



Merger Update 01 - 27 February 2025

Dear AEA Member,

Following the 76.8 % vote in favour of merging the AEA with the REA(A) to form 'The AEA a National branch of the REA' the executive committee is now working on the Merger. Monthly zoom meetings to track progress are in place. The Aim is to have Merger complete by the end of the AGM Weekend in October 2025. This letter will give you an update of key strands of work currently in progress in the 5 following parts.

1. **Constitution.** The MOU stated we would retain our constitution, there now needs to be some minor amendments to update it in line with the merger. John Lee has carried out an initial review and the committee is now seeking clarity on some points. The Updated constitution will be circulated prior to The Gala dinner and voted on at the AGM.

2. **Financial arrangements.** The constitution will state 2 committee members to approve financial transaction up to a maximum of £1K, above that will need to be voted at AGM. Bobby Mathews is standing down and Mark Dorkins will take on post of Treasurer. They are now working together to confirm arrangements with REA.

3. **Membership.** A lot of work is going into producing a data base that has as many accurate contact details as possible from AEA and REA(A) . Billy Morris is working with RSM 23 (Axel Foley) to work out simplest way for REA to record AEA members details.

4. **Structure.** To complete the amount of work required the Executive committee has formed an **Interim** council which will facilitate the merger. This interim Council is provisional and " **all new executive committee members** "will be voted on at the AGM. This transition structure is as follows:

- President: CO 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment
- Vice president: Phil Taylor
- Vice president: Dave Brennan
- Chairmen: Steve Wallis, Dave Leibrick attending meetings and will take over at Gala Dinner.

- REA Management Board Representative: Presently Phil Taylor, Paul Moore has agreed to take on role.
- Secretary: Mike Robertson
- Treasurer: Bobby Mathews handing over to Mark Dorkins .
- Membership Secretary Veterans: Billy Morris
- Membership Secretary Regular Soldiers: RSM 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, (tied to post)
- Journal editor and Webmaster Dave Pace: (Steve Wallis will be assisting Dave once he steps down from Chairmen)
- Media Officer: IO 23 Parachute Engineer Regt, role is to provide media information to Dave Pace.
- From the AGM in October 2025, each Branch will have the option to provide a member on the Executive Committee.

5. Exploitation of Opportunities. With the merger there are areas we can develop and the following is a snap shot of some of the areas that are being worked on :

- a. A welcome brochure for all new members from REA(A) outlining details of branches etc.
- b. Looking at funding to print the Journal and send out to all members once a year.
- c. Our shop platform selling Regt PRI which will in turn increase our own shop visibility and sales.
- d. Issuing a one off payment to each branch to assist recruiting and retention.
- e. Increased presence amongst serving soldiers, RSM has invited committee members to next WO and SGTs Mess function.

SUMMARY

There is much to do to put the meat on the bones of the MOU that members voted on, presently no significant hurdles are foreseen, the AEA transition committee, 23 Parachute Engineer Regt and the REA are all working well together to minimise road bumps.

Anyone who would like to be involved with this transition committee please volunteer to Steve Wallis.