

# The Royal Engineers Association

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

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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See Distribution

22 Aug 2017

**MINUTES OF THE 127<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, HELD IN 063MR13, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN BUILDING, LONDON, ON THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017**

## PRESENT

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Maj Gen A S Dickinson CBE | Chairman               |
| Lt Col M Heffer RE TD     | Reserve Officer        |
| WO1 (RSM) K R Rank        | 1 RSME Regt            |
| WO1 (RSM) M Eastley       | 3 RSME Regt            |
| Mr K Street               | South Midlands Group   |
| Mr M Payne BEM            | Central Southern Group |
| Mr B Simm                 | East Anglia Group      |
| Mr A Bulmer TD            | North West Group       |
| Mr T Webb                 | South Wales Group      |
| Mr W P Halloran           | North East Group       |
| Mr S Lipscombe            | North Midlands Group   |
| Mr G Doughy               | South East Group       |

## IN ATTENDANCE

|                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lt Col (Retd) N Jordan  | REA Controller                     |
| Maj (Retd) I Sidebottom | Corps Treasurer                    |
| WO1 (CSM) S Webster     | Corps Sergeant Major (CSM)         |
| Mr Geoff Jones          | Assistant Controller and Secretary |

## APOLOGIES

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Col D Bigger ADC              | Corps Colonel       |
| Maj R C A Macgregor MBE TD VR | Scotland & NI Group |
| Mr K Gover                    | South West Group    |

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present especially those who had travelled long distances.
2. The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from those listed above. He welcomed Mr Geoff Jones Assistant Controller REA for whom it was his first meeting.

## **ITEM 1 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 126<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

3. The Committee accepted that the Minutes of the 126th Meeting were a true record of the proceedings. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

## **ITEM 2 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 126<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

4. Paragraph 28. The Chairman said the RCMO led 'Welcome Pack' initiative had not produced the contact information needed. He advised the Committee that he had spoken to Comd 8 Engr Bde about formalising the POC for the REA at regimental level to become the RSM. Comd 8 Engr Bde agreed that the RSM was far better placed to assist and would help to make this so. The Controller said that RSMs would delegate the responsibility for reaching service leavers to sub-unit SSMs. He felt sure that the intervention of the SSMs would ensure a much better response to the Welcome Pack initiative, especially in obtaining the consent of service leavers to use their contact details.

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

5. The Controller presented the Benevolence Report for the 6 month period ending June 2017. The report is at Annex A.

6. The Controller reminded members that at its last meeting, Council agreed that with effect from 2018, the REA grant to ABF would be increased from £40K to £50K and the grant to SSAFA would be increased from £15K to £20K; the standing grants to Combat Stress and BLESMA would cease. Council will retain the ability to grant up to £3k per annum to a nominated charity.

7. Mr K Street – South Midlands Group said there had in the past been discussions about REA grants to homeless charities and asked if there was any progress in this area. The Chairman advised that whilst the REA had the funds, he was minded to concentrate on reaching out to those who may have fallen off our radar. To do that, rather than fall foul of the ABF who support many such charities, it was preferable to advise those charities that the REA might be able assist individuals and provide them with details of how to initiate that assistance.

8. Mr G Doughty – South East Group spoke of a charity that might benefit from an REA grant. The Controller advised that he should speak to his Group Council representative and, if supported by his Group, ask him to raise the matter at the next meeting of Council.

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

9. The Chairman thanked the CSM for attending in place of the Corps Colonel and asked if he would present the report. The CSM gave a brief overview of the state of the Corps. The report is at Annex B.

## **ITEM 5 – TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE RECRUITING COMMITTEE**

10. The Controller said the REA now had three spider dome tents for use by Groups and Branches. The tents had been prepositioned around the UK to facilitate ease of collection and were sited at 71 Engineer Regiment, Scotland, 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp at Chilwell and at 22 Engineer Regiment, Tidworth. The Group Secretaries for these areas will manage their allocation and ensure that any damage and or deficiencies are identified and put right by users.

11. The Controller referred to Paragraph 7 of his report and advised that he would ask the CSM to invite other serving RSMs to attend future Recruiting Committee meetings.

12. The Recruiting Committee report was accepted. The report is at Annex C.

## **ITEM 6 –TO COMMENT ON THE 2018 BUDGET**

13. The Chairman introduced the most up-to-date budget. He advised members that this was their chance to influence changes to the budget through Council. The Corps Treasurer, Maj Ian Sidebottom, took the opportunity to run through the budget and explain each line serial.

14. There were no comments on the 2018 budget.

## **ITEM 7- TO COMMENT ON THE REA RISK REGISTER**

15. The Chairman advised members that at the September meeting of Council the REA President suggested that the Risk Register was more of a Management Committee responsibility and proposed that ownership of the Register be transferred to that Committee. That being the case, he introduced the Register and asked members if they wished to comment on its validity.

16. The CSM said that many former members of the Corps were involved with Corps reunions; he suggested that these organisations might pose a risk to REA membership numbers. The Chairman took a more sanguine view and thought that regardless of the organisations to which the former Sapper belonged, they served as the REA's eyes and ears on the ground by which to identify those who might be in need of help. He suggested that a real risk would be about the REA losing visibility of those that needed help. The mitigation of that risk is that the REA exploits the connectivity that those reunion organisations presented.

17. Mr K Street - South Midlands Group suggested that poor performance of our investments due to Brexit might be a risk. The Chairman thanked members for their input and said that he intended to discuss the Risk Register at a meeting with the Controller and Corps Treasurer in August.

18. Members were content to accept Charity Risk Register dated 30 June 2017. The Risk Register will be reviewed again in Jan 2018.

## **ITEM 8 - BRANCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY-DEBRIEF POINTS**

19. The Chairman asked the Controller to brief members on the submission of Branch Financial Summaries for the FY 2016. The Controller said he was pleased with the accuracy and timely submission of Branch Financial Summaries and the success of Branch Audit submissions. He asked that Group representatives take this message back to Branches and congratulate them for their efforts.

20. Only one Branch failed to submit an accurate Summary, as a consequence the auditor will include the Wolverhampton Branch in the list of Branches required to submit their accounts for audit next year.

## **ITEM 9 - TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE AGENDA FOR THE 2017 AGM**

21. The Chairman said it was a fairly standard AGM agenda but suggested that other Items should be added. These would include an extension to the REA Welfare Grant scheme, the Membership Scoping Study Report and notice that changes to Association Rules would need to be considered in 2018 as a result of re-aligning staff responsibilities and changes to Badge of Merit award procedures.

22. The Controller advised members that the process for changing Association Rules begins with the Management Committee. Recommended Rule changes would then be submitted to Council for their approval then proposed for inclusion at a General Meeting. Changes to the current Rules will be considered at the Management Committee Meeting in January 2018.

23. The Controller said he would carry out some preliminary work on Rule changes in time for the Jan 2018 Management Committee meeting.

24. The Committee considered the draft 2017 AGM Agenda and, subject to the agreed changes, recommended the Agenda to Council.

#### **ITEM 10 - BRANCH MATTERS**

25. Branch Formation - Hartlepool Branch. Mr Bill Halloran, North East Group, submitted a proposal for the formation of a new Branch called the Hartlepool Branch. In accordance with Association Rule 17.03 a list of twenty REA Life or Full Members has been submitted to HQ REA by the proposed Branch. The Chairman said HQ REA is content to accept the new Branch and allocate it to the North East Group. The Committee welcomed the proposal

**Proposed:** Mr W Halloran – North East Group

**Seconded:** Mr M Payne – Central Southern Group

**Carried**

#### **ITEM 11. - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

26. HQ REA Staffing. The Chairman advised members that with Mr Geoff Jones taking up the role of Assistant Controller, HQ REA was now fully manned. The responsibilities of the Assistant Controller are considerably different to those of the now defunct Deputy Controller post but would take much of the pressure off the Controller.

27. East Anglia Representative. Mr B Simm - East Anglia Group advised members that, as he was being considered as the East Anglia Group member of Council it was probably his last meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his valuable support and said he looked forward to seeing him at Council meetings.

28. Gibraltar Branch Weekend. Mr G Doughty - South East Group spoke about the increasing popularity of the Gibraltar Branch Weekend and suggested that there should be REA funding to support it. The Chairman acknowledged that the event had attracted some high ranking officials and that the Corps had a long connection with the Rock. He thought the event worthy of support, though was unsure of the source of the support. The Controller reminded members that this very matter had been raised at Council in May 2016 and that Council stated they were *not* minded to contribute towards the event.

29. Mr M Payne - Central Southern Group said that each Group had an allocation of up to £1750 each year and asked if the Gibraltar Branch had asked for financial assistance through their Group Director. The Controller advised that unlike the remaining regional groups, the Overseas Group did not have an allocation of £1750. He added that the annual Group Welfare Grant was for the benefit of the Group as a whole and was not to be used to assist in running Branch social events.

30. Corps Memorial Weekend Grant. WO1 (RSM) K Rank - 1RSME Regt said that within the South East Group there was considerable opposition to a charge on attendance at the Corps Memorial Weekend. The RSM acknowledged that the other two veterans weekends levied a charge on those attending certain parts of the weekend but added that Holdfast were now charging for items that they previously provided FOC and that the 2017 grant of £8.5k was insufficient. The Controller said that in late 2016 he had advised 1 RSME to make a charge for those attending the social functions to assist in making ends meet. He said he thought it wrong that people could just turn up and expect to be fed without contributing to the cost; his thoughts were echoed by the Chairman. The Chairman summarised by saying that if the grant was insufficient to provide the high standard event that we are used to, then it would be necessary for a charge to be levied against those attending.

31. REA Feedback. WO1 (RSM) K Rank continued by saying that Group feedback about HM the Queen's visit to Brompton Barracks last year indicated that REA members felt they were not always treated as part of the Corps when it comes to events such as HM's visit. Priority appeared to be centred on REA Standards; REA members felt somewhat alienated. The RSM thought that restricted entry to the event was the main grievance of his members. The Chairman said that managing equitable representation of members of our large Corps family to events like the visit of HM to Brompton Barracks was extremely difficult; there was bound to be some disappointment. He was adamant though that the REA was not just about 'the Standard' and asked the RSM to the message back to his Group.

32. Inglis Bridge. Mr S Lipscombe - North Midlands Group gave an update on the recovery of the Inglis Bridge by the Doncaster Branch. The Chairman thought a short presentation or storyboard at the AGM in October would be most appropriate and Steve Lipscombe agreed to put something together.

33. Veteran's Weekends. The Chairman recognised the amount of hard work that went into producing the veteran's weekends at Chilwell, Minley and Chatham and thanked the respective RSMs for their efforts. He said it was important that REA members supported, valued and respected these labours; he would not tolerate any member bringing disgrace to the REA.

34. Last Meeting. The Chairman advised members that this was the last meeting for:

- Maj Rob Oakes RE – Serving Officer
- Maj Ron Macgregor MBE TD VR – Scotland & NI Gp (Apologies sent)
- Mr Peter Markham – London Group

35. He thanked them for their long, valuable and active participation in the affairs of the REA and the Corps.

## **ITEM 12. - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

36. The date for the next meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The meeting will be held at MOD Main Building, London.

22 August 2017

Assistant Controller

Minutes Approved

Dated

Chairman

Distribution:

Management Committee Members  
Council Members  
Group Directors  
Deputy Group Directors  
Group Secretaries  
Branch Secretaries  
Controller REA  
Corps Treasurer

## Benevolence Report to the REA Management Committee July 2017

1. **Trends 2017.** For the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2017 the number of benevolence cases submitted to the Association by SSAFA, The Royal British Legion and other organisations was 250, this is 20 cases fewer than the same period in 2016 (270 cases). Of these 250 cases, 188 were submitted by SSAFA and 51 by TRBL; these figures are slightly lower than the same period in 2016.

### 2. Individual Benevolence Cases Considered during first six months 2017 – 2014 (Excludes Weekly Allowances and Christmas Grants)

| Category           | First 6 months 2017 | 2016       | 2015       | 2014       |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Disabled & Illness | 73                  | 174        | 175        | 202        |
| Aged               | 12                  | 53         | 71         | 63         |
| Widows             | 16                  | 55         | 86         | 78         |
| Unemployed         | 60                  | 107        | 118        | 137        |
| Miscellaneous      | 68                  | 136        | 149        | 171        |
| Grants not made    | 21                  | 40         | 51         | 68         |
| <b>Totals</b>      | <b>250</b>          | <b>565</b> | <b>650</b> | <b>719</b> |

| Regular – Reserve Case Comparisons | First 6 months 2017 | 2016     | 2015     | 2014     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Regular Cases                      | 209                 | 540      | 605      | 666      |
| Reservist Cases                    | 20                  | 27       | 45       | 53       |
| Regular Grants                     | £123,813            | £260,925 | £282,412 | £287,855 |
| Reservist Grants                   | £6,762              | £10,145  | £20,318  | £18,217  |

3. **Cost of Benevolence Jan to June 2017.** The gross amount spent on benevolence for the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2017 was £130.5k. This is £2k more than was spent in the same period in 2016.

4. **Benevolence Committee meetings.** In 2016 the Controller's delegated powers increased from £500 to £1,000. Since that increase the REA Benevolence Committee sits quarterly rather than monthly. Meetings are now held in March, June, September and December. Cases requiring financial assistance greater than £1,000 (Controller's financial threshold) are referred to the REA Benevolence Committee. Cases of an urgent nature that exceed the Controller's delegated powers are considered out-of-committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Benevolence Committee and the Hon Treasurer REA. There is no financial limit on grants that the Committee can authorise for benevolence. The Committee also deals with applications for weekly allowances. Cases, having been in front of the Committee, are dealt with within a week of the Committee decision.

5. **Grants to Charities.** At the last meeting of Council, the trustees agreed that with effect from 2018, the grant to ABF would be increased from £40k to £50k, the grant to SSAFA would be increased from £15k to £20k. Council also agreed to remove the standing £5k grants to Combat Stress and BLESMA and retain the £3k per annum for other charities to be nominated annually by Council.

**6. REA Welfare Grant Update.**

- The following bids have been considered and funded:
  - 39 Engr Regt Campervan – REA grant was £38.5k
  - Corps Cricket Practice Nets – REA grant was £40k
  - 1 RSME Cpls Club Furniture – REA grant was £4.4k
  - 299 Para Sqn RE Drill Hall improvements – REA grant was £3.8k
  - Carver Bks Sports Village – REA grant was £195.5k
  - 3 RSME Regt Cpls Club Furniture – REA grant was £4.15k
  
- The following bids are approved but unfunded:
  - 39 Engr Regt 2<sup>nd</sup> Campervan – REA grant requested £40.67k
  - 3 RSME Regt Minibus – REA grant requested £29k

## **CORPS UPDATE JULY 2017**

### **8 Engineer Brigade**

#### **12 (Force Support) Engineer Group**

1. HQ 12 (FS) Engr Gp continues to force generate personnel for upcoming deployments across Africa, the broader Middle East and assistance to Air Operations on behalf of the RAF.
2. 21 Engr Regt has been focused on the recovery from Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya and preparing for a testing exercise on Salisbury Plain - Ex WESSEX STORM. 1 Fd Sqn has completed CAST and low level training events, personnel have returned from Project ANEMOI in the Falkland Islands and are preparing for a return to the Island come late Sep 17 in order to complete further construction works. 4 Fd Sqn are transitioning to a construction focus in preparation for Op TRENTON 4 in South Sudan and have a Tp+ deployed on a construction task in the Lake District. 12 members of the Regt are currently deployed on Op CATAN 2 in Somalia, with a further 11 members also deployed with the UK Task Force on Op TRENTON 2 in South Sudan.
3. 32 Engr Regt is currently focused on the pre-deployment preparations for personnel deploying to South Sudan on Op TRENTON 3. A comprehensive training and integration package involving 2 MERCIAN and 32 Engr Regt is now complete. Pre deployment training is now under way, including a substantial range package. 31 Fd Sqn have returned from Project ANEMOI and preparation has started for their re-deployment in late Aug 17.
4. 36 Engr Regt is balancing several Group tasks post Easter leave. RHQ hosted GOC FTC Comd Maj Gen Urch, providing him with a Regt overview and update. 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn completed low level training in Weymouth and Salisbury Plain leading to AV(W) conversion commencing in May 17. 70 Gurkha Fd Sqn continue to make good progress on Ex CRABAPPLE in Kenya, currently half way through completion point of their deployment.
5. 39 Engr Regt now have 34 Fd Sqn deployed in South Sudan and 53 Fd Sqn deployed on Project ANEMOI in the Falkland Islands. The Regiment continues to be extremely busy supporting the RAF on exercises and operations in the UK and overseas, where members of the Regiment have recently deployed to Cyprus and Romania.
6. 71 Engr Regt has 27 personnel mobilised for Op TRENTON in South Sudan. Focus is now on mobilisation for Op CATAN 4 in Somalia. Ex ATLANTIC STAR 17 in the Ascension Islands has been cancelled.
7. 75 Engr Regt has been undertaking annual training. The first Regt'l weekend focused on trade training resulting in a significant upturn in attendance across the unit. Amphibious Tp has completed low level trg ahead of Ex SABRE STRIKE, the unit has now received the additional M3 Rigs required for future deployments to Germany and beyond.
8. R MON RE (M) delivered two significant training events recently, at both Sqn and Regt'l level. Regt'l training event was the units first Professional Development Weekend (PD). PD events focus on the development of individuals at trade competencies and enable the unit to deliver the first module of the intermediate Cbt Engr modules, bespoke MT, C3S and Officer training. Current Regt'l focus is G1 administration for deployment on ACT17 to Romania. Installation of the sundial presented to HM The Queen by the Corps during S300 at Frogmore House is complete.



## **25 (Close Support) Engineer Group**

9. 25 (CS) Engr Gp support to 3 (UK) Div HQ study days in preparation for Ex WARFIGHTER 17/5 have concluded culminating in a US Army Comd Leadership MCCP. Close support engineering across the various Battle Groups continues at Regt'l level. Work continues to better understand future 3 (UK) Div requirements in order to forewarn 8 Engr Bde where required.

10. 22 Engr Regt are currently supporting operations in Iraq and various UK and overseas exercises; support to British Army Training Unit Canada is enduring. 3 AES currently have 91 personnel deployed on Op SHADER Iraq, split between the Taji and Besmaya. 5 AES have recently completed ACROW Bridge pre deployment training in Norway.

11. 26 Engr Regt training year continues to develop at pace. Activity for 33 AES and 8 AES is broadly focused around low level training, such as annual training events, small arms and demolitions ranges; basic specialist skills; building BG integration. 30 AES deploy imminently on Ex PRAIRIE STORM in Canada. 38 HQ&SP Sqn are in the process of returning from Canada having concluded Ex WARPAINT.

12. 35 Engr Regt has been preparing for Ex HECTOR'S RESPONSE, a very high readiness exercise which also coincided with the visit of GOC FTC Maj Gen Urch. 29 Armd Engr Sqn has deployed on Op CABRIT in Estonia. The remainder of the Regt has continued to maintain its high level of readiness, which has been tested during EX NOBLE JUMP 1; a full recall exercise initiated by NATO. Deploying ahead of the Regt, the Spearhead Troop from 77 AES conducted low level training including mine clearance drills before 37 AES deployed and trained with Panzer Bn 203 which included crossing No10 CSB for the first time since the new waiver came into operation. 44 HQ & Sp Sqn conducted logistic movement and GSB builds. Throughout Spring the Regt has managed to deploy 40 personnel away skiing and Army snowboarding as well as winning the Army Rugby Championship Tankard.

## **29 (EOD & Search) Group**

13. HQ 29 EOD and Search Gp currently have vast numbers deployed supporting various operations and exercises being conducted in the UK and overseas.

14. 1 MWD Regt continues to support various task across the broader Middle East, including assistance to the Ministry of Interior of Bahrain. Pre deployment training continues at pace for the next iteration of troops to deploy to the region. The Regt also continues to hold several elements of the unit at readiness for various UK tasks and operations.

15. 33 Engr Regt in support of the various EOD task matrixes have troops deployed at the CIED school of excellence in Tunisia, supporting the overall Africa training mission. Amongst the several UK tasks, the Regt is significantly supporting Op ESCALIN: potential fuel tanker strikes. 58 Sqn have supported Ex JOINT WARRIOR and Ex WESSEX STORM in support to 40 Cdo CT4 validation, conducting role specific training prior to further validation in May. 217 Fd Sqn and 350 Fd Sqn have participated in the Gp MATTs weekend, the both Sqn's continues to support a number of community engagement events looking to retain high levels of recruiting.

16. 101 Engr Regt continue to supports UK security operation in reaction to the recent terror attacks across the UK. 22 HQ & Sp Sqn (EOD) conducted ADW trg at DEMS Trg Regt as well as other low level exercises. 17 Fd Sqn (EOD) have limited personnel deployed in Iraq, the Sqn also recently honed Cbt Engr skills in Weymouth during a 2 wk exercise. 21 Fd Sqn (EOD) are heavily engaged with personnel deployed in Iraq and conducting further pre deployment training for future

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deployments across the broader Middle East; a team is also set to complete the Nijmegen March in July. 221 Fd Sqn (EOD) are supporting Regt activities via various personnel mobilised, the Sqn also took part in Ex BLACK CAT FIRE 2 at Surrey Fire and Rescue HQ and Ex BLACK CAT STRIKE on STANTA, both of which included Search and casualty training in support of other government agencies.

17. 11 EOD Regt RLC has deployed on various missions including Op CABRIT in Estonia and Poland. Pre deployment training has started for further iterations to Estonia; the unit is also conducting high-risk search tasks for a plethora of VIP personnel.

### **170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group**

18. 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp are providing various technical support across 8 Engr Brigade, FTC and in support of PJHQ; these tasks vary from basic design support, facilities management and in country project management/support to several military construction forces.

19. 20 Wks Gp continues to support various RAF stations in the UK as well as having personnel deployed in the Middle East.

20. 62 Wks Gp has delivered infra support across Africa, in particular South Sudan and Somalia.

21. 63 Wks Gp is delivering project management for Project ANEMOI, which is the rebuilding of the three radar head site on the Falkland Islands. Teams have recently trained and deployed to the Middle East as well as producing design reports for a construction tasks in Cyprus.

22. 64 Wks Gp are at very high readiness. In addition, visits to Ex PINESTICK in Cyprus in order to provide assurance has occurred, also seeing teams deploy on technical recce's to Kenya.

23. 65 Wks Gp & Reserve Support Team 65 Wks Gp & Reserve Support Team continue to support with technical expertise widely across Defence both nationally and internationally. The unit continues to have individuals committed to Op TRENTON in South Sudan and the broader Middle East. Support to Defence Strategic Fuels Authority continues, deployments for support to DIO in Nepal have occurred and further individuals are being prepared. The shooting team have prepared for the forthcoming FTC shooting competition, along with a small team deploying on Ex MARTELLO DIVE adventurous training in Cyprus. Recruiting and retention remain strong; unit numbers have increased for the seventh consecutive month and currently sit at (91%).

24. 66 Wks Gp continue to have soldiers deployed in the Middle East and South Sudan and further afield across Africa. Flood Defence training was conducted to Standby Infantry Battalions. Sgt Purja was awarded a Chief Royal's Commendation for taking on responsibilities above and beyond that expected of his rank through achieving the Authorised Person (Pet) qualification, usually a preserve of a Clerk of Works.

### **Specialist Units**

25. 24 Cdo Engr Regt continues to support 3 Cdo Bde RM by holding a large number of officers and soldiers at readiness. The Regiment has been operationally committed almost continually since Jun 15. 59 Cdo Sqn are currently deployed in Norway.

26. 23 Para Engr Regt continues to support 16 AA Brigade and has many officers and soldiers held at readiness. 51 Para Sqn are currently deployed on a construction tour in Cyprus. 299 Para Sqn continue to recruit large numbers of reserve soldiers to its ranks, 9 Para Sqn had personnel

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attending the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in the Falkland Islands, followed by a 2 day event in camp which seen the unit host many veterans that deployed in 1982.

27 42 Engr Regt (Geo) continues to support a vast array of tasks around the world. Currently there are officers and soldiers deployed to Estonia, the Middle East, the Falkland Islands, Cyprus and a variety of UK locations. Though extremely busy as a unit, sport is still being played with the Regimental Squash team unfortunately losing in the semi-finals of the Army Championships. A number of officers and soldiers will take part in the Rome marathon at the end of April 17.

### Future Activities & Events

28. The following notable activities are planned for the future:

- a. 15 – 17 Sep 17 – Corps Memorial and Veterans Weekend – Chatham.
- b. 14 Oct 17 – REA AGM, VSC, London
- c. 15 Oct 17 – Sapper Sunday, Chelsea Hospital.

### General Points

29. **Royal Engineers Website.** To find out more about what the Corps is up to and view electronic copies of Sapper Magazine visit the RE pages inside the Army website at the links provided at serial 33. The Corps RSM has now been replaced by WO1 Steve Webster, who holds the new title of Royal Engineer Corps Sergeant Major.

### Sports & AT

30. **Corps Sporting Fixtures.** A short list of Corps sporting fixtures, should personnel wish to drop into events to provide support, is below:

- a. **Cricket:** RA versus RE 3 day fixture, Larkhill – 20-22 Jul 17.
- b. **Rugby League:** RE Rugby League is fast approaching the summer season, the following fixtures:
  - (i). **12 Jul 17.** Lawson Cup Semi final v Inf at 3 RSME Regt.
  - (ii). **26 Jul 17.** Lawson Cup final v REME or RS.
  - (iii). **7 Oct 17.** Providing trophy party and on pitch support (Flags/escorts/banners) to the Super league Grand Final at Old Trafford (Live on Sky Sports).
  - (iv). **8 – 15 Oct 17.** End of season tour to Greece.

31. **Corps Sports Results:** A short list of Corps sporting results are as follows:

- a. **Athletics.** The RE Inter-Regt'l Athletics Championships took place in June in Tidworth, which were an outstanding success. 13 teams (176 athletes – 24 females, 152 males) took part. 22 Engr Regt are the RE Inter-Regt'l athletics Champions 2017 with 23 Para Engr Regt second and 1 RSME Regt third. The Corps men's team finished second in the Inter Corps Athletics Championship 2017 with the women finishing 5<sup>th</sup>.

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- b. **Football.** The Corps football team (men) won the Woolwich Cup 2017. The Corps were runners up in the Inter Corps Quadrangle Tournament 2017 having won one, lost one and drew one. The game they won was against the gunners 6-1. 3 RSME Regt are the Sapper Cup winners beating 22 Engr Regt 7-1 in the final.
- c. **Rugby.** A combined RE and REME ladies rugby union side beat the AGC ladies rugby team in the Army Cup final. The RE RFC (mens) won the VT Inter Corps Tournament. 35 Engr Regt are the Army Rugby Union winners.
- d. **Cross Country.** 23 Para Engr Regt are the RE Cross Country Champions for 2017 with 3 RSME Regt second and 1 RSME Regt third.
- e. **Road Running.** 22 Engr Regt are the Corps Half Marathon Champions with WO2 Sutton overall winner. 1 RSME Regt are the Corps 10k Inter-Unit champions, with 36 Engr Regt second and 1 RSME Regt third.
- f. **Road Biking.** The Corps road biking team is the Inter Corps Champions 2016/7.
- g. **Cricket.** 39 Engr Regt are the current Corps Cricket Champions.
- h. **Boxing – Army Individual Finals.** The Corps had the following 4 finalist competing at the Army Individual Boxing Finals:
  - i. Spr Roberts – 1 RSME Regt, Grade A, Super Heavyweight Champion.
  - ii. Spr Keywood – 26 Engr Regt, Grade A, Middleweight Champion.
  - iii. Spr Blackwell – 23 Para Engr Regt, Grade A, Lightweight Champion.
  - iv. Spr McKane – 23 Para Engr Regt, Grade A, Light Heavyweight Runner up
- i. **Tennis.** The Corps are Inter Corps Summer tennis champions 2017, for the first time in 20 years. This built on earlier season success when the Corps Tennis team also won the Inter Corps tennis winter league.
- J. **Corps Games.** The RE games was coordinated by 22 Engr Regt and delivered at Tidworth with some events being coordinated at other locations due to activity requirements. The event was an outstanding success with over 2000 personnel in attendance. 3 RSME Regt were overall champions narrowly beating last year's winners 1 RSME Regt; 71 Engr Regt were the overall Reserve unit winners.

32. Individual Success:

- a. **Army Sportsmen of the Year** – Sgt Crossley - Wakeboarding, 22 Engr Regt.
- b. **Army Adaptive Sportsmen of the Year** – Capt Dave Henson MBE.
- c. **Selection to Team GB Female Boxer.** Spr Ebony Jones.

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d. **Invictus Games:** Spr Jack Cummings, Ashley Hall, LCpl Clive Smith, SSgt Steve Arnold (Team Vice Capt), Cpl Ross Austen and Cpl Luke Sinnott have been selected to represent Team GB at this year's event in Toronto.

33. **Useful Links:**

- a. Army Website (Royal Engineers): <http://www.army.mod.uk/royalengineers/26293.aspx#>
- b. REA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Engineers-Association>
- c. RE Museum: <http://www.re-museum.co.uk/>
- d. Institution of Royal Engineers: <http://www.instre.org/>
- e. Sapper Shop: [www.sappershop.com](http://www.sappershop.com)
- f. Army Sappers (New Corps website): <https://www.armyengineer.co.uk/>

**RECRUITING COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**FOR THE MEETING OF**  
**THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**JULY 2017**

1. During the period of this report the number of new Life Members recruited throughout all of the REA Groups was 442, a decrease of just 9 members compared to the previous twelve month period.
2. All Phase 2 recruits have continued to receive REA Awareness Training and receive the 'REA Welcome Pack'.
3. Awareness presentations continue to be given to all RSME Command Courses. This is normally delivered by the Corps Colonel as part of his wider brief to the courses. In addition to this, the REA Controller delivers REA Awareness presentations to the RE RSM's Course held annually.
4. Three REA dome tents have now been procured along with advertising banners and flags. The tents are available to all Groups and Branches to support local activities where promoting REA awareness and recruiting new members was possible. In order to simplify the collection and return of these assets they have been pre-positioned in the following locations, 22 Engr Regt, 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp and 71 Engr Regt. Each tent set has been boxed and comes with a set of sack trucks to assist with its movement.
5. Given that The 'Welcome Pack' initiative through the RCMOs has not produced the high volume of membership applications expected, the REA Chairman spoke with Comd 8 Engrx about formalising the POC for the REA at regimental level to become the RSM. Comd 8Engrx agreed that the RSM is far better placed and will help to make this so.
6. The need to support REA recruiting with merchandising was identified by the Committee at its March meeting. The current Recruiting budget is £5k per year and this may need to rise to meet the cost of merchandising. Some research work is being carried out to identify the extra cost and the findings will be used to support any increase request made to the REA Finance Cttee.
7. Service commitments have prevented the Corps Colonel and the Corps RSM from taking an active part in the business of the Recruiting Committee. The last meeting was attended by the RSM 22 Engr Regt. His input was extremely valuable and the Committee agreed that other serving RSMs should be invited to attend future REA Recruiting Committee meetings

Neil Jordan  
Lt Col (Retd)  
Chairman  
Recruiting Committee

10 July 2017