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C Dennis Esq
Secretary The Armourers' Association

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25 October 2000

Dear Mr Dennis

AMALGAMATION ARMOURER AND GUN FITTER CAREER EMPLOYMENT GROUPS

Thank you for your letter of 6 September 2000 in which you express your concern about the proposed title of the new REME trade group being formed from the existing Armourer and Gun Fitter Career Employment Groups (CEG). Please accept my apology for the delay in response, I felt it appropriate to consult widely to allow full consideration of the issues that you and others have raised.

The origin of this trade group amalgamation was our increasing concern over the effect that establishment changes were having on the career opportunities and promotion pyramids of the 2 respective trades. I trust you will agree that it would be remiss of us to continue with CEG structures that were neither sustainable nor offered a realistic career progression to our tradesmen. Additionally, the longer term military direction towards medium weight force structures indicated that the distinction between the existing 2 trades is, and will increasingly become, blurred. It was therefore entirely appropriate that we sought to review the individual trade skills and career structure requirements that would enable us to provide support to the weapon systems and force structure we anticipate in the new millennium.

To reflect the nature and scope of the new CEG, I sought to identify a title that encompassed the essence of the trade grouping. A number of titles were proposed and considered by the Corps Committee in conjunction with my Headquarters and the REME Manning and Career Management Division. The consensus was that Weapon Mechanic was the appropriate name.

The new CEG is not an assimilation of one trade by another but it will provide the appropriate expertise to support weapons of all types in an effective and timely way. Our structural evolution reflects the changes in the force we are now required to support.

However, taking your views and others into account and recognizing the historic connection, I now intend to recommend to the Corps Committee that the new CEG be retitled 'Armourer'.

Yours sincerely
Rod Croucher



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