



Moving Out With Great Engineers

By Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp

Our historic workload both here and abroad—plus the addition of “The American Recovery and Investment Act (Stimulus)” —focuses us on having *Great Engineers* with the requisite competencies to “get ‘er done.” Our Soldiers and Civilians are working in 33 countries providing full spectrum engineering services—from sapper and construction engineering in combat to water resource planning and construction on our river systems to geospatial engineering to disaster recovery and reconstruction.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, has recognized the need for developing and growing great leaders and engineers. He demonstrated this requirement when he published his new doctrinal guidance on how our future force must function and the capabilities it needs to possess.

Our engineers must be able to serve an array of customers in a diverse set of circumstances, from partnering

with local tribal leaders to designing a sluice gate on a levee to building a bridge across a river in Iraq. Our engineer force must be able to synchronize individual talents and overall effects in order to offer a full suite of engineering skills. It will take Great Engineers to accomplish these important missions.

As Admiral Mullen states, “Leaders down to the lowest levels must be comfortable acting on their own authority based on an understanding of the larger situation and an appreciation for the broader implications of their actions...” That puts a premium on competency!

We have a significant mission ahead. What a great time to be an ENGINEER! 

Lieutenant General Van Antwerp is the 52d Chief of Engineers and Commander of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.



Bassett Army Community Hospital in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, is a modern \$215 million medical facility built by the Corps’s Alaska District. This 259,500-square-foot medical building replaced a hospital built before Alaska became a state. The construction and modernization of quality-of-life facilities such as this represent the many engineering services that our Nation, our Soldiers, and their Families depend on each day.