

Corps Update (19 Jan 09)

- **Corps currently running warm but very hot for some specialists**
- **Operations:**
 - **Punching above our weight** 8.73% of army but 10% in Iraq and 13% in Afghan
 - **Iraq** (currently 35 Engr Regt) – Draw-down in good order by 31 July 09
 - 2 x Air Sp Fd Sqns (48 & 53) deployed Sep-Dec 08
 - **Afghanistan** (currently 24 Cdo Engr Regt) –
 - Corps now providing 3 x CS Sqns
 - Lead on C-IED Task Force
 - Uplift to a Wks Gp strength (from STRE)
 - Infrastructure development continues to be a significant professional challenge
 - We are in for the long haul but making slow progress
 - Likely to increase Reconstruction and Development
 - Important because of the high regional impact given the proximity of Pakistan
 - 12 (Air Sp) Engr Gp continue to sp HQ AIR worldwide:
 - 34 Sqn deployed to AFG Nov 08.
 - 10 Fd Sqn (Air Sp) to deploy with 28 Engr Regt to AFG.
 - Supporting other operations in **Kosovo** and **NI**.
 - Continued sp to UK Ops.
- **Public Duties** Elements of 23 Engr Regt will support Public Duties Feb-Apr 09.
- **Training:**
 - Foundation training in Canada continues with more focus on making training more relevant
 - **RSME P4** – Commenced on 5 Jan 09
- **TA** – continues to grow (72 Regt and 591 Sqn). Assistance to Defence Review of Reserves
- **Manning:**
 - **Officers** – good
 - **Soldiers** – undermanned by approx 5% (~400) but more ‘pain’ felt at field units. Deficit improving due to better recruitment, reduced voluntary outflow and the effect of financial incentives
 - People are producing the goods as evident by the plethora of awards
 - Proving our agility and flexibility – providing force support tasks and also delivering close support
- **Sport:**
 - **Champions:**
 - Rugby Union
 - Rugby League
 - Football
 - Swimming
 - Combined Services Equestrian Cross Country
 - **Runners up:**
 - Hockey
 - Skiing both disciplines

- Water polo
- Basketball
- Tennis
- 3 skiers selected for Euro and 1 for World Championships
- Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race fastest crew
- 2 triathletes for World Championship
- 3 members of the army judo team
- 6 members of the army boxing squad incl ABA Champion
- Combined services and army golf champion

- **Professional capability** being recognised by ECUK

- **Equipment:**
 - Current operations are being supplied with equipment until Urgent Operational Requirements
 - Looking forward to TERRIER, now delayed to 2013 at the earliest
 - Maintaining its long term requirements under the Corps Capability Review

- **Summary**
 - The Corps remains hugely busy and thriving