

From: Warrant Officer Class One (Regimental Sergeant Major) M Yates



**1 RSME Regiment
Royal School of Military Engineering
Brompton Barracks
CHATHAM
Kent
ME4 4UG**

Military Network: (9) 4661 2337
PSTN: (01634) 822337
Central Fax: (01634) 822384

Branch Chairmen
Royal Engineers Association

29 September 2009

Mr Chairman,

CORPS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

1. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all branches of the Royal Engineers Association for the support given to this year's Corps Memorial Weekend. It was a privilege to host such a prestigious event as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 1 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment.
2. Unfortunately there are some issues which arose during the weekend, which I feel need to be raised direct to branches, in order to prevent their recurrence at next year's event. During the evening function on Saturday 19 September 2009, which was laid on at a cost of nearly £3000, a minority of veteran guests saw fit to openly display their dissatisfaction with the entertainment by way of overt comment and physical gesturing. This behaviour caused great personal embarrassment to the event organiser, who felt it necessary to repeatedly apologise to the musicians and to me, as some of the comments were made in front of Lieutenant Colonel NS Carson Royal Engineers, the Presiding Officer of the Mess. The second issue is most distasteful. One female guest of a serving Mess member, during the course of the evening, was subject to a comment of an inappropriate sexual nature by a veteran guest. I would not accept such behaviour from serving members and therefore will not accept it from those invited into the Mess as honoured guests. I would ask that this letter be read to your members at the next Branch meeting, accompanied by appropriate comment on the standards of behaviour expected when visiting Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' messes in the future.
3. It is most unfortunate that these issues have arisen. I believe that it is essential for us to corporately seek to address such problems, in order to maintain the excellent relationship, forged over generations, between the Corps past and present.
4. I look forward to hosting you again, at the home of the Corps, in 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Yates'.