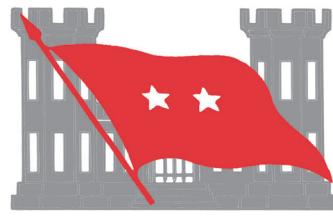


Clear The Way

By Major General Randal R. Castro
Commandant, United States Army Engineer School

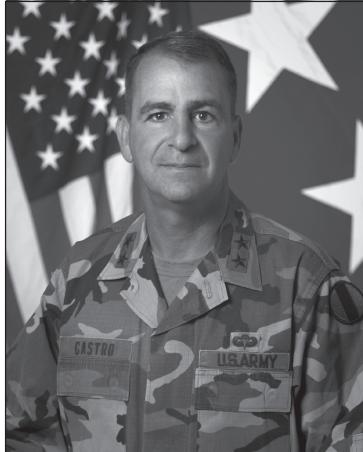


Hello everyone and greetings once again from Fort Leonard Wood. Judy and I are thankful for the fantastic time we had with the Soldiers, families, and communities here at the home of the Engineer Regiment. We often talk about Soldiers needing to be agile and adaptive, and soon we will get a chance to see a great agile and adaptive leader in action. Major General William (Bill) McCoy and his wife Jill will be returning to Fort Leonard Wood to take command and lead our Regiment into the future once he completes his mission as Commander of the Gulf Region Division in Iraq.

I would like to thank Brigadier General Todd Semonite and his wife Connie for their inspirational leadership as the Assistant Commandant of the United States Army Engineer School (USAES) for the past year and Command Sergeant Major Clinton (Clint) Pearson and his wife Mollie for tremendous support to our Regiment as well. In July, we welcomed Brigadier General Jack Sterling and his wife Cathy as our new Assistant Commandant. Jack is one of our premier Warfighters who will support our Nation at war and shape our Regiment for the future.

I am extremely proud and honored to have served our Regiment and our Soldiers as your Commandant. I am very impressed with the accomplishments of our sappers, civilians, families, and communities during the past two years as we supported the Global War on Terrorism. I thank each one of you and your families for your sacrifices. The past two years have brought huge positive impacts on our Regiment in support of our Army's missions. Our "Engineer Team" has blended the powerful capabilities of all three components of our Regiment to provide a very responsive capability and function for our Nation. We are all connected in our Team of Teams.

Just to highlight a few of the key successes over the past two years: We have modified every engineer organization that supports the Army to ensure that we can properly support expeditionary warfighting. We have developed improved capabilities inside the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and are in the process of standing up and converting new Combat Effects Battalions and Construction Effects Battalions to meet



the assured mobility function of our ground maneuver commanders.

Clearly, our Counter Explosive Hazards Center (CEHC) remains our Regiment's and Army's "Center of Excellence" for countering explosive hazards. The CEHC has trained both Army and Marine units in improvised explosive device (IED)-defeat awareness and route reconnaissance and clearance and continues to integrate the latest lessons learned from the United States Army Central Command AOR and combat training centers into our unit and institutional training courses.

There have been significant improvements in developing and acquiring new combat vehicles designed to defeat IEDs on the battlefield. Examples of these key pieces of equipment are the Buffalo, the RG-31, the Assault Breaching Vehicle (ABV), the Joint Assault Bridge (JAB), and robot vehicles, all designed to prevent injuries and save lives. And the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) to modernize our equipment has increased more than \$5 billion.

We have redesigned both the Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, as well as the Noncommissioned Officer Advanced Course to better develop the "pentathletes" required by our Army now and in the future. Our courses now include key tasks of IED-defeat battle staff planning and considerations for units preparing for combat.

I'm extremely proud of the significant accomplishments from our units in the field in Iraq, Afghanistan, and locations around the world; our Regiment is making a very positive difference, from the Gulf Region Division and Afghanistan Engineer District to the combat units—Active Army, United States Army Reserve, and Army National Guard—to our civilians serving in harm's way to defeat terrorism and help rebuild peaceful nations.

In closing, I say again how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to serve the Regiment alongside such great Soldiers, leaders, and community families as our Regiment trains, deploys, transforms, and restations to meet the needs of our Nation at war. Judy and I wish you all the best. Let's continue to improve our Regimental Team of Teams!

Essayons...and Carry On!