

## *Farewell ...*

### *From the Managing Editor, Shirley Bridges*

**I**t has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been associated with *Engineer, The Professional Bulletin of Army Engineers*, for the past 17 years—beginning in October 1994 as editor and from April 2003 to March 2011 as managing editor.

The publication has an interesting history that began with a Spring 1971 issue that was known as *The Engineer*. Major General Robert Ploger, then commandant of the Engineer School, was optimistic that the publication would provide a forum to “trigger engineer thinking” and “stimulate controversial subjects...with the objective in mind of progress in the profession.” He said that the objective was not “controversy for controversy’s sake.” His aim was to provoke “the thought processes of the complete span of our personnel, from young enlisted engineers to career-oriented officers. From them may well emanate new ideas, fresh approaches to existing problem areas—solutions, perhaps, to the technical barricades facing us.” In the “timeless profession” of military engineering, this attitude is still very prevalent from the current Engineer School commandant Brigadier General Bryan Watson.

The late 1979 and early 1980 issues were published under the name *Engineer*, and by the Summer of 1980 to mid-1987, it was called *Engineer, The Magazine for Army Engineers*. In the mid-1980s, the Secretary of the Army directed a large reduction in the printing budget, eliminating many periodicals. However, he authorized the Training and Doctrine Command to develop a new publication media—the professional bulletin—to keep Army personnel knowledgeable of current and emerging developments within their assigned areas of proponentcy. So the third issue published in 1987 became *Engineer, For Army Engineers*. The fourth issue of that year bore the name *Engineer, The Professional Bulletin for Army Engineers*, and has remained that except for changing the word “for” to “of” in 2001.

As this ENFORCE issue went to press, I was presented my Certificate of Retirement after 32 years as a Department of the Army Civilian and moved on to the next phase of my life. It is not without some sadness that I leave, because many of you have become like old friends. I’ve watched some of you be assigned and reassigned to Fort Leonard Wood several times, and I’ve followed your careers as you became leaders in the timeless military engineering profession. One example of that is Brigadier General Watson, who I (as a training and doctrine editor) first knew as a captain back in the early 1990s. It has been gratifying to see this young and capable engineer officer become an even more capable leader of the Engineer School, ever encouraging young engineers to share their experiences and expertise with others.

Thanks to all of you in the Engineer Regiment for the tremendous support you have given me over the years. And thank you also to the very talented and dedicated *Engineer* staff members—both now and in the past—who have helped me continue to improve the quality and usefulness of *Engineer*. With their skill and commitment, I have no doubts that the publication will continue to thrive under the management of Diane Eidson, another veteran editor.