

# RAEME Head of Corps Newsletter



June 2003

(6<sup>th</sup> Edition)

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## DHOC REPORT

By the time this newsletter hits the streets the DHOC team will have visited DJFHQ, HQ 16 Bde (Aviation), 7 Bde, 3 Bde, 9 Bde and 16 AD Regt. If all goes well we will visit 1, 5 and 8 Brigade before the end of this year! I should also point out that the HOC, Brigadier Dave McGahey has also been very active. His current appointment as Director General - Materiel Systems has seen him travel to most Army bases in Australia and he has managed to incorporate visits to a large number of RAEME TSSUs and Unit Workshops.

As mentioned in my previous report, I continue to be impressed with your professionalism, commitment and the hospitality you have extended to us during our visits. Based on my observations there will be no shortage

of worthwhile topics to discuss at this year's Corps Seminar. Irrespective of what we will discuss in October, consistent with the commitment I have given you during our visits, I felt it might be useful to highlight some of the points you have raised since the last newsletter.

**Technical Mastery.** Many of you remain concerned about how we will retain deeper level maintenance expertise given the current trend of contracting this work out. Many of you also highlighted that a number of regions are contracting out the 'chunkier' medium grade repairs further exacerbating the difficulties you are facing in finding opportunities to undertake deeper level repair tasks.

**SDSS.** SDSS and in particular MMMs continue to be an issue of concern. Not only in terms of when the training

will occur for the transition from Version 3 to Version 4 but also how we will address the training for those of you who have slipped through the cracks and have not received any or very limited training on Version 3. The issue of tradesmen performing Clerk Production type functions (at the cost of spanner time) due to the ongoing shortage of Operator Supplies also continues to raise its head.

Currently SDSS/MMMs training is delivered at the IET/ITT level by MSD and at the CPL level and beyond by ILD through our Subject 2 suite of courses. Work will shortly commence on developing the necessary training packages to deliver Version 4 MMM training on these courses. We are confident that we will be in a position to hit the 'execute' button by the end of November. In the interim, and consistent with the contract deliverable's, Version 4 training will commence in various locations in Australia in the second half of 2003.

#### **Rationalisation of ECN 419/420/422.**

There seems to be wide support (or at the very least an acknowledgment that something has to be done about the problem) for the merging of ECNs 419, 420, 422. There also appears to be genuine support for the proposal to provide the necessary competencies to allow all ECN 421 tradesmen to undertake light and medium grade repair. That said many soldiers have correctly pointed out that there are some equipment-related issues that will need to be addressed to allow ECN 421 tradesmen in TSSUs to undertake Light and Medium grade repairs. Many soldiers have also asked for greater visibility on the gap training

that we will have to undertake to 'convert' tradesmen to ECN 421. This work is 'in progress', and 'more to follow' in due course.

#### **Lessons Learnt for DHOC Team.**

One of the major lessons I have taken from the visits we have conducted this far is that the HOC team will need to work a lot harder to ensure that we retain the link with and have a detailed understanding of the issues effecting the aviation element of RAEME. We have commenced this process with a recent visit to RAAF STT in Wagga to view how training is delivered to the RAEME 'Aviation' trades. You will also note that we have included a 'RAEME Aviation' article in this edition.

**Corps Shops.** Many units confirmed that they have little visibility or understanding of what is available from the Corps Shop (now run on our behalf by staff at the Bandiana Museum). It is our intention to promulgate what is available via the Corps website.

From my perspective the visits we conduct are of enormous value both in terms of my wider DHOC responsibilities and also in my capacity as CO/CI of Materiel Support Division. It remains my intention to continue with the practice of visiting each of the major regions/formation over a two year period.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the next 18 months.

Arte Et Marte.

## **Graduates to the Corps – June 2003**

### **Welcome to the Corps**

The Corps welcomes the following officers who have joined RAEME after graduating from RMC on 21 June 03. The graduates were welcomed to the Corps by the HOC, BRIG Dave McGahey at an informal barbecue held in Canberra the week before graduation.

#### **Lieutenant Travis Hunt**

From Caboolture in Queensland LT Hunt has been in the Army since January 1999. He graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 2001 having completed three years of an Engineering degree. LT Hunt will return to ADFA to complete his final year in Aeronautical Engineering.

#### **Lieutenant Craig S. Poyser**

LT Poyser was born in 1976 in Subiaco, WA. He was raised in Rockingham, WA, south of Perth. And has currently deferred studies towards a Bachelor of Arts in Education (Secondary), which he hopes to complete at his next posting at ALTC Bonegilla as a PL COMD.

#### **Lieutenant Tim J. Hajenko**

LT Hajenko attended Bairnsdale Secondary College prior to joining the Army in 1997. He has served the majority of his time with the Second Cavalry Regiment since being allocated to the Royal Australian Armoured Corp. He completed the Royal Military College Entry Education Course while posted to the Second Fourteenth Lighthorse Regiment prior to entry into the Royal Military College in 2001

*(Special mention is made of the fact that LT Hajenko was the recipient of the RAEME book prize as the highest placed Cadet graduating to the Corps)*

#### **Lieutenant William James Viggers**

LT Viggers is 22 years of age. Before joining the army he was studying at boarding school in Canberra. He joined ADFA in Jan 1999 studying an Arts degree, majoring in English and Management. He has been posted to 1 Avn Regt and is looking forward to taking up responsibilities as TPCOMD in Sep after completing his LOBC

#### **Lieutenant Michael Hague**

LT Hague is from Cairns, FNQ. He went to ADFA straight out of school and completed a Science Degree in Geography before moving over to RMC-Duntroon. He is being posted to 3 CSSB as the B Veh workshop Tp Comd.



*L to R: LT Hunt, LT Poyser, LT Viggers, BRIG McGahey, LT Hajenko, LT Hague*

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### **The Army Reserve Technical and Trade Scheme – Update**

The Army Reserve Technical and Trade Scheme (ARTTS) has been in place since early 2002. The scheme was introduced to increase the number

of trade qualified members in the Army Reserves and to enable Reserve Apprentices to be able to complete Army recognised trade training, while working and training in the vicinity of their homes and families.

In 2002, the first intake of Reserve Apprentice Vehicle Mechanics were enlisted and attended Common Recruit Training (CRT) at ARTC, Kapooka. Since then they have attended Army training activities, courses, formal TAFE training, experienced On the Job Training (OJT) in 8 CSSB's Workshop and with civilian host employers in the Newcastle area such as Komatsu and Cummins. 8 CSSB and 21 Construction Regiment, in the Melbourne area, have been the pilot locations for the scheme. With the first year successfully completed, more units within the Army will enlist Reserve Apprentices, expanding the scheme nation wide.

In 2003, the second intake of new Reserve Apprentices was enlisted into 8 CSSB into the scheme, in the trades of Vehicle Mechanics, Fitter/Armourers and Cooks. A 4<sup>th</sup> year Vehicle Mechanic apprentice has also been enlisted, and 8 CSSB are recruiting for several clerical trainees.

The Reserve Apprentices are employed by HGT Australia Ltd, a Newcastle based group training company, and parade with 8 CSSB as Army Reserve members. While at TAFE training and placement with host employers, Reserve Apprentices are paid by the group training company. The group training company pays for workers compensation, superannuation, TAFE fees and leave entitlements. While on unit training activities and OJT at the unit, members are paid Army Reserve Training Days. When members work at the unit for block periods of 5 or more days, the group training company

is entitled to payment under the Employer Support Payment Scheme. This payment is used to subsidise the rate at which the Reserve Apprentices are charged out to civilian host employers by the group training company. This provides an incentive to civilian host employers to employ Reserve Apprentices and release them for the military training required under the scheme.

Military training for the Reserve Apprentices includes CRT, All Corps Soldier Skills (CSS) and reserve unit training on Tuesday nights, weekends and annual exercises. Members also attend driver courses when available. Army competency recognition is dependent on the trade. For example, Reserve Apprentice cooks are qualified within their employment category once they have completed Initial Employment Training (IET), whereas Reserve Apprentice Vehicle Mechanics are allocated to ECN 510 (General Enlistment awaiting corps training) at the completion of CRT and progress to ECN 229-1 from the commencement of the fourth year of their apprenticeship.

Feedback from training courses, other Army units (8 CSSB Reserve Apprentice Vehicle Mechanics and Fitters have been involved in support tasking to 17 Construction Regiment, 12/16 Hunter River Lancers and 4 RAR (CDO)) and civilian host employers indicates that on the whole, the Reserve Apprentices are considered to be of a high standard, and work well as a team. Several members have also expressed interest in transfers to the ARA Trainee system (a second year VM apprentice has submitted a transfer application), so the scheme shows the promise of benefits to Regular Army units as well as Reserve units.

## **CORPS RSM's REPORT**

This year marks the start of numerous changes within the Corps that will have a wide impact on the way we have done business and how we will do business in the future. The Technical Regulatory Framework is going to have a significant impact on the Corps; it's structure and members. The challenge now is to ensure the members of the Corps meet these changes head on and make a positive from it all, and there are numerous positives to be gained from it after some massaging.

### **Regimental Stream**

The growth and interest in the regimental stream over the past 18 months has been tremendous. The soldiers of the Corps are out there showing the rest of the Army their skills and knowledge in a professional manner and as would be expected they are doing it to a high standard and with the inevitable flare of a RAEME soldier.

The progression of these soldiers within the regimental stream is now the major focus of the career managers at SCMA. We are now getting to the position where we can offer our Regi's a structured career path including many good posting opportunities in Land and Training Commands. Over time, this will see us having more RAEME hat badges in units as CSM/SSMs and ultimately numerous RAEME RSMs competing for the CSSBs, FSBs and other All Corps positions.

### **Subject Two Corporal**

In June 2002 the decision was made to remove the burden of Subject Two

Corporal RAEME from Land Command and inserted into the ALTC Continuum of courses. This will see the course content and the standard of instruction between course to be the same, this is of benefit to the students and the instructors. The courses will be conducted at Integrated Logistics Division (IL Div) and will be structured around 12 training days, incorporating doctrine, SDSS, and FRT procedures. There will be 10 courses conducted each training year with a course panel of 20 students, made up of 18 ARA and 2 GRes.

The RAEME Cell at IL Div has seen an increase in the manning this year including two positions dedicated to RAEME Aviation Trades. This will move us away from the ground dominated structure of the course and will allow for the balance between ground and air philosophies. The pilot course was conducted 28 Apr – 9 May, the course ran smoothly and all 20 students were assessed as competent. Being a pilot course however, many lessons were learnt, and the course will undergo minor change to meet the positive feed back provided by the students.

### **The New Aged Recovery Mechanic**

My image of the hard working, hard drinking Recovery Mechanic covered in dirt and grease has been shattered. Change has descended at Recovery Platoon, much to the detriment of this rugged, rough persona of the typical Recovery Brother. I have it on very good advice that the guys down at the dust bowl (or is that now the Salad Bowl) are arranging Tupperware parties in out of hours. Led by their platoon commander WO1 Ian (You can never have enough lids) Spargo, ably backed up by his crew of Plastic

Pushers, WO2 Yates, SGTs Roberts, Stewart, and Venables are often overheard in the Mess discussing their next adventure into the world of cupboard filling plastic gadgets.

What will be their next venture.... Nutramedics?

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## **SO2 CORPS REPORT**

### **RAEME Corps Awards**

Each year the HOC and Corps Committee identify RAEME soldiers for a range of annual Corps Awards. Awards are presented in acknowledgment of mastery and excellence in trade and regimental skills. Each award recipient receives an award certificate and a monetary cash prize.

To be considered for an award a soldier must be nominated by his supervisor in accordance with the relevant Corps Instruction (Corps Instructions are available on the Corps Website). This is an excellent opportunity for supervisors to give recognition and reward the efforts of our soldiers. Nominations for Craftsman awards are to be submitted to the Regional RAEME Representative by the end of July.

RAEME Artificer and Regimental Award (Corps Instr No.11)

Craftsman of the Year Award – National (ARA) (Corps Instr No.17)

Craftsman of the Year Award – National (GRES) (Corps Instr No.17)

Craftsman of the Year Award – Regional (ARA) (Corps Instr No.17)

Craftsman of the Year Award – Regional (GRES) (Corps Instr No.17)

BRIG Martins Encouragement Award (Corps Instr No. 28)

Junior Regimental Award (Corps Instr No. 20)

Peter Jennings Award (Corps Instr No.22)

### **Corps Website**

The Corps website is slowly taking shape. The site is located on the intranet at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/RAEME/>. The site is work in progress and feedback is welcome.

### **Corps Seminar 16 – 17 Oct 03**

Hopefully by now the details of the 2003 Corps seminar are known to most and plans are being put in place by those who can make it. Seminar outline is available on the Corps Web site and in the April 03 (ed 5) HOC Newsletter. Similar to last year the venues available for the seminar and dinners have limited seating capacity. Seats will be allocated on a first come basis so if you intend to participate please get your nominations in as early as possible. A nomination form is attached to this newsletter and is also available on the Corps website. Payed up nomination is required to secure your place.

### **Prince Philip Banner Miniature**

The RAEME Head of Corps Cell is investigating producing a miniature of the Prince Philip Banner (RAEME Corps Banner).

In order to determine the feasibility we need to determine the level of demand. To that end it is requested that readers who would be interested in purchasing

a Prince Philip Banner Miniature register an expression of interest with the cell, contact details below.

The framed miniature will be a one time limited offer which will only be available to currently serving and ex serving members of the Corps. The miniature will be a quality replica of the Prince Philip Banner. It will replicate in detail the design of the banner and the construction of the banner in stitch design and style. Each miniature will be framed, individually certified and numbered within a limited numbered series. The cost of the miniature is yet to be finalised but you will need to be prepared to pay in the vicinity of \$175.

This is a limited opportunity for an excellent product you will be proud to

own. Ensure you reply and register your interest to secure your opportunity to purchase. *See flier attached (incl mockup picture)*

MAJOR Graham Anderson, SO2 Corps – RAEME, Head of Corps Cell, Latchford Bks MILPO BANDIANA, Vic, 3694 email: [graham.anderson@defence.gov.au](mailto:graham.anderson@defence.gov.au) Ph: (02) 6055 4308, Fax: (02) 6055 2436

Or

MAJOR Rodney Bolt, SO2 Heritage-RAEME, Head of Corps Cell, Latchford Bks, MILPO BANDIANA, Vic 3694, email: [rodney.bolt@defence.gov.au](mailto:rodney.bolt@defence.gov.au) Ph: (02) 6055 2193, Fax: (02) 6055 2436

### STATUS OF RAEME PUBLICATIONS

<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
LWD 4-2 Maintenance Support	To be signed by COMD TC-A. (Expected by Aug 03).	This publication was completed in early 2002. Due to staff shortages it has taken considerable time to be edited and typeset. The publication is currently being staffed to COMD TC-A for signature.
LWP-CSS 4-2-1 Recovery Handbook	Endorsed and available on DEFWEB and in Hardcopy.	This publication was endorsed in Aug 02 after having been available as Developing doctrine for 12mths.
LWP-CSS 4-2-2 RAEME Commanders Handbook	In final draft – being commented on by SME. (Expected Aug 03).	This publication is in final draft and is being commented on by SME. It will be released as Developing Doctrine in Aug 03.
LWP-CSS 4-2-3 Maintenance Support to Aviation Operations	In final draft being endorsed by HQ 16 <sup>th</sup> Brigade. (Expected Aug 03).	This publication is in final draft and is being endorsed as technically correct by HQ 16 <sup>th</sup> Brigade. It will be released as Developing Doctrine in Aug 03.
LWP-CSS 4-2-4 Watercraft Engineers Handbook	Not started.	Likely to be started in late 03 when funding is available.
LWP-CSS 4-2-5 RAEME Commanders Pocketbook	Author's Brief written (soon to be approved) and preliminary work started on the publication.	This publication is a Vuee Tuee sized aid memoir for use by junior RAEME commanders in the field. This publication will be completed and released by Dec 03.

**RAEME CORPS SEMINAR 16 – 17 OCT 2003  
Nomination Form**

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PMKeys Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attending Seminar 16 – 17 Oct 03:  
\$10 per head**

YES	NO
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**Attending All ranks Barbecue /  
Time Capsule Opening: 15 Oct 03**

YES	NO
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**Attending Officer Dinner 16 Oct 03  
\$45 per head**

YES	NO
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**Attending WO/SNCO Dinner 17 Oct 03  
\$50 per head**

YES	NO
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Payment for the seminar and dinner is to be finalised in order to secure your attendance at the seminar and/or dinner.

Cheque/money order/cash/other/ payment of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached / Following

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Forward to: MAJ Graham Anderson, SO2 Corps – RAEME, HOC Cell, ALTC, Latchford Barracks, MILPO BANDIANA, Vic, 3694. Ph: (02) 6055 4308, Fax: (02) 6055 2436, email: [graham.anderson@defence.gov.au](mailto:graham.anderson@defence.gov.au)

Points of Contact: Seminar: MAJ Graham Anderson,  
Offr Dinner: MAJ Rod Bolt 02 6055 2193  
WOSNCO Dinner: WO2 Gus Angus 02 6055 4394

**Note:** Accommodation is a member's responsibility. Service accommodation can be booked via Bandiana Accommodation cell (Reservation number 95671) Ph: (02) 6055 4398, fax: (02) 6055 2964



## **PRINCE PHILIP BANNER MINATURE**

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