

The Royal Engineers Association

(Registered under the Charities Act 1992)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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REA/A/1/2

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Controller REA
Corps Treasurer

10 March 2010

MISSING ANNEXES – MANAGEMENT CTTEE MEETING

Regrettably the Annexes to the latest Management Cttee Minutes were not attached to the document when dispatched. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

To rectify this error, please find enclosed Annexes A, B and C to the Management Cttee Minutes; please attach these to the master document.

N A JORDAN

Lt Col

Deputy Controller REA

Enclosures:

1. Annexes A, B and C to 112th Man Cttee Mtg

**Benevolence Report for 112th Meeting of the
REA Management Committee**

1. **Trends.** It is not easy to identify any particular trend but the number of cases dealt with last year showed an increase of 10% on the number of cases dealt with last year -- this is good news and shows that we are helping more of those in need year-on-year and more each year than we have helped over the past decade. Although it maybe expected that there was an increase in costs this was not the case and our (unaudited) figures show a reduction in benevolence costs of 3.5% over the previous year.

2. **Benevolence Cases 2002 - 2009**

Annual Totals	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jan-Dec
Requests	1053	984	1048	936	910	878	897	1007
Grants	1071	975	1026	919	886	855	877	1039

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2009.** The un-audited net costs of REA benevolence for 2009 was about £411,702K for benevolence cases and a further £141K when weekly allowances and Special Christmas Grants are included.

4. **REA Branch Observers.** Observers are most welcome to visit an REA Benevolence Meeting in London to see how the business of making financial grants is carried out on behalf of the Corps. Controller REA invites Branches to attend with the aim of those observers reporting back to their Branch of what they have seen and to pass the word around that we are there to help. Throughout 2009 we had 47 observers which is an average of 4.7 per meeting -- all observers appreciated the experience and said they would inform their colleagues of their experience.

5. **Christmas Cards.** Christmas cards and a modest Christmas box are sent out from HQ REA to over fourteen hundred Members or their widows and to those being treated for Combat Stress. At this time of year we receive many letters of appreciation for this thought and consideration and although it creates a heavy workload on the REA Staff to complete this task on behalf of the REA as a whole it is most rewarding to see that the gesture is appreciated.

6. **Grants to Other Charities.** REA Council has approved grants to other Service charities who maybe involved in the care and benevolent work for our Sappers and their families. The ABF received £30,000, SSAFA Forces Help received £5,000 and Combat Stress received £7,500 for their excellent work. The REA Trustees have approved an increase in these grants for 2010 to ABF £35K, SSAFA 7.5K, and Combat Stress £2.5K. In addition we made grants to Veterans Aid to help those being looked after by this excellent charity.

7. **Kitchener Scholarship.** The REA Council have accepted the responsibilities of running the Kitchener Scholarship on behalf of the Corps and have delegated the day-to-day running of the fund to the REA Benevolence Committee. We are currently helping five children of the Corps through private education.

8. **Corps Memorial Book.** The REA website and in the In Memoriam section there is a link to the Corps Memorial Book with names of those who died over the past few months. This was a new initiative in 2009 and one that has proved most popular and has increased (by doubling) the notification of the death of many Sapper's and to commemorate the lives of those Sappers who have died whilst on or off duty.

9. **HQ REA -- Staff Matters.** After 23 years loyal service to the REA, Mrs Marilyn Gittins will be retiring from her position as Benevolence Clerk in Feb '10. In those years she will have assisted thousands of Sappers and their families and has always taken great pride in the writing and distribution of many thousands of Christmas Cards and Christmas boxes.

Corps Update (25 Jan 2010)

- **Corps currently running warm but extremely hot for some specialists**
- **Operations:**
 - **Punching above our weight** 8.73% of Army but 9% in Afghan
 - **Afghanistan** (HERRICK 11 Oct 09 - Apr 10: currently 28 Engr Regt) –
 - Corps now providing a Regt with 3 x CS Sqns (all now with 3 x CS Tps), an Engr Log Node, RE Wks Gp (-), C-IED Task Force (RHQ and Sqn +) and MSSG.
 - The Group is currently reinforced with a winter OP BAM Sqn deployment from 8 AES (26 Engr Regt).
 - An Engr OF5 Cell (Col) has now been established.
 - Ops continue to develop with the US surge creating both opportunities and threats to operational level planning. Tactical tempo remains high and planning continues into future ops and the options to progress Embedded Partnering.
 - Particular busy period recently for sappers. Specific manoeuvre support assets have been deployed and the establishment of the Engr OF5 Cell within JF Sp (A). 28 Engr Regt has been fully committed whilst supporting BG level operations throughout Helmand. Recently constructed an MGB “under fire”, a number of new Patrol Bases and are constructing a new road. The Wks Gp is designing numerous contractor-delivered infrastructure projects and continues to support Reconstruction and Development. Approx 70% of Engr effort is force support at the moment.
 - TALISMAN will be under the Regt Gp from H 12.
 - HERRICK 12 (Apr 10) will be based on 21 Engr Regt.
 - **Elsewhere:**
 - Op STATURE in OMAN with pax from 39 Engr Regt. This involves construction effort to relocate 902 Expeditionary Air Wing (EAW) from SEEB to Musanah (new OMAN AF Airbase).
 - 29 (Land Sp) Engr Gp undergoing considerable change with ongoing uplifts to Gp HQ, implementing and sustaining the C-IED TF and regularising 101 Engr Regt (EOD) (V). 33 Engr Regt and 101 Engr Regt will rebalance, each with a mix of Regular and TA EOD Fd Sqns.
 - Supporting other operations including NI.
 - Continued sp to UK Ops.
- **Training:**
 - Foundation training in Canada continues with more focus on making training more relevant.
 - **RSME P4** – One year down stream - going well.
- **TA:**
 - Continues to grow (72 Regt and 591 Sqn).
 - Assistance to Defence Review of Reserves.
 - Regularising 101 Engr Regt (EOD) (V).
- **Manning:**
 - **Officers** – currently overmanned as a whole but with gaps at Capt level.
 - **Soldiers** – now at full strength as a Corps but this hides some undermanning in the field units and an imbalance within the trade and rank structure. The initial surge in interest as a result of the recession has now tailed off. Ensuring we maintain a balanced inflow will be challenging.
 - **Recent Casualties:**
 - Spr Marlton-Thomas KIA 16 Nov 09.
 - Spr Watson KIA 31 Dec 09.

- Capt Read KIA (RLC but ex 33 Regt Spr) Jan 10.
- **Sport:**
 - Champions:
 - Hockey - Inter Corps Champions. Major and Minor Unit Champions.
 - Rugby Union.
 - Rugby League.
 - Swimming.
 - Combined Services Equestrian Cross Country.
 - Runners up:
 - Hockey Corps Vets.
 - Skiing both disciplines.
 - Water polo.
 - Basketball.
 - Tennis.
 - Boxing – runners up in Army Cup.
 - 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 an ABA Champion.
 - Combined services and army golf champion.
- **Professional capability** being recognised by ECUK.
- **Equipment:**
 - Current operations are being supplied with equipment utilising Urgent Operational Requirements process where required.
 - TERRIER now delayed to 2013 at the earliest.
 - Maintaining its long term requirements under the Corps Capability Review.
- **Summary**
 - The Corps remains hugely busy, demonstrating its utility on operations and thriving.

Royal Engineers Association Families Events Organisation

Report to the Royal Engineers Association Management Committee Meeting
Thursday 28th January 2010

Spring Reunion 14th to 21st May 2010
Mundesley Holiday Village, Mundesley, Norfolk.

Everything is now in place for the above Reunion and bookings so far exceed 160, with further bookings still being received. I have high hopes that these will exceed 200.

A second letter was sent out to all on our mailing lists, with booking forms to boost our numbers by the venue management at my request.

Unfortunately my coach master, Frank Merritt, has been taken ill and I may have to arrange coach outings myself, this is already in hand.

I hope to be able to contact the Branches in the Norfolk area, with an invitation to visit us at the venue, including the Gala Dinner Night.

Spring Reunion 20th-27th May 2011
Southdown Holiday Village.

As stated in my previous report, a booking has been made at this venue and the necessary information and booking forms will be available for distribution at Mundesley and further copies will be sent out to all our mailing lists, by the centre at a later date.

{Original Signed}
Harold Evans
President and National Organiser.