

# ENFORCE Council of Colonels

By Colonel James R. Rowan (Retired)

The ENFORCE Council of Colonels met on the afternoon of 21 April 2009. The meeting had been a standard event on the ENFORCE template for many years, but as the ENFORCE venue changed over the past few years, the Council of Colonels had fallen off the agenda. This year's event was highly successful, and attendees agreed that it needs to remain on the schedule.

One significant change to the Council of Colonels this year was that attendance was by invitation only. Previously, the council was open to the Regiment at large and drew a huge crowd. Limiting the members this year was done to keep the Council at a manageable size of about 60 people in order to focus the discussion. The primary invitees were current brigade commanders; colonel-level district commanders; theater engineer command chiefs of staff and deputy chiefs of staff for plans and operations; combatant command engineers; engineers on the United States Army and joint staffs; division engineers; selected program managers from the United States Army Acquisition Corps community; and our doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF) domain chiefs from the United States Army Engineer School and United States Army Maneuver Support Center.

The Council of Colonels received briefings and discussed a wide range of topics. Key agenda events included a follow-on discussion from the ENFORCE Pentagon Panel plenary session, led by Mr. William E. Clarkson and Colonel James R. Rowan (Retired), which focused mainly on the brigade engineer battalion proposal; an update from Iraq by Colonel Scott F. "Rock" Donahue; an organizational update by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen A. Danner; and an update from the United States Army Forces Command engineer, Colonel Charles King (Retired), on some of the key training and sourcing challenges that we are facing to support current operations. The highlight of the Council of Colonels was the discussion with the new Engineer School commandant, Brigadier General Bryan G. Watson, who presented his draft vision and framework for the Regiment (see article on page 12). He used the collective wisdom of the Council of Colonels to refine the document and make final adjustments before sharing it with the rest of the Regiment later in the week. The ENFORCE Council of Colonels slides are posted to the Engineer School Knowledge Network site at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp>.

Engineer School officials are considering making the Council of Colonels a twice-a-year event and are planning a 1- or 2-day Council of Colonels tentatively scheduled for 3-4 November 2009. For announcements with dates and other details, check the Engineer School website at [http://www.wood.army.mil/wood\\_cms/usaes.shtml](http://www.wood.army.mil/wood_cms/usaes.shtml) later this summer.



*Colonel Rowan (Retired) is the Deputy Assistant Commandant, United States Army Engineer School. Previously, he served as the Assistant Technical Director for Military Engineering at the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Vicksburg, Mississippi. Other key duty positions include Commander, ERDC; Commander, 1st Engineer Brigade; Commander, 54th Engineer Battalion; and Commander, 16th Engineer Battalion. He has served in Operation Iraqi Freedom both as a military officer and a civilian.*



Council of Colonels at ENFORCE 2009