

## CORPS UPDATE AS AT 14 APR 11

### HEADLINE ISSUES

- Manning (Army Personnel Statistics Report, as at 1 Apr 11).

	Held strength	Army Liability	Difference	%ot Army Liability
Officers	1,310 (DE - 960, LE - 350)	1,195	+115	109.6
Soldiers	8,330	8,333	-3	99.9
Total	9,640	9,528	+112	101.1
Females	160			1.6
Foreign & Commonwealth	460			4.7
QGE Soldiers	410	275	+135	149

### OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENTS

- The Corps remains as busy as ever with every squadron committed to the Operational Commitment Plot.

Capability	HERRICK 14 (Mar - Sep 11)	HERRICK 15 (Oct 11-Mar 12)
TFH	3 Cdo Bde	20 Armd Bde
Engr Regt	24 Cdo Reat	35 Enar Regt
TALISMAN	32 Engr Regt (31 AES)	32 Engr Regt (77 AES)
C-IEO TF	101 Engr Reat (EOO)	25 Engr Regt (Air Sp)
Search	36 Engr Regt (1)	36 Enljr Regt (2)

Middle East Operational Infrastructure. A number of operational infrastructure reces and construction tasks are ongoing at SEEB, MINHAO and AI-UOEIO as part of the ongoing Op ZACH (ME routine infra sp) tasks. An Air Support recce and advisory visit continues at Gioia del Colle (GOC - Italy) in support of Op ELLAMY (Libya), and it is not currently anticipated that there will be further RE support required to this operation.

Engr Regt Gp. The Relief in Place (RiP) has occurred with no loss to output and 24 Cdo Engr Regt are already heavily committed to supporting the full range of tactical activity in TFH. This period provides the Regt with a good opportunity to gain situational awareness prior to 3 Cdo Bde taking command of Task Force Helmand.

C-IED TF. The CIEO TF RiP is ongoing with no significant issues. A success story has been the Role Specific Trg for All Arms Search Teams which was well received although highlighted the lack of continuation trg through MST.

Op QUICKTHORN. The mil option to backfill Prison Offrs in case of a strike is now public knowledge. Defence is generating and training teams to backfill up to 103 prisons.

Olympics. The mil support to the Olympics is now Op OLYMPICS in line with Police nomenclature. CinC Land, as SJC for UK Ops, will be the Mil Operational Comd with a 1\* Tactical Comd tbc. SJC are staffing an uplift in their planning and delivery capability for the Olympics. Options for backfilling SJC with an EOO & Search SME are being scoped as is the requirement for a Technical Response Force (TRF) HQ forward during the Games.

EOD. The process to merge the Joint EOO Staff and the Land Forces EOO and Search Branch is now well advanced. It is likely that the new Defence EOD and Search Staff will form up at Minley under HQ EinC(A) and be responsible for coordinating all Joint EOO Force Generation/Capability Development activities. It will consist of RN, RE, RLC, RAVC, RSigs and RAF Staff.

RE CAPABILITY - Largely unchanged

- Enhancements to operational equipment continue to be developed. The successful TALISMAN route proving and clearance system is being upgraded by the addition of a DETECT and FLAIL system on a remotely operated chassis,
- C-Vehicle Private Finance Initiative. A number of replacement fleets including Medium and Self Loading Dump Trucks as well as well drilling and LWT/MWT will be fielded in 2011.
- Boats. The ageing Rigid Raider craft Mk III is increasingly difficult to support and will be withdrawn from service in 2011; the capability will be gapped for several years until a replacement can be delivered.
- TROJAN and TITAN (Engineer Tanks). These vehicles have proven to be a step change in mobility, protection and obstacle breaching. TROJAN has been used successfully on operations in Afghanistan and has breached IED belts and forced entry into compounds.
- TERRIER (son of CET). The replacement for CET is an urgently required one. TERRIER offers a well-protected, rapidly mobile successor and is currently undergoing demanding trials in the SE England.
- Tactical Bases. In future, all tactical infrastructure bases will be delivered as *integrated capability platforms*. This will include combat power, surveillance, generators, protective structures and living accommodation.
- Electrical Power. The safe use of electrical power on operations is challenging but no less necessary. A mechanism for stronger governance has been established in theatre and all arms courses are being developed.
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal. The Land Forces EOD and Search Branch was established in HQ EinC(A) in 2010 with the aim of providing a single focus for all policy, direction and inspectorate responsibilities. The team of 8 was fully operational by Ju110. The original intent has been exceeded and the Corps now fields the one-star *Defeat the Device* lead for C-IED search.
- Geographic Support. Engineer geographic capability continues to provide Joint Force Engineer Group (in Afghanistan) full support. Work is on-going in the UK to rebase 42 Engineer Regiment (Geo) to RAF Wyton. The Royal School of Military Survey is likely to move to Chicksands in 2013 thus ending the long-standing military relationship with Hermitage.
- RSME Update. The RSME has changed significantly over the past year with the HOLDFAST contract securely bedded in. Courses have been redesigned and are now quicker and more efficient. Whilst RSME has focused largely on the Afghanistan campaign, it remains committed to longer term training and being appropriately placed to meet the challenges of the next campaign wherever that might be.

#### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL ENGINEERS (CHATHAM)

- Corps Activities. The Corps prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary in Brompton with a series of commemorative events. It is hoped to dovetail the Corps activity with that being planned by local authorities - to include: 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth; 100th anniversary of the Corps Museum; World Heritage status for the Great Lines; City Status for Medway; HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course, the 2012 Olympics.
- Honours and Awards. The most recent Ops Honours list saw:
  - Lt Col SOUTHALL - OBE
  - Cpl BEDFORD - MC
  - LCpl HIND - QCB
  - Spr MORRIS - QCB
  - Spr WATSON - QCB
  - Maj Gen DAVIS (Late RE) - QCVS
  - SSgt JOHNSON - QCVS
- RE Museum, Library & Archive
  - The Fortifications Gallery. The Museum has begun the major refurbishment of the Fortifications Gallery. It is hoped that those units keen to utilise their artisan tradesmen will provide works teams to accelerate the programme.
  - Grounds. The high quality perimeter fence is complete adding significantly to the overall impression of a commercial and therefore non-military complex.
  - Governance. The Historic Dockyard has paid REMLA £1600 as part of its 'Slip 3' film revenue agreement. Films such as 'Sherlock Holmes' and the 'Toyota Yaris' adverts have provided much of this income.

- Rugby Union. The team has extended its Inter-Corps championship title run to four. LCpl Leonard was capped for England ladies team. Cpl Hughes has increased his number of Army caps to 30 and, if selected for a further two Inter-Service matches, will be the most capped player in Service rugby history.
- Rugby League. The Corps won the Army title and eight member of the team were in the Army team that toured South Africa. W02 Cowburn and SSgt Cheadle were coaches.
- Canoeing - Devizes to Westminster. The Corps 'A' team won the Services Trophy and the 'B' team was runner-up. In the Open competition the 'A' team was second.
- Football. The Corps football team won the Quadrangular tournament and only narrowly missed becoming Army champions.
- Boxing. The Corps has three Combined Services and Army champions and Spr VWhitfield is a full England international. Spr Wilson won the Army middleweight title. In the Army boxing finals 11 of the boxers were sappers.
- Skiing.
  - o Corps. The Corps team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.
  - o Unit. 28 and 35 Engr Regts qualified and a sapper composite team was allowed to enter and finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. The unit teams were outside the top four placings.
  - o Individual. Lt Col Tony Stevens won the Army veteran's title and LCpl Laponder finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 10km biathlon sprint. LCpl Hamblett was selected for the Army alpine team.
- Swimming and Water-Polo. The Corps won the Inter Corpsmen's team championship and finished second in the ladies' event.
- Golf. The sapper team triumphed over the REME in the final.
- Orienteering. In the Long Distance team event the Corps swept the Board and is Army champion at both Senior and U25 level.

S P F HARRIS  
 Col  
 Regt Col  
 Mil: 94661 2034  
 Civ: 01634 822034