

The Royal Engineers Association

(Registered under the Charities Act 1992 and a charity registered in Scotland)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



All correspondence to:

The Controller
RE Association
Brompton Bks
CHATHAM
Kent
ME4 4UG

Telephone: 01634 822407
Fax: 01634 822394
Website: www.reahq.org.uk
Email: info@reahq.org.uk

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

19 September 2014

THE MINUTES OF 65th MEETING OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL HELD IN HELD IN FISHMONGERS' HALL, LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON ON THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2014.

PRESENT

Maj Gen C J Boag CB CBE
Col C N R Skeat ADC
Lt Col (Retd) R W Murfin TD DL
Lt Col (Retd) A J Bunting
Maj (Retd) P Gill MBE JP
Mr B Owens
Mr G Walsh
Mr K Green
Mr T Mitchley
Mr R B Hayes
Mr R Price
Mr M Riley BEM

Chairman
Corps Colonel
Army Reserve
Central Southern Group
South West Group
South East Group
South Wales Group
South Midlands Group
East Anglia Group
North West Group
North Midlands Group
London Group

IN ATTENDANCE

Maj (Retd) I Sidebottom
Lt Col (Retd) N Jordan

Corps Treasurer
D Con REA and Secretary

APOLOGIES

Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL
Brig (Retd) A Craig OBE
Brig D Southall OBE
Col (Retd) R Hunt
Col (Retd) D M Gill MBE
Maj (Retd) R Macgregor MBE TD
WO1 (CRSM) P E Marsh
Mr W Halloran

President REA
Deputy Chairman REA
Comd RSME
REA Hon Treasurer
Retired Officer
Scotland & NI Group
WO1 Nominated by CRE
North East Group

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

Maj (Retd) P Gill MBE JP
Mr T Mitchley

South West Group
East Anglia Group

ITEM 1 – DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

3. The Chairman explained that the Charity Commission had recently issued guidance on conflicts of interest for charity trustees. He said the Charity Commission expects all charities to have a standard agenda item at the start of all trustee meetings asking each trustee to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest. This procedure should, at least, ensure that conflicts of interest are identified at the earliest opportunity.
4. The Chairman asked the trustees to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest. There were no conflicts of interest, actual or potential, declared by any of the trustees.

ITEM 2 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 64th MEETING OF COUNCIL

5. Council accepted that the Minutes of the 64th Meeting were a true record of the proceedings. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

ITEM 3 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 64th MEETING OF COUNCIL

6. Item 4 – Paragraph 10. The Corps Col was asked to determine whether other capbadges were experiencing a similar drop in benevolence cases and report on the success of the Community Covenant. The Corps Colonel said that other regimental associations were seeing a decrease in benevolence cases though the exact reason could not be determined. The Community Covenant appeared to be adopted by a large number of Local Authorities (LA) and where this was the case the military community had benefitted greatly. The Chairman suggested that Associations should keep up the pressure on LAs to meet their commitments under the Community Covenant, particularly if money was involved.
7. Item 4 – Paragraph 11. The Chairman suggested that a presentation about the evolving transition arrangements for service leavers be made to both the Management Committee and Council. The Corps Col was asked to investigate and he gave a brief outline of the agencies available within the Corps that would be of interest to those leaving. He also spoke of the new Institution website that also carried a jobs vacancy page. The Chairman reminded members that transition was not just about finding a job it was also about ensuring service leavers were able to manage their lives in a different environment.
8. Item 5 – Paragraph 18. The Chairman remarked upon the lack of information on those leaving the Corps. He said that Sp Comd may be able to provide an indication of where such information might be obtained. He asked the Corps Colonel to investigate through D Pers Ops whether or not this information is available to capbadges. The Corps Colonel said that he had spoken to Sp Comd about the provision and he was advised that such information could not be provided by them. The Chairman said that the main problem was that those leaving the Corps and making their last JPA entry were not advised to tick the box that authorised release of their information to LAs and the Association; it's a question of educating the leavers.
9. Item 8 – Paragraph 38. Regarding the Annual Group Welfare Grant, Group delegates were asked to liaise with their Gp HQs to determine whether or not they considered the Annual Grant distribution equitable. This was dealt with at Item 11.

ITEM 4 – TO NOTE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 121st MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

10. The Chairman noted that Paragraph 24 of the Management Committee Minutes recommended the draft 2014 AGM Agenda to Council.

ITEM 5 – TO NOTE THE REPORT ON BENEVOLENCE

11. The Chairman asked the D Con to present the Benevolence Report for the 8 month period to end August 2014. The report is at **Annex A**.

12. The D Con said that the number of requests for assistance during this period was 9% higher than the corresponding period in 2013. The number of cases submitted by SSAFA had increased by 15%, but the number submitted by TRBL has decreased by 7%. He also advised members that the net cost of REA benevolence for the first 8 months of 2014 made up of Grants, weekly allowances and grants to other charities was £210,602. This figure is 27% higher than the £165,378 paid in grants for the same period in 2013. The Chairman said it was extremely difficult to accurately predict a budget for benevolence but reminded members that regardless of what was set, we had a remit to provide benevolence to those in need.

13. The D Con said that observers are always welcome to attend REA Benevolence meetings in London to see how the Committee carries out the business of making financial grants on behalf of the Corps. He urged REA trustees to attend at least one Benevolence Committee meeting.

14. The Chairman said Line Serial 14 of the budget provides £3K for grants to other charities. Last year the Committee approved a £2.5K grant to Veterans Aid from the budget. He asked the trustees if they wished to consider making a grant of £3,000 to *another* service charity this FY. The members agreed to make a grant to a service charity and there was some discussion concerning deserving charities that might benefit from an REA grant. Three charities were proposed and the Chairman suggested that the D Con make a decision after the aims and financial situation of each charity had been determined; the trustees agreed.

After Note: During a later discussion with the Chief Royal Engineer the D Con mentioned the charities considered, in particular Veterans In Action (VIA). The Chief Royal was very much impressed with the work of VIA and said he would support a grant to them.

Proposal: That a grant of £3,000 be made to Veterans In Action

Proposer: Mr B Owens (South East Group)

Secunder: Col C N R Skeat ADC Corps Colonel

Carried

15. The Benevolence Report was accepted.

ITEM 6 - TO NOTE THE CORPS COLONEL'S REPORT ON THE CORPS

16. The Corps Colonel presented highlights from his report. The report is at **Annex B**.

17. The Chairman thanked the Corps Colonel for presenting a comprehensive and clearly expressed report.

18. The Corps Col's report was accepted.

ITEM 7 – TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 112TH REA FINANCE COMMITTEE

19. The Chairman introduced the Item. He said he was very pleased to see the increase in the Armed Forces Common Investment Fund (AFCIF) particularly in the current financial climate. The Corps Treasurer said there has been an increase in the value of the fund with investment income received from the last quarter's dividend (£90k) taking the total for the year thus far to £175k. This due to BlackRock paying a dividend of 1.75p per unit compared to the previous dividends of 1.6 and 1.65p per unit.

20. The Corps Treasurer said that as with last year he, the D Con and the Honorary Treasurer had carried out a line-by-line review of the budget taking into account historical evidence shown in 'actuals'; this has produced a much more realistic budget.

21. The Corps Treasurer advised members that the REA Finance Committee had authorised an increase in Annuities and Special Christmas Grants (SCG) for FY 2015. He said that Weekly Allowances would be increased by £5 a week for both those living in their own home (£20) and those in residential or care homes (£17). The SCG would also be increased by 20%. There are 5 categories of SCG, £50, £30, £25, £20 and £15. A 20% increase to the SCG will result in grants of £60, £36, £30, £24 and £18 respectively.

22. There was no further discussion on the budget and the Chairman advised members that the REA Finance Committee had recommended the proposed budget for 2015 to Council.

Proposal: To approve the proposed budget for 2015

Proposed: Mr B Hayes (North West Group)

Seconded: Maj (Retd) P Gill MBE JP (South West Group)

Carried

23. The Chairman told members that there was also a need to review the Projected Budget for 2016-2019; the REA Finance Committee had recommended the Projected Budget for 2016 – 2019 to Council.

24. There were no comments on the projected budget.

ITEM 8 – TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REA RISK REGISTER 2014/2015

25. The Chairman introduced the Item. He reminded members that the Register was not confined to the REA; it is a generic Register for all Corps charities. He said that there had been no changes to any of the risk levels since last year but advised that Maj Gen Burley was carrying out a review of the Register and there would be some changes in the near future. He pointed out that while it might not be immediately apparent there was a link between the Register and the 5 Year Strategic Review (Item 9) and this would need to be made more obvious. He said that the keeper of the Risk Register was the Corps Treasurer and he was prepared to take questions. He invited comments from members.

26. The Chairman recommended the approval of the Charity Risk Register 2014-2015.

Proposal: To approve the Charity Risk Register for 2014-2015.

Proposed: Mr M Riley BEM (London Group)

Seconded: Col CNR Skeat ADC Corps Colonel

Carried

ITEM 9 - TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REA 5 YEAR STRATEGIC REVIEW 2014-2019 AND THE TRUSTEES 12 MAIN ROLES

27. The Chairman introduced the 5 Year Strategic Review. He said he had studied the document and that it was a good document for where we are now but believed there were a few amendments that needed to be made. The main problem with the document was that it was not possible to measure the success or otherwise of the Objectives; in other words, it was difficult to determine how the Association doing. The document should allow for the objectives to be measured and the results presented to Council and the AGM as a report on progress. He proposed that one of the first jobs that the new Controller would need to undertake would be a review of the document. It was heavy on objectives and sub-objectives, probably more than was needed, and should perhaps include issues such as the Community Covenant and progress on the 'through life concept'.

28. The Trustees 12 Main Roles was very much in line with Charity Commission guidance but there was one Role that needed addressing and that was Paragraph 9. *Select and support the Controller REA*. The Controller post is a civil service post and the Trustees do not have a role in selecting him nor are they able to create policy covering his employment. Through the Corps Colonel, the Controller's line manager, the trustees do support the Controller and review his performance. Role 9

needs to be more specific about the performance of and the direction given to the Controller. As with the 5 Year Strategic Review the new Controller would be tasked to review the document.

Proposal: To approve the REA 5 Year Strategic Review 2014-2019 and the Trustees 12 Main Roles.

Proposer: Maj (Retd) P Gill MBE JP (South West Group)

Seconder: Mr B Owens (South East Group)

Carried:

ITEM 10 – TO RECOMMEND THE DRAFT AGENDA AND COUNCIL’S DRAFT REPORT FOR THE 2014 AGM

29. The Chairman said that the Agenda was very much a standard AGM agenda with nothing controversial contained in it. He had seen the draft Council Report prior to the meeting and requested a few minor changes; these have been made. He added that there was still a report to come from the Corps Memorial Weekend organiser and that would be added shortly. He said Council’s Report was a good news story and so it should be, as under the Deputy Controller’s guidance we have achieved a considerable amount. The Chairman particularly wanted to highlight the success of the REA Facebook presence because there was a certain amount of negativity when the idea was first proposed. He said the use of social media in reaching out to people was definitely here to stay and that it was an excellent and modern means of delivering REA information; many REA branches were making themselves known by this medium. Of note was the HQ REA posting with photographs of the disbandment of 28 Engr Regt which reached over 17,600 people.

30. Lt Col Murfin (Reserve Forces) asked how much time each day was spent on managing the REA Facebook page. The D Con said about 30 mins. In addition to monitoring comments, there were often messages that required responses. The Chairman cautioned about joining Twitter as this required much more management. The D Con agreed saying that HQ REA did not have the resources to support a Twitter account.

31. The draft AGM Agenda and the draft Council Report to the AGM were approved.

ITEM 11 – REA GROUP STRUCTURE AND ANNUAL WELFARE GRANTS

32. The Chairman said Brig D Southall was carrying out some work to determine whether or not the current REA Group structure and distribution of Branches is right given the rebasing of the Corps within the UK. Due to his absence from the meeting, the Chairman said Council would need to revisit this aspect of the Item at a later date. Nevertheless, the matter of whether or not the annual Welfare Grant provided by HQ REA was sufficient for Groups could still be discussed although no action would be taken until Brig Southall’s work was complete. At the last meeting of Council, Group delegates were asked to liaise with their Gp HQs to determine whether or not they considered the Annual Grant distribution equitable and then report their Group position at this meeting. Whilst some delegates had had the opportunity to discuss the matter with their Groups, a majority had not and were unable to state their Group position.

33. Mr B Owens (South East Group) had discussed the matter with his Group and said that whilst historically the Welfare Grant was never fully spent by his Group, the Group believed that the amount of any grant should take into consideration not only the number of Branches in the Group, but also the number of members within those Branches.

34. Mr G Walsh (South Wales Group) said that despite trying, he was unable to make contact with any of his Group officials. There was also concern within his branch that full use of the Welfare Grant was not being made. The D Con said that the money was there to be used for the benefit of the Group as a whole and it should be spent. He said it appeared that the Group HQ were not fully interacting with their Branches. The Corps Colonel said he would raise the matter with CO R Mons RE and ask the CRSM to speak to the unit RSM.

Action: Corps Colonel

35. Lt Col A Bunting (Central Southern Group) asked for details of the REA Welfare Grant. The D Con said the annual Grant was to be used at the Group Director's discretion in order to further the activities of the Group as a whole. The Grant was not to be used to support Branch activities, whether social or otherwise. He said the type of expenditure envisaged included, subsidies for Group events such as AGM's, Group socials and travel expenses to Group meetings. At this point several members outlined how their Grant was spent.

36. Generally speaking, Group trustees agreed that if more money was available it could be used. The Chairman thanked members for their input and reiterated that no further action would be taken until Brig Southall's work on the REA Group structure was complete and had been evaluated.

ITEM 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

37. Mr B Owens (South East Group) said that he would like to propose a vote of thanks to the Deputy Controller for the sterling work he has done over the last two years filling in as Controller REA. The Chairman agreed and said that that was something all the trustees would echo very strongly.

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

38. The date of the next meeting will be 12 May 2015. The exact location of the meeting room will be advised when known.

19th September 2014

Deputy Controller

Minutes Approved

Date

Chairman
Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

**Benevolence Report
to
65th Meeting of the REA Council
11 September 2014**

1. **Trends 2014.** At this 8 month point, the number of cases considered is 9% higher than the same period in 2013. The number of cases submitted by SSAFA has increased by 15%, but the number submitted by TRBL has decreased by 7%. Other than the apparent decrease in the number of 'Widows' cases considered, there is no discernible trend for the category of cases considered, they compare closely with the previous year's figures for the same period.

2. **Benevolence Cases Considered 2014 – 2010**

| <u>Category</u> | <u>First 8 months 2014</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2010</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Disabled & Illness | 129 | 185 | 192 | 329 | 404 |
| Aged | 42 | 52 | 118 | 84 | 73 |
| Widows | 58 | 110 | 138 | 132 | 138 |
| Unemployed | 105 | 152 | 210 | 144 | 122 |
| Miscellaneous | 117 | 187 | 285 | 268 | 206 |
| Grants not made | 47 | 51 | 23 | 12 | 10 |
| Totals | 498 | 737 | 966 | 969 | 953 |

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2014 Jan to Aug.** The net cost of REA benevolence for the first 8 months of 2014 made up of Grants, weekly allowances and grants to other charities was £210,602. This figure is 27% higher than the £165,378 paid in grants for the same period in 2013.

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. REA Trustees are encouraged to attend at least one Benevolence Committee meeting.

CORPS UPDATE JUN 14

8 ENGINEER BRIGADE

1. **Overview.** 8X has continued to support commitments at home and abroad; RE assets are integral to the drawdown of infrastructure and redeployment of Engr Log from Op HERRICK. In the UK, the Bde was heavily involved in Op PITCHPOLE – the military support to flood relief in the South of England. This support culminated with CO 66 Wks Gp commanding a bespoke team of 200 tri service personnel in the assessment of 150,000 Environment Agency (EA) flood defence assets in just under six weeks – a task that would usually have taken the EA 5 years to complete. A2020 continues apace with several Sqns re-subordinating, re-rolling or disbanding; the next big muscle move will be the formation of 25 Close Support Group on 01 August 14.

12 (FORCE SUPPORT) ENGINEER GROUP

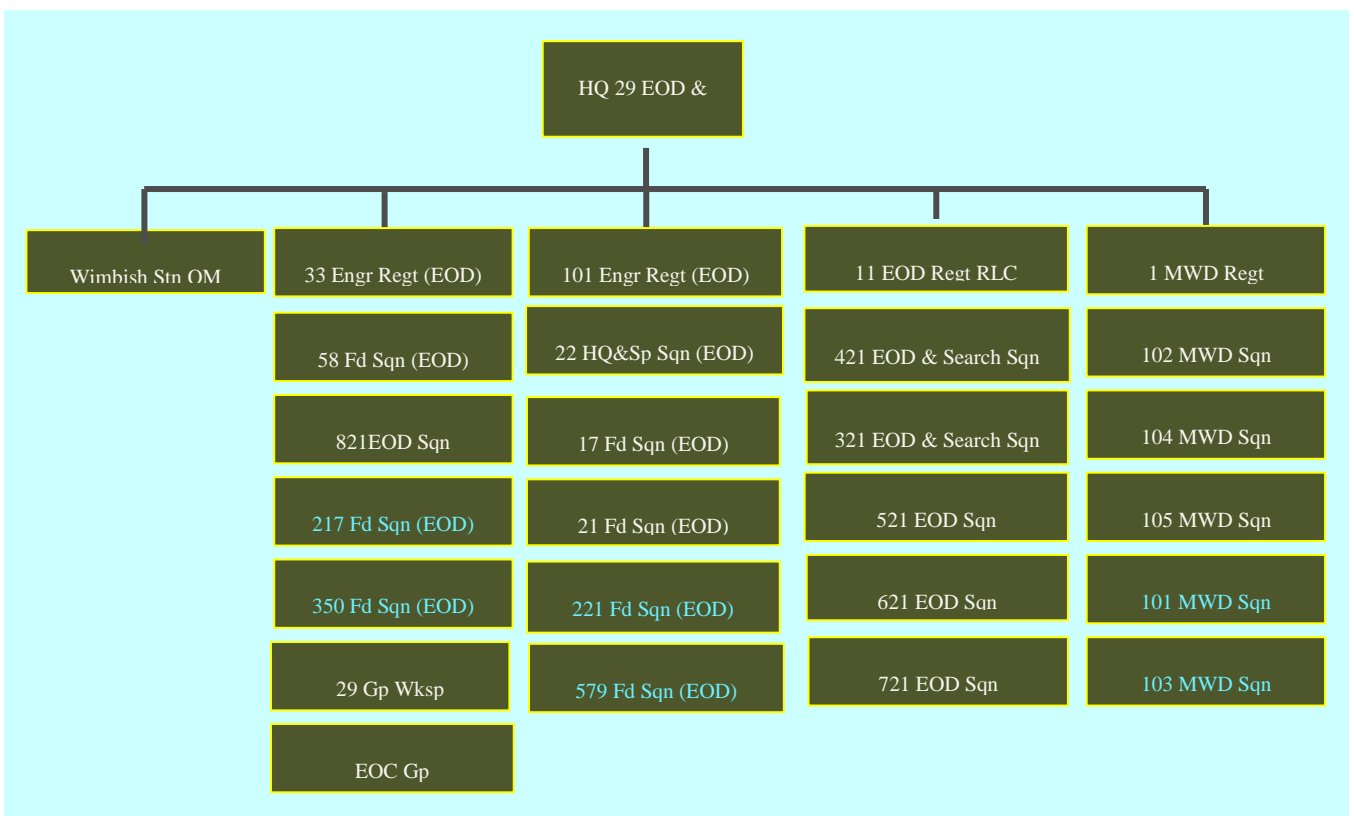
2. **A2020.** Re-subordination of 75 Engr Regt into the Group delayed from 01 Apr 14 until 01 Aug 14. 61 Fd Sp Sqn have re-subordinated to 36 Engr Regt. The RP&C role is to be undertaken by 20 Fd Sqn.

3. **Operations.** The operational focus for the Group has remained with the Broader Middle East (BME), providing contractual management for the implementation of new infra works to support Op MAINSTAY and Op HERRICK. As well as contractual infra development, the group has an enduring RE maintenance team in Minhad. Support to AIR continues; 529 STRE (Air Sp) are currently deployed to Lithuania to provide infra delivery in support of the provision of Typhoon to bolster Baltic Air Policing. Closer to home, the group provided recce support under Air Post Crash Management to the Joint Aircraft Recovery Team for the US Pave Hawk helicopter crash in Norfolk in January 14.

4. **Regular and Reserve Partnerships.** Op FORTIFY support continues with partnered units. 39 Engr Regt are partnering 71 Engr Regt and 36 Engr Regt are partnering 75 Engr Regt. Integration with regular and reserve exercises is gaining pace with reservists most recently deploying on Ex WARPAIN 14 with 36 Engr Regt. Regular personnel support to reservist exercises is planned for the 2014/15 training year.

29 EOD & SEARCH GROUP

5. **A2020.** Transformation continues to progress with combined EOD and Search Sqns established in both 33 Engr Regt (EOD) and 101 Engr Regt (EOD) as well as a second integrated Squadron in 11 EOD Regt. 350 Fd Sqn (EOD) is due to re-subordinate to 33 Engr Regt (EOD) on the 1 Jul 14. Whilst achievable, A2020 timelines will remain a significant challenge for the group to meet Initial Operating Capacity (IOC) by Apr 2015 with Full Operating Capacity (FOC) following in 2019.

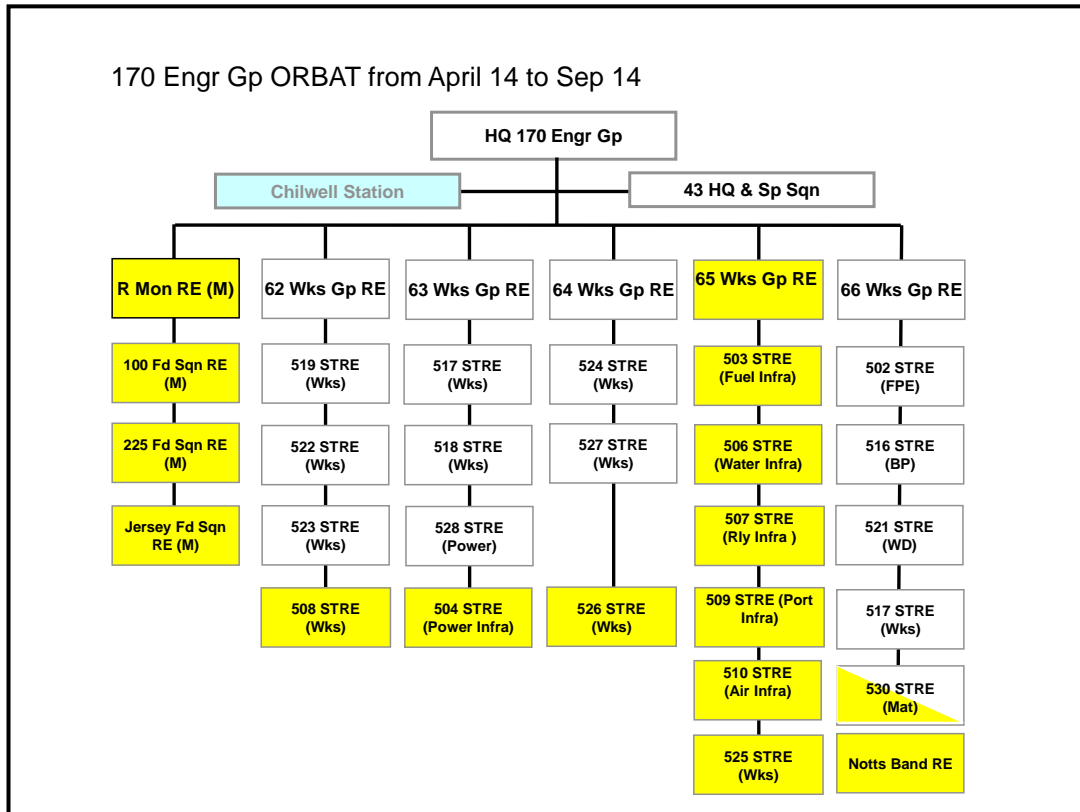


Commonwealth Games, the NATO conference and Party Political Conferences, as well as maintaining support under Op TAPESTRY. The responsibility for the provision of Search support to UK Military Aid to Civil Powers (MACP) has transferred to 11 EOD Regt RLC alongside the establishment of a total of 135 RE posts.

7. **Operations.** Op HERRICK EOD and Search FE have merged into the Engr Sqn. Upstream Capacity Building continues with deployments to PAKISTAN, LIBYA and COLOMBIA, whilst supporting a developing requirement in EGYPT.

170 (INFRA SUPPORT) ENGINEER GROUP

8. **A2020 STRUCTURE.** Under A2020, 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp will be an integrated Regular and Reserve organisation that consists of two Reserve units (R Mon RE (M) and 65 Wks Gp) and 4 hybrid units (62, 63, 64 and 66 Wks Gps). R Mon RE (M) and the Nottinghamshire Band of the Royal Engineers re-subordinated into the Group on 1 Apr 14. The diagram below shows the Group’s ORBAT as at 1 Apr 14. The next series of internal moves are scheduled for completion by end Sep 14.



170 Engr Gp ORBAT as at 1 Apr 14 through to Sep 14

9. **Operations.** 64 Wks Gp will TOA from 63 Wks Gp on Op HERRICK in late June 14. This will be the last Works Group level deployment to Afghanistan as the commitment reduces to an Op TORAL footprint in 2015. From Apr 15, 170 Engr Gp will assume responsibility for infrastructure delivery in BME including Minhad, Al Udeid, Bahrain, Musanah, Seeb and Thumrait.

10. **UK Resilience.** 170 Engr Gp deployed 4 x technical recce teams (including a technical dive capability) on Op PITCHPOLE, providing Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) and identifying tasks for military personnel whilst CO 66 Wks Gp RE assumed command of the tri-service team tasked with the inspection of EA Flood Defence assets.

MILITARY STABILISATION SUPPORT GROUP (MSSG)

11. **A2020.** Ongoing work to co-locate MSSG, 15 Psychological Operations Group (15 POG), and the Media Operations Group Volunteers (MOG (V)) at Hermitage

12. **Operations.** Short Term Training Teams (STTTs) to Somalia, BATUK, Uganda and Sierra Leone.

G1 – PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

13. **Army Redundancy Tranche 4 (T4).** The Notification of Selection for Tranche 4 of redundancy will take place on 12 Jun 14. The Corps will only take redundancies from the Queens Ghurkha Engineers (QGE) and then only a small amount of personnel.

14. **Deaths.** The Corps has sadly lost the following personnel since the last publication:

Afghanistan

5 Mar 14 Spr A Moralee 32 Engineer Regiment

Non Operational

10 Feb 14 Cpl T Stevenson 36 Engineer Regiment

25 Feb 14 Spr D Gibson 26 Engineer Regiment

27 Apr 14 Lt Col P Spilsbury DIO

23 May 14 Lt Col AN Powell 62 Wks Gp RE

15. **Honours & Awards.** The following personnel were honoured in Armed Forces Operational Awards List Number 42:

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

As Commander (CB) Major General RJ SEMPLE (Late RE)

As Officers (OBE) Lieutenant Colonel SA Lawrence RE
Lieutenant Colonel HTS Rickets RE
Lieutenant Colonel MF Kingsford (Late RE)

As Members (MBE) Lieutenant Colonel AJ Christie RE
Lieutenant Colonel IH Scrivens RE
Major AS Green RE
Major WS Turner RE
Captain DP Henson RE

NATO MSM Major RP Castro RE
Captain RCG Campbell RE

Corps Commendation Maj K Beddoe
WO1 PJ Batley
WO2 G O'Neill
WO2 M Williams
SSgt S Baleisolomone
SSgt MHR Freeman
SSgt JK McGowan
SSgt PE Shiel
SSgt D Welsh
SSgt PP Woolsey
Sgt S Gourlay
Sgt GD Stubbs
Cpl JD Brown
Cpl CRS Gallears
Cpl R Gosling
Cpl D Marsden
LCpl MAJ Dom
LCpl R Steyn
Spr L Harris
Mrs R Khan

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).

16. **OP HERRICK.** Afghanistan remains the Defence Main Effort. Both 35 Engineer Regt and 33 Engr Regt (EOD) are deploying assets on Op HERRICK 20 with 64 Wks Gp providing the UK Wks Gp (A). Base Remediation and Closure/Transition has in the main, been completed leaving the drawdown, deconstruction, decommission of infrastructure and services in Camp Bastian and the redeployment of Engr Log as the main tasks. It is highly likely that specialist Engineer surge will be required as the pace of drawdown increases.

17. **UK Resilience**

- a. **Op PITCHPOLE.** Approx 200 RE personnel were mobilised to conduct flood relief across the South of England. As well as specialist support engineer support including the use of RE boats, technical infrastructure recce and plant, the Brigade HQ lead with the assessment of 150,000 Environment Agency flood defence assets after an urgent request by the government and SJC.
- b. **Op ESCALIN.** 36 Engr Regt is the lead unit for trained fuel hauliers within the Bde in response to Industrial Action to fuel strikes.

OTHER COMMITMENTS

18. **Support to Baltic Air Policing.** 529 STRE (Air Sp) have a small air support team currently deployed to Lithuania to assist with the siting of aircraft in support of Baltic Air Policing.

19. **Libya.** No change. The UK remains committed to the development of the Libyan armed forces.

20. **Pakistan.** No change. 8X continue to support the delivery of CIED capability development in Pakistan through 1* engagement.

21. **Cyprus.** 28 Engr Regt completed their deployment on Op TOSCA in Apr 14.

22. **Falkland Islands.** The Corps is currently investigating with DIO a proposal to conduct three Joint Force Enabling Exercises (JFEs) to upgrade Remote Radar Head accommodation starting summer 2015. The project will be remote, austere and involve extended logistic lines. It will also facilitate fantastic technical design, artisan construction and engineer logistics training for the Corps - exactly the type of construction training for contingency operations. Although still formally in the negotiating and planning stage things are looking positive.

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

24. **Defence Engagement (DE) and Upstream Capacity Building (UCB).** The Corps continues to lean into UCB utilising the experiences of MSSG and STTTs which are a common occurrence across all groups. Whilst the Brigade retains regional responsibility for the Far East under the Army's Defence Engagement Strategy, there have been a number of examples of specialist engineer involvement within other regions.

- a. 33 Engr Regt has integrated with 4X and will be hosting an Egyptian delegation in May.
- b. 39 Engr Regt has deployed personnel to advise Kosovan Engineers in the construction of a range and assault course. To further the relations, Kosovan Engineers were hosted in the UK to display how a UK Engr Regt worked within barracks and on exercise.

G7 TRAINING ACTIVITY

25. **Reserves.** Op FORTIFY continues to support Reserve recruiting with partnerships between Regular and Reserve units. The second phase of personnel for Recruiting Support Teams (RSTs) are assuming post now maintaining and developing the work started within the first six months of the task.

| Regular Unit | Reserve Unit |
|---------------|--------------|
| 36 Engr Regt | 75 Engr Regt |
| 39 Engr Regt | 71 Engr Regt |
| 66 Wks Gp | 65 Wks Gp |
| Composite RST | R Mon RE (M) |

26. Reservist integration.

a. **Op PITCHPOLE.** Although no Reserve Engr units were required as formed units, individuals were utilised to good effect. Upon request for geological support by Network Rail a capability gap was identified. Fortunately this was resolved through a Reservist Geologist who was dispatched to advise with cliff stability for the repair of the Dawlish Railway. Additionally several Reservists were mobilised as Flood Defence Inspectors.

b. **Ex GRIFFIN HERALD.** Reservist capabilities from across the Corps were displayed as part of the launch of Force Troops Command on Ex GRIFFIN HERALD. This was an excellent opportunity to show Reservist and Regular integration and how specialist reservist knowledge can enhance their regular counterparts.

27. 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 | SAILFISH May – Jul 14 | 39 Engr Regt 48 Fd Sqn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete stage 2 of RMP buildings, to include first fittings (superstructure) • Complete phase 1 of the Finance building (ground works) • CE projects, identified by HQ BATUK to include Aberdare bridge and Aberdare fall tasks • Completion of Kamala Airstrip |
| 2 | NORTHERN QUEST Jul – Sep 14 | 22 Engr Regt 5 AES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMP Building fit out • Finance Building Superstructure • Nanyuki Stadium Phase 1 or Sirimon Bridge (CE tasks) • Aberdare Bridge & viewing platforms? (if funded). |
| 3 | CRAB APPLE Sep – Nov 14 | 22 Engr Regt 52 AES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close down resources yard and tented camp. • RMP Building snagging/Testing & Commissioning • Finance Building fit out • Nanyuki Stadium Phase 1 or Sirimon Bridge (CE tasks) |
| 4 | OAK APPLE Feb – May 15 | 26 Engr Regt TBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up of resources yard and tented camp. • Finance Building snagging/Testing & Commissioning • Armoury ground works • Nanyuki Stadium Phase 2 or Archers Post Sanitation Block (CE Tasks) |

CORPS SPORTS

28. Events, Achievements & Fixtures. The following is a list of the sporting events and subsequent achievements to date this year.

a. 71 Engineer Regiment’s football team won the Army Reserve Football Association Challenge Cup (Formerly the TA Army Football Association Challenge Cup) on 26 Apr 14. They are the first Engineer Regiment to lift the trophy.

b. Royal Engineers Rugby League (RERL) began the season with a Pre-Season Training Camp and had the following results:

RERL 28 v Scarborough Pirates 10
RERL 34 v Jarrow Vikings 10

The team also played the opening game of the season against the RLC in the Lawson Cup and ran out convincing winners 18-16. The next game is RE v RA on Wed 14 May 14, Chatham, KO 1400hrs

b. RE Cricket Team will take part in the Inter Corps T20 Cricket Competition on 13-15 May 14 at the Army Cricket Ground in Aldershot.

The RE v RA Cricket fixture for 2014 will take place at the Garrison Cricket Ground, Chatham during the period 17-19 July 14.

d. 22 Engineer Regiment won the RE Games ahead of 1 RSME Regiment who were runners up.

29. **Corps Through Life Concept and the REA.** The Chief Royal Engineer's intent discusses the 'Through Life Concept' of the Royal Engineer¹. The REA plays a significant part in the transition and veteran aspect of that intent. The REA has positioned itself to be an integral part of the soldier's and officer's transition from military to civilian life, in as much as it encourages service leavers to join their local branch and develop into active members; the REA partnership with Regimental Careers and Manning Officers (RCMO) is key to this activity. This will ensure a diverse demographic of members is maintained. Becoming part of that veteran community, maintaining contact with the wider family of the Corps and taking part in all the wide ranging activities conducted by the REA preserves that link between the serving and retired members of the Corps. The three veteran's weekends at Chilwell, Minley and Chatham contribute greatly to this and the use of social networks such as the REA Facebook page is instrumental in bringing together this community.

SUMMARY

30. 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.

¹ *Youth - Recruit - Serve - Transition - Veteran.*