

Lead The Way

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I would like to welcome you back to another great issue of the Engineer Professional Bulletin. This publication helps keep the Regiment informed on current and emerging developments and serves as a tool for enhancing your professional development.

Engineers everywhere are fully engaged in their heavy summer training schedules. Here at Fort Leonard Wood, the drill sergeants and cadre are busy with the annual surge of trainees who migrate with the civilian school cycles. And in our many Reserve and National Guard training areas, engineer units are conducting the annual training that provides their best opportunity of the year to gain collective competence in their mission-essential tasks. At Active Army posts, the normal hustle of training deployments and support is increased with Reserve augmentees, cadets in apprentice troop-leading roles, supporting Reserve unit training, and the surge of personnel turnover.

We continue our efforts to *Transform, Train, and Take Care of the Regiment*. I would like to highlight some changes going on in our Regiment now and some that will take place in the future. Congratulations to all the master sergeants who made the command sergeant major (CSM) list. This is one of the largest selection lists we have had. I know you will continue to display great leadership and to mentor Soldiers as they come up through the ranks. Two units have been added to the Engineer Regiment this past quarter: We activated the 8th Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood and stood up the 31st Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood.

NCOES: The Engineer Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course is comprised of three courses: 21B/C Combat Engineer, 21H Construction Engineering Supervisor, and 21N Construction Equipment Supervisor. Commanders and CSMs, I need your assistance to ensure that all Soldiers who are selected for NCOES courses show up. We have had a significant number of no-shows the past two quarters, and we need to eliminate no-shows. NCOES courses are a very important part of our Soldier's promotion and career progression. In FY 2007 the 21 B/C courses graduated 172 students with 33 scheduled no-shows; the 21H course graduated 68 students with



9 scheduled no-shows; and the 21N course graduated 67 students with 7 scheduled no-shows. The projections for FY 2008 show 21 B/C with 183 students, 21H with 37 students and 21N with 30 students.

The Engineer Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course is working to implement the most current and relevant information available into the programs of instruction. This allows a training environment to keep pace with the current operating environment and its ever-evolving demands. Over the past year, we have trained in excess of 433 combat and construction engineers, and 41

construction equipment maintainers. In the future, we expect to maintain the highest levels of mental and physical toughness, which are essential to the continued success of the Regiment.

Modularity: Our Fusion Cell continues to work hard on our Regimental units and strength. Currently, the documented, approved MTOE is a consolidated 151-man engineer company residing in the brigade special troops battalion (BSTB). The current implementation plan is to have the companies convert from two companies in the combined arms battalion (CAB) to a consolidated company in the BSTB, based on the timeline that supports each individual brigade combat team (BCT). We are submitting a force design update (FDU), which has been approved by TRADOC, making two 101-man companies residing in the CABs. In addition to the original 76-man engineer company, the joint assault bridge and assault breaching vehicle will be added. The personnel and equipment numbers haven't been worked out in depth, but the plus-up of personnel and equipment will fill gaps identified as shortfalls in the original heavy brigade combat team (HBCT) engineer companies. The FDU is being initiated and will be inserted in the Total Army Analysis (TAA) 10-15 cycle.

In closing, I am extremely proud of our Regiment's Soldiers for their contributions and positive impact over the past year. I am especially proud of the sappers who are deployed around the world in harm's way. To those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom, justice, and the American way of life, neither you nor your families will be forgotten.

God Bless America!