

Clear The Way

By Major General William H. McCoy
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Greetings from Fort Leonard Wood to all of our Regiment's phenomenal Soldiers, civilians, families, friends, and loved ones. I'd like to begin by emphasizing how immensely proud and in awe I am with the demonstrated performance and potential of our engineer team to address and affect the spectrum of tough issues and challenges associated with training, transforming, rebasing, and caring for the Regiment while simultaneously fighting the Global War on Terrorism. It is truly a team effort that each of you has executed with the utmost professionalism, commitment, and passion despite the challenges, hardships, and resource limitations. Thank you for serving and leading during this dynamic, challenging, and rewarding time in the history of our Regiment. Your selfless and tireless service doesn't go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Our Army and Regiment are currently confronting a host of challenges associated with transforming while at war. As an example, as units address the personnel and equipment challenges associated with sourcing the operational Army, we must see through the immediate hardships and shortcomings that you consistently overcome, and focus on the long-term benefits of all your hard work. There is a lot of goodness in persevering through the challenges to achieve the end state of our Regiment. The USAES Fusion Cell efforts, which now include the Active Army and Reserve Component forces, are the pinnacle of much success. The Fusion Cell continues to serve as a key way to affect transformation, rebasing, and sourcing the war. I appreciate your participation in these efforts and ask for your continued support. I would like to recognize all the great adaptive and persistent leaders who work tirelessly to this end every day, to include notably the teams of engineers at the Pentagon, FORSCOM, and HRC who address some of the toughest issues daily. Thanks for what you do for the Regiment.

Early this summer, we will celebrate the accomplishments of the Regiment with the annual Regimental Engineer Force (ENFORCE) Conference 2007. Block your calendar dates for 20-24 May 2007, and join the engineer community's military and civilian leaders (retired and active), the Army Engineer



Association, and commercial industry at St. Louis and later at Fort Leonard Wood. This conference provides Soldiers and leaders an opportunity to participate in working groups intended to identify force issues and develop solutions, exchange and disseminate critical information, build and reinforce long-term relationships, and recognize and honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of units and members of the Regiment. A spouse agenda is planned throughout ENFORCE to provide exchange opportunities amongst spouses.

Also during ENFORCE, we will dedicate the newly constructed \$10 million Counter Explosive Hazards Center building in memory and honor of SFC Paul R. Smith, Medal of Honor winner, 11th Engineer Battalion, 4 April 2003. The facility provides state-of-the-art technology systems and facilities for counter IED functions and instruction of students participating in a myriad of counter IED training. This new facility absolutely exemplifies our nation's and Army's commitment and investment in safeguarding and protecting our service members. Our Regiment remains incredibly committed to this important effort to defeat this current and emerging threat to our forces.

In recent weeks, our Army experienced a spike in needless injuries and deaths of Soldiers and families, most prominently due to motor vehicle and motorcycle accidents. I urge engineer Soldiers and leaders at every level to incorporate composite risk management techniques into efforts to protect and safeguard yourselves, your Soldiers, family members, and loved ones. Wear your seatbelts at all times, follow the laws of the road, don't drink and drive, and act responsibly always. Demand and support the same with your fellow Soldiers, families, and loved ones. Our Army, nation, and Regiment need you on the team. And your families and loved ones need you in their lives. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Finally, continue to remember our Soldiers, civilians, families, and loved ones who made enormous, and in some cases ultimate, sacrifices in the service of our nation. Please commemorate and reflect on their service and sacrifices, and join me in keeping our brave deployed service members and their families at home foremost in our efforts, thoughts, and prayers.