



Royal Military Police Association

Hull & East Riding Branch



Minutes of the Branch Meeting Held 1st August 2012

Members Present: Fred Hemmerman (FH); Dave Mitchell (DM); Pete Watson (PW); Bob Boreland (BB); Steve Johnson (SJ); Brian Petch (BP); Craig Hemmerman (CH); Ted Johnson (TJ); Frank Maunder (FM); John Louis (JL); Brian Fenwick (BF) Joe Matthews (JM);

Apologies: Adrian Marshall (AM2); Tony Steventon (TS); ; Pat Howlett (PH); Bob Hare (RobH); Derrick Garton (DG); Michael Sutton (MS); David Kennedy (DK); Steve Woods (SW); Darren Howlett (DH); Andy Jefferson (AJ); Peter Ovis (PO); Mike Walker (MW); Jon Wild (JW); Dave Emmerson (DE); Andy Doyle (AD); Keith Hill (KH); Trevor Goodfellow (TG); Phil Newton (PN); Andy Murdoch (AM); Sandra Robinson (SR).

Agenda

- 1.0 Remembrance
- 2.0 Members Present/Apologies received.
- 3.0 Absent Friends
- 4.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 5.0 Matters Arising
- 6.0 Communications Received
- 7.0 CESA Report
- 8.0 Website
- 9.0 Standard Bearer
- 10.0 Social Events
- 11.0 Any Other Business
- 12.0 Close of Meeting, and date of next meeting.

- 1.0 Remembrance – DM opened the meeting at 20.01 hrs. The Remembrance was observed by all members.
- 2.0 Members Present/Apologies Received as above. PW reported he had received apologies from SR and DG. DM sent apologies from TS. JM sent apologies from SW. FH sent apologies from BH. SJ sent apologies from DK, PH. Standing apologies from DH and DE.
- 3.0 Absent friends – As details in 2.0. A discussion was had with regard to members who are still suffering with ill health; the branch wishes to be reminded to those who are in ill health.
- 4.0 Minutes Of Previous Meeting – BB pointed out several errors with the minutes, these were all typographical errors, mainly caused by trying to get a contemporaneous record of the meeting as it happens. This means the PW has to type quickly which in some cases caused errors. PW stated that whilst he tries to ensure that errors do not occur, the nature of the minute taking can in some cases allow errors to creep in. He thanked BB for bringing them to his notice. The errors did not mean that the minutes where not accurate in body. SJ proposed that the minutes where correct. BB seconded. All in favour.

5.0 Matters Arising – DM thanked all Branch Member who attended over the weekend for the Hull Veterans Weekend. We were well noticed and showed the branch n the best possible light.

5.1 Ladies Night – PW thanked the Entertainments Committee for the organisation on what was their first Ladies Night. The event was excellent and well attended. Further details can be found in the Social Events section on these minutes.

5.2 DM thanked members for attended Hull Veteran’s Weekend, the Red Caps once again were the most noticeable beret, not just in colour, but all so in quantity! Many a compliment was paid by those in attendance at the event, with one senior officer remarking that ‘every time he turned his head, he could see another Red Beret!’. Well done to all who attended, and a particular mention of thanks to TS who provided all the material for the display.

6.0 Communications – PW reported that the Branch had received the following communications:

6.1 RHQ forwarded a letter from Eden Camp regarding the forthcoming Eden Camp All Services Remembrance Parade. The event will be held on Sunday 9th September 2012. Gates open at 10.00hrs and it is free to enter for all Veterans and their families. The parade will form up at 14.10hrs and will march off at 14.30hrs. This is a very popular event with over 85 standards on parade from all over the country.

6.2 RHQ sent an email containing a message from the PM(A) regarding The Future Structure of Provost. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

6.3 RHQ emailed details of the 67th RMPA Reunion which will be held on the 17/18/19th May 2013 at the Cedar Court Hotel in Huddersfield. PW stated that as this event was being held so close that members should consider attending. Reduced rates of £60.00 per night for a double room have been arranged. Members wishing to attend should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.

6.4 An email was received from Perry Mason, the Chairman of RMPA London Branch giving details of the Annual Church Parade at H.M. Tower of London. This event will be held on the 10th February 2013. This event is normally very well supported by the Branch.

6.5 An email was received from WO1 (RSM) Rob Russell of 150 Pro Coy 3 RMP, Catterick Garrison as follows:

‘RMPA Northern Reunion’ occurring between Fri 14 Sept and Sun 16 Sept 12.

The SoM for the event will be:

Friday 14 Sept 12	1900 hrs	RMPA members and associated personnel arrive in Catterick.
	(Arrivals)	(Accommodation and feeding to be arranged by individuals attending the weekend)
	1930 hrs	Cpls’ Mess open for all personnel to utilise.

Saturday 15 Sept 12 1400 hrs RMPA and Guests invited to attend 150 Pro Coy, Beach
Head Lines for displays and activities. These will include:

Modern Operational Vehicles

RMP dress categories
Close Protection
Red Man
AGC Stand
Food: Buffett / BBQ (TBC)

The Cps's Mess will be open throughout the day
which will provide musical entertainment in the evening and
should personnel wish quieter surroundings, the
alternative option is the WOs' and Sgts' Mess.

Sunday 16 Sept 12 1100 hrs Church Service in the Garrison Church

1300 hrs Depart Catterick.

Members wishing to attend should contact the Branch Secretary so that 'car sharing' can be arranged.

- 6.6 An email was received from Mike Seabourne (National Vice Chairman RMPA) with details of the 2013 RMPA SIB Branch Annual Dinner to be held on the 27th April 2013. As this only concerns BF, details will be sent to him directly.
- 6.7 An email was received from RHQ regarding the forthcoming CENCO meeting. Details have been given to DM as our CENCO Rep.
- 6.8 An email was received from Ken Fowler, Branch Secretary RMPA North America, containing their latest Newsletter. Any Member requiring a copy of the Newsletter should contact the Branch Secretary.
- 6.9 An email was received from Mike Seabourne, the details of which were read out to the Branch Members present but will not be produced within these minutes.
- 7.0 CESA Report – DM reported that they are not meeting in August. DM reported that he had run the parade for the Hull Veterans Weekend, which was a resounding success. They are currently in the process of organising a collection with either ASDA or Morrison's to raise funds for CESA, Members are asked whether they could spare a day to collect as and when it is organised.
- 8.0 Website – the photographs for Hull Veterans weekend have been uploaded as have the photographs from the Ladies Night.
- 9.0 Standard Bearer – SW was not in attendance, he carried the standard for Hull Veterans Weekend. SW has indicated that he wishes to relinquish the roll standard bearer due to pressure of work. BF has volunteered to carry the Standard from now on.
- 10.0 Social Events –
 - 10.1 Ladies Night – The last Ladies Night was held at the Crooked Billet Public House. A finger buffet was laid on which both looked and tasted excellent. The surroundings were comfortable and we were all seated

together in the pubs conservatory area. FH reported that 30 persons had attended the event and that it had been a financial success. FH passed on his thanks to the entertainments committee. PW stated that the next Ladies night is scheduled for the end of November and that it could possibly also be combined with a Xmas do. The Entertainments Committee will look for a suitable venue and report back nearer the time.

10.2 Annual Dinner – FH reminded Members that payment is required for tickets before the dinner and that there is only one Branch meeting left.

11.0 Any Other business:

12.1 BP thanked the Members for attending the Veterans Weekend.

12.0 The time being 20.52hrs and there being no further business, the meeting was closed by DM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st August, at 20.00hrs, at the Police Social Club, Inglemire Lane, Hull.

Agenda

- 1.0 Remembrance
- 2.0 Members Present/Apologies received.
- 3.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 4.0 Matters Arising
- 5.0 Absent Friends
- 6.0 Communications Received
- 7.0 CESA Report
- 8.0 Website
- 9.0 Standard Bearer
- 10.0 Social Events
- 11.0 Any Other Business
- 12.0 Date of next meeting.

And finally.....

ELDERLY ITALIAN CATHOLIC GENTLEMAN

An elderly Italian man who lived on the outskirts of Rimini, Italy.

He went to the local church for confession. When the priest slid open the panel in the confessional, the man said: "Father, during World War II, a beautiful Jewish woman from our neighbourhood knocked urgently on my door and asked me to hide her from the Nazis. So I hid her in my attic."

The priest replied: "That was a wonderful thing you did, and you have no need to confess that."
"There is more to tell, Father. She started to repay me with sexual favours. This happened several times a week, and sometimes twice on Sundays."

The priest said, "That was a long time ago and by doing what you did, you placed the two of you in great danger, but two people under those circumstances can easily succumb to the weakness of the flesh.

However, if you are truly sorry for your actions, you are indeed forgiven."

"Thank you, Father. That's a great load off my mind. I do have one more question."

"And what is that?" asked the priest.

"Should I tell her the war is over?"

THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF PROVOST A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST MARSHAL (ARMY)

With the announcement by the Secretary of State for Defence on the future structure of the Army, I can now share with you in outline how the 'Provost' family will look in 2020. This has not been an easy task as the Regular Army must reduce by 20,000 soldiers from circa 102,000 to circa 82,000.

Over the last 8 months or so, there has been an enormous amount of detailed work undertaken to determine the future size and shape of Provost and there is still a great deal of work to be done to refine and implement the changes that have been developed by the Army 2020 process. However, I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have emerged from a period of what has been the most intense and rigorous study in excellent order, with the robust and agile Royal Military Police (RMP) and the Military Provost Staff (MPS) structures that are necessary to meet the needs of the future Army. We must continue to exploit this success.

Our aim, from the outset, has been to ensure that Provost continues to use their police and custody and detention skills to support operations, while remaining focussed on supporting soldiers at the front line, which is a tried and tested model where both the RMP and MPS are genuine 'force multipliers'.

When I briefed the Chief of the General Staff (CGS) on the Provost Army 2020 proposition earlier this year, I outlined to him how Provost contributes effectively to the core purposes of the Army, by policing and providing surety in the custody and detention arena across the battle space, in what is becoming an increasingly complicated legal landscape. I am happy to report that CGS was content with what we proposed, while emphasising the need to maximise Provost deployable capability. We have worked to this direction and, as a result, we have done very well in terms of our new structures.

However, this has not been without pain and there will be a 10% reduction in the Generated Force, which means a total of 166 posts will be taken from across the RMP Field Army liability. Additionally, there are likely to be further pan-Army reductions against existing liability as a result of two additional studies: one looking at Army support to the Other Top Level Budget (TLB) areas across Defence; and the second looking at the Non-Front Line, both of which may have a small impact on the limited Provost contribution. However, all this has to be seen in the context of a most welcome and much needed uplift of 80% to MPS (of 85 posts), which is transferred from current Army Regimental Provost (RP) Staff liability found from across the Army. The net effect, is that the Provost family will only reduce overall by 81 posts and this is a very small number set against the pain taken by other branches of the Army.

In addition, Army 2020 has afforded Provost a once in a generation opportunity to optimise and restructure, including its specialist functions, to better insure against future challenges, meet its critical operational and Firm Base outputs and best provide for its soldiers' professional competence, development and fulfilment. This opportunity has enabled us to remove some structural anomalies that have existed for many years: Regiments of differing size, some of which are hybrid and some not; Company structures too weak given the need to despatch soldiers to operations and police the Firm Base concurrently; a number of independent units, which lack the correct depth of Command and Control and two RMP Special Investigation Branch (SIB) units of different sizes and capabilities. In addition, under the current structure, neither the RMP SIB nor the MPS has an established deployable element. We have welcomed the opportunity to sort this out.

For the RMP, Army 2020 will result in:

- the creation of the 1st Military Police Brigade (1 MP Bde) consisting of an optimized 1 star Headquarters, shaped from the existing HQ PM(A) allowing PM(A) to exercise command more effectively;

- three identically structured RMP Regiments (1st, 3rd and 4th Regiments) fully integrated to maximise the utility of the Provost Reserves with fewer, but larger and more capable Regular and Reserve Provost Companies and larger Regimental Headquarters;
- an integrated RMP SIB Regiment with a small RMP SIB Reserve element and with a new deployable capability to meet the requirement of contingency; and
- a new RMP Specialist Operations Unit, which groups existing, but disparate, specialised capabilities (the Service Police Crime Bureau (SPCB), the Close Protection Unit (CPU) and the Operational Support Unit (OSU)), and allows for the appropriate depth of command so that the delivery of scarce and highly skilled niche specialist capabilities, such as Cyber-Crime and covert policing, can be better managed while also interacting in the national policing landscape at home.

For the MPS, Army 2020 means:

- an increased Regular MPS capability to number 191 personnel (up from 106 personnel) together with an enduring Reserve component;
- in future Tier-1 Service Custody Facilities (SCF) in Garrisons will be manned by MPS, along with the Tier-2 The Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC). The aim is to professionalise and optimise Firm Base custody thereby increasing surety; and
- an enlarged MPS better able to meet future contingency capability by drawing across the whole MPS structure to deploy personnel to man Tier-3 Operational Facilities.

I wish also to mention the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS). While the MPGS was not included in the Army 2020 process, much work continues in parallel at HQ PM(A) as a number of Military sites are closed, security levels are reviewed and new bases are opened. Inevitably this will lead to some re-complimenting of MPGS personnel. However the significant contribution made by the MPGS to the Armed Services is recognised and appreciated across Defence and I am certain that this capability will continue to grow.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have been involved in developing the Provost proposition for Army 2020, particularly the Team Leader, Colonel Jeremy Green and his Deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Rob Morris whose detailed staff work and meticulous attention to detail have produced an outstanding result for the Provost family.

Exemplo Ducemus