



RAE CORPS POLICY STATEMENT

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May 2008

**STATEMENT 8 - THE REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT AND
HONORARY COLONEL COMMANDANTS**

Issued by the Head of Corps Royal Australian Engineers for application within the Royal Australian Engineer Corps.

Original Signed

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DISTRIBUTION

RAE Corps List A

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RAE HONORARY REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT AND HONORARY COLONEL COMMANDANTS

Reference:

- A. Defence Instruction (Army) Personnel 99-1

Introduction

1. Historically, a senior retired officer in each geographic region fills the role of 'elder statesman' of the Corps. These officers are titled 'Colonel Commandant' regardless of the officer's retirement rank.
2. A Colonel Commandant provides a link between serving and former members of the Corps. They have no role in the chain of command but are a valuable source of advice and counsel for all ranks.
3. One Colonel Commandant is appointed to represent the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in Australia. This officer is the Representative Colonel Commandant. This officer may, if requested, put the collective views of all Colonel Commandants (on appropriate Corps matters) to the serving hierarchy of the Corps.

Aim

4. The Aim of this Policy Statement is to specify the selection and appointment procedures and the duties of the Colonels Commandant and the Representative Colonel Commandant.

Current Appointments

5. The SO2 HOC RAE is to maintain a list of current Colonels Commandant for use by the Corps Committee and the RAE Regional Representatives. A complete list will also be promulgated on the Corps Intranet and Internet Web site.

HONORARY REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT

Selection and Appointment

6. The detailed procedures for the selection and appointment of the Representative Colonel Commandant are contained in reference A. In essence, the HOC recommends the appointment of one Colonel Commandant to CA through SO2 Ceremonial. The CA, if he agrees, then makes the formal appointment. The Representative Colonel Commandant is appointed for an initial period of two years. Further extensions, each not exceeding 12 months, may be requested by the HOC.
7. The duties of the Representative Colonel Commandant are detailed in annex A and include:

HONORARY COLONEL COMMANDANTS

Selection and Appointment

8. Detailed procedures for selecting and appointing Colonel Commandants are in reference A.
9. Colonel Commandants are appointed for an initial period of four years and may be granted an extension normally not exceeding an additional two years.

10. In order to maximise effectiveness and minimise costs, one Colonel Commandant is normally appointed within each geographic region. For this purpose, geographic regions are as follows:
- a. **Northern Region.** Queensland and the Northern Territory.
 - b. **Eastern Region.** New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.
 - c. **Southern Region.** Victoria.
 - d. **Central Region.** South Australia.
 - e. **Western Region.** Western Australia.
11. Duty Statements for the regional Colonel Commandants are detailed in annex B.

Summary

12. The Honorary Representative Colonel Commandant and regional Colonel Commandants play an important part in maintaining the well being of the Corps. Their wide experience within the Corps and the Army in general allows them to provide positive input on Corps matters at the regional or national level. They will provide an important link between RAE units and ex service Associations that will also improve the Esprit de Corps within RAE.

Annexes:

- A. Representative Colonel Commandant Duty Statement
- B. Colonel Commandant Duty Statement

REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT DUTY STATEMENT

1. The responsibilities and duties of the Representative Colonel Commandant are follows:
 - a. Provide advice when required to the Head of Corps (HOC) and the RAE Corps Committee (RAECC) on issues relating to esprit-de-corps, Customs, Traditions and Heritage.
 - b. Liaise with and assist Regional Colonels Commandant on regional Corps issues.
 - c. Provide feedback to the RAECC on regional Corps issues.
 - d. Attend the annual RAE Corps Conference.
 - e. Participate in RAECC meetings.
 - f. Attend Corps activities as required when time and finance permits.
 - g. Visit RAE units and Regional Colonels Commandant as required when time and finance permits.
 - h. Liaise with RAE ex serviceman's associations and provide feedback to the RAECC on Corps related association issues.
 - j. Foster relationships and activities between regional RAE units and RAE ex Serviceman's Associations.
 - k. Undertake the duties of the Regional Colonel Commandant if holding both appointments.
 - l. Represent the Corps at ceremonial activities in the absence of the Head of Corps.

REGIONAL COLONEL COMMANDANT DUTY STATEMENT

1. The duties and responsibilities of the Regional Colonel Commandant are as follows:
 - a. Provide advice when required to regional unit CO/OC on esprit-de-corps, Customs, Traditions and Heritage.
 - b. Provide feedback to the Representative Colonel Commandant on regional Corps issues.
 - c. Provide a regional report on Corps issues to the RAE Corps Committee AGM.
 - d. Attend regional unit activities as required when time permits.
 - e. Liaise with regional RAE ex Serviceman's Associations and provide feedback to the Representative Colonel Commandant on Corps related association issues.
 - f. Foster relationships and activities between regional RAE units and regional RAE ex Serviceman's Associations.
 - g. Represent the Corps at ceremonial activities in the absence of the Representative Colonel Commandant or Head of Corps.