

Lead the Way

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As the U.S. Army transitions to the Army of 2020, the Engineer Regiment will continue to provide the best training and resources for our leaders and Soldiers. While the Army senior leaders grapple with budget issues and work to determine what the Army will look like in the future, we as a regiment must continue to strive for excellence. The Army of 2020 represents many changes in the force and the way the Army operates. The Brigade Engineer Battalion concept is still on the table and is a vital part of the Engineer Regiment strategy to build the right force for the engineers and to place the best type of formations in the brigade combat teams to assist as they become more lethal and agile. This strategy is about providing the best assets under the right mission command node to ensure that they are trained and employed in the best manner to benefit not only the brigade combat team but the Army as a whole.



We recently launched the officer version of the Army Career Tracker (see page 43). (The enlisted version has been out for some time.) The Web site allows you to sign in to track your career path and to select a leader and mentor(s) who can provide guidance for career planning and direction. As you look at the site, you will find links to Army sites and to other engineer sites. Education is a key in the military and civilian worlds. There are links to the College of the American Soldier at <http://www.tradoc.army.mil/INCOPD/cas.html>; to structured self-development courses at the Army Training Requirements and Resources System Web site at <https://atrrs.army.mil/>; and to other sites that assist in career advancement.

The Regimental Command Sergeant Major blog site, <https://www.milsuite.mil/login/login?goto=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.milsuite.mil%3A443%2Fbook%2Fgroups%2Fcsms-orp>, recently featured a conversation about NCOs providing articles to professional publications. Our NCO Corps is the best in the world, knowledgeable and professional. Sharing knowledge and professional opinions fuels spirited debate and assists others. As NCOs, we are part of the Army profession and should be part of the discussion. When we shy away from presenting our professional opinions, we minimize ourselves among our comrades.

We are continuing to develop more professional standards and additional skill identifiers (ASIs) for our Soldiers. Recently, the Engineer Regiment instituted the Sapper Leader Course ASI (S4) and combat engineer heavy

tracked vehicle operator ASI (B6). These ASIs recognize professionalism and provide credentials for special disciplines in certain areas of the Engineer Regiment. Units are now being fielded with the assault breacher vehicle (ABV), which features mine-clearing line charges and proofing and marking capabilities in one package mounted on an M-1 Abrams tank chassis. The B6 ASI course is the certification mechanism for the ABV, the M9 armored combat earthmover (ACE), and others in that family of armored vehicles. As fielding plans appear on long-range unit calendars, plan ahead by sending your operators to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for training. The B6 ASI course has been underutilized so far, but provides good service to units that have the ABV and similar vehicles. Units in the fielding window should take advantage of the course and get their operators certified.

Finally, as professional Soldiers in the Engineer Regiment, we have a duty to look for more educational opportunities. We do not have many degreed or credentialed enlisted Soldiers in our profession. The NCO Education System is our professional military education system, and those who are eligible to attend Advanced and Senior Leaders Courses should place a high priority on attending them. It is an individual responsibility and should be a priority for NCOs to attend once they become promotable sergeants, staff sergeants, and sergeants first class. Although it may take Soldiers away from home for a short period of time, the benefits are huge for the NCOs and for the units that gain increased knowledge in their leaders. The pace of deployments has slowed over the years, and we must reduce the backlog of course attendance.

As this year continues, we are moving toward ENFORCE 2012, which will be held at Fort Leonard Wood from 17 to 21 April 2012. The culminating event of the week will be the Engineer Regimental Ball on the evening of 21 April. The week brings the global regimental team together in a major team-building event and is an educational time period where engineers discuss serious topics that will affect the Engineer Regiment in the future. The Best Sapper Competition will also be held during that week, as the best of the best sappers come together to compete in a grueling contest. Come out and join us, and be a part of our annual event showcasing the best regiment in the U.S. Army.

Essayons!