

Lead The Way

By Command Sergeant Major Clinton J. Pearson
United States Army Engineer School



Since the last Lead the Way article, I have traveled to several installations, and I truly enjoyed visiting with the Soldiers of the Regiment and being immersed in the uniqueness of the many organizations and missions we have in our branch. You can say that I'm biased, but our Soldiers are the greatest in the Army. We are blessed with talented officers and noncommissioned officers who competently lead our Soldiers through the varied and complex missions our Army expects us to execute.

ENFORCE 2007. Conference time is fast approaching, and the theme this year is *Engineers in Full-Spectrum Operations*. I hope that you are looking forward to spending this week renewing friendships and resolving issues as we focus on our full-spectrum engineering capability in support of our Army. I also want to address some issues that will shape the focus of the Council of Command Sergeants Major (CSMs) and generate what I'm sure will be lively discussion among our senior leaders.

The conference will be filled with extraordinary events and social activities in both St. Louis and Fort Leonard Wood, to include vendor displays, the Regimental review, a barbecue, an Army Engineer Association luncheon, and unit plaque dedications. The conference will culminate with the annual Regimental dinner, where we will recognize our 2007 Itschner, Sturgis, and Grizzly winners; the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Honorary Command Sergeant Major, and Honorary Warrant Officer; along with our Best Sapper Competition winners. I don't have to remind you of the importance of this week to our Regiment as we continue to *Train, Transform, and Take Care of the Regiment*, which continues to be restructured to meet the demanding challenges of the future. We truly need to hear input from the field. Among the topics covered will be ARFORGEN challenges, IED-D updates, and base camp engineering issues. The complete agenda is on the ENFORCE site of the Engineer School home page.

NCOES. As our Regiment continues to support the Global War on Terrorism, we still strive to provide our NCOs with the quality training they need. These courses would not be successful or relevant without well-qualified, motivated instructors and small-group leaders (SGLs). It is extremely important



to fill these critical instructor and SGL positions with highly qualified NCOs just returning from operations in support of the war. NCOs returning from operational assignments, who are looking for a challenging and career-enhancing opportunity, should consider an assignment at Fort Leonard Wood.

Modularity. In January, the 11th Engineers activated at Fort Benning, Georgia, and in February the 14th Engineer Battalion converted from a Corps Wheeled Engineer Battalion to a Modular Engineer Battalion (Combat Effects). The 14th is comprised of two Sapper Companies and one Equipment Support Company. The 16th Engineer Battalion is preparing to move to Fort Hood, Texas, where it will be reflagged and become the 8th Engineer Battalion. The 5th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood is scheduled to convert to a Combat Effects Battalion in May. It will consist of two Mobility Augmentation Companies (the 55th and the 509th), one Sapper Company (the 515th), one Forward Support Company, and a Headquarters Support Company. The 130th Engineer Brigade will relocate from Germany to Fort Lewis, Washington, in June. In October, the 29th Engineer Battalion will be reflagged to the 65th Engineer Battalion, and then the 65th and 84th Engineer Battalions will convert to the modular design.

Along with my firsthand observations, I routinely receive e-mails and calls on the great support and effort our Soldiers provide to installations and missions all over the world. I am extremely proud of all that you and our Soldiers represent. We have a common factor that's evident in all of our organizations: We are all extremely busy and feverishly working to accomplish the missions of our Army and nation. From shaping doctrine and design of our organizational mission and structure to supporting the efforts related to Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, engineers are completely integrated and involved.

Finally, continue to focus efforts on the Global War on Terrorism, maintaining high standards and leading the way as engineers do. May God bless the fallen comrades and keep watch over our sons and daughters as we continue to fight the fight.

Essayons—Engineers Lead the Way!