

## **MESSAGE TO THE REGIMENT #57:**

### **“The Engineer Blast”**

31 July 2008

**A. Overview:** The Office of the Chief of Engineers is pleased to forward this fifty-seventh version of “The Engineer Blast”.

Thanks for all you do and stay safe – enjoy the “BLAST!!”

NOTE: In order to further enhance communications from the major entities of the Engineer Regiment to the field, the Office, Chief of Engineers (OCE) is facilitating a process to spread Engineer knowledge from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), The United States Army Engineer School (USAES), Engineer Branch, other Engineer agencies, and our office in the Pentagon. All links should work for .mil computers.

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On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Maj. Gen. Randal R. Castro retired as the deputy director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, after 33 years in the Army. Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presided over the retirement ceremony. Castro, the second in a line of 3 Army Combat Engineers, received his commissioning from the U.S. Military Academy in 1975. In his previous commands, he was dual-hatted, serving as the commanding general, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School, also at Fort Leonard Wood. He has also served as the commanding general, U.S. Army Engineer Division, Pacific Ocean.

[Read the full article](#)

**MG Randy Castro retires.**

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**The Chief of Staff, Army announces the assignment of the following general officers:**

**Major General Steven R. Abt**, Deputy Chief of Engineers, Reserve Component (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, DC to Deputy Commanding General (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), United States Army Accessions Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

**Major General Michael R. Eyre**, Commander (Troop Program Unit), 416th Engineer Command, Darien, Illinois to Deputy Chief of Engineers, Reserve Components (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington DC.

**Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced that the President has nominated:**

**Brigadier General Paul E. Crandall** for appointment to the grade of major general and assignment as Commander (Troop Program Unit), 416th Engineer Command, Darien, Illinois. He is currently serving as Commander (Troop Program Unit), 420th Engineer Brigade, Bryan, Texas.

**Colonel Joe E. Chesnut, Jr.** for appointment to the grade of brigadier general and assignment as Deputy Commander (Troop Program Unit), 416th Engineer Command, Darien, Illinois. He is currently serving as Chief of Staff (Troop Program Unit), 412th Engineer Command, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

**Colonel James H. Doty, Jr.** for appointment to the grade of brigadier general and assignment as Commander (Troop Program Unit), 420th Engineer Brigade, Bryan, Texas. He is currently serving as Director, Army Reserve Force Programs, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Washington, DC.

**Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced that the President nominated the Army Competitive Category colonels listed below for promotion to the rank of brigadier general.**

**Colonel Bryan G. Watson** (EN)

Chief of Staff  
1st Armored Division  
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, Iraq  
APO AE 09096

**Colonel Mark W. Yenter** (EN)

Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 United States Army  
400 Army Pentagon, Room 2E366  
Washington, DC 20310-0400

\*Colonel Mark W. Yenter, Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, United States Army, Washington, DC to Commander, United States Army Engineer Division, Pacific Ocean, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

**Please join LTG and Mrs. Robert L. Van Antwerp for the Army Engineer Officers Wives Club (AEOWC) Welcome Cocktail Party [\(Invitation\)](#)**

**B. The U.S. Army [Corps of Engineers \(USACE\)](#) provides the following information: ["Corps e-spondence"](#) – Chief's Blog**

1. USACE said farewell to retiring Chief of Staff, COL Yvonne Prettyman-Beck and now welcomes COL Stephen L. Hill as Chief of Staff. Previously he was the Commander and District Engineer for the Gulf Region South District of the Gulf Region Division where he was responsible for a multi-billion dollar program to provide engineering and construction management services in the nine southern provinces in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. [Biography](#)
2. The United States Corps of Engineers' professionals access a vast number of Warfighter support capabilities for the planning and execution of US military operations. This information is spread over the 100 plus organizations and 34,000 employees of USACE. As a part of the FFE community, many times we have to search through various websites to find information or make multiple phone calls to find the right person. This problem is duplicated many times a day and is a fragmented process. [More](#)
3. If you are a looking for an [Engineer position opportunity, check this link for availabilities](#). Some postings may not be with USACE. (MULTIPLE NEW POSTINGS – 31 July 2008) Listed positions are still valid requirements.
4. **Engineer Publications:** [Engineer Memoirs - Lieutenant General John W. Morris](#)

## **GWOT:**

Currently, the 412th Engineer Command (ENCOM) has numerous Soldiers mobilized in support of GWOT, both in CENTCOM and USEUCOM AORs. Additionally, the 412th ENCOM is now conducting staff planning in support of the pending mobilization of five additional subordinate units.

**Transformation (TEC):** The Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (VCSA) has signed documents implementing the conversion of the 412th & 416th ENCOM's to the Theater Engineer Command (ENCOM) structure in conjunction with DA Initiative 23. The 412th ENCOM is war-gaming scenarios to man the two Deployable Command Posts (DCP) authorized under the future Theater Engineer Command (TEC) construct and will participate in Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) later this summer as a means to test the future employment of DCP's.

**FEST-M:** The 412th ENCOM continues to support the activation of a FEST-M at Vicksburg, MS in conjunction with the USACE MVD Working Group. The 412th ENCOM continues to explore cooperative training opportunities for the FEST-M and the command's Deployable Command Posts (DCP). [More 412th](#)

## **6. The following information is provided by the 416<sup>th</sup> ENCOM —SGM Prater**

**GWOT:** 416th TEC currently has 38 Soldiers individually mobilized in support of OIF/OEF in the CENTCOM AOR. The 416 TEC is currently in the process of mobilizing over 800 Soldiers by the end of the FY and over 800 in FY 09 throughout world supporting multiple COCOMs. The first of an accelerated Route Clearance Company MTOE, (688<sup>th</sup>) has mobilized and we will post their progress in future editions so that all may track the progress.

### **Deployable Command Post (DCP):**

The 416th TEC is preparing to mobilize the first DCP under the modular concept of the Theater Engineer Command in support of GRD/USACE and will be called Theater Engineer Command-Iraq (TEC-I). The TEC –I DCP staff will assume key command and control functions currently being accomplished by select staff sections of the GRD HQ along with Facility Engineer Teams to embed in the three subordinate Districts of what is currently GRD. The current 416<sup>th</sup> TEC Commander, MG Michael R. Eyre has been selected to Command this element of the TEC. MG Eyre and staff recently conducted their PDSS (pre-deployment site survey) in the IZ with BG Dorko and staff. The PDSS was a huge success and served to solidify the relationships forged for the current and future TEC rotations. [More 416th](#)

## **7. [The Gulf Region Division \(GRD\)](#) GRD provides the following articles.**

Type	Release Date	Title	Photos	Region	Author
Project	7/30/2008	<a href="#">Two hospital renovations help Baghdad medical community</a> <b>New</b>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Polli Barnes Keller
People	7/28/2008	<a href="#">Gulf Region Division staffers distribute items to needy Iraqis...</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRS	Norris Jones
Project	7/28/2008	<a href="#">Ameriya Technical High School will offer opportunities for a new generation</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Polli Keller
Project	7/26/2008	<a href="#">Building Hope for Iraqi Children</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRS	A. Al Bahrani
Project	7/24/2008	<a href="#">Completed Water Treatment Plant Benefiting 20,000 Iraqis</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRS	A. Al Bahrani
Project	7/22/2008	<a href="#">An Najaf officials welcome new primary healthcare center</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRS	Norris Jones
Project	7/21/2008	<a href="#">USACE-built modern school highlights ancient Iraq role in education</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRC	Kendal Smith
People	7/20/2008	<a href="#">Baghdad residents and businesses receive quality water</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Polli Barnes Keller
Release	7/19/2008	<a href="#">Burcham becomes Gulf Region North District's sixth commander</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRN	LuAnne Fantasia
Project	7/16/2008	<a href="#">Improving Quality of Life in Dohuk Province</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Polli Barnes Keller
Project	7/12/2008	<a href="#">Electricity Training Facility- Em'Powering' Students Across Iraq</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Erich Langer

Project	7/12/2008	<a href="#">North Basrah residents see improvements</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRS	A. Al Bahrani
Project	7/11/2008	<a href="#">Al Doura Refinery looking for alternative energy sources</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Erich Langer
People	7/9/2008	<a href="#">Bennett proud of partnering effort-helping Iraqi children battle cancer</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRS	John Connor
Project	7/8/2008	<a href="#">Mussayib Generation Plant putting more Electricity on the Grid</a>	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Erich Langer

## 8. [Afghanistan Engineer District \(AED\)](#)

Date	Title	Author
7/11/2008	<a href="#">Afghan Local Nationals, the road to quality</a>	Bruce J. Huffman
7/2/2008	<a href="#">Corps builds Afghan National Civil Order Police compound in Lashkar Gah</a>	Bruce J. Huffman
7/2/2008	<a href="#">Corps of Engineers trains Afghans on crane safety</a>	Bruce J. Huffman

## C. The [US Army Engineer School \(USAES\)](#) provides the following information:

### BG GREGG MARTIN – ENGINEER COMMANDANT

Engineer Teammates:

Thank YOU for ALL that you do for our Army and Nation! You are making a positive difference, and I encourage you to persevere and keep at it during a very tough Global War. Below is a brief summary of where we are with regard to our Building Great Engineers (BGE) Campaign Plan. BGE is a historic and strategically crucial effort to build our Regiment to meet the requirements of simultaneous full spectrum operations in an era of persistent conflict.

### **The “Building Great Engineers” Campaign Plan: Reinvigorating a Tactically and Technically Capable Regiment for Full Spectrum Operations**

During the week of July 8, 2008, the six “Building Great Engineer” (BGE) Work Group leaders met as a formal Council of Colonels to refine, synchronize and eventually recommend 39 action objectives that, when approved, will form the BGE Campaign Plan. The BGE Project originated from an identified erosion of engineer technical competency which created concerns about the current and future abilities of the Regiment to conduct simultaneous full spectrum operations. Engineer leaders responded by devising and implementing a plan designed to “Build Great Engineers” who have both the tactical and technical skills needed to support the Army, Joint Force Commander and Nation. For the past six months, input was compiled and assessed from various Army organizations, conferences, and dedicated individuals to create the framework of the BGE Campaign Plan.

The major conclusions of the BGE Campaign Plan derive from each of the six working groups: future roles and missions, accessions, training and education, employment, retention, and strategic communications. The focus of each group’s efforts was on building a workforce with both the tactical and technical competencies to execute simultaneous full spectrum operations. The following are some of the 39 action objectives recommended by the Council of Colonels:

- Develop accessions processes at USMA, ROTC and OCS to access more degreed engineers.
- Create technical accessions incentives for Soldiers beyond the current Army cash bonuses.
- Incentivize professional development.
- Allow flexible career moves between Reserve and Active components.
- Produce an effective job matching system that links individual skills/personal desires with available positions.
- Improve career maps with corresponding professional requirements to achieve certain milestones.
- Generate marketing packages that educate cadets, recruiters, current service members and USACE civilians about the multitude of options within the Engineer Regiment.

- Increase technical certification and create career educational systems that reduce time between formal training courses.
- Expand civilian degree programs with greater focus on technical development.
- Return selected Officer, NCO, and Warrant Officer positions to DPW, USACE and other technical positions.

Each of the 39 action objectives requires further analysis, research and development; and once implemented, these ideas will provide the enduring infrastructure toward the development of a more technically and tactically capable workforce. The BGE project is a long term effort that will require continual program assessment and tracking mechanisms, and is *not* a one-time talent grab. The way ahead includes the approval of the Campaign Plan and the delegation of 39 action objectives to sub-working groups and outside organizations for effective policy development and implementation.

BGE is a living program – we need your engagement, participation, experience, and wisdom.

Thanks for all that you, your Soldiers, and your Families do for our Regiment, Army, and Nation! Keep the faith! We need each of you! Be Safe!

Essayons!!!

Army Strong!!!

Gregg F. Martin

BG, USA

EN CMDT

## **USAES Chief of Staff**

**USAES Public Website and Engineer Knowledge Network.** The Engineer School's public website (<http://www.wood.army.mil/eschool/>) has been redesigned and we're working hard to refine both content and information. Additionally, we've established the Engineer Knowledge Network ([www.us.army.mil/suite/page/126](http://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/126)) to provide the field with access to the most current information from both the Engineer School and the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence. Over the next month or so, we'll be working hard to increase content and relevance to the Regiment. Your thoughts and comments would be appreciated. Send them to [scott.johnson@us.army.mil](mailto:scott.johnson@us.army.mil).

**Engineer Bulletin Call for Articles.** The Engineer Bulletin is a great source of information and a great way to share your ideas, lessons learned and thoughts with the rest of the Regiment. We can't do it without your articles. All the information you need to submit articles can be found in the Engineer Bulletin's Writer's Guide (<http://www.wood.army.mil/engrmag/writersguide.htm>). We're currently looking for articles on "Building Great Engineers" and Engineer best practices across the full spectrum of Engineer Operations.

## **Director of Training and Leader Development (DOTLD)**

**Engineer Training Support Network (ETSN).** The ETSN component of the larger Engineer Synchronization System (ESS) will conduct its quarterly secure VTC on 3 September 2008. The USAES hosts the VTC in an effort to bring together units scheduled for deployment with Engineer trainers world-wide. The objective of the conference is to coordinate efforts to ensure deploying units are completely trained and ready for their impending missions. Deployed Engineer forces also participate in the forum. They offer real time updates to current situations in theater, and guidance for pre-deployment training to meet mission requirements. Participating in the 3 June VTC were OCE, DA G8, FORSCOM, MNCI-C7 (Boathouse), 20<sup>th</sup> EN BDE, 555 EN BDE, 130<sup>th</sup> EN BDE, 36<sup>th</sup> EN BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> AA DIV ENG, First Army Division East (Ft. McCoy, Camp Shelby, Ft. Stewart), 412<sup>th</sup> TEC, 416<sup>th</sup> TEC, 70<sup>th</sup> EN BN, 479<sup>th</sup> EN BN, USARPAC, ODCSENG USAEUR, and VA NG. Attending from MANSCEN and USAES were DOTLD, CDID, CEHC, ICDT, and MDOT. Units wishing to participate in the 3 Sep 08 SVTC should send their Secure VTC facility site ID and facilitator's contact information to Mike Boerner at [michael.boerner1@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.boerner1@us.army.mil) and the MANSCEN VTC facility at [leon.doimvtc@conus.army.mil](mailto:leon.doimvtc@conus.army.mil).

**Preparing Engineers for Joint Operations.** The Joint Engineer Operations Course (JEOC) is making great strides in the joint community as the premiere course in preparing military engineers for assignment to a Joint Task Force (JTF). Consisting of a prerequisite 40 - 48 hr web-based distributed learning (dL) phase and a 5-day in-residence phase, JEOC is designed for company and field grade engineer officers, select chief warrant officers, senior noncommissioned officers, and select government civilians that may serve on the engineer staff of a Joint Task Force (JTF). The need for the Joint Engineer Operations Course is based on the guidance derived from the National Military Strategy, Quadrennial Defense Review 2006, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's CJCS Vision for Joint Officer Development, as well as comments from COCOM engineers and lessons learned from OIF and OEF. The joint engineer community has firmly set its sights on developing engineers who are better prepared and who can quickly immerse themselves into a JTF or an ongoing campaign.

JEOC has matured to the point where it is now offered on a rotational basis among the service engineer schools. The U.S. Marine Corps will host the next JEOC (01-09) at Quantico, VA from Nov 17-21, 2008. Other FY 09 dates will be:

- (02-09) April 13-17, at Ft. Leonard Wood MO. (right before ENFORCE)
- (03-09) June 1-5, at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio
- (04-09) August 3-7, at CECOS, Port Hueneme California

For questions pertaining to enrollment in the Joint Engineer Operations Course, or if you are a senior O-4 or O-5 preferably with JTF experience and would like to pass along your experience to others as a JEOC Facilitator, contact Mr. Dwayne Boeres at the Directorate of Training and Leader Development, Fort Leonard Wood MO. He can be reached at [dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil](mailto:dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil) or (573) 563- 7065.

**USAES Critical Personnel Shortages:** The USAES Directorate of Training and Leader Development (DOTLD) is still experiencing shortages in MOS's listed below due to its Soldiers deploying in support of the operational Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) campaign, and the diversion of incoming Soldiers to priority fill of Initial Military Training (IMT) units. This directorate has reached a critical point with its vacancies not being filled in the foreseeable future, which has resulted in a reduced effort of maintaining Training Development products, i.e. STPs, POI's, Lesson plans, etc, and Instructional support to the Engineer Captains Career Course, Warrant Officer Course and Basic Officer Leader Course. Attempts to procure civilian funding to offset military shortfalls have been met with some success, but not to the point of a workable solution. We in the USAES-DOTLD realize manpower resources are at a premium, however if anyone is interested in filling one of these vacant positions they can contact COL Jerry C. Meyer at [jerry.meyer@us.army.mil](mailto:jerry.meyer@us.army.mil) or SGM Ron Campbell at [r.l.campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:r.l.campbell@us.army.mil).

Current vacant positions are the following:

Doctrine Division Residual:

- One (1) 21B00 (MAJ).

Collective Training Division:

- One (1) 21A00 (MAJ), two (2) 21H32's (E-6), and one (1) 21N32 (E-6).

Individual Training Division:

- One (1) 11B42 (E-7), one (1) 21N32 (E6), one (1) 21T32 (E-6), and one (1) 21U32 (E-6).

Department of Instruction:

EOAC Division:

- One (1) SGL 11A00 (CPT), two (2) SGL's 21A00 (CPT), one (1) SGL 21B00 (CPT), one (1) 21B48 (E-7), one (1) 21B40 (E-7).

Engr Division:

- Two (2) 21A00 (MAJ/CPT), one (1) 21B40 (E-7), one (1) 21N30 (E-6).

Tactics Division:

- Two (2) 21B00 (CPT).

Total: Nine (10) Officer positions, and 11 NCO positions = 21.

**Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) Approved on 03 Jul 08:** Authorization for Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) for Army Combat Engineer Enlisted Soldiers (21B) was approved by HQDA, G1 on 03 Jul 08. The HDIP will apply to three categories of Soldiers. First, those Soldiers serving as Urban Mobility Breaching Course (UMBC) Instructors. Second, those Soldiers serving as Explosive Ordnance Clearing Agent (EOCA) Instructors. Finally, those Soldiers holding an "E8" Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) and serving in a route clearance unit performing those duties. From the USAES-DOTLD SGM.

**Defense Acquisition University Contract Officers Representative (COR) Course:** In support of the Engineer Regiment Building Great Engineers (BGE) Campaign Plan the Engineer Captains Career Course (ECCC) will begin instituting COR training with Defense Acquisition University (DAU) commencing on 24 July 08. A 20-hour block of instruction via web-based distributed learning (dL) will be conducted for three days during the residential phase of the ECCC. This has been in response to comments and suggestions from units deployed to theater. The training program will require students to register and complete the following DAU on-line training:

- CLC 106 -- Contracting Officer Representative with a Mission Focus
- CLC 011 -- Contracting for the Rest of Us
- CLM 024 -- Contracting Overview
- CLM 003 -- Ethics Training for AT&L Workforce

These modules are not meant to be all inclusive as Contracting Officers normally require further training, specific to the type and scope of the contract. There is no certification as a COR as a Contracting Officer designates appointments. The US Army though requires DAU/USACE courses as prerequisite training.

Future ECCC students may complete DAU COR training before the course. This is available at <http://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/aitas>. CORs must complete the DAU on-line course every three years. After successful completion, DAU provides the participant with an on-line COR course completion certificate. Students that have completed this activity prior to ECCC will execute further advanced training during the course on contracting, acquisition and project management.

DAU COR training is to be included in BOLC III and NCO courses in the future.

POC is the Division Chief, ECCC - [john.n.carey@us.army.mil](mailto:john.n.carey@us.army.mil)

**Engineer Critical Task List (CTL) Survey:** In order to ensure that our Construction Engineer soldiers are adequately trained for the tasks that they are being called upon to perform in today's Army, the Engineer School is developing a survey that will be available and sent out in August 2008. This survey will ask recipients evaluate the current critical task list. The results of this survey will be used to determine if current training for Construction Engineers needs to be adjusted. Your participation is extremely important to the future training of our Engineer soldiers and the Regiment. POC: Joy Venus at [joy.venus@us.army.mil](mailto:joy.venus@us.army.mil).

**AN/PSS-14 Mine Detector Update:** The AN/PSS-14 Mine Detector is a great asset for commanders when conducting dismounted clearance operations. However, all Soldiers will require a license on the detector prior to operating it. AR 600-55 "The Army Licensing Program" will require operators to be licensed in the system. This revised regulation is due out in the next 60 days according to MSG Brenda Graves from DAMO-TR in the Pentagon. Once your unit is fielded the AN/PSS-14 commanders need to ensure they have Unit Master Trainers (UMTs) to sustain your Mine Detector Licensing and Training Program. The USAES provides a team of UMT

Instructors to give commanders the ability to sustain their own unit licensing and training program. The USAES UMT Instructors will come to the unit's location, set up training lanes, and provide training for E5's and above to become Unit Master Trainers. Some Soldiers' skills may diminish in as little as 60 days from completing the operator's course. It is recommended that commanders conduct operator training as often as possible and as a minimum check operator skills prior to any clearance mission. An operator must complete recertification every six months IAW the TC 3-34.XXX and be licensed IAW AR 600-55. USAES will provide commanders with a licensing capability and assist in setting up unit programs to meet the requirements outlined in AR 600-55. If there are questions on the AN/PSS-14 or the Unit Master Training Program please call Mr. John Sullivan at 573-563-7646 or email [john.b.sullivan@us.army.mil](mailto:john.b.sullivan@us.army.mil).

SAME now offers free memberships to the following additional courses through DEC 09.

[Geospatial Basic and Advanced NCO course:](#)

[Geospatial Information Technician Warrant Officer Basic and Advance Course:](#)

### [UNITED STATES ARMY ENGINEER SCHOOL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SYSTEM](#)

#### **D. The Engineer Enlisted /Warrant/ Officer Branch provides the following information:**

Linked you will find an [Enlisted Engineer Developmental Career Timeline](#), we (Engineer Branch) have created. We have created this because after reviewing the Enlisted Engineer Career Maps (64 sheets), it became increasingly difficult to articulate to Soldiers when we brief, what the main requirements are for promotion, regardless if you are a combat, general or geospatial engineer. This also becomes necessary because of the process HRC utilizes to assign Soldiers IAW with manning guidance, professional development, duty locations and Soldier/Family needs (Sr NCOs).

We reviewed the last 5 years worth of analysis of the Senior NCO Selection Boards for the Enlisted Engineer Regiment and the attached is what we came up with. This is in no way to replace or take-away from the Career Maps. However, this depicts a site picture of the Key Developmental Assignments, Additional Assignments and Schools that have proven to keep Soldiers competitive for promotion, provided they do well. Please note, if Soldiers meet the criteria listed in the Key Developmental Assignments Categories, serve successfully, they are considered competitive for promotion to the next grade. This in no way guarantees promotion; however makes NCOs qualified. All Additional Assignments, are things NCOs can add to their kit bag, that makes them even more competitive or qualified for their next promotion.

We have tested and utilized this Time Line with two Engineer Battalions who recently returned from theater. We were able to talk with any NCO or Soldier and was able to provide approximately a 5 year plan for NCO/Soldiers based on their current situation. Many found it very useful and enabled them to control their destiny.

Thanks again for your support,  
Jerry

SGM Jerry Rice  
Engineer Branch Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army Human Resources Command

#### **E. The Office of the Chief of Engineers provides the following information:**

1. BAGHDAD – Within hours of being in country, the Soldiers of the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy)

picked up their tools and went to work on various projects around the city of Baghdad. The 46th Eng. Bn. is assigned to the 926th Engineer Brigade serving with Multi-National Division Baghdad. [More](#)

### [Iraqi Army Colonel joins forces with 46th Engineers](#)

2. The SMA asked that we review his April 08 [Leaders Book Note on ballistic eyewear](#) with the [associated poster](#) showing ballistic eyewear authorized for wear. Please give both widest dissemination.
3. **[The Gratitude Campaign:](#)** Recently, Scott Truitt from Seattle created a gesture which could be used as a massive movement to get the word out to thank our service members. I want you to inform your Soldiers to be aware of this gesture if they are greeted. SMA Preston
4. **[ALARACT 173/2008:](#)** (U) SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN A BLAST, FALL, VEHICLE CRASH OR DIRECT IMPACT WHO HAVE AN ALTERATION OR LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS MUST BE CAREFULLY EVALUATED BY A LICENSED MEDICAL PROVIDER AS SOON AFTER THE EVENT AS TACTICALLY POSSIBLE. MEDICAL PROVIDERS HAVE TOOLS AVAILABLE TO EVALUATE SOLDIERS WHO MAY HAVE SUSTAINED A CONCUSSION, ALSO KNOWN AS MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (MTBI). CONCUSSION MAY SEVERELY IMPAIR SOLDIER COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS LEADING TO POOR MARKSMANSHIP, DELAYED REACTION TIME AND DECREASED CONCENTRATION. A CLINICAL EXAMINATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH TESTING OF BRAIN FUNCTION, WILL HELP MEDICAL PERSONNEL DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF CONCUSSION AND TRACK RECOVERY. TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE IN THEATER TO ASSESS SOLDIER BRAIN FUNCTION.
5. **[ALARACT 185/2008:](#)** THIS MESSAGE ANNOUNCES THE RECENT CHANGES TO LAW (TITLE 10 AND TITLE 37, USC) CONTAINED IN THE 2008 NDAA REGARDING THE RETENTION, USE AND SELL BACK OF SOLDIERS ANNUAL LEAVE. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO MILITARY LEAVE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 551 AND 552 OF THE 2008 NDAA (REFERENCE (A)). THESE CHANGES MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY TO CONFORM TO THE TIME-SENSITIVE LEAVE RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE LAW. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ARMY COMMANDS (ACOMS), ARMY SERVICE COMPONENT COMMANDS, DIRECT REPORTING UNITS (DRU), JOINT ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ARMY COMPONENTS PROMULGATE THESE CHANGES TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL SOLDIERS.
6. **[GPA 08-025:](#)** Subject: Ground Precautionary Action (GPA) Message, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (TACOM LCMC) Control No. GPA 08-025, Defective Hand Brake Control Valves on International Military & Government (Navistar), MaxxPro, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles, NSN 2355-01-553-4634. Theater density is 144 total vehicles.
7. **[GPA 08-024:](#)** Subject: Ground Precautionary Action (GPA) Message, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (TACOM LCMC) Control No. GPA 08-024, Air Conditioning and Heater Lines contacting the intermediate exhaust pipe on International Military & Government (Navistar), MaxxPro Cat I, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles, NSN 2355-01-553-4634. Theater density is 2904 total vehicles.
8. **[SAFETY OF USE MESSAGE.](#)** UPDATED PROCEDURES FOR USE OF REAR DOOR ASSIST MECHANISM INSTALLED ON ARMY AND SOCOM BAE RG33, RG33L, AND RG33 HAGA MRAP VEHICLES
9. **[ALARACT 180/2008:](#)** IN KEEPING WITH THE ARMY'S COVENANT WITH ITS FAMILIES AND REFERENCE A, THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND SECRETARY OF THE ARMY WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE FAMILIES OF OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS ARE MADE TO FEEL A PART OF OUR ARMY FAMILY FOR AS LONG AS THEY DESIRE. THEREFORE, IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS RAISED BY GOLD STAR FAMILIES, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS DIRECTED THAT UNITS PLANNING TO CONDUCT A UNIT MEMORIAL SERVICE OR DEDICATION CEREMONY AT THE HOME STATION INFORM THEIR SURVIVING FAMILIES OF THE PLANNED EVENT SO THAT FAMILIES INTERESTED

IN ATTENDING THE EVENT AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE CAN MAKE APPROPRIATE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

10. [The Army Ten Mile Military Lottery](#) does not open until 11-Aug and the Lottery Page will not be posted until we get closer to the 11-Aug execution date.

11. [ALARACT 166/2008](#): PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT: ALL ARMY PERSONNEL, TO INCLUDE DA CIVILIANS AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT THEMSELVES FROM BECOMING VICTIMS OF PHISHING, PHARMING, AND OTHER TYPES OF INTERNET SCAMS. ARMY PERSONNEL SHOULD ALSO INFORM FAMILY MEMBERS ABOUT SCAMS AND URGE THEM TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WHEN USING THE INTERNET.

12. [ALARACT 170/2008](#): THIS MESSAGE CLARIFIES EVACUATION ALLOWANCES FOR FAMILIES OF DOD MILITARY MEMBERS EVACUATED FROM OCONUS LOCATIONS AND DOD CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND/OR FAMILIES EVACUATED FROM FOREIGN LOCATIONS DUE TO DISASTERS, OR UNUSUAL/EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES

13. [ALARACT 176/2008](#): (U) SITUATION: MILITARY COMBAT EYE PROTECTION (MCEP) CAN EFFECTIVELY PREVENT OR MITIGATE SEVERE EYE INJURY, BUT COMPLACENCY LEADS TO UNNECESSARY OCULAR TRAUMA, LOSS OF VISION, AND BLINDNESS.

**\*\*\* Engineers in the National Capitol Region:** Each month the Office of the Chief of Engineers hosts an Engineer Round-up at the Crystal City Gateway Marriot Bin 1700 Lounge commencing at 1700 on the last Thursday of the month, excluding November and December. Engineers and those who support Engineers are more than welcome to attend. It is a great opportunity to catch up on what's going on in the Engineer Community from a broad spectrum of perspectives. If you do not get an invitation now, please notify me to so that I can add you to the specific distribution list. Click here to be added to the email list [DAEN-ZC](#) . **Next event is 31 July 2008**

You can always find all the Messages to the Regiment at our AKO site are linked at the bottom of this document —AKO Login is required. For those having a hard time getting to the files that require an AKO logon, here is a [screenshot](#) to show where the files are physically located.

## **F: Topics of Interest: Periodic Health Assessment: Deadline is Nov. 1, 2008**

What is it?

The Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) is an annual screening that assesses the readiness and deployability of Soldiers. The PHA replaces the periodic five-year physical and previous cardiovascular screening programs. The PHA is a force-multiplier providing commanders with up-to-date medical status of Soldiers and a ready and deployable team. The PHA officially went into practice in November of 2006. Already, 60 percent of Soldiers have completed their PHA. The remaining Soldiers need to complete their PHA by Nov. 1, 2008.

How does the PHA work?

The PHA is a three part process: the Soldier completes an online questionnaire, then medical staff updates data and performs screening and counseling. The provider performs a symptom-focused exam, assigns PULHES, and completes the PHA process. During the initial online questionnaire, Soldiers report any current medical or dental problems as well as their family history. All redeploying Soldiers will complete the PHA as part of the post deployment health reassessment during medical reset during 90-180 days following return from deployment. The PHA is geared towards preventative measures. For example, Soldiers over the age of 40 will be screened thoroughly for heart problems. If the PHA finds risk factors, medical professionals can work to mitigate those factors.

What is deadline for completing the PHA?

Nov. 1, 2008. After that time, Soldiers who are noncompliant will be listed as non-available in the unit status report. A non-available listing lowers the deployability of the unit. Commanders cannot have a high level of readiness if Soldiers are listed as non-available.

Why is this important to the Army?

The decision to move to an annual assessment was based upon national research and policy recommendations that stated that annual assessments with a focus on prevention were much more effective at preventing medical complications than periodic physical exams. The Army will track the effectiveness of the PHA in the coming years to determine how beneficial it is to decreasing serious cardiovascular problems and other medical conditions. Medical Protection System (MEDPROS) provides the ability for commanders to track and manage the compliance for the PHA.

Resources:

The website for commanders to register for access to MEDPROS is: MEDPROS Force Health Protection <<https://apps.mods.army.mil/MEDPROS/Secured/>>

Video: Yearly Medical Exam <[http://www4.army.mil/AMP/index2.php?video\\_items\\_id\\_key=8230](http://www4.army.mil/AMP/index2.php?video_items_id_key=8230)>

## **G. Engineer Unit Highlight: [14<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion \(Rugged!\)](#)**

This feature provides a venue for Engineer Units/Activities to post unit information. If you are an OIC/NCOIC of an Engineer Unit/Activity and would like your organization mentioned here, download the template and email back to me. All entries will be consolidated on a master page as they come in.

**Engineer Unit Highlight:** [Former Submissions](#)

**H. Recurring Links:** [The Commandant's Message](#); [Engineer Casualties](#); [PASSAGES](#)

[The Engineer Lifelong Learning Portal](#) [USACE Organizations](#); [The Engineer Update](#); [Military OneSource](#)

[Essays Forward](#); [The Engineer Magazine](#); [Current PERSCOM Messages](#). ; [412<sup>th</sup> ENCOM](#);

[The West Point Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering](#); [USMA Basecamp](#); . **[CORPS POINTS](#)**

[The USACE Installation Support Community of Practice Portal](#), [Engineering Knowledge Online](#);

[Topographic Engineering Center](#) ; [United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center](#); [NCO Net](#)

[The West Point Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering](#); [ADSO Incentives Program](#)

**[ENGINEER UNIT REGIMENTAL LINKS](#)** [Joint Task Force North](#) ; [Engineer Museum Reference Library](#).

[Maneuver Support Center of Excellence](#) [Check your entire Official Military Personnel File \(OMPF\)](#)

[Check and certify the file that the board will use \(My Board\)](#), [Check your current ORB \(My ORB\)](#)

[Submit your online Assignment Preference \(AIM\)](#) , [Certify your new official photo \(DAPMIS\)](#)

[Submit your Command / CFD / SSC Preference Online , Check your Senior Rater Profile \(Dash 2\)](#)

[Check to see if HRC has received your OER \(IWRS\) , USACE Historical Vignettes , \*\*Video Engineer Update\*\*](#)

*The staff of the Engineer Professional Bulletin not only maintains the mailing list for the bulletin but also is responsible for keeping the Engineer Unit Directory updated. They can only do that with your help. Please take time to look at the directory [Web site](#) at and check your unit to see if the information is correct. If it isn't, e-mail the bulletin staff at [engineer@wood.army.mil](mailto:engineer@wood.army.mil) with corrections.*

## **I. Engineers Supporting Engineers—Professional Organizations Links:**

1. **[Army Engineer Association](#)** : [AEA News](#); [Army Engineer Association Programs](#); [Membership](#).

a. AEA now has a web page dedicated to [Industry support to the Warfighter](#).

b. AEA is also building a new web page as an Engineer Organization / Unit Directory. We want to list all Engineer units, plus other key engineer offices, like the staff engineer offices at Divisions and Corps. We'll include USACE offices, AC, National Guard and USAR battalions and sep companies, and all of the sapper companies too. We want the activity name, mailing address, phone number, and current OIC / NCOIC name and email. Send your unit directory info to: [aeamag@armyengineer.com](mailto:aeamag@armyengineer.com). The [AEA Career Center online](#)

c. JOBS...after the Army: AEA has a complete online Career Center. You can learn about civilian opportunities autonomously. Research or survey the commercial job market with FREE (ANONYMOUS) resume post at AEA career center. Additionally, AEA has been running and will continue to run, a special series of articles in Army Engineer magazine which focus on individual job experiences of many retired Army Engineers. To read those articles, you need to [subscribe to the magazine](#).

2. **[Society of American Military Engineers](#)** : [The Military Engineer Online](#) : [Membership](#) [SAME Current eNEWS](#)

a. [Click here to read a PDF version of the SAME Year in Review](#) given by outgoing SAME President Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg, P.E., F.SAME, USAF at the 2008 Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo. [Presentations from the conference are now available by clicking here](#)

b. "The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) is currently undertaking a grass roots effort to reach out to aspiring engineering and architects at local universities. SAME membership is FREE for students and also provides them opportunities for leadership, mentorship and potential internships or first jobs. To learn more about the SAME college outreach program and how to help set up a chapter at your university or a university near you, please visit [www.same.org/college](http://www.same.org/college) or send the Ben Matthews an email at [samecollegeoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:samecollegeoutreach@gmail.com).

c. The Society of American Military Engineers, SAME offers **free memberships to students of the [Engineer Career Captains Course](#) and the [Engineer Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course](#)**. (Active, Reserve, National Guard – any phase)

d. **Deployed Engineering Team:** Get *The Military Engineer and SAME News* delivered directly to you! Complete our [temporary deployment form](#) and we will send your SAME materials to you onsite while serving in your area of operational responsibility (AOR). This free service is just one of the many ways SAME salutes our members. [Click here to provide your temporary AOR contact information](#).

e. **Transitioning from military service?** Retiring from the Federal Government? Looking for a new and exciting position in the A/E/C industry? If the answer to any of these questions is YES, place your resume on the

[SAME Job Center](#) web site. *The service is free for SAME members.* The site has been or is being utilized by over 300 companies that through their placement of job announcements have access to your resume

### 3. **TEOCSA (The Engineer OCS Association)** [Website coming soon](#)

The purpose of TEOCSA (The Engineer Officer Candidate School Association) is to support the troops. Up to recent, the support has been directed principally toward the collection for preservation and display of Engineer OCS history materials to show (and to remind) what has been accomplished, i.e., building the foundation to move forward.

TEOCSA is looking now to assist more directly.

Question: will you help?

E. T. Mealing  
Pres., TEOCSA  
PO Box 14847  
Atlanta, GA 30324-4847  
404.231.3402  
TEOCSA@comcast.net

### 4. [Army Engineer Officer Wives' Club](#): AEOWC is a worldwide organization with members located wherever Army Engineers are stationed, or have retired. [Become a member](#)

Visit our website at <http://www.AEOWC.com>.

Alternate response email address is [DAEN-ZC@hqda.army.mil](mailto:DAEN-ZC@hqda.army.mil)

V/R	Former "Messages to the Regiment"
<i>William R. Arthur</i>	
William R. Arthur	<a href="#">56</a> , <a href="#">55</a> , <a href="#">54</a> , <a href="#">53</a> , <a href="#">52</a> , <a href="#">51</a> , <a href="#">50</a> , <a href="#">49</a> , <a href="#">48</a> , <a href="#">47</a> , <a href="#">46</a> , <a href="#">45</a> , <a href="#">44</a> , <a href="#">43</a> , <a href="#">42</a> , <a href="#">41</a> , <a href="#">40</a> , <a href="#">39</a> , <a href="#">38</a> , <a href="#">37</a> , <a href="#">36</a> , <a href="#">35</a> ,
Executive Officer	<a href="#">34</a> , <a href="#">33</a> , <a href="#">32</a> , <a href="#">31</a> , <a href="#">30</a> , <a href="#">29</a> , <a href="#">28</a> , <a href="#">27</a> , <a href="#">26</a> , <a href="#">25</a> , <a href="#">24</a> , <a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">18</a> , <a href="#">17</a> 1-16 are
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