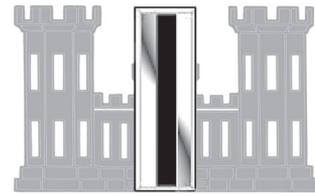


Show the Way

Chief Warrant Officer Five Scott R. Owens
Regimental Chief Warrant Officer



I am honored to be taking the helm from Chief Warrant Officer Five Robert K. Lamphear as he departs for his new assignment as the chief warrant officer advisor, Combined Arms Center, Center for Army Leadership, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. I've been fortunate to have worked with him these past few years and can testify to the great job he did as the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer. He made it look easy, but that's just because he is a professional. As the first engineer Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, he established the standard for what that person should be. I owe him a debt of gratitude for leaving me a first-class operation, and I wish him success in his new assignment.



Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency are working together to make this transition as smooth as possible. Nevertheless, it will be challenging and stressful since courses will be conducted at both locations until the move is complete. Relocating geospatial engineer training will provide opportunities for construction engineering technicians and geospatial engineering technicians to foster lasting relationships, enabling us to better understand each other's role in the Regiment and the services we provide the Army. Just as importantly, it will reinforce the U.S. Army Engineer School campaign plan of having combat, general, and geospatial engineering overlap and support each other—three disciplines in one Regiment focused on delivering capabilities that enable the Army mission.

My biography is available on the U.S. Army Engineer School homepage at http://www.wood.army.mil/wood_cms/195.shtml, so I will forgo the details of my history. In summary, I've served as a geospatial engineering technician—military occupational specialty (MOS) 125D—in a variety of assignments at division, corps, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Army, joint, and combined levels. I must admit that in all those years in the field, I never ran across a construction engineering technician—MOS 120A—and had no idea that the MOS even existed before attending the Warrant Officer Advanced Course here at Fort Leonard Wood in 1999. That's when I met Chief Warrant Officer Five (then Chief Warrant Officer Three) Tom Black and discovered that the engineer warrant officer family was larger than I thought. I attribute my lack of knowledge of construction engineering technicians to two things:

- Geospatial engineering technicians work in the headquarters of brigade combat teams and above, while construction engineering technicians work in a variety of units and installations. The two MOSs rarely cross paths.
- Geospatial engineer training has been segregated from the rest of the Regiment because it's conducted by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

At least one of those things is about to change. As of January 2012, the warrant officer basic course for geospatial engineering technicians will be conducted here at Fort Leonard Wood, with geospatial engineer (MOS 12Y) training for enlisted Soldiers and noncommissioned officers and the rest of the MOS 125D warrant officer courses to follow throughout fiscal years 2012 and 2013. The U.S. Army Engineer School Directorate of Training and Leader Development, the 1st Engineer Brigade, the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence

I've had a few weeks to settle into this position, and I am having a great time. I especially enjoy the opportunity to expand my breadth of contacts, not just in the Regular Army but in the U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves as well; and I am honored to serve and represent the warrant officers of the Regiment. I have met and corresponded with several senior reserve component leaders and many Soldiers about opportunities for becoming an engineer warrant officer. The enthusiasm of these people and the people I work with at the U.S. Army Engineer School is contagious, and that enthusiasm is one of the things that makes this such a rewarding experience.

As I ponder the challenges we have ahead as an Army and as a profession, I'd like to share my personal philosophy. First, I love being an Army engineer! As an engineer, I view physical, bureaucratic, or any other challenge to the mission as something to assess, overcome, or mitigate by going through, over, under, or around. Second, teamwork is crucial. I've been blessed to have worked with great Soldiers and Civilians over the years. The same holds true here. We have a great team; and to paraphrase Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, 52d Chief of Engineers, I get to work with them.

Finally, do what's right. Most people follow that mantra; but at times, conflict can arise when what appears right for one isn't necessarily right for the whole. We must never forget that we exist to serve the Army, and sometimes that means making decisions which may be perceived as negative for the Regiment. This will become even more evident as the Army continues to draw down.

Until we meet again, stay safe. Essayons et Faissons!

For information about how to become an engineer warrant officer, log on to the U.S. Army Recruiting Web site at <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant>.