

See Distribution

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ROYAL ENGINEERS GIBRALTAR FREEDOM WEEKEND **FRIDAY 9 – SUNDAY 11 MARCH 2012**

1. **Introduction.** The Royal Engineers Gibraltar Freedom Weekend 2012 will be held on 9 – 11 March 2012. Next year's event has been supported financially by the Corps, but unfortunately at the time of writing, there are no marching Troops available to support the Weekend. There will however, be a series of events and activities organised by the serving Sappers and members of the Royal Engineers Association Gibraltar Branch. Please note that we are currently in discussions with HQ British Forces Gibraltar and the Government of Gibraltar to see whether a contingent of REA would be granted permission to march though Main Street to accept the Freedom of the City

2. **Functions.**

a. **Meet and Greet.** The Royal Engineers Association Gibraltar Branch invites you to a Meet and Greet gathering at a local venue (location to be confirmed). Tapas will be laid on and you can enjoy a drink with old friends from the bar. The timings will be confirmed but are likely to be mid afternoon on Friday 9 March 2012. There is no cost to attendees and the dress code is casual.

b. **Tunnel Tour.** A tunnel tour will be arranged for Saturday morning 10 March 2012, timings to be confirmed. This will be a very steady walk on the flat which will take approximately 2 hours with many opportunities to stop and chat. All you will need is comfortable shoes and £4 per head. Bookings and confirmation of names are to be made during the Meet 'n' Greet.

c. **Evening Function.** An evening function will be held in a local venue (location to be confirmed) on Saturday 10 March 2012 from around 2000hrs. Details will be published as soon as possible.

d. **Church Service.** There will be a church service and parade arranged for Sunday 11 March in the morning; details will be published during the Meet 'n' Greet.

e. **Farewell Function.** We are hoping to arrange an afternoon, or early evening farewell gathering on Sunday 11 March to bid friends and family a safe journey home; details will be published once a venue has been confirmed.

We are now engaged in arranging appropriate venues and details for the above functions and pursuing the possibility of a marching contingent of REA to exercise the Freedom of the City – details will be published to all branch secretaries once confirmed and as soon as possible.

3. **Travel from UK and Overseas.** Guests are to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Gibraltar. British Airways, Easyjet and Monarch fly into Gibraltar from Heathrow; Gatwick; Liverpool, Luton and Manchester. Other airports within the vicinity of Gibraltar include Jerez or Malaga and suggested carriers include Easyjet, Ryanair, Flybe, Thomsonfly, British Airways, Monarch and others. Both Spanish airports have car hire facilities.

4. **Accommodation.** Unfortunately there is no military accommodation available, therefore local hotels or staying with friends is recommended. Local hotels include:

The Bristol Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20076800
The Caleta Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20076501
The Cannon Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20051711
The Continental Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20076900
The O'Callagahn Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20070500
The Queen's Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20074000
The Rock Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20073000
The Iberostar Hotel La Linea Spain	Tel: 0034 956 691211

5. **Medical.** Guests are to ensure they have appropriate Medical Insurance arranged before travelling. UK Citizens are able to use the services at St Bernard's Hospital when in possession of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Access to medical services will be denied otherwise. EHIC can be obtained online at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers or tel: 0845 60602030. Please ensure adequate arrangements are in place for family notification.

6. **Disabled Access.** The tourist attractions and the older buildings within Gibraltar have limited disabled access. Arrangements will be in place to cater for disabled persons where necessary. Of those attending the weekend please indicate on the application forms attached of any special requirements that the event organisers can assist with.

7. **Finance.** Gibraltar's currency is Pounds Sterling. It also has its own notes and coins which cannot be used in the UK, so please check your wallets before departing! There are familiar banks within Gibraltar such as Natwest and Barclays, but the majority issue Gibraltar Pounds. Natwest cash points will issue UK pounds sterling. Most retail outlets, hotels, etc will accept credit and debit cards and also Euros. Euros are required for Spain.

8. **Point of Contact.** Your points of contact for the Weekend event are:

Warrant Officer Class 1 Baz Law:

Tel Civil	(00 350) 20055372	Tel Military	9231 98531 5372
Fax Civil	(00 350) 20055489	Fax Military	9231 98531 5489
Email	barryl424@gib.mod.uk		

Jack Noble, Branch Secretary:

Tel Civil	(00350) 58008085
Email	jack.noble@gifford.uk.com

If you intend to stay for a few days in Gibraltar after the Weekend, please note that Wednesday 14 March is Commonwealth Day, a Public Holiday in Gibraltar.

Finally we sincerely hope to see some familiar faces from the REA Branches across the UK and more detailed timings will be published as soon as possible.


Kind **RE**gards




Jack Noble
Secretary
REA Gibraltar Branch
for Chairman

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