

Clear The Way

Brigadier General Bryan G. Watson
Commandant, United States Army Engineer School



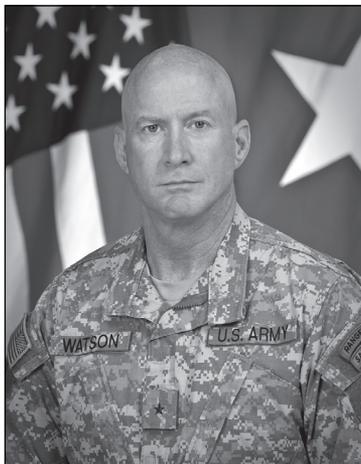
ENFORCE 2010 – Three Major Themes

More than any time in our history, today our Engineer Regiment is composed of a great depth of combat experience, a wide breadth of applied engineering savvy, and an incredible force of innovative Soldiers—particularly our young leaders. Equally historic, today's engineer operations around the world—from Iraq and Afghanistan to Haiti, and from Korea to the Horn of Africa—require greater partnering of engineers across nations and Services. Further, we are at a pivotal time in our history as a Regiment—solidifying the enduring lessons learned from nine years of combat and applying them to the challenges we face in the next decade of persistent conflict.

As such, there are three major themes for this year's ENFORCE. Allow me to elaborate on these themes and highlight a few key events:

Theme #1 – Gaining Sage Wisdom From Our Young Leaders. One of the features of this year's ENFORCE is an emphasis on giving young leaders a louder voice and getting their advice and counsel on the future. For example, our Warfighter Forum will consist of young officers, warrants, and NCOs who have served at platoon, company, and battalion level—telling senior leaders, and others, their views—from lessons learned to what future capabilities are needed. Our Industry Forum will follow suit, allowing junior leaders to tell our partners in industry what equipment works, what doesn't, and what they need to prosecute the fight. We will also have two keynote speakers—one senior leader and one junior leader—each bringing personal experience, insight, and perspective to our discussion of the future. In keeping with this theme, I've asked brigade and battalion commanders across all components to send junior leaders to ENFORCE—officers, warrants, and NCOs—to participate and take back to their units their view of where the Regiment is going.

Theme #2 – Expanding Engineer Partnerships as a Forethought. This year we will cast a wide net for international and sister Service engineer participation in order to openly discuss and collaborate on the challenges we must face together...as a community of engineers. Nearly all forums and workgroups will be inclusive rather than exclusive for our international engineers, both in content and classification. We will build on our strong partnership with the engineers of our sister Services, exploring ways to advance our integration and complementary interdependence. Seminar venues will allow all of



our partners the opportunity to discuss their view of the challenges in specific regions.

Theme #3 – Checking Our Campaign Plan Azimuth and Pace Count. At last year's ENFORCE, we laid out the foundation of a campaign plan for the future that was the subject of debate among senior leaders. The Regimental Headquarters and School have worked hard to put some meat on the vision we established. I will provide the Regiment an update on the campaign plan, and we will use the breakout sessions—attended by the full range of conference participants—to confirm, deny, or adjust our decisive points to ensure that we remain a Regiment that is able to meet the Army's demands.

Continuing to Build Great Engineers. Our experience in nine years of combat has reinforced—again—that Army engineers must be warriors always...and technically proficient in applied engineering. When the commander calls, we must have the skills necessary to solve his problems and the warrior ethos necessary to deliver results on the battlefield...under the toughest conditions. ENFORCE will provide a number of professional development seminars designed to discuss some of the latest construction management techniques and best practices, provide attendees with updates on the latest TTP used in-theater as part of the C-IED fight, get a refresher in geospatial engineering, and many other subjects. Some seminars will even offer the opportunity for professional accreditation. All the while, we will gather as a tribe to celebrate our honored heritage and pay tribute to some among our ranks whose service epitomizes our calling to solve the commander's problems and serve with excellence.

Finally, we will celebrate the rich heritage that is our Engineer Regiment. As in the past, we herald the winners of the Best Sapper Competition and pay tribute to the small units and junior leaders who will receive Regimental Association Awards. We will take a special moment to recognize our Fallen Engineers and highlight our vision of a Fallen Engineer Memorial to be set in red Missouri granite in the Engineer Memorial Grove—the headwaters of our Regiment. Of course, we will also revel in the company of fellow tribesmen—our great family of engineers—at the Engineer Ball.

It will be a spectacular week! I look forward to continuing the professional debate that will set the course of the future. I encourage you to attend if possible...and to be with us in spirit if you cannot.

Lead to Serve. Essayons!