineer Golf Society (REGS) played the annual RE v RA match winning by a considerable margin.
- c. RE AFC conducted a successful tour to the USA as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The Corps football team also played a strong England C Team at Maidstone Utd unfortunately losing 3-0.

- d. Cpl Gaz Fairbairn and Capt Sim Warren competed in the Inter Services Kitesurfing Championships with Cpl Fairbairn winning the novice event and Maj Warren winning the overall Championships
- e. Spr Anthony Clark from 299 Para Sqn RE became the Class A Corps Boxing Champion by stopping his opponent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of his championship bout. A great example of the integration with our reserve forces.
- f. The Corps Squash teams competed in the Army Inter Corps Championships, resulting in the A Team retaining Division A status and the B Team being promoted to Division 2.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

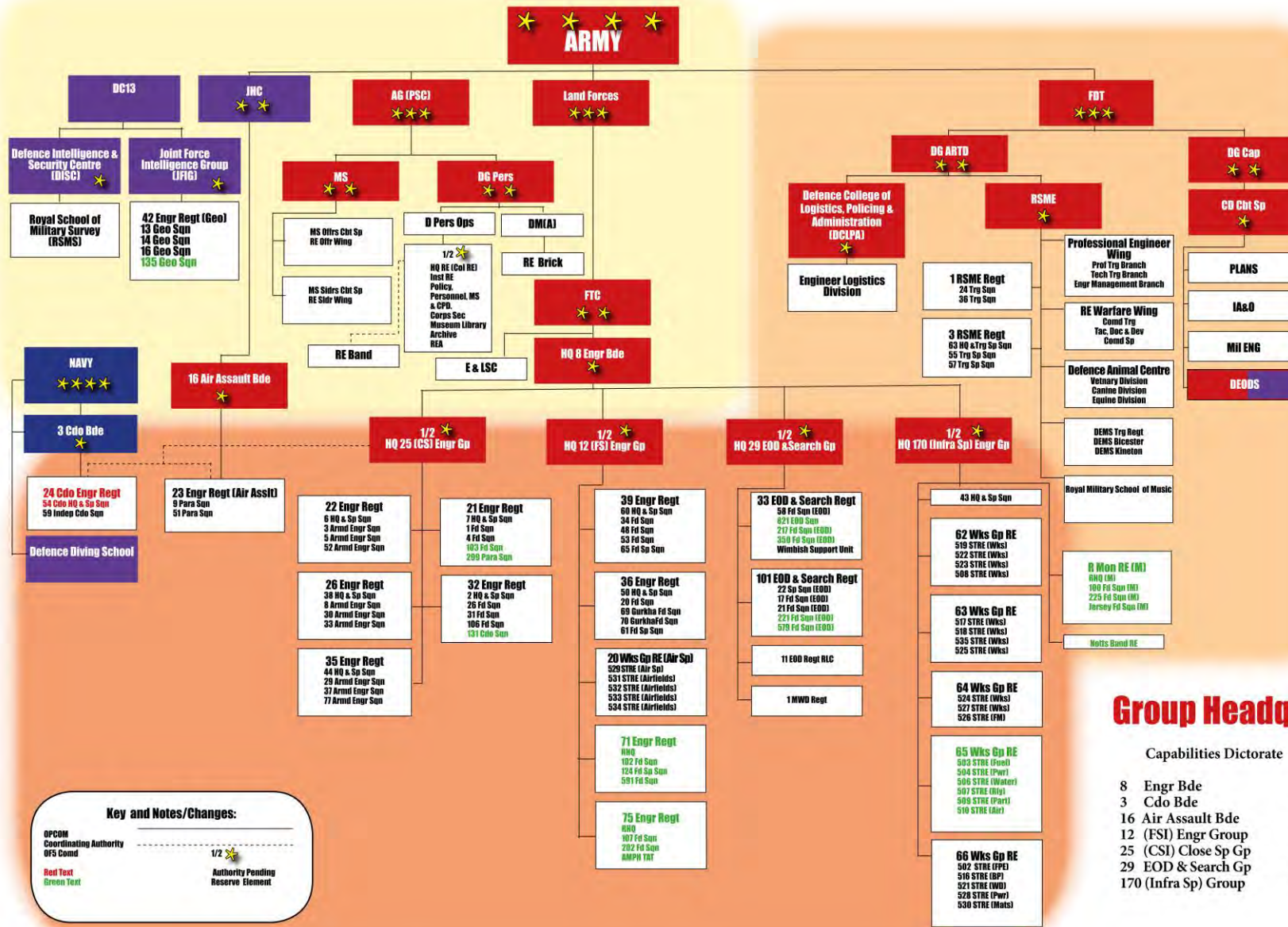
- 37. The following is a list of notable events for the first half of 2014:
  - a. 72 Engineer Regiment disbandment parade, 21-22 March 2014.
  - b. 28 Engineer Regiment disbandment and Hameln closure, 13-15 June 2014
  - c. RE Games. The summer RE Games will be held at Tidworth, hosted by 22 Engineer Regiment during the period 24-26 June 2014.

## **SUMMARY**

- 38. The Corps remains as busy as ever across the globe with an enduring demand for Sappers as Professional Engineers, Combat Engineers, Artisans or Sporting Gladiators, at home or on operations. The future has more change for the good and must be embraced positively by all those associated with the Corps.



# ARMY 2020 Corps of Royal Engineers Orbat Major and Minor Units



## Regimental Contacts

HQ RSME	Chatham	94661 2430
1 RSME Regt	Chatham	94661 2250
3 RSME Regt	Minley	94261 3455
21 Engr Regt	Ripon	94711 4201
22 Engr Regt	Tidworth	94342 3680
23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt)	Woodbridge	94627 2404
24 Cdo Engr Regt	Barnstaple	93779 7173
26 Engr Regt	Andover	94342 3918
28 Engr Regt	Hameln	94883 2273
32 Engr Regt	Hohne	94877 2361
33 Engr Regt (EOD)	Wimbish	94659 5502
35 Engr Regt	Paderborn	94879 3859
36 Engr Regt	Maidstone	94663 3236
39 Engr Regt (Air Sp)	Kinloss	95131 6608
42 Engr Regt (Geo)	Hermitage	94231 4210
71 Engr Regt	Leuchars	95151 7698
72 Engr Regt	Gateshead	94721 6171
73 Engr Regt	Nottingham	94451 8367
75 Engr Regt	Warrington	94552 8832
101 Engr Regt (EOD)	Wimbish	94659 5527
RMONRE (M)	Monmouth	94357 84465
DEMS Trg Regt	Bicester	94240 5018

## Group Headquarters Contacts

Capabilities Directorate	Andover	94393	6782
8 Engr Bde	Minley	94261	3067
3 Cdo Bde	Plymouth	9375	36505
16 Air Assault Bde	High Wycombe	95221	6432
12 (FSI) Engr Group	RAF Wittering	95351	7424
25 (CSI) Close Sp Gp	Bulford	94321	2542
29 EOD & Search Gp	Aldershot	94222	8018
170 (Infra Sp) Group	Nottingham	94451	2291

**Key and Notes/Changes:**

OPCOM  
Coordinating Authority  
OFS Comd

1/2 Authority Pending  
Reserve Element

Red Text  
Green Text