

Clear The Way

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



I am excited to serve our Regiment and our Soldiers as your new Commandant. I couldn't be more impressed with the work done by my predecessor and good friend Lieutenant General Van Antwerp. He and his lovely wife Paula have left a positive mark on our Regiment, our Soldiers, Fort Leonard Wood, and the community. Judy and I express our thanks for this inspirational command team, and we wish them continued success.

I would like to thank Brigadier General William (Bill) McCoy as the Assistant Commandant for the US Army Engineer School (USAES) and Command Sergeant Major Clinton (Clint) Pearson for their actions as well. Brigadier General McCoy has led a team in the challenging task of laying the groundwork for the Future Engineer Force that will support the needs of America's current and future military forces. Command Sergeant Major Pearson continues to be the long arm of the Regiment. He wraps up all we do, takes our message to the units, and brings their great ideas and enthusiasm back here to the home of the Regiment. And they are only a part of our Team of Teams here at Fort Leonard Wood, which includes our TRADOC teammates here at MANSCEN—the Military Police and Chemical Schools; our Joint teammates—Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard; and our Foreign Liaisons. Our Regimental Team includes the US Army Reserve and Army National Guard, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Office of the Chief of Engineers at the Pentagon, and most importantly, our Regimental units and you—the Engineer Soldier. We are all connected in our Team of Teams.

The excellent reputation our Regiment maintains is due to the heroic acts our Engineer Soldiers execute on a daily basis, supporting our Nation at War. Our Regiment is making a positive difference—our Nation salutes you. We continue our diligent work here to address emerging threats such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs), but much lies ahead. The work of our IED Defeat Task Force and others will be in our next issue of *Engineer*, as well as the other topics we will take on at ENFORCE 2005.

The Future Engineer Force will be a part of that discussion. For now, all I will say is that the future is bright. Our Regiment is totally revamped from bottom to top, based on capabilities needed to support our Army and Nation. We need to be prepared to embrace the significant changes in the landscape of the Army and the Engineer Regiment of the future. We are confident in the knowledge that there remains a need for Engineers, and as a Regiment...“We're coming back.”



Engineers will have key roles in how the Future Force operates, fights, and wins our Nation's battles. While the engineers' expertise and experience will be utilized across a broad spectrum of tasks and missions, this issue of *Engineer* will focus on one mission not widely recognized outside of the Engineer Regiment—our environmental mission.

The Engineers are the Army's environmental integrator, with the USAES as TRADOC branch proponent. It is through the efforts of organizations like the USAES and USACE that doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF) solutions to both environmental threats and issues are being addressed. Positions such as the Staff Engineer, Army Reservists on Facility Engineer Teams, and the USACE—as well as its Forward Engineer Support Teams/Environmental Support Teams and USACE laboratories—provide the on-site and reachback expertise to address environmental issues/considerations as required. The Army Environmental Center also acts as a significant resource to address environmental issues and concerns.

Direct environmental threats that the USAES and USACE are addressing include dust suppression, solid waste management, and initial environmental screening for force protection. The USAES Directorate of Environmental Integration assisted ARCENT CFLCC environmental staff in writing and sponsoring an operational needs statement to address waste oil generation as part of operational activities. By eliminating waste oil, the need for backhauling of this waste is removed, and the solution—fuel oil blending—also reduces the fuel needs of the operation.

Recognizing environmental considerations, impacts, and threats is not something new, but it is something that will have to be taken more seriously as the Current and Future Force continue to perform their mission of safeguarding this Nation. It falls on the Engineers to lead the way forward through our actions and continued execution of our pro-penency. As we safeguard the security of the environment, we in turn safeguard our Nation's security.

In closing, I say again how thankful I am to be back with the Regiment, serving alongside such great Soldiers and leaders. I know you are all busy, and I just ask that with such a fast tempo, you continue to balance your work requirements with your commitment to your family and community. Let's make it a Great New Year. Essayons!