

# Lead The Way

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



**G**reetings Sappers! I hope and pray that all has been well with our Soldiers, Families, and Civilians who have given so much to our Regiment, our Army, and our nation. This is my final article as your Regimental Command Sergeant Major. I am extremely grateful for your support, sacrifices, and accomplishments.

I am truly blessed for the opportunity to serve our nation and Regiment while our military is at war. Everything we have done makes me proud to be an American—proud to live in a nation that is obliging for good in the world and values human life; where we “hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” I’m so thankful that we have men and women who are willing to answer the call to protect our way of life; many have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the liberty and freedom we enjoy every day. These God-gifted men and women are willing to step out of America’s sandbox to help give liberty and freedom to oppressed people in other nations. Today, we continue to stand on the shoulders of these giants, continuing our efforts to provide peace and stability around the world. I will forever keep each of you in my daily thoughts and prayers. To the Families that have lost loved ones in past or present conflicts, you will remain our nation’s greatest treasures.

I would like to highlight a few of the many accomplishments we have made over the past four and a half years that fall into the T3 areas of *Taking Care*, *Transforming*, and *Training*. Let’s first address *Taking Care*, specifically regarding engineer senior enlisted promotions. I am proud of our Regiment in this area because we set many records, especially during the most recent E7-E9 promotion boards. Here are some statistics:

- 51 master sergeants were selected for sergeant major (the largest E9 selection rate engineers have had in decades).
- 191 sergeants first class were selected for master sergeant.
- 352 staff sergeants were selected for sergeant first class.

We also set records regarding *Transforming* and *Training*. Our Army has undergone the most rigorous transformation in history, while engaged in the War on Terrorism. Our Regiment has also undergone a significant transformation from IET, AIT, EOBC, NCOES, to the structure of battalions, brigades, companies, sections, and teams that support the combatant commander to the embedded engineers in the HBCT. We must continue to strive to provide them with the necessary skills and tools to enable the combatant commander to ensure mobility in concert with maneuver.

To assist us in this endeavor, the Engineer School has implemented several functional courses that provide our Soldiers and leaders with



the skills and tools that have proven to be force multipliers, including the following:

- Combat Search Operations Course
- Route Reconnaissance/Clearance Operations Course (R2C2)
- Route Reconnaissance/Clearance Operations Course – Sapper (R2C2-S)
- Route Reconnaissance/Clearance Operations – Maintainer (R2C2-M) Course
- Area Clearance Course
- Improvised Explosive Device Defeat – Train the Trainer (IEDD-T3) Course
- Dog Detachments/SSD
- Improvised Explosive Device Defeat – Train the Trainer (IEDD-T3) Mobile Training Team (MTT) Course.

Two other important courses are the joint Urban Mobility Breaching Course (UMBC) at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, which has greatly improved the Sappers’ ability to fight and win in an urban environment; and the Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agent (EOCA) Course at Fort Leonard Wood, which provides basic skills and knowledge required to perform as EOCA. All these courses are relevant to the current and future fight and provide our Soldiers with the tools and skill sets needed to succeed.

Regarding NCOES, we realize that we cannot completely give up our technical skills for combat skills. Therefore, we are currently relooking the NCO technical competency skill sets. In the meantime, however, I ask the leadership to continue to allow NCOs to attend the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC). Both are extremely important to the career progression of NCOs and greatly enhance their ability to perform their wartime mission.

I also ask you to continue to support another area that is near and dear to my heart—the Engineer Regiment’s annual Best Sapper Competition. This event was created three years ago and grows stronger every year. We continue to see more and more participants and obtain more and more support. It is an amazing and inspiring competition that shows our engineers knee-deep in action!

In closing, I’d like to welcome back those Soldiers who have recently returned from a deployment. And to those who have recently departed, I wish a safe and speedy return home. God bless you and the fallen comrades and their Families. We will never forget you. Finally, I again would like to thank each of you for your support, dedication, selfless service, professionalism, tremendous efforts, and inspiration during the past four and a half years. It has been an amazing once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve as your Engineer Regimental Command Sergeant Major. I salute each of you and wish you Godspeed. Essayons!!! Sapper Strong!!! Army Strong!!!