

# RAEME Head of Corps Newsletter



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September 2005

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

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## DHOC

In the March newsletter, I asked that the members of the Corps to become actively engaged in considering how we are to do business in the future, accepting that the quantity and complexity of equipment required to support a highly capable and committed Defence Force continues to grow. I also observed that this presents an exciting opportunity for us to collectively demonstrate our 'smarts'.

You would be aware that the theme for the 2005 Corps Seminar is Maintenance Management - 2005 and Beyond. To address this theme, the Head Capability Development Group, LTGEN Hurley will provide a strategic picture of the Defence Capability Plan that will indicate what capabilities Defence is expecting to procure over the next ten years. This will be supported by a presentation on how Army will use these capabilities under the Chief of Army's Hardened and Networked Army thinking and a presentation by the M113 upgrade project as an example of what and how DMO is planning to do to support the upgraded capability. Additionally, BRIG Barnett will discuss the status of his Land Materiel Maintenance Support Review – Scoping Study. These presentations will provide a good basis for the seminar to consider where we need to go to from where we are today.

To move forward, we need to understand where we currently are. The feedback I am receiving is that the tradesmen being produced are very good (albeit that there are not enough of them), that parts availability and facilities are improving, and that whenever we go on operations, equipment availability to the required level is achievable. On the flip side, I am being told that there is not enough time in the day to be productive and AIRN compliant (particularly to meet production levels required by LHQ), and that stipulated unit preparedness timelines are under threat. This consequently places a significant load on supporting agencies, which are not coping with the quantity of work placed on them.

Accepting that we are set to receive new capabilities into service over the next ten years, we need (for example) to determine the:

- relevance of current doctrine, techniques, tactics and procedures;
- effectiveness and efficiency of our maintenance management practices;
- capability of our tradesmen and engineers to respond to a more technical complex maintenance environment; and
- capability of our operators to accept a greater role in maintenance tasks.

To meet the above, does RAEME need to:

- designate more TSSU as unit workshops, equipping them to conduct medium grade repairs and backloading more generic equipment to formation workshops;
- concentrate more on technical training in barracks to achieve a higher competency level in diagnostics and repair by repair, and pass more work backwards to JLC;
- compel our engineers to undertake the professional development program;
- enhance the maintenance training component of equipment operator courses;
- review recovery mechanic allocation within units; or
- play more golf/do more fishing?

I ask that these (or like) issues be discussed at unit level, and that unit or formation representatives attending the seminar be prepared to add to the debate. If this is in a service paper, all the better. Clearly there are serious implications in adopting any or all of these options, not the least being a quantum increase in maintenance funding. However they are offered as food for thought, with the intent that we establish a Corps position to add to the Army level debate.

Arte et Marte

LTCOL Andrew Adams, DHOC

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## **SO2 Corps / Corps Heritage**

**Seminar Nomination.** The 2005 corps seminar is to be conducted over the period 20 – 21 Oct 05. At this stage the number of nominations is down on previous year. Members of the corps are encouraged to attend the seminar. The seminar provides and ideal opportunity for member of the corps to be updated on corps issues, to contribute to addressing those issues, and contribute to the future shaping of the corps. The corps seminar also provides and ideal opportunity to mix socially with corps colleagues through the all ranks BBQ and annual regimental dinners. Members planning on attending the corps seminar and / or corps dinner are requested to submit their nomination form (with payment) ASAP. Seminar/Dinner Nomination form is enclosed to this newsletter or is available in the latest Craftsman magazine or on the corps intranet website.

**Corps Subscriptions:** The opportunity to provide voluntary contributions to corps funds through corps subscriptions was re-established in Jun 05. Corps funds is

managed by the corps committee. The response to the call for subscriptions has been very positive. All subscribers will be acknowledged in the Craftman magazine later in the year. We are also progressing with the Corps membership provided to all corps subscribers.



The purpose of the Corps Fund is to:

- a. Purchase appropriate items which are not available through service supply channels, for use by members of the Corps;
- b. Provide suitable prizes and trophies for Corps awards and Corps Committee awards for Corps members;
- c. Purchase suitable items for presentation or reciprocal presentation to:
  - (1) Sister Corps of other nations,
  - (2) Kindred or associated organisation in allied or friendly forces, and
  - (3) ARA schools and cadet or training establishments as appropriate.
- d. Sponsor events to raise the Corps profile;
- e. Purchase and sell distinctive Corps items not available through service supply channels;
- f. Provide financial assistance to the Corps Historical Collection; and
- g. Fund other activities as considered appropriate by the Corps Committee for the benefit of all Corps members.

Payment can be either a lump payment or more simply via a fortnightly allotment through your pay system. **Allotments from your pay can be made to RAEME Corps Fund Non-BSB Allottee number "460"**. Allotment is the preferred option. The proposed subscription is CFN-CPL = \$1 per fn (\$26 lump pmt), SGT-CAPT = \$1.50 per fn (\$39 lump pmt), MAJ+ = \$2 per fn (\$52 lump pmt).

Lump sum payment can be made to RAEME Corps Fund and forward to: MAJ G.M. Anderson, SO2 Heritage-RAEME, HOC Cell, Latchford Bks, BANDIANA, VIC

**Corps Port:** By now you should all be aware the 2005 Craftsman Port is being produced by 16 AD Regt workshop element The time has finally arrived to begin ordering. The theme to this years port will be the farewell to the Rapier BIM after 25 years of unequivocal service. Lou Miranda Estate produces the port in the prominent Barossa Valley. Stringent standards have ensured that a high quality port will be made with a mixture of 20 year old and six year old tawny port. The bottle will be of a classical style with the logo and wording printed onto the bottle using gold artwork and writing. Further information on the RAEME craftsman port can be found on

website [www.ace-db.com/portmain/htm](http://www.ace-db.com/portmain/htm). Orders can be made through your regional Craftsman Port representative. A full list of port reps and contact details can be found on the website.

**Corps Port 2006:** At the annual corps committee meeting in October the committee will review unit submissions from units wishing to produce the 2006 Craftsman Port. Production of the Craftsman port presents a unique opportunity for a unit to have the honour of featuring in the RAEME corps port collection. In addition to the permanent recognition the unit also shares in the profits derived from the sales of the port. Full details on unit submissions for the production of the corps port can be found in Corps Instruction 33 – The RAEME Port.

**Museum Items Contributions:** Over the past two to three years the head of corps organisation and corps committee has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at invigorating the corps of RAEME. One of those initiatives is to improve the RAEME historical collection. Our corps has a proud and honoured heritage and it is important that this history is recorded and displayed. The RAEME historical collection forms a part of and is on display at the Army Museum Bandiana. Currently the corps display is not up to standard. In order to address the situation COL Terry Beaton (Colonel Commandant Vic/Tas Region) has been appointed as the official Corps Historian. Under the guidance of COL Beaton a project team has been established to develop and build a display that truly captures and presents the history and achievement of our corps. Work has commenced on the display area and a review conducted of the items on display and of those items currently held in storage. The review has identified that we do not have a sufficient quantity of suitable items for display. Along with the older historical items it is equally important to have items that depict recent and current corps activities and achievements.

If any units or members of the corps have items of interest (incl' photos, equipment, specific unit items-logos, collectables, certificates, other items) that might be suitable, appropriate and available that they would be willing to have on display at the museum their contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Be assured that where required, the necessary steps will be taken to maintain records of ownership and origin be it individual or unit.

The POC for all corps heritage issues is MAJ Graham Anderson, SO2 Heritage – RAEME, 02-60554308, [graham.anderson@defence.gov.au](mailto:graham.anderson@defence.gov.au).

**Coffee Table Book In Peace and War-A Pictorial Memoir of RAEME (Working title):** At the 2003 Corps Committee meetings BRIG R.L.G Grant, Representative Colonel Commandant, put forward a proposal to produce a new Corps history in a “coffee table” style format featuring images and short stories of individuals undertaking their daily activities in the Corps. The committee supported the proposal and felt that the timing was right for a new Corps publication, particularly in light of recent operations and activities. The emphasis of this history would be preserving the Corps heritage in photographs and art works supported by short stories. At the recent 2004 Corps Committee meeting, BRIG Grant presented an outline proposal for the publication of a Corps pictorial history. This article describes the key elements of that proposal.

*This project is not a history of the Corps. The rationale rather is to produce a book that is attractive and visual and that captures through images and linked text, the spirit and achievements of the Corps since its inception in 1942.*

*The selection of images is the key to the project and every attempt will be made to select images on the following criteria:*

- *They depict the many activities individuals or groups (teams or FRTs) of Corps members undertake on a daily basis in the Corps in support of our customers.*
- *They have generally not appeared in other RAEME publications*
- *They would be of interest to RAEME personnel and the general reader*
- *They lend themselves to detailed captions and or to a linking narrative*

It is now over 12 years since the last Corps commissioned publication of Craftsmen of the Australian Army the story of RAEME. Copies are no longer available for purchase. There has been a range of significant events in the past 10 – 15 years with many RAEME stories to be told and it is believed a Corps “coffee book” style publication is a great way for those stories to be told. Stay tune for more information and start collecting your photos and stories.

**Craftsman Magazine:** The cut-off date for the next Craftsman Magazine edition is the end of Sep 05. Don't be left out. Make sure your unit is represented and that any events, achievements or activities are recorded in your corps magazine. Articles are to be forwarded to MAJ G.M. Anderson, SO2 Corps. Pictures are encouraged. Please send pictures as separate files (ie; JPEG) and not embedded in word documents.

**Arte et Marte**



**RAEME CORPS SEMINAR 20 – 21 OCT 2005**

**OFFICER / WOSNCO DINNER**

**Nomination Form**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Attending Seminar 20 - 21 Oct 05:  
\$10 per head**

YES	NO
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**Attending All ranks Barbecue /  
19 Oct 05**

YES	NO
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**Attending Officer Dinner 20 Oct 05  
\$50 per head**

YES	NO
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**Attending WO/SNCO Dinner 21 Oct 05  
\$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 (cheques payable to RAEME Corps Funds)

**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)

**Note:** Accommodation is a member's responsibility. Service accommodation can be booked via Bandiana Accommodation cell (Reservation number 122936) Ph: (02) 6055 4398, fax: (02) 6055 2964