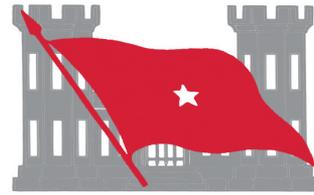


Clear the Way

Brigadier General Peter A. (Duke) DeLuca
Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School



Engineering for the Wars We Fight

Engineering for the Wars We Fight is the theme of this year's U.S. Army Engineer Regimental Conference (commonly known as ENFORCE)—a conference that not only includes the celebratory and competitive aspects of our annual gathering, but also has a very substantive and productive focus on what we are doing in combat, what we need to be doing in combat, and what we are doing each day to *prevent, shape, and win* now and in the future.

The conference will focus on the expected operational environment during the next few years, not take a hypothetical look into the future far beyond our ability to predict anything about the strategic context in which we must work and adapt. Nor will this conference rely on sterile scenarios amenable to popular and convenient assumptions about the nature of war and the skills, tools, and resources needed to fight them. These types of dysfunctional approaches have hampered our ability to think clearly at strategic transition points in the past and cannot be allowed to recur. And, of course, prevention and shaping operations include theater engagement; engineer preparation of theater actions; defense support of civil authorities and its foreign equivalent, partner capacity building; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) support to our Nation and international foreign aid and security operations. USACE and the field Army engineers are one Regiment, and we must work very closely to deliver the engineering effects that our forces and our Nation need. This year's conference will have a variety of activities that are designed to further this goal.

While our Engineer Regiment continues to perform doggedly and superbly in support of maneuver forces and commanders around the globe and at home, it is no secret that the context in which we operate is changing. The geopolitical situation, the economy, the operational environment, and our strategy are going through transitions that guarantee tremendous uncertainty; but these transitions also provide an unprecedented opportunity to reshape our Regiment into the precise form and capacity that our Nation needs. So *now* is the time to reshape our Regiment, and we will do it together. Most of you are aware of the discussions about our Profession of Arms, the discussions and pending decisions of Army 2020, the reductions in our budget, the



termination of one major theater, and the impending termination of a second major theater within the next 2 years. These and other global changes have a significant impact on our Army and the engineers entrusted with supporting decisive land operations to protect our citizens and national interests and to ensure our Nation's continued prosperity for our children and grandchildren.

We will gather at Fort Leonard Wood 17–21 April. The ENFORCE agenda will allow us to visualize the operational environment through multiple national and cabinet level experts who will discuss the hybrid threats, the operational environ-

ment, and the Army 2020 and Engineer Regiment plans to meet the future operational environment. We will host major addresses from a cabinet official, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) senior leaders working the Army 2020 concept (which is already reshaping our Army), the Chief of Engineers, the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence commanding general, senior members of our U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Army National Guard, brigade members who have recently returned from combat or who are still in combat, and at least two foreign partner chief engineers. These discussions and panels will provide a breadth of information and perspective unmatched during any other event. Our USACE team will conduct a Commanders' Conference and the Installation Management Command team will conduct a Department of Public Works Conference almost concurrently with ENFORCE, overlapping key events of interest.

Our panel discussions will focus on joint/international, interagency/intergovernmental, special operations forces, and geospatial/geointelligence operations; and the working groups will focus on training and training support to our Regiment. Senior level members will address the plenary sessions, and then working groups will refine draft products and plans to be implemented after ENFORCE.

We will also conduct the usual social and commemorative engagements to encourage professional dialog and foster continued camaraderie. Holding events such as the solemn Fallen Sapper Memorial Service and the joyful Engineer Regimental Ball is our duty. We honor our fallen, who along with their families made the selfless, ultimate sacrifice; and we continue the observance of our most ancient traditions and celebrate them as Soldiers of this

great Nation. The Best Sapper Competition culminates on Saturday morning; and the Army Engineer Association will then host an Awards Luncheon, where we will recognize the winners of the Itschner, Grizzly, Van Aultre, Outstanding Warrant Officer, and Outstanding Civilian awards. Finally, we will honor our award recipients and will present the Gold deFleury to this year's winners. You can find the latest information on ENFORCE at https://www.wood.army.mil/enforce_2012.

We need to see you at ENFORCE, and we need to harness your minds and experiences as we shape our Engineer force for the future of our Nation. We have a packed agenda that will allow us to come together and celebrate the accomplishments and sacrifices of our units who are engaged in combat, and it will allow us to visualize the new operational environment as we build our Regiment to meet the challenges that come with it—just as we have done since 1775.

Essayons!