

# Lead The Way

By Command Sergeant Major Clinton J. Pearson  
US Army Engineer School



**G**reetings to all! Our Regiment is steadily growing, and we have been constantly assessing its T3s (Transform the Regiment, Train Soldiers and Leaders, and Take Care of the Regiment) to meet our ever-changing environment. The Regiment is changing daily, with the implementation of the new Future Engineer Force structure. A few of these new incentives are the Urban Mobility Breaching Course (UMBC), Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agent (EOCA) Course, Counter Explosive Hazards Center (CEHC), military occupational specialty (MOS) consolidations, and initial-entry training (IET).



The UMBC has been a big success. The first course, from 4 to 26 October 2004, graduated 15 noncommissioned officers (NCOs). The course now has three qualified Army instructors who will augment the United States Marine Corps instructors. The second class was from 31 January to 18 February 2005. The 120-hour program of instruction (POI) consists of in-depth explosives theory; employment of urban breaching techniques, including explosive, manual, and ballistic breaching; urban reconnaissance; lethal and nonlethal methods of entry; and the use of shotguns. This course has greatly improved the sapper's ability to fight and win in an urban environment. It is receiving terrific support from the field, and class seats fill as soon as slots are available.

The EOCA Course was established to help close the gap between EOD and engineers. The course is designed to train E-4 and E-5 promotables and selected engineer lieutenants to captains. This course teaches how to manage unexploded ordnance (UXO) information, positively identify ordnance, identify fuse types, perform reconnaissance on UXO, implement protective measures, and determine disposition of UXO. The 16-week course (taught at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama) provides the basic skills and knowledge required to perform as EOCAs. Additional information can be found at the US Army Engineer School home page.

A good news story is also found in the CEHC. It continues to work with numerous external agencies—including the Rapid Equipping Force (REF) and the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat (JIEDD) Task Force (TF)—to develop and field innovative counter-improvised explosive device (IED) solutions. To accommodate all the training that is evolving as a result of its efforts, the CEHC will develop a state-of-the-art training center to be completed in 2006. Engineer School efforts have gained congressional support, resulting in the recent appropriation of \$10.4 million for a Counter Explosive Hazards Center of Excellence and an added \$3.7 million for

mine dog kennels, with construction to begin in fiscal year 2005. This is Phase One of a two-part \$18-million construction effort to establish a permanent counter explosive hazards training complex. This will provide specialized training areas and classrooms, search villages, a motor park for nonstandard counter-IED/mine equipment, and permanent mine dog facilities. It will also have adequate space for route and area clearance in order to enhance the overall realism of the training. Additionally, all operator and maintainer training for nonstandard counter-explosive equipment will be taught at this facility until it is institutionalized throughout the force. All the activities will

be collocated in an area on Fort Leonard Wood that will provide better fusion and integration of the CEHC, the Humanitarian Demining Training Center, the 67th Engineer Detachment (Mine Dog), and possibly a Department of Defense mine dog training academy, forming an Explosive Hazards Center of Excellence.

MOS consolidations include combining the 21U topographic analyst and 21L lithographer, with an additional skill identifier (ASI) being awarded to designated personnel qualified as lithographers. The 21T technical engineer specialist and 21S geodetic surveyor will consolidate, resulting in the deletion of 21Ss and creating a 21T multifunctional surveyor. The 21F crane operator and 21J general construction equipment operator will consolidate in fiscal year 2006, resulting in an MOS 21J general construction equipment operator. Finally, combining MOS 21J with the 21E heavy construction equipment operator is being considered, possibly creating a 21E construction equipment operator.

As a part of IET transformation, training developers are converting Common Engineer Training (CET) to Battle-Focused Training (BFT), by incorporating the Warrior Tasks and Drills (WT&D) into the IET POI. Another project involves extensive efforts toward IED defeat. We are also working on producing Mission Training Plans (MTPs) to support Future Engineer Force (FEF) units to include development of collective training for maneuver enhancement (ME) brigades. This process allows us to train Soldiers, not a unit, for war.

If war is the norm and peace is the exception, your Regiment is leading the way. We are training our Soldiers for war now. We continue to focus our efforts on the 3Ts, maintaining high standards and leading the way as engineers have always done. May God bless our fallen comrades, keep their families in the palm of His hand, and keep watch over our sons and daughters as we continue to fight the fight. Essayons!