

Lead The Way

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Greetings from Fort Leonard Wood! One of the most significant events here recently was bidding farewell to a member of our great command team, MG John Sterling and his wife Cathy. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Sterlings for the positive impact they made on Fort Leonard Wood, the Regiment, and the Army. We welcome BG Gregg Martin as the new Commandant of the Engineer School, and his wife Maggie, and look forward to serving with him and his family.

Our Regiment is experiencing one of the most challenging, dynamic, and rewarding periods in its history. The selfless service and sacrifice of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families in support of the War on Terrorism is exemplary and a true testament to their commitment to defending freedom and our way our life.

The past year has brought huge positive impacts on our support of the Army's missions. We have blended the powerful capabilities of the Reserves, National Guard, and Active Army to provide a very responsive capability and function for our nation. The success of the Engineer Regiment transformation to the modular force is mainly due to the aggressiveness of the leaders throughout the Regiment and our great Corps.

The entire Regiment is on schedule with transforming to the modular force. The Reserves and National Guard are on pace to transform years ahead of schedule, and the Active Army engineers have passed the halfway point toward transformation to the modular force. Recently, the 8th Engineer Battalion (Combat Effects), 54th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects), and 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects) became modular units, which increases the capabilities available to the combatant commanders. Additionally, the activation of modular engineer units increases the opportunities for Soldiers throughout the Regiment. For example, the number of senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) selected for promotion on the recent sergeants major list far exceeded previous years' numbers. Congratulations to all on your achievement!

The noncommissioned officers courses continue to focus on improving performance today while building tomorrow's sapper leaders. We continue to aggressively support resetting Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) units through a blend of resident, distance learning, and mobile training teams. We will continue to focus on building skills that support the



brigade combat team (BCT), interim brigade combat team (IBCT), and Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) commanders and the modular engineer units. The engineer Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course (ANCOC) and Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) are continuing to provide the Regiment's NCOs with the professional development and current task-based rigid training needed to lead today and tomorrow. We continue to improve in our 72-hour situational training exercise (STX), which allows NCOs to share their deployment experiences with each other. The exercise serves as a culmination of all tasks covered during the course, with

emphasis on troop-leading procedures (TLP) in the current and contemporary operating environment.

BNCOC also places a significant emphasis on TLP and the execution of route clearance, traffic control point, cordon and search, force protection, access control, and quick-reaction force (QRF) missions. All missions are enhanced through the incorporation of improvised explosive device (IED) simulators, realistic training aids, and civilians on the battlefield.

The Counter Explosive Hazards Center (CEHC), the Army's Center of Excellence for countering explosive hazards, is training and updating the force in current counter explosive hazards techniques and employment of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) and contingency equipment. This instruction enables units to receive theater-specific training prior to deployment and allows them to focus on the mission during transfer of authority. To ensure that the training is up to date and relevant, the CEHC gathers the latest intelligence on explosive hazards tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) employed by the enemy as well as TTP developed by deployed units to counter that threat.

We are continuing our efforts to bridge the gap with explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), as the Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agent (EOCA) Course moves to Fort Leonard Wood this quarter. This move will increase our ability to find new solutions and provide better training for engineer Soldiers.

Finally, continue to focus on the War on Terrorism, maintaining high standards and leading the way as engineers do. May God bless the fallen comrades and keep watch over all Soldiers, Families, and Civilians as we continue the fight.