

REGIMENTAL CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

On 8 May, the spotlight of ENFORCE 2008 was on the Regimental Change of Responsibility ceremony, not only to celebrate the great event and the great people involved but also to highlight the crucial role and responsibility of our senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs).

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Clinton J. Pearson and his wife Mollie were honored and thanked for their service to our Regiment in this key leadership role, and the saber was passed to CSM Robert J. Wells and his wife Ann, as they assumed responsibility.

CSM Wells has a remarkable background—highly decorated with two combat tours; Airborne, Ranger, Air Assault, and Sapper; Drill Sergeant; Exchange NCO with the Australian Army; and he has excelled in every leadership position from squad leader to CSM. A great engineer, he has distinguished himself most recently as a combined arms, full spectrum warrior as CSM of the 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 4th Infantry Division, in Iraq and CSM of the Operations Group at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. CSM Wells is clearly the right person in the right seat of our Regimental Bus, as we make the journey to Building Great Engineers for full spectrum operations in an era of persistent conflict.

CSM Wells entered the military at Columbus, Ohio, on 15 January 1980. After basic and advanced individual training (AIT), he completed airborne training with the 43d Airborne Company and was then assigned to the 82d Airborne Division, with primary duties as an M60 machine gunner. In 1984, he was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, Louisiana, as a combat engineer squad leader. He was promoted to staff sergeant (SSG) and was a platoon sergeant until his reenlistment to the Federal Republic of Germany and the 130th Engineer Brigade in 1986. There, he was a squad leader with Alpha Company, 317th Engineer Battalion, until his selection for drill sergeant duties at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in 1989. While serving two years on “the trail,” he was promoted to sergeant first class (SFC) and worked briefly at the Drill Sergeant School, until his reassignment to the 65th Engineer Battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in 1992. While at Schofield Barracks, he was a platoon sergeant with Alpha Company, battalion operations sergeant, and first sergeant (1SG) for Bravo Company, 65th Engineer Battalion.

In 1996, he was transferred to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he was 1SG for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, then Bravo Company, 326th Engineer Battalion, until 1999. He was then selected to be the



Outgoing Regimental CSM Clinton Pearson, Engineer School Commandant BG Gregg Martin, and new Regimental CSM Robert Wells

Regiment’s Combat Engineer Exchange NCO, with duties in Sydney, Australia. While in Australia, he was promoted to sergeant major (SGM) and was transferred to Canungra, Queensland, to teach at Australia’s Regional Training Center.

In 2001, he was promoted to CSM and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division and the 299th Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas, where he deployed with the 299th to Operation Iraqi Freedom I, Tikrit, Iraq. The 299th took part as the screening element on Operation Red Dawn that resulted in the capture of Saddam Hussein on 13 December 2003. Upon redeployment from Iraq, he was selected to be CSM of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and helped the brigade transform to the new unit of action and become 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division. The BCT deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 in December 2005 and operated around Taji, Iraq, until its return to Fort Hood in December 2006. He later became the Operations Group CSM at the National Training Center.

CSM Wells’ military schools include all phases of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES), Ranger School, Sapper Leader Course, Drill Sergeant School, and Airborne and Air Assault Schools.

He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (2), the Purple Heart, and the Combat Action Badge and is a recipient of the Engineer Regiment’s Bronze de Fleury Medal. He is also a Legionnaire in the Order of Saint Maurice, a Noble Patron of Armor in the Order of Saint George, and a member of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

CSM Wells is married to the former Elizabeth Ann Haywood of Cambridge, Ohio. They have one daughter, Audrey, who lives in California.