

# Lead The Way

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**G**reetings from Fort Leonard Wood, home of the Engineer Regiment! I would like to personally thank all of you for your steadfast and honorable service to our nation and our Regiment. Sappers are performing with distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan and in the wake of natural disasters here at home. Today's Soldiers are truly living the Soldiers' Creed. To the families that have lost a loved one, as well as those who have been wounded in action, you will remain in our daily thoughts and prayers. We are eternally grateful for the sacrifices you make each day; you will forever be our nation's greatest treasure.



This article will focus on changes we have seen over the past few months, using the T3 framework: Transform the Regiment, Train Soldiers and Leaders, and Take Care of the Regiment.

Today, the Modular Engineer Force has begun to take shape. We activated the 20th Engineer Battalion and the 507th and the 557th Firefighting Detachments at Fort Hood, the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox, and the 49th and the 94th Mine Dog Detachments at Fort Leonard Wood. Next in the Transformation starting blocks are the 18th Engineer Brigade, 20th Engineer Brigade, 36th Engineer Brigade, 82d Engineer Company, 618th Engineer Company, 642d Engineer Company, 887th Engineer Company, 275th Terrain Analysis Detachment, 362d Multirole Bridge Company, and 94th Engineer Battalion. To assist these units in the Transformation process, we implemented the Fusion Cell at the Engineer School. This cell has been instrumental in addressing issues regarding installation support, equipment, personnel, and deployment. Representatives from the United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM); Assistant Chief of Staff, Finance (G-8); Office of the Chief of Engineers (OCE); Human Resources Command; Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans (G-3); and Assistant Chief of Staff, Personnel (G-1) have been an integral part in assisting the Regiment in transforming to the Modular Engineer Force, and we truly appreciate their support.

The desired way ahead for our Modular Engineer Force is to have command and control oversight over every engineer organization. The exceptions are those engineers embedded in the brigade combat teams (BCTs). Currently, the near future depicts four brigade headquarters: the 18th Engineer Brigade, 20th Engineer Brigade, 36th Engineer Brigade, and 130th Engineer Brigade. The brigade designs have changed, with one of the most significant improvements being the authorization

of a second staff sergeant major in each engineer brigade headquarters. We now have a two-year authorization for staff sergeants major in the 19th and 20th Modular Engineer Battalions.

Training embedded engineer Soldiers in the Heavy BCT (HBCT), Infantry BCT (IBCT), and Stryker BCT (SBCT) is not without its unique challenges. We must provide them with the right set of **skills and tools** necessary for today and tomorrow. In December 2005, we hosted a working group at Fort Leonard Wood for the embedded sapper company (Echo Company) in the HBCT.

The purpose was to define current capabilities, identify capability gaps, identify and recommend solutions, and document recommended solutions. The end state: provide HBCT sapper companies with the necessary skills and tools that enable mobility in concert with maneuver in urban and complex terrain. We must provide those companies with the very best equipment and capabilities available to accomplish their mission.

Another extremely important working group met at Fort Leonard Wood this quarter: First Army's NCO-led Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Defeat Working Group. Members of the Engineer School's Counter Explosive Hazards Center (CEHC) presented top-notch demonstrations that focused the group on techniques used by military working dogs, the interim vehicle-mounted mine detector (IVMMD), and the RG-31 medium mine-protected vehicle. Attendees included CSM Hill (First Army), CSM McCarty (Combined Arms Center), and representatives from Task Force IED, the National Training Center, and CEHC. The attendees realize that we owe it to our Soldiers to make the IED challenge our top priority. It was a very productive session, and all departed with a greater appreciation and understanding of technology intended to defeat IEDs.

My personal congratulations go out to all of you who made the master sergeant promotion list. Your selection is a testament of the Army's confidence in your abilities and your dedication to our Army and fellow Soldiers. Keep up the great work.

In closing, we continue to focus on the Global War on Terrorism, maintaining high standards and leading the way as engineers do. I hope everyone and their families had a safe and Happy New Year and that you remembered the Soldiers away from home who were not with their families. May God bless the fallen comrades and keep watch over our sons and daughters as we continue to fight the fight. Essays!