



## **MESSAGE TO THE REGIMENT #70:**

### **“The Engineer Blast”**

29 Oct 2009

**A. Overview:** The Office of the Chief of Engineers is pleased to forward this 70th version of “The Engineer Blast”.

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

[Year of the NCO](#)

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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The Chief of Staff, Army announces the assignments of the following officers:

**Major General Merdith W. B. Temple**, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC to Deputy Chief of Engineers/Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC.

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The Chief of Staff, Army announces the assignments of the following officers:

**Major General William T. Grisoli**, Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, United States Army, Washington, DC to Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC.



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The following general officers are promoted to the ranks indicated below from 2 October through 1 November 2009:

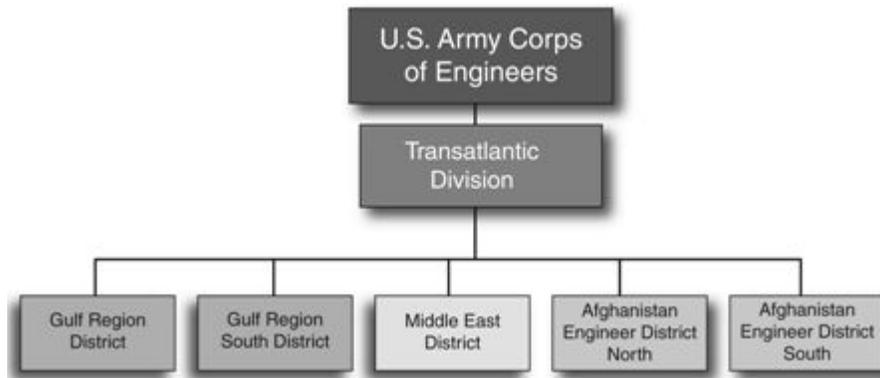
**Major General Todd T. Semonite** is currently serving as the Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Division, South Atlantic, Atlanta, Georgia.



# New Corps of Engineers Organization Activated

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers activated Transatlantic Division Sept. 29.

The division supports Corps of Engineers' military/international missions in the 20 countries from Egypt through Arabian Gulf to Central Asia (U.S. Central Command operations area).



The Division's mission - provide design and construction services and related engineering services to establish conditions for regional security, stability, and prosperity.

Division has five subordinate districts:

- Gulf Region District and Gulf Region South District in Iraq
- Afghanistan Engineer District-North in Kabul
- The newly formed Afghanistan Engineer District-South in Kandahar
- The Middle East District in Winchester, Va. (renamed from Transatlantic Programs Center)

The ceremony was held in the Old Court House, Winchester, Va. Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, charged Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox with command of the division. Current staffing: 30 people, expected to double. The majority will be located in Winchester; the commander will be based in Iraq.

"It is an exciting and challenging, and ultimately rewarding time for the Corps of Engineers," said Cox. "I'm thankful for this opportunity to command the Transatlantic Division."

Previous assignments for Brig. Gen. Cox:

- Commander and division engineer for the Corps of Engineers' Southwestern Division in Dallas, Texas.
- Assistant to the Senior Military Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense
- Commander, 1st Cavalry Engineer Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, which included a tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Director, Office of the Chief of Engineers on the Army Staff in the Pentagon
- Reconstruction Advisor to the Commander, Multi-National Corps-Iraq



**Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuistion, commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, passes the colors of the 18th Engineer Brigade to its new commander, Col. Paul Paolozzi, during a change-of-command ceremony at the sports field on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen Sept. 24.**

[More](#)

The Office of the Chief of Engineers still needs high quality photographs of your Engineers in action (any era and any facet of Engineering). We intend to select from your submissions photos to frame and display in our offices in the Pentagon. We will put the remainder in a digital photo frame to display in the Chief of Engineers office. Please rename your photos using the following naming convention: UIC-approximate date-extremely brief description. (Example: W00AAA-mm/dd/yy-Convoy to Baghdad) Then load into AKO folder (permissions may be required) <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/17911695> . In the description place your rank and name. If you don't have access to AKO send photos to [DAEN-ZC@conus.army.mil](mailto:DAEN-ZC@conus.army.mil) ‘

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

1. NCOs are few in USACE, but they have many vital roles, *By Bernard Tate, Headquarters*; Most people think of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a civilian agency with some Soldiers in it. But Command Sgt. Maj. Micheal Buxbaum has a different take. “We’re really a green-suit Army organization, but we just happen to have a lot of civilian employees,” said Buxbaum, the USACE command sergeant major. [More](#)
2. The U.S. Army Geospatial Center (AGC), formerly known as the Topographic Engineering Center (TEC), became a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Oct. 1. The center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its expanded mission, as well as its new responsibilities to the warfighter and the nation. [More](#)
3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced it will waive day-use fees for veterans, active and reserve component service members and their families at the more than 2,400 Corps-operated recreation areas nationwide on Veterans Day, November 11. [More](#)
4. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Transatlantic Programs Center here officially changed its name to Middle East District (MED) on Thursday, Oct. 1. [More](#)
5. If you are a looking for an [Engineer position opportunity, check this link for availabilities](#). Some postings may not be with USACE. Many new listings with outstanding opportunities and potential to excel.
6. **Engineer Publications:** [Engineer Memoirs: Lieutenant General Arthur G. Trudeau](#)
7. [The Gulf Region District \(GRD\)](#) GRD provides the following information:

[GRDs final brief as the Division](#)

Type	Release Date	Title	Photos	Region	Author
Project	10/26/2009	Kurdish kids get back-packs, school supplies and new school	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Mike Scheck
Project	10/25/2009	In Sadr City the water taps are open	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Mike Scheck
People	10/24/2009	Corps employees deliver gifts, smile and friendship	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	A. Al Bahrani
Release	10/24/2009	Gulf Region Division cases their colors as part of the responsible drawdown of forces	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Ron Elliott
Release	10/23/2009	USACE compound designated Camp Wolfe	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Mike Scheck
Project	10/7/2009	GRD completes middle school in Sadr City	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Mike Scheck
Release	10/1/2009	U.S., Iraqi engineers build strong foundations for citizens of Iraq	<a href="#">Hi-Res</a>	GRD	Ron Elliott

8. [The Gulf Region South District Newsletter:](#)

9. [Afghanistan Engineer District North \(AED\)](#)

Date	Title	Author
9/23/2009	<a href="#">9-11 Tribute</a>	Linda Souza-Barney
9/23/2009	<a href="#">Kiai Road - a Success Story</a>	Ben Neely
9/23/2009	<a href="#">Serving His Country</a>	Glenn Jefferies
9/23/2009	<a href="#">Local Nationals Receive Award</a>	Maj Jeffery K. Jensen

**The Freedom Builder:** The on-line Field Magazine of the Afghanistan Engineer District: [Sep/Oct](#)

10. **The following information is provided by the 412<sup>th</sup> Theatre Engineer Command—LTC Forte**

**Overseas Contingency Operations:** Currently, the 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) has twelve units mobilized in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. Additionally, the 412th TEC is now conducting staff planning in support of the pending mobilization of ten additional subordinate units. Adding to the overall number of Soldiers deployed or preparing for deployment the 412th TEC and our subordinate brigades are filling 90 individual mobilization requirements worldwide.



**BG William Buckler uncases the colors of JFEC-A as MG John Macdonald looks on. The new JFEC will provide support to all engineer forces in the Combined Joint Operations Area- Afghanistan.**

The Joint Force Engineer Command-Afghanistan (JFEC-A) is a reality. With this historic action, a further step is taken along the “Good to Great” path blazed for the Regiment by the Chief of Engineers. The JFEC-A is comprised of elements of the 412th Theater Engineer Command, the USACE Joint Programs Integration Office (JPIO), Navy Seabees, Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) and Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (PRIME BEEF) units, as well as Marine Corps Engineers. As the JFEC-A, these elements combine to conduct C2 of all engineer forces at echelons above brigade and serve as the Director, International Security Assistance Force, CJ-7. (ISAF-CJ7) The JFEC synergizes the strengths of all of these superior organizations while providing the war fighter a “one button touch for all things engineer for the whole Afghan theater.” JFEC-A maintains constant contact with the 412th TEC Main in Vicksburg, MS, continually sharing information including operational updates, lessons learned and best practices.

**Army Ten-Miler:**

On 04 October 2009, The 412th TEC fielded a six Soldier team to compete in the 25th Annual Army Ten-Miler held in Washington D.C. The Army Ten-Miler is an annual Army tradition since 1985. The run, which benefits Soldiers Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs, has blossomed into the largest ten-mile race held in the United States. More than 30,000 participants competed in the event. The 412th TEC team completed the race with an impressive fifth place finish in the Army Reserve Team category. The team is already preparing for and eagerly awaiting the opportunity to improve upon that performance at the 26th Annual Army Ten-Miler on 24 October 2010.



**The 412th TEC Army Ten Miler Team is from L to R: MSG Michael Respicio, SFC Branch Dildine, SSG Timothy Lovato, MAJ Jesse Stalder, LTC Marvin Bennett, and MAJ William Morris**

The 412th and the 416th TEC continue staff coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in support of planning for future contingency operations support and are preparing cooperative training events designed to ensure the seamless integration of each element in the others operations and contingency responses. Engagements between the TEC’s continue to capitalize on opportunities for each command to compliment the others readiness for operations

worldwide. Additionally the TEC's are collaborating in the effort to assist USACE in the updating of the USACE Campaign Plan in order for it to reflect the existing and emerging relationships between the TECs and USACE.

**Mobilization Augmentation Staff (MOBAUG) Opportunities:** The 412th TEC is soliciting for volunteers with the military and/or civilian skill sets to fill vacancies for the following duty positions:

<b><u>Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Duty Location</u></b>
E6	G3 Mobilization NCO	Vicksburg, MS
E6	Perms/ Perstempo NCOIC	Vicksburg, MS
E6	Human Resource NCOIC	Vicksburg, MS
E7	SRP NCOIC	Vicksburg, MS
E7	G4 Movements NCO	Vicksburg, MS
O3	Assistant JAG	Vicksburg, MS
O5	Nurse Staff Officer	Vicksburg, MS

Volunteers will mobilize for a minimum of one year with the possibility of a two-year CONUS mobilization at the Headquarters, 412th TEC in Vicksburg, MS. Interested Soldiers will submit a Biographical Summary or equivalent military resume identifying qualifications to 412th TEC, G3, Mobilization / Readiness. Soldier must meet the following: Height/Weight standards; Army Physical Fitness Standards; Possess a valid security clearance of SECRET or higher; Possess a deployable medical readiness status. Point of contact is MAJ Steve Simmons, Mobilization Officer, 601-631-6189, [steven.simmons@usar.army.mil](mailto:steven.simmons@usar.army.mil). Alternate points of contact are CW5 Samuel Shropshire, [samuel.shropshire@usar.army.mil](mailto:samuel.shropshire@usar.army.mil), 601-631-6118, and LTC Marshall D. Banks, Chief, Mobilization and Readiness [marshall.d.banks@usar.army.mil](mailto:marshall.d.banks@usar.army.mil) 601-631-6148.

**Deployment Opportunities:** The USARC Chaplains Office has four volunteer WIAS missions available for TPU Soldiers in the grade of E-5 or above. The positions are for TPU Chaplain Assistants only. The locations and estimated report dates are as follows:

1. Afghanistan: For Immediate fill
2. Qatar: For Immediate fill
3. Afghanistan: For Immediate fill
4. Iraq: January 2010

Interested Soldiers should contact SSG Steven Burns at 404-464-9747, [steven.h.burns@usar.army.mil](mailto:steven.h.burns@usar.army.mil) or SGM Jim Peters, Command Chaplain Sergeant Major US Army Reserve Command at 404-464-8474, [james.peters@us.army.mil](mailto:james.peters@us.army.mil).

#### **11. The following information is provided by the 416<sup>th</sup> Theatre Engineer Command: CPT Olodun**

The 416th TEC Deployable Command Post (DCP) and MG Eyre stood down the Gulf Region District (GRD, USACE) in Baghdad, and redeployed to Ft. McCoy.

The 416th TEC has accepted the Installation Management Command's (IMCOM) restoration project to rebuild the historic ramparts at Fort Debussy in Hawaii.

Our first major exercise for fiscal year 2010 is Operation BRIGHT STAR (Bright Star is a biennial multinational exercise conducted in Egypt and co-hosted by Egypt and the United States) which continues operations this entire month.

Brigadier General Joe Chesnut, our Deputy Commanding General, participated in the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Region 1 presentation ceremony, inducting our own SPC David Hutchinson, of the 420<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, into the Silver Star Hall of Fame at United States Army Reserves (USARC).



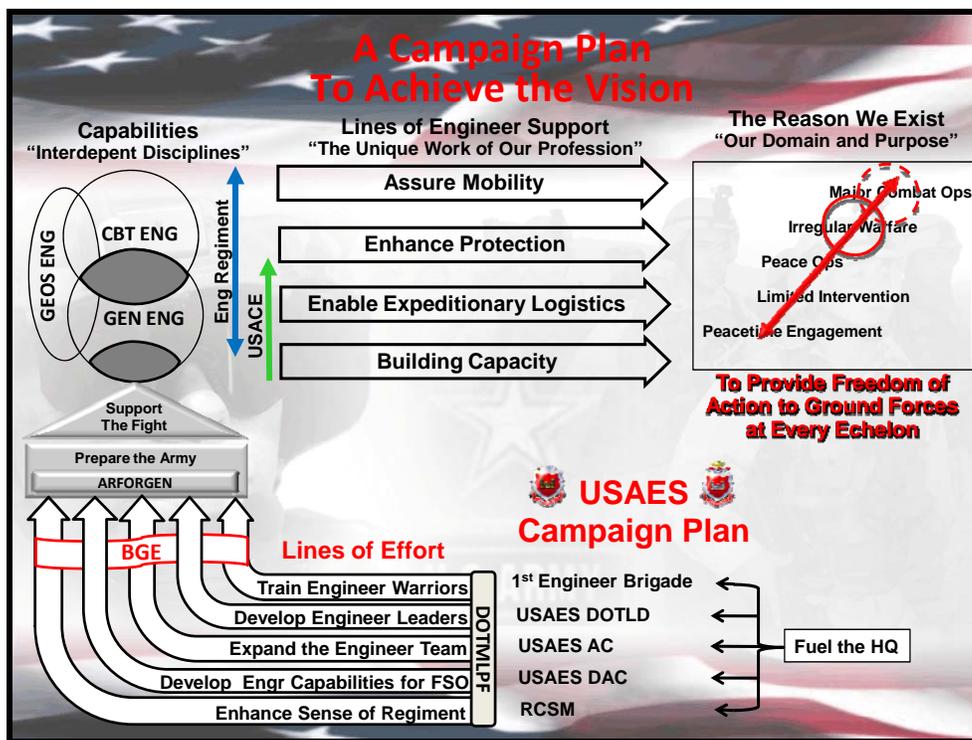
12. To view "[The Corps Environment](#)", a quarterly newsletter, you are invited to click on the hyperlink:

13. [Emergency Temporary Power Mission Update – 22 October 2009](#)

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

#### **The Commandant's Top 3 Priorities:**

- 1) Approval and implementation of the **Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB)** – On 17-19 November, a BEB working group meets in DC to continue the advance of the BEB concept proposal. The group's purpose is to resolve staffing issues that include manning and equipment reallocation, EAB engineer unit impacts, and synchronization of incremental implementation packages nested with the ARFORGEN cycle. The participants include USAES leads, G3 O/Is, MANSCEN CDD, NGB, FORSCOM, OCE-P, and other stakeholders.
- 2) Development of the **Army-wide Counter IED Training Strategy** – The TRADOC commander directed the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE) to develop a comprehensive Army-wide institutional training strategy that addresses specific individual training requirements from Initial Military Training (IMT) to the Brigade-level Pre-Command Course (PCC). USAES serves as the functional lead in conjunction with the IED-ICDT and the CEHC to spearhead this extremely important effort. Thru numerous visits to FORSCOM and TRADOC installations, VTCs with MACOMs, and internal research and course development, USAES, CEHC, and IED-ICDT prepare to backbrief the TRADOC Commander in mid-December on the status of current training across the Army and a proposal for the Army's way-ahead.
- 3) Execution of the **Regimental Campaign Plan** - You can view the video of BG Watson presenting the Campaign Plan to USAES Team at the following link:  
[https://www-training.wood.army.mil/Vids/CAC\\_Watson/index.htm](https://www-training.wood.army.mil/Vids/CAC_Watson/index.htm)



**BOLC-B and 210A WOBC Course Expansions** - TRADOC approved the USAES proposal to expand EBOLC-B from 17 to 19 weeks/4 days and the 210A WO Basic Course from 12 to 26 weeks. This is a growth of approx 2.5 weeks in BOLC and 14 weeks in WOBC. Both POIs have been approved for implementation in FY12. For EBOLC-B, this insures enough training time to address engineer specific technical competencies not achievable in only 17 weeks. For 210A WOBC, it insures that our new warrant officers are prepared to serve as full-spectrum construction engineers, and includes instruction in Prime Power/Power Generation/Electrical Systems and Grids. Both expansions address a number of shortfalls we have seen in the current fight and, ultimately, will help us better support the BCT with greater expertise throughout the EAB Engineer Force.

**The Joint Engineer Operations Course (JEOC)** – JEOC has a new staff at the USAES headed up by Mr. Shawn Howley, (573) 563-5088, or [Shawn-howley@us.army.mil](mailto:Shawn-howley@us.army.mil). The course was last conducted 2-6 November at Quantico Marine Base with fifty-five students from USA, USAF, USN, and USMC. Remaining course schedule for FY10 is tentative as follows:

Class 10-02: 12-16 APR 2010 @ Fort Leonard Wood, MO (USAES)  
 Class 10-03: 14-18 JUN 2010 @ Wright-Patterson AFB, OH (AFIT)  
 Class 10-04: 26-30 JUL 2010 @ Port Hueneme, CA (CECOS)

Pre-requisite dL phase is open 90 days prior to class start date. Enroll through Mr. Dwayne Boeres at (573) 563-7065, or [dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil](mailto:dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil).

**Council of Colonels** – USAES held it's Council of Colonels (CoC) on 3-4 November 2009 here at Fort Leonard Wood. With an excellent cross section of senior leaders in attendance, great VTC participation from the field, and some very insightful guest speakers, the event was a tremendous success. This CoC re-establishes the twice-per-year CoC battle rhythm – one in the Fall and one in the Spring, during ENFORCE. The intent is to convene our senior leaders, present and discuss key issues affecting the Regiment, and determine a way-ahead with key take-aways and taskers that will help us win the current fight and prepare for the future.

**Engineer Personnel Propensity** - The 2010 Engineer Officer Accessions results were outstanding. A total of 308 officers were accessed into the Engineer Regiment, with 173 of those new engineer officers having an ABET accredited Engineering Degree. This is a 20% increase in the number of degreed engineers accessed over last year. We welcome our newest Engineers to the Regiment and the Engineer Family. The Regiment will continue to engage cadets, faculty, and cadre of ROTC programs and West Point to inform them of opportunities to become a U.S. Army Engineer Officer. [Check out the EPPO Newsletter.](#)

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

Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center Records Review Room

The EREC located at Indianapolis, Indiana, operates a Records Review Room where soldiers may review their OMPF. This service is open Monday through Friday 0700 to 1900 hours. Appointments are made by calling DSN: 699-3361/3735 or COML: (317) 510-3361/3735, three to seven days before you arrive. By scheduling an appointment ahead of time soldiers can be assured of having their OMPF ready for review upon arrival at EREC. Soldiers should cancel a scheduled appointment as soon as they know that it will not be kept. More than 100 soldiers each month fail to show for their appointments causing inconvenience to other soldiers and unnecessary expense for the U.S. Army. The point of contact is at DSN: 699-3717 or COML: (317) 510-3717.

[Retirement Services](#)

[Special Duty Assignment Pay](#)

Phone numbers are DSN: 221-4746 or COML: (703) 325-4746

**Forward grade, full name, SSN and MOS with all e-mail requests.**

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

1. **Engineer Brigade Headquarters DOTMLPF-C Update:** OCE in conjunction with MANSCEN conducted the Engineer Brigade HQ C2 DOTMLPF-C Study in order to gain comprehensive understanding of the engineer's brigade emerging required capabilities. The scope of the study was to understand implications of emerging required capabilities for the Engineer Brigade and how these organizations provide command and control to full spectrum operations. The study first defined engineer tasks and missions conducted during full spectrum operations, then determined where possible capability gaps existed in the command and control structure of the Engineer Brigade. Once these capability gaps were identified and prioritize the study group conducted a solutions workshop to develop a series of solution approaches to mitigate or eliminate the capability gap. The solution approaches were briefed to LTG Van Antwerp last month. He concurred with the methodology and recommended solution approaches developed. His comments centered on how we quickly implement the education of future Engineer Brigade Commanders on what capabilities are available to support directed missions assigned to their brigades. He was pleased to hear the Engineer Brigade study will feed the ongoing Joint Engineer Capability Based Assessment, Capability Needs Analysis, the ARCIC sponsored Functional Area Assessment, the Comprehensive Joint Assessment, the Engineer Operational Architecture, and TAA 14-19. TRADOC has approved the study and forwarded it to DA and all the war-fighting functions' Centers of Excellence. MANSCEN is responsible for implementation of the Study solution sets and ARCIC will be responsible for solution implementation integration across all war-fighting functions.

2. [ALARACT 277/2009](#) - RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY - CORRECTED COPY, RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY IS A SPECIAL PAY FOR MILITARY MEMBERS, TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT, FORMER AND RETIRED MEMBERS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY WHO WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY AT ANY TIME FROM 11 SEPTEMBER 2001 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008, THEIR ENLISTMENT OR PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE WAS INVOLUNTARILY EXTENDED OR WHOSE ESTABLISHED DATE OF SEPARATION, RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY, OR APPROVED VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT WAS INVOLUNTARILY SUSPENDED BY AUTHORITY OF EITHER SECTION 123 OR SECTION 12305,

TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE (COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS STOP LOSS AUTHORITY). THIS SPECIAL PAY IS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED TO BE CLAIMED RETROACTIVELY AS PROVIDED IN THIS MESSAGE.

3. [ALARACT 298/2009](#) - IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY CHANGES COVERING SOLDIER DEPLOYABILITY AND READINESS. THIS MESSAGE ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE POLICY CHANGES ESTABLISHING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENT FOR OFFICERS PRIOR TO A SEPARATION ACTION THAT IS BASED ON A SIGNIFICANT DOWNTURN IN PERFORMANCE OF DUTY.
4. [ALARACT 297/2009](#) - POLICY CLARIFICATION ON ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTING (APFT), BODY COMPOSITION AND PHYSICAL PROFILES FOR ARMY. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES GUIDANCE TO TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY IN ALL ARMY COURSES UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THIS MESSAGE. GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE WILL BE IN THE REVISED AR 350-1, ARMY TRAINING AND LEADER DEVELOPMENT, TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
5. [ALARACT 285/2009](#) - Post 9/11 GI Bill and Transferability of Education Benefits (TEB) to Family Members. The purpose of this message is to emphasize the basic procedures for establishing eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill as well as the Transferability of Education Benefits (TEB) to certain Family Members.
6. [ALARACT 284/2009](#) - IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY CHANGES COVERING SOLDIER DEPLOYABILITY AND READINESS. THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY APPROVED A FINAL REPORT CONTAINING DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY INSPECTOR GENERAL (DAIG) RECOMMENDATIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE OVERALL MEDICAL DEPLOYABILITY PROCESS. APPROPRIATE ARMY AGENCIES MUST COMPLY WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENT THEM UPON NOTIFICATION.
7. [ALARACT 262/2009](#) - IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED LEADERS COURSE COMMON CORE (ALC-CC) . ALC-CC IS A 90 DAY WEB-BASED, HIGHLY FACILITATED COURSE THAT WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT BASIC NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER COURSE COMMON CORE (BNCOC-CC) CURRENTLY TAUGHT IN RESIDENT, VIDEO TELETRAINING (VTT), AND MOBILE TRAINING TEAM (MTT) FORMATS.

**\*\*\* 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. (We are considering doing this event quarterly) 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](#) .

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.

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## **F: Topics of Interest: Family Care Plans**

What Support, Services Are Available to Caretakers?

Recently during a Secretary of Defense visit at Fort Belvoir, Va., a military parent asked about the support available to adults appointed as caretakers for children of deployed service members as part of the family care plan. Do they have access to counseling and services as if they were the parent? Are they given an ID that

allows access to military installations, and other services such as the commissary, exchange, child care and youth programs?

Non-medical counseling is available to help with issues developing from a parent's absence, says Arthur J. Myers, principal director, Military Community and Family Policy. Military HOMEFRONT ([www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)) contains excellent information about preparing for deployment in the "Troops and Families" section of their

Web site. The Pre-deployment Guide is full of information and resources, or if an online handbook is more convenient, the Web-based Deployment Connections is also available.

MilitaryOneSource support – available on the Web and via toll-free telephone ([www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) and 1.800.342-9647) – has been and is currently providing support to those serving on active duty, in the National Guard and the Reserves and their immediate family members, says Myers. 'Immediate family member' is defined as the spouse and children of the service member. In addition, anyone, blood relative or not, who has legal responsibility for a service member's child or children during deployment or separation from the family may use these services, including:

- \* In-person (face-to-face) counseling
- \* Short-term telephonic consultation
- \* E-consultation
- \* Health coaching sessions
- \* Military OneSource Online
- \* Call center consultation and services
- \* Webinar training participation
- \* Document translation
- \* Telephonic translation

Military Family Life Consultants positioned around the world are another resource for counseling services. And the Joint Family Support Assistance Program is a support hub for families who live away from an installation.

Installation services for children include:

- Family/Community Service Centers
- Child and Youth Programs
- Legal Assistance
- MWR activities

The minor child is registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System – DEERS – and issued an ID card. There are special provisions for getting an ID card for a child under age 10. An ID card is not issued to the caretaker.

The service member or caretaker requests an "Agent Letter of Authorization" at the local installation. Typically, the garrison or installation commander is the approving authority and the Pass & ID office issues the letter. The caretaker must have the dependent's military identification plus the Agent Letter to shop at the commissary and exchange. The caretaker can only shop on behalf of the dependent. The dependent need not be present. In the event that assistance is required due to medical reasons, a medical power of attorney and the child's ID is sufficient for care.

### **Retroactive Stop-Loss Special Pay**

On Oct. 21, 2009, the Defense Department announced the services' implementation plans to provide retroactive

stop-loss special pay.

Under the new stop-loss retroactive program, Active, Reserve and former service members who had their enlistment extended or retirement suspended due to stop-loss are eligible for this special pay, if they served on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2008.

Service members may begin submitting claims for retroactive stop-loss special pay on Oct. 21, 2009. In accordance with the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act, all applications must be submitted to the respective services no later than Oct. 21, 2010. Eligible personnel will receive a payment of \$500 per month for each month (or any portion of a month) that a member was retained on active duty due to stop-loss. Applicants for retroactive pay who are no longer in the military have to be honorably discharged. Those who were stop-lossed in fiscal year 2009 may only receive payment from one stop-loss authority -- either the money appropriated for stop-loss special pay in the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, or the money allocated for retroactive stop-loss special pay in the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act, but not both.

For claims from Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2008, service members must provide documented proof that they were stop-lossed as part of their claim. Apply at <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil/>.

If you have additional questions which are not addressed by the information on the website, email [RetroStopLossPay@CONUS.Army.Mil](mailto:RetroStopLossPay@CONUS.Army.Mil). For Army Soldiers, ALARACT 277/2009 - RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY provides additional information on this program.

Applications for claims after Sept. 30, 2008 will not be processed at the website.

For Army Soldiers stop-lossed from Oct. 1, 2008 to the present, follow the procedures listed in ALARACT 089/2009 STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY and MILPER MESSAGE NUMBER 09-111. Most Soldiers who were determined to be eligible for stop-loss compensation after Sept. 30, 2008 have been identified and are receiving payment.

### **G. Engineer Unit Highlight: [Phoenix Team \(NTC Live Fire Range Operations\)](#)**

**O/O Phoenix Team Executes Target Support, Horizontal Construction, and Vertical Construction Operations ISO of NTC Rotational Unit Life Fire Exercises.**

**Need some units to step up and provide their unit info to update this section.**

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](#)**

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**H. Recurring Links** [Engineer Casualties](#) ; [PASSAGES](#) ; [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](#) ; [Engineering Knowledge Online](#) ;

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

[United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center](#); [ADSO Incentives Program](#) ;

[The West Point Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering: Joint Task Force North](#) ;

[ENGINEER UNIT REGIMENTAL LINKS](#) ; [Maneuver Support Center of Excellence](#)

[Check your entire Official Military Personnel File \(OMPF\)](#) [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 \(IWRS\)](#) ,

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

“The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army of this Web site or the information, products, or services contained therein. For other than authorized activities such as military exchanges and MWR sites, the U.S. Army does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. Such links are provided consistent with the stated purpose of this Web site.”

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

\* For all engineer MOS soldiers, all ranks, all components: AEA will soon mail A SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER -- that will announce new benefits, services, family programs and FREE entries to a wide range of prizes. If you are not an AEA member now, we'll be happy to mail you the promo material. Please supply a preferred mailing address [admin@armyengineer.com](mailto:admin@armyengineer.com) <blockedmailto:admin@armyengineer.com> , and we'll mail you the new promotion info.

\* A special opportunity: -- a Disabled Veteran business doing progressive collapse analysis is seeking Disabled / Wounded Structural Engineers. POC is Jack O'Neill at [xd@armyengineer.com](mailto:xd@armyengineer.com)

\* AEA is now on Facebook --  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Army-Engineer-Association/154530869611>

\* See Engineer Regiment NEWS at AEA website - <http://www.armyengineer.com>

\* 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 the AEA CareerCenter online.

Jack  
Jack O'Neill  
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a. AEA has new member benefits –including random awards each year –top random awards are round-trip air fares for 2 , and 48 other prizes. Every engineer soldier and USACE civilian can benefit from AEA membership –Join AEA.

b. AEA has a web page dedicated to Industry support to the Warfighter

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 the AEA CareerCenter online.

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

a. **NEW DUES STRUCTURE:** The SAME Board of Direction adopted last week a new dues structure for the DOD, effective 1 January 2010—full details are on the SAME Linked In website ([www.same.org](http://www.same.org)) but here is the short version:

- All SAME members in uniform who are paid up in dues as of 31 Dec 09 will have their membership extended for the duration of their military service (active, Guard or Reserve) without further payment of dues.
- Uniformed officers and enlisted personnel will be offered a one-time payment of \$60.00 that will provide membership in SAME for the duration of their military career. Active duty military will be sent a notice each fall to update their contact information and Post affiliation.
- DOD civilians will be offered two membership options: 3-year Membership for \$45.00 or 5-year Membership for \$60.00. The 1-year and 2-year membership options will be eliminated.
- All SAME individual members may join two SAME Posts without additional cost.

If military members join between 1 Nov – 31 Dec 09, they will pay for one year (\$30.00 Enlisted, \$35.00 Young Member, or \$55.00 Regular Member) and then be extended for the duration of their career on 1 Jan 10, or pay \$60.00 after 1 Jan 10. So joining SAME in the next two months will save you money.

The SAME Board took this extraordinary action to increase DOD membership in SAME—we value your membership and your service to our nation. The Board wants to make it easy and inexpensive for our military to obtain the benefits that SAME can offer over your entire career—even though in some years you are not in a position to take advantage of your membership.

Please notify others within your organizations who may be interested in joining SAME at these reduced prices.

b. SAME University



· November 17-19, 2009

**San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk  
Hotel, San Antonio, Texas**

**Register today at** [www.same.org/SAMEU](http://www.same.org/SAMEU)

**Join your colleagues for topic-specific education and training offered exclusively through SAME University (SAME U).**

SAME U offers a collection of educational workshops geared to architects and engineers, construction and project managers, designers, contractors and contracting professionals working with DOD and other federal agencies projects. Choose from among our one- to three-day seminars or combine LEED and Design-Build for a three-day intense training with applications specific to DOD.

Courses offered for SAME U in San Antonio, Texas, include:

**Course**

**Nov. 17**

**Nov. 18**

**Nov. 19**

LEED for DOD Projects (1 day)			X
Design-Build for DOD Projects (2 days)	X	X	
Project Management for DOD Projects (3 days)	X	X	X
Best Value Source Selection for DOD Projects (3 days)	X	X	X
CMAA - Construction Management Standards of Practice Course (CMSPOC) (3 days)	X	X	X
IFMA - Certified Facility Manager (CFM) Review Course (2 Days)		X	X

Go to [www.same.org/SAMEU](http://www.same.org/SAMEU) to register for SAME U, Nov. 17-19, 2009, San Antonio, Texas.

Advance Online registration Closes Nov. 10. Register today!

c. "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).

d. 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)

e. **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](#).

f. **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)

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>.

5. [Commercial Job Postings](#) for retired Engineers or those preparing to retire.

6. **Special Announcement:** Here is the finalized information about the Dedication of the 121st Engineer Plaque honoring the Battalion's performance on Omaha Beach at the Dday Memorial in Bedford, VA, and about the bus transportation that is available to those who

The Dedication will be on 14 November, at 1330 (1:30 pm). The Memorial Foundation has a rain plan for the site, so while we will anticipate great weather, we are prepared in case!

If you would like more information in advance about the Memorial, where it is located, and directions for those that want to drive separately, you can find all the information you need at <http://www.dday.org/>.

As noted in the message a couple of weeks ago, we have contracted for commercial bus transportation from the Ellicott City Armory to the D-Day Memorial in Bedford and back to Ellicott City. The departure from the Ellicott City Armory will be at 0800, which will give time for a meal break en route to the Memorial. Return will be the reverse, with a group decision about stopping for a meal on the return. Regardless, it will be an all-day trip, so please plan accordingly. The bus is a contemporary tour bus with a restroom. Passengers are certainly welcome to bring food and beverage.

The per person charge for the bus transportation is \$20.00). WWII veterans and children under 12 will ride for free!

There are still seats available, so please respond to this email as soon as possible to reserve your spot(s). If you have already responded, we have your name(s) on the list. If you want to make sure, just return a quick email to that effect. If you have mentioned to someone that you plan to ride the bus, it is probable that your name is not on the list - please reply to this message!

To close, we have confirmed that the plaque has been received and has been installed for the dedication - good news for sure! And there is an unconfirmed report that TSGT Noel Dube may try to be there for the dedication. If you attended the event at the Fifth Regiment Armory in September, you know what a splendid fellow he is and what an honor it was to meet him - so here possibly is another chance for those of you who could not attend.

We look forward to a great event and fine fellowship. See you there or on the bus!

Essayons: Nihil Timemus & Praevius

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

V/R  
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"To the Core; for the Corps"

Former "Messages to the Regiment"

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[28](#), [27](#), [26](#), [25](#), [24](#), [23](#), [22](#), [21](#), [20](#), [19](#), [18](#), [17](#) 1-16 are available on AKO