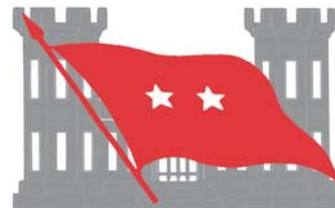


Clear The Way

By Major General William H. McCoy
Commandant, United States Army Engineer School



Jill and I and the entire engineer Family at your home of Fort Leonard Wood extend best wishes and enormous appreciation for the entire Team, to include Soldiers, Families, civilians, and loved ones. It is truly our privilege and pleasure to meet many of you and thank you personally for your service.

In May, many members of our Team had the opportunity to participate in ENFORCE 2007. The St. Louis portion was hosted by the Army Engineer Association, led by COL (R) Jack O'Neil and CSM (R) Julius Nutter. BG (P) Jack Sterling updated the Regiment on engineer support to the War on Terrorism, the transformation of the Regiment, and the Future Force. His brief is posted for your viewing and use on the Engineer School homepage. I appreciate and applaud the efforts of our Councils of Colonels and Command Sergeants Major to identify, discuss, and address the most critical matters related to the future of our Regiment. While we've accomplished much, there is still much work to be done. The vendor displays reinforced the greatest of our total Team, Army, and Nation.

Day 3 began on a beautiful day at Fort Wood with the colors of many of our units and Soldiers of 1st Engineer Brigade representing the Regiment on the field. It was fitting and heartwarming to say the least. Later that morning, we officially dedicated the new Counter Explosive Hazards Center (CEHC) in honor and memory of SFC Paul Ray Smith (MOH winner, 4 April 2003, Baghdad). This beautiful facility enhances our ability to train our Soldiers to defeat the great IED threat. I was honored to participate in the ceremony with Mrs. Birgit Smith, CW2 Bill Smock (INARNG Soldier-Artist who painted and donated the portrait of SFC Smith), and LTC (P) Kent Savre (CEHC Director). The memorial service at the Engineer Memorial Grove was a great tribute and honor to our 231 fallen engineer Soldiers since the beginning of the War on Terrorism. It was our distinct privilege to have the 52d Chief of Engineers, LTG Robert Van Antwerp, join us at Fort Leonard Wood and address our Soldiers and leaders. We ended the day with the Regimental Ball, during which we recognized many of our Active, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers and leaders. I'd like to again thank everyone for their support to and participation in ENFORCE 2007,



Engineers in Full-Spectrum Operations.
I look forward to next year.

I would like to take a moment to address training of the Regiment. I'm proud of the Soldiers and leaders of the 1st Engineer Brigade who are responsible for training our growing force. They consistently achieve excellence in training, adjusting to emerging trends and TTP, while significantly constrained by resources—most notably personnel. The CEHC is fully engaged in a surge of counter IED training, preparing deploying forces for Iraq and Afghanistan. We are preparing for the move of the Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agent (EOCA) Course from

Redstone Arsenal to Fort Leonard Wood beginning this September with the pre-positioning of the lead cadre. Given the continued effects of IEDs on our forces by our enemy and the important changes to the blow-in-place (BIP) policy in Iraq, I ask engineer commanders and leaders to prioritize attendance of our Sappers at the two-week R2C2-Sapper Course and soon to be four-week EOCA Course. These courses are invaluable to protecting the force and defeating this threat.

As is often the case in the Army, summer comes with the transition and farewell of great leaders and Families. Notably, the Maneuver Support Center and the Engineer School farewell two great engineer officers, COL Bobby Nicholson and COL Paul Kelly, and their Families as they retire after nearly six decades of distinguished service to the Army. Our Regiment greatly benefited from their service, and it goes without saying that we will miss them greatly. As we enjoy summer activities, I ask everyone to remain extremely vigilant of the risks and hazards that abound. Already this year, we have lost far too many Soldiers, Army civilians, and Family members to motor vehicle (several without seatbelts), motorcycle, and drowning accidents. I need your help by watching out for each other, using the battle buddy system, employing composite risk management in all that you do, on and off duty, and employing safe practices to protect yourselves and your Families and friends. Proper use of alcohol is a never-ending concern. You are all too important to us, each other, and our Army and Nation to lose you to senseless and preventable accidents. Enjoy your summer, best wishes to you and your Families, and may all the greatest blessings be bestowed upon our Soldiers, civilians, and Families deployed and supporting our Nation at war.