



## **MESSAGE TO THE REGIMENT #90:** **“The Engineer Blast”**

March, 2012

**A. Overview:** The Office of the Chief of Engineers is pleased to forward this 90th 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.

Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta has announced that the President has nominated:

Major General Jeffrey W. Talley, United States Army Reserve, for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as Chief, Army Reserve/Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command, Washington, DC. He is currently serving as Commanding General, 84th Training Command (Unit Readiness), Fort Knox, Kentucky. [More](#), [More](#)  
(AKO)



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

Major General Michael R. Eyre, United States Army Reserve, Deputy Chief of Engineers for Reserve Component, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, DC to Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Division, Trans-Atlantic, Winchester, Virginia. [More](#)  
(AKO)

**Command Sergeant Major Roy Ward** has been selected as the United States Army Corps of [Engineers’ Transatlantic Division’s](#) Command Sergeant Major. Currently, Command Sergeant Major Ward is serving as the Command Sergeant Major, 130th Engineer Brigade. [More](#)





## Former Engineer School Command Sergeant Major Retires

CSM Clinton J. Pearson, former Engineer School Command Sergeant Major and recent 249<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) CSM was placed on the retired rolls in a ceremony in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes on 22 March 2012. CSM Pearson entered the service in March 1977 and has held positions with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, 588<sup>th</sup> EN BN, 237<sup>th</sup> EN BN and the 307<sup>th</sup> EN BN. MG (R) Jeffrey Dorko hosted the ceremony.

## B. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides the following information:

1. LAKE KAWEAH, Calif. — Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, acting commanding general and acting chief of engineers (left), offers a personally inscribed book to Valerie McKay, Sacramento District park ranger, here on March 15. Temple met with McKay at Lake Kaweah's visitor's center after she responded to his holiday e-mail referencing the historic Christmas Day Truce of 1914. McKay's late grandfather fought in World War I for the British and participated in the famous event, where British and German soldiers laid down their arms to sing and remember Christmas before resuming fighting.



Written by  
**ERIC WOOMER**

Just three days before Christmas, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Bo Temple sent an email to his 37,000 civilians and soldiers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In the message, he reminded them of a story from World War I, when British and German soldiers laid their weapons down and came to a truce. During the brief cease-fire, soldiers played soccer, sang "Silent Night," exchanged photos and souvenirs and, for a short while, put differences aside and shared in fellowship. When Valerie McKay, a park ranger with the corps, opened her email, she was taken aback by the story. While some may never have known the encouraging tale of peace, McKay had heard the story firsthand dozens of times from her grandfather, who, in 1914, climbed out of a trench in Belgium and played a rousing game of soccer.

[More](#)



Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, center, and his wife Trena, at the award presentation. From left, Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, retired; Maj. Gen. Merdith (Bo) Temple, acting USACE commander; and Col. Jon Christensen, Middle East District commander. (Courtesy photo)

2. WINCHESTER, Va. – Lt. Col. Anthony P. Mitchell and Tamika W. McDowell possess characteristics of excellence and leadership that will attract young people to the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

For their accomplishments with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, they were recognized at the annual Black Engineer of the Year STEM conference Feb. 16-18 in Philadelphia.

Mitchell, now serving as the officer-in-charge of the Iraq Area Office for the Middle East District, received the Professional Achievement – Government award for his leadership as the Nashville District commander.

McDowell, a project engineer in the district's Qatar Area Office, received a Modern-Day Technology Leaders award for work performed while in the Wilmington District.

Col. Jon L. Christensen, Middle East District commander, said that he is proud to have people with talent of that caliber in the district. "Both Lt. Col. Mitchell and Ms. McDowell are applying their skills and their ability to overcome obstacles to their jobs in the Middle East District at a critical time," he said.

Christensen said that the BEYA awards are set up like the Academy Awards, with the recipient having his or her professional accomplishments highlighted, followed by acceptance remarks.



Tamika McDowell celebrates her Modern-Day Technology Leader award with, from left, Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody, commander, Mississippi Valley Division; James Dalton, chief, Engineering and Construction, USACE; Theodore Brown, chief, Planning and Policy Division, USACE; and Robert Slockbower, director of Military Programs, USACE. (Courtesy photo)

"The remarks from the recipients all had consistent themes," Christensen said, "of faith and family; of values they were taught and how those values enabled them to overcome obstacles; and finally, of reaching out to young people to encourage them to pursue excellence through engineering, science and technology." [More](#)

3. [The 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command](#) offers the following: [Facebook](#), [412th Engineer Association](#),



Brig. Gen. David L. Weeks, commander of 411th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, and a select contingent made a special trip to Germany and presented the Purple Heart and other awards to Warrant Officer Stephen Gilmore at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Mar. 21, 2012.

Gilmore, a member of the 306th Engineer Company, 854th Engineer Battalion, is recovering at Landstuhl from wounds sustained when his vehicle was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device less than two weeks prior in Afghanistan. [More](#)

4. [The 416<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command](#) offers the following: [Bridge Magazine](#), [Facebook](#), [Flicker](#).

The 416th TEC had its [Division Level Best Warrior Competition](#) at Ft. McCoy WI.

Do You Have What it Takes to be in The Honor Guard?

MINNEAPOLIS Minn., - Do you have what it takes to be in the Honor Guard? Can you march? Can you maintain a rigid position of attention for long periods of time while holding a rifle and wearing a dress blue uniform that is, in simplest terms, perfect?

Oh and can you do it in front of an audience of *thousands*?

If you can, or if you'd like to see if you have what it takes, you should volunteer for the 372nd Engineer Brigade's Honor Guard Team.

[More](#)



5. [Afghanistan Engineer District North \(AEN\)](#). [Freedom Builder](#)

**Building bridges**

Photo by | *Abduljan Jasud, Arib Kapisa Construction Co.*

**Corps of Engineers lend expertise to link divided city**

Story by | *Paul Giblin*

**POL-E KHOMRI, Afghanistan – U.S.**

Army Corps of Engineers personnel are working closely with Hungarian and coalition forces to build and refurbish three bridges in Afghanistan's seventh largest city, which is a lively trading mecca in the north-central region of the country. The work in Pol-e Khomri, the capitol city of Baghlan Province, is part of the



international effort to rebuild Afghanistan, a country ravaged by three decades of war.

Pol-e Khomri is a city of about 94,000 residents nestled along the banks of the Kunduz River. However, the river and its tributaries divide the city. The existing bridges are inadequate, so pedestrian and vehicular traffic is cramped on both sides, limiting access to markets, employment centers, medical facilities and major roads. The bridge projects are intended to improve access and bolster commerce for residents, while building confidence among residents toward the Afghan government, said Hungarian army Col. Romulusz Ruszin, the coalition commander in the province. [More](#) page 7

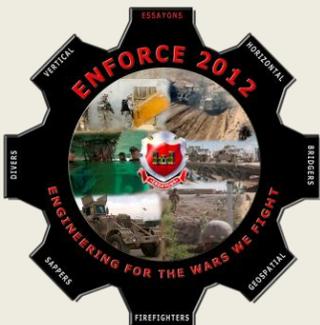
6. [Afghanistan Engineer District South \(AES\)](#)

**News Releases**

Date	Title	Author
3/26/2012	<a href="#">USACE supports O&amp;M at Joint Regional Afghan National Police Center</a>	Mark Ray
3/26/2012	<a href="#">USACE turns over milestone project</a>	Dave Melancon
3/22/2012	<a href="#">US forces drawdown a full-time job for South District's real estate team</a>	Dave Melancon
3/19/2012	<a href="#">Roger Kohls is Afghanistan Engineer District-South's Bulldog of the Week</a>	Dave Melancon
3/12/2012	<a href="#">Debra Scribner is Afghanistan Engineer District-South's Bulldog of the Week</a>	Dave Melancon
3/9/2012	<a href="#">USACE, COMKAF celebrate women's contributions to Afghanistan mission</a>	Dave Melancon

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

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



**ENFORCE Update:  
Live Streaming Video**

We are pleased to announce that portions of ENFORCE will be broadcasted via live streaming video courtesy of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and the Life Long Learning Center. To view, click on the following link: <https://www.blackboard.wood.army.mil/live/enforce.htm>. Link is also posted on the ENFORCE website: <http://www.wood.army.mil/enforce>. The videos and presentations will be available after the broadcast for future viewing.

Follow ENFORCE and Best Sapper Competition events on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/USArmyEngineerRegiment> and Twitter <http://twitter.com/#!/USAES1> hashtags #ENFORCE2012 and #2012BSC

### **From the Desk of the Deputy Assistant Commandant (Army Reserve)**

So many great things are happening here at your Engineer School. I say it that way because it is truly YOUR Engineer School. Especially members of the Army Reserve that may not be aware of the fact that the Reserve Components make up 79% of our Engineer Regiment (with the Army Reserve sharing a great portion of that). The other fact is that we here are driven to support you, the warfighter, the TASS Trainer, the Facilities Engineer, or the trainer in the field. This office should be your initial conduit and door to the Regiment if there is ever a need for the newest doctrine, training, or challenges with connectivity within YOUR Regiment. Please take advantage of that.

The major thing to share with you all is the importance of ENFORCE 2012 (17-21 APR 12). This is not your "father's ENFORCE", but rather an opportunity to relook at how we as a Regiment will be supporting operations in the next 10-20 years. Topics such as support to SOF Forces, GEOINT, Interagency, and Joint/International are all prisms from which we will view our Regimental Campaign Plan during this conference. The major concepts of the Army of 2020 continue to evolve as well. As the Army Engineer Regiment looks to its support of those prisms, as well as the Army of 2020, ensure that your voice is added to the dialogue that will shape tomorrow. Our Commandant, BG DeLuca actively seeks the Army Reserve's voice (and all voices), and engaging in vociferous debate about the challenges we face as an Army and how our Regiment will meet those challenges.

The term "operational reserve" is used quite frequently. The term's relevance is also appropriate as we talk about the Army Reserve as it shapes its role into the future. Do you not believe that now is the time to both be heard as well as inform that future?

I look forward to seeing many of you at ENFORCE, and hearing your passion, and your contributions as we move forward as a Regiment.

As always, I can be reached at [adam.roth@us.army.mil](mailto:adam.roth@us.army.mil).

"Essayons

Adam S. Roth  
COL, EN  
Deputy Assistant Commandant (Army Reserve)

### **From the Desk of the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer**

"The Joint Special Operations Command has an opening for a well-qualified, self-starter, motivated 12Y NCO (E-5/6). This is a once in a career opportunity. If you want to make a difference, enjoy challenges, and have an excellent/proven record of performance, this job may be for you.

Prerequisites:

1. Highly proficient in MOS
2. Airborne Qualified (or willing to attend training)
3. Relocate to Ft Bragg, NC.
4. Other requirements will be explained during applications process.

If interested, please contact SFC Hester at [hesterj@jdi.socom.mil](mailto:hesterj@jdi.socom.mil)

### **From the 169<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Brigade** **12Y Geospatial Move**

In a historic final transition of all Engineer Training from Fort Belvoir (FTB), VA, to Fort Leonard Wood (FLW), MO, E/169<sup>th</sup> Geospatial Engineer Training Company will be making a significant shift this summer. The first Geospatial Engineer training actually already began at FLW in January with the Geospatial Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC). Under the supervision of the Geospatial Skills

Division (GSD) of the 169<sup>th</sup> EN BN, 1<sup>st</sup> EN BDE, this small group of WO1s has already made notable progress to incorporate blended training with the Active and Reserve Engineer Captains Career Course (ECCC) classes. Even more significant, the first of eight 12Y Geospatial Engineer AIT classes will begin on 02APR12, as 120 Geospatial Engineer students are scheduled to graduate by the end of this year, growing to 377 in 2013 after the completed transition. The final portion of Geospatial training, NCOES, will remain at FTB through the end of this year when it will transition to the NCO Academy here at FLW in the New Year. Engineer leaders and units can contact CW4 William (Bill) Jones, Chief of GSD, at [william.jones2@conus.army.mil](mailto:william.jones2@conus.army.mil) with any questions.

### **Sapper Leader Course (SLC) History Project**

To enhance the regiment, in conjunction with the USAES History Office, the 169<sup>th</sup> EN BN initiated the SLC History Project to capture and archive the loosely documented history of the SLC at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. The scope of the project includes collecting surveys and conducting interviews of former Sapper instructors and distinguished Sapper graduates still in service and retired. The project will also establish a website to archive all donated information, pictures, and interviews. Attendees of ENFORCE, who would like to participate in the project, can contact CPT Joe Cymerman at [joseph.cymerman@conus.army.mil](mailto:joseph.cymerman@conus.army.mil) to schedule an interview.

### **Best Sapper Competition**

Best Sapper Competition (BSC) 2012: We currently have 38 teams registered coming from the following locations/units:

- 1) Fort Benning, GA – 11th EN BN (2)
- 2) Fort Bragg, NC – 27th EN BN (2), 307th EN BN (3), 2/82 ABN DIV, 3/82 ABN DIV (3), USASOC
- 3) Fort Campbell, KY – 3/101st ABN DIV (2)
- 4) Fort Carson, CO – 3/4ID (2), 4/4 ID, 4th EN BN (2), 52nd EN BN
- 5) Fort Drum, NY – 7th EN BN & 2/10th MTN DIV (2)
- 6) Fort Eustis, VA – 30th EN BN (74th Dive Detachment) (2)
- 7) Fort Hood, TX – 4/1 CAV DIV & 20th EN BN
- 8) Fort Knox, KY – 19th EN BN (2)
- 9) Fort Leonard Wood, MO – 554 EN BN
- 10) Fort Stewart, GA – 1/3ID, 4/3 ID
- 11) Schofield Barracks, HI – 84th EN BN (2), 2/25 ID
- 12) USAREUR – 54th EN BN, 15th EN BN
- 13) White Sands Missile Range, NM – 2nd EN BN

### **USAES on the Network**

- [Engineer School Public Page](http://www.wood.army.mil/usaes) (<http://www.wood.army.mil/usaes>)
- U.S. Army Engineer Regiment on [Facebook](#)
- [USAES Request for Information](#)
- [Engineer School Knowledge Network \(ESKN\)\\*](#)
- [Commandant's Corner \(Forum for Regimental Senior Leaders on milBook\)\\*\\*](#)
- [Engineer Battalion Command Forum\\*\\*](#)
- [Regimental Command Sergeant Major's ORP \(Forum for the Engineer NCO community on milBook\)\\*\\*](#)
- [Senior Engineer Warrant Office Group on milBook\\*\\*](#)
- Engineer Personnel Development Office [public page](#), [EPDO Group on milBook\\*\\*](#)
- USAES Historian [public page](#), [Group on milBook\\*\\*](#)

\*AKO authentication required, \*\*DEERS authentication required

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

1. SENIOR NCO BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT: INCLUSION OF QUALITATIVE SERVICE PROGRAM (QSP) INTO THE FY12 SGM TRAINING AND SELECTION BOARD, This announcement, MILPER 12-089, modifies the FY12 SGM Training and Selection Board by expanding QMP applicability to all SFC and above with a minimum of 19 years AFS. This message also lists the MOSs of those Soldiers in the grades of CSM/SGM and 1SG/MSG who will be considered for possible HQDA involuntary separation from active duty by the Over-Strength Qualitative Service Program (OS-QSP) Board or the Promotion Stagnation Qualitative Service Program (PS-QSP) Board. See the MILPER message for details.

<https://forums.army.mil/communitybrowser.aspx?id=1704996&lang=en-US>

2. Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLP) Application Deadline Extended The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to 21 Oct 12, providing those eligible more time to apply for the pay under the program guidelines. "Even with extensive outreach efforts, and tremendous support from the President, Congress, the VA, veteran and military service organizations, and friends and family around the world, some qualified individuals have not yet applied," said Juliet Beyler, acting director of Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "We highly encourage anyone who may be eligible to apply for this pay; you have earned it." RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status. To apply for the pay, or for more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>

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

**ALARACT 079/2012 : ARMY SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM (ANNUAL GUIDANCE ON SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING)**

SUICIDAL BEHAVIORS CONTINUE TO BE A CONCERN FOR THE ARMY. SUICIDE AFFECTS EVERY SEGMENT OF THE FORCE - ACTIVE ARMY, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (ARNG), AND UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE (USAR); OFFICERS AND ENLISTED SOLDIERS; DA CIVILIANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS. ARMY LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO PLACE INCREASING EMPHASIS ON THE WELL BEING OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMY FAMILY IN THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH PROMOTION, RISK REDUCTION, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION. COMMANDERS AND FIRST-LINE SUPERVISORS MUST CONSTANTLY ENGAGE THEIR SOLDIERS, DA CIVILIANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS IN THESE EFFORTS. [More](#)

**TSA Expands PreCheck Program to Service Members Flying Out of DCA**

On March 20, 2012, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will expand its Trusted Traveler program, known as PreCheck, to Service members flying out of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

Service members, active drilling Reservists, National Guardsmen, and members of the Coast Guard, who present a valid Common Access Card (CAC) at security checkpoints will receive expedited security screening.

To participate, members must go to the TSA PreCheck lane at the security checkpoint in terminal B

(gates 10-22), and present their CAC to a TSA officer who will scan the card to verify their status as a Service member. Once verified, members will not be required to remove their shoes, outerwear, belts, laptops and any small liquid containers from carry-ons when going through security.

Eligible Service members do not need to be on official travel or in uniform to take advantage of the TSA PreCheck program. Family members ages 12 and under traveling with an eligible member can also process through expedited screening.

While this program offers expedited screening for Service members, TSA plans to continue applying random and unpredictable screening measures as part of the agency's layered approach to prevent terrorist from "gaming" the system.

The program is expected to be expanded to members flying out of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Atlanta-Hartsfield International Airport in the upcoming months.

This concept holds the potential to enhance the travel experience for government travelers. TSA hopes to expand the PreCheck program to DoD Service members and civilians at airports across the country in the future.

For more information on TSA's PreCheck program, visit [http://www.tsa.gov/what\\_we\\_do/rbs\\_dod.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/rbs_dod.shtm) .

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## **ALARACT 081/2012 - SAFETY RESOURCES**

### **SUBJECT: SAFETY RESOURCES**

The Director of Army Safety sends on behalf of the CSA

1. Over the last several years our Army has made significant progress in reducing the number of accidental deaths and thus preserving force readiness. I am pleased to say, that across our Army we now have, in both on and off duty operations, a Safety culture where Leaders, Soldiers, Family members and Civilians work together to keep one another safe. This transformation of the Army's safety culture has developed into a comprehensive and proactive approach to accident prevention.
2. Leaders at every echelon, supported by their safety professionals, have led this transformation in making the Army a proactive, prevention-based fighting force. The recent force structure adjustments providing safety professionals across Army formations has directly contributed to Army-wide risk prevention and preserving force readiness. We do not want to reverse the successful actions taken that have reduced accidental fatalities by 41% between FY05 to FY11.
3. Army Campaign Plan Decision Point 91 and 59.5 established the tasks and functions required of our safety professionals, and generated a U.S. Army Manpower Analysis Agency safety model which identified personnel requirements for garrison and mission safety offices. Our goal was to establish the right organizational structure with aligned responsibilities and personnel requirements. The safety model was approved by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 in March 2010, and continues to serve as the basis for your safety personnel requirements.
4. We will continue to operate in a high risk environment with many challenges as we strive to protect our national interests around the globe. A continued emphasis on safety is always required - twenty-four hours of the day, seven days a week, on and off duty. As we find our Army in an era of significantly constrained resources, we must approach safety in a well-reasoned, practical, and disciplined manner.
5. As you undertake reductions in your resources to meet funding targets for the FY14-18 Program

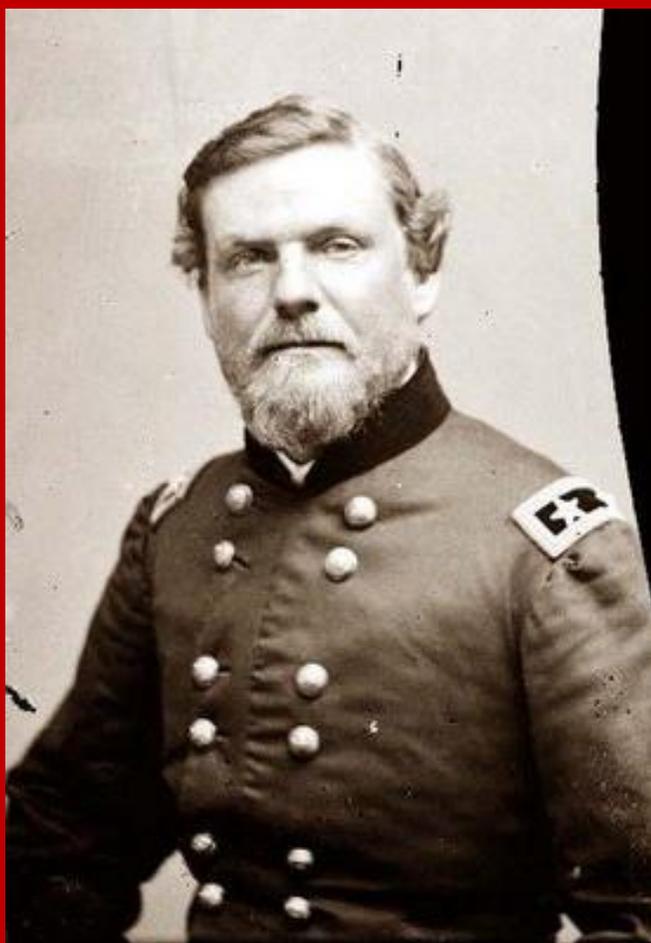
Objective Memorandum, I caution you on cutting safety resources (personnel & funding) throughout your commands. Accordingly, I ask that ACOM, ASCC, and DRU commanders, personally, review and approve any planned reductions of your command's authorized safety resources.

6. We've made significant progress, and must continue moving in the right direction. Thank you for all you do to protect our Soldiers, our Civilian workforce and their Families from preventable mishaps as we continue to sustain the force of decisive action. I am humbled by your steadfast dedication, outstanding professionalism, and incredible esprit de corps. Army Strong!

7. EXPIRATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

You can always find all the Messages to the Regiment at our [AKO site](#) and linked at the bottom of this document —AKO Login is required.

## F: Engineer History: The 15th Chief of Engineers – Brigadier General John Newton



### Brigadier General John Newton

*Chief of Engineers*

*(March 6, 1884–August 27, 1886)*

Born August 24, 1823, in Norfolk, Virginia, a city his father represented in Congress for 31 years, John Newton ranked second in the Military Academy Class of 1842 and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. He taught engineering at the Military Academy (1843–1846) and constructed fortifications along the Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes (1846–1852). He was a member of a special Gulf Coast Defense Board (1856) and Chief Engineer, Utah Expedition (1858). Though a fellow Virginian, he did not follow Robert E. Lee but stood firm for the Union in the Civil War. Newton helped construct Washington defenses and led a brigade at Antietam. As division commander, he stormed Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg and fought at Gettysburg and the siege of Atlanta. He commanded the Florida districts in 1864–1866. Returning to the Corps, he oversaw improvements to the waterways around New York City and to the Hudson River above Albany. He also had charge of New York Harbor defenses until he was appointed Chief of Engineers in 1884. Newton was famous for blowing up New York's Hell Gate Rock with 140 tons of dynamite detonated on October 10, 1885. He retired from the Army in 1886 and served as commissioner of public works in New York City (1886–1888) and as president of the Panama Railroad Company (1888–1895). He died on May 1, 1895, in New York.

John Newton served in the United States Army for forty-four years, graduating from West Point in 1842 and retiring in 1886. He was a brave and thoroughly competent officer in the American Civil War, and proved to be an excellent division commander. However, Newton's greatest contributions came in the field of engineering. Entering the army as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, he made his way through the ranks and when he retired was a brigadier general and the army's chief engineer. His achievements in engineering were impressive and many, and his performance during the Civil War was

solid. Yet, Newton's scheming in 1863 to rid the Army of the Potomac of its commanding general seriously damaged his wartime career and left a stain on his otherwise exemplary record.

Born on August 25, 1822, in Norfolk, Virginia, John Newton demonstrated in his primary education that he was naturally gifted in mathematics. His father, Thomas Newton, a congressman who served the people of his district for more than three decades in the U.S. House of Representatives, sought to develop John's talent and was able to secure for him a private tutor. In 1838, at the age of sixteen, John Newton received an appointment to the United States Military Academy. He excelled in his studies there, and in 1842 he graduated from West Point ranked second in a stellar class of fifty-six graduates. James Longstreet, D.H. Hill, William Rosecrans, John Pope, Richard H. Anderson, Lafayette McLaws, Abner Doubleday, George Sykes, and Napoleon J.T. Dana, were but a few of Newton's fellow graduates in the Academy's illustrious Class of 1842.

Upon graduation, Newton was commissioned a second lieutenant in the army's Corps of Engineers. He remained at West Point for the next four years serving first as an assistant to the board of engineers, and then, in 1843, at the age of twenty-one, as a professor of engineering. In 1846, as the United States prepared for war with Mexico, Lieutenant Newton was sent to New England where he was named assistant engineer in the construction of Fort Warren, in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, and in the construction of Fort Trumbull, in New London, Connecticut. Recognized as one of the army's brightest and most able engineers, Newton was then transferred to the Great Lakes region where, as superintending engineer, he built Fort Wayne, in Detroit, Michigan, and Forts Porter, Niagara, and Ontario, in New York.

With his work on these projects completed by 1852, John Newton, now thirty years of age, was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and given various assignments dealing with the surveying of waterways in Maine, Florida, and Georgia, where he also made improvements to Fort Pulaski. In 1856, he was promoted to captain of engineers, and, that same year, was selected to help identify locations along the Gulf of Mexico in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas, for the construction of defensive fortifications. Newton's only active field duty of the pre-Civil War years came two years later, in 1858, when he was named chief engineer of the United States Army's expedition against the Mormons in Utah, under the command of Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston. Returning east shortly after the conclusion of this campaign, Newton then supervised the construction of Fort Delaware. He was completing this assignment when the American Civil War broke out in April 1861.

John Newton was a native Virginian, but there was no question about where his loyalty lay. Although his home state seceded from the Union, Newton, who had by this time been in the army for nearly twenty years, remained true to his uniform, his flag and his country, and was named chief engineer of the Department of Pennsylvania. He held this post for only a few weeks before being named chief engineer of the Department of the Shenandoah, under the command of General Robert Patterson. In August 1861, he was promoted to the rank of major in the engineering corps but later that same month he left this branch of the service to accept command of a brigade of infantry in William B. Franklin's Division, Army of the Potomac. He received his star as brigadier general the following month, on September 23, 1861.

Although now an infantry commander, Newton was far too valuable as an engineer, and throughout the winter of 1861-1862, he served as assistant engineer in the construction of defenses around Washington. One of his accomplishments during this time was the building of Fort Lyon, named for Nathaniel Lyon, a Union general who fell at the battle of Wilson's Creek in August 1861. General Newton commanded his brigade during the Army of the Potomac's march up the Virginia peninsula in the spring of 1862, and turned in commendable performances during the Seven Days' Battles outside of Richmond, his first true tests as an officer in combat.

General Newton's next test came at the battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862. Commanding a brigade in Henry Slocum's Sixth Corps Division, Newton advanced with his men against the Confederate troops defending Crampton's Gap. Joseph Bartlett's Brigade led the attack, but was soon reinforced by Newton's and Colonel Alfred Torbert's Brigades, and together they charged, with bayonets fixed, toward the Confederate line, ultimately forcing them from their position. Newton received much praise for his performance during the battle. William B. Franklin, commanding the Sixth Corps, wrote in his Official Report: "While fully concurring in the recommendation offered in behalf of

Colonels Bartlett and Torbert. . . I respectfully and earnestly request that Brigadier General Newton may be promoted to the rank of major-general for his conspicuous gallantry and important services during the entire engagement."

General Slocum's Division arrived on the battlefield of Antietam during the early afternoon hours of September 17, but was not actively engaged in the fighting. However, Brigadier General Newton was brevetted lieutenant colonel in the Regular Army for his actions here, although it was probably due to his services at South Mountain. A month following the battle of Antietam, Newton was given command of the Sixth Corps's Third Division. His men were held largely in reserve during the battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, but afterwards General John Newton got involved in a scheme that damaged his career in the Army of the Potomac and tarnished his reputation. In January 1863, Newton traveled to Washington with one of his brigade commanders, John Cochrane. The two men had a private meeting with President Lincoln where they blasted the leadership of army commander Ambrose Burnside, doubted his abilities, and reported on the low morale in the army. Burnside was livid when he learned of this act of insubordination, and demanded the immediate dismissal of Newton, Cochrane, and the other officers who were involved in the scheme, such as William B. Franklin and William Smith. After the smoke cleared, and after Burnside was relieved of command, Newton remained in the Army of the Potomac although he later suffered the consequences of his involvement in this underhanded plot. John Newton was promoted to major general of volunteers on March 30, 1863. Five weeks later, he led his division in attack against the Confederate position along the base of Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg during the Chancellorsville Campaign. He was slightly wounded during the storming of the heights, and his men suffered tremendous loss with casualties in his three brigades exceeding 1,000 killed, wounded, and missing, about one-third the division's total number. Two months later, at Gettysburg, Newton was called upon by General George Gordon Meade to replace General Abner Doubleday as commander of the First Corps. Newton, who was junior in rank to Doubleday, nonetheless assumed corps command during the second day of the battle, and handled his men well for the duration of the conflict. Indeed, for his performance at Gettysburg, he was brevetted a colonel in the Regular Army. Remaining in command of the First Corps throughout the summer and winter of 1863, Newton paid the price for his post-Fredericksburg intrigue on March 24, 1864 when he was left without a command after the First Corps was dissolved with the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac. As if the message was not loud and clear enough, Newton soon discovered that his appointment as major general was withdrawn by the U.S. Senate. A few weeks later, he was sent west. Reporting to General William Tecumseh Sherman for assignment, Brigadier General Newton, on April 16, 1864, was given command of the Second Division of General Oliver Howard's Fourth Corps, Army of the Cumberland. Despite the demotion in command, Newton continued to distinguish himself on the field of battle during the Atlanta Campaign, at Dallas, Kennesaw Mountain, and especially at Peach Tree Creek where he was commended by General Sherman. He received his third brevet promotion of the war, this time to brigadier general in the Regular Army, for his performance here. Following the surrender of the city of Atlanta in early September 1864, General Newton was transferred yet again. He was named commander of the District of Key West and Tortugas, in the Department of the Gulf. He remained at this remote Florida outpost for the duration of the American Civil War, being brevetted a major general in March 1865. Commanding the Department of Florida for several weeks during the summer of 1865, Newton was advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army's corps of engineers, and in January 1866 was mustered out of the volunteer service.

John Newton remained in the United States army following the end of the American Civil War, and in the ensuing decades continued to establish himself as one of the country's best engineers. He oversaw the construction of Fort Hamilton in New York, and, perhaps most noteworthy in his engineering career, he was able to successfully remove large rocks and other obstacles in the Hudson River and in New York Harbor, which allowed for increased and easier navigation. He continued to rise steadily through the army ranks, becoming a colonel in 1879, and then a brigadier general five years later, in 1884. That same year he was named as the army's chief engineer.

After more than four decades in uniform, General John Newton resigned from the army on August 27, 1886, having reached the mandatory age of retirement at sixty-four. He settled in New York City following his resignation where he served for a time as commissioner of public works. In 1888, he

accepted the position of president of the Panama Railroad Company. He also served as president of the Panama Steamship Company, and the Columbian Steamship Line. A lifelong and devout Catholic, Newton received an honorary LL.D. degree from St. Francis Xavier College in 1886, and in his retirement belonged to the National Academy of the Sciences and was an honorary member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

John Newton died at the age of seventy-two on May 1, 1895, in New York City. The cause of his death was listed as "acute articular rheumatism." General Newton's body was taken to the National Cemetery at West Point for burial. <http://48thpennsylvania.blogspot.com/2009/04/major-general-john-newton.html>

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GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this corps at the battle of Gettysburg and subsequently, until its arrival at Warrenton Junction:

*July 1.*--The operations of this day are fully set forth in Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday's report, who commanded the corps in the bloody and important battle which inaugurated the three days' fight-big at Gettysburg.

*July 2.*--In obedience to an order from Headquarters Army of the Potomac, dated July 1, I reported in person to the general commanding, at the cemetery gate, early in the morning of this day, and assumed command of the First Corps. I found the First Division (Brigadier-General Wadsworth) occupying the high wooded hill and slopes immediately on the right of General Howard's position on Cemetery Hill, an important position, from which it was not detached during the subsequent operations at Gettysburg. Major-General Doubleday's (Third) division was in reserve behind the Eleventh Corps on Cemetery Hill. Brigadier-General Robinson's (Second) division was likewise posted on the Cemetery Hill, but on the left of the Eleventh Corps, and facing to the left in the position afterward occupied by the Second Corps. The artillery of the corps, except one battery with the First Division, was posted on Cemetery Hill, and was not detached from this position during all the subsequent fighting. Beyond an occasional shot at the moving columns of the enemy, everything remained quiet until the afternoon, when the enemy opened a brisk cannonade on my position, which was vigorously and effectively returned.

Near sundown I was summoned to move my troops in haste to fill a gap in the line on the left of the Second Corps, into which the enemy was on the point of entering. Notwithstanding the inconvenient positions of the Second and Third Divisions, these were quickly filed into the new position in time to stay the progress of the enemy, who relinquished their attempt on our appearance. I was deeply gratified at the promptitude with which these divisions moved at this critical period, their movement not consuming one-half the time it would have taken on drill. During this movement, the right wing of the Thirteenth Vermont, under Colonel Randall, charged upon the enemy, retook four of our guns, and captured two guns and 80 prisoners from them. Two more of our guns were retaken by the Second Brigade, Third Division.

Night coming on, and active operations closing here for the day, parties were sent to the front to bring in such guns as had been left. They were successful to some extent, but the number thus reclaimed has never been reported. The Second Division was sent back to Cemetery Hill, to support the Eleventh Corps, which was threatened by the enemy. The First Division was vigorously attacked about sundown by the enemy, who were handsomely repulsed. One brigade of the Twelfth Corps, on their right, participated in this action. The position of the Eleventh Corps was attacked about the same time, the enemy succeeding in some instances in getting into the batteries, from which they were driven by the cannoners themselves. [More](#)

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## G. Special Interest: 130th Engineer Brigade Lineage :



The 130th Engineer Brigade is a combat engineer brigade of the United States Army. The Brigade left Germany in 2007 and recently transferred from the command of V Corps to United States Army Pacific. The Brigade uncased its colors in Hawaii on Oct. 23, 2008.

**History:** The 130th Engineer Brigade was originally constituted in the U.S. Army as the 1303rd Engineer General Service Regiment and activated on July 15, 1943 at Camp Ellis, Illinois. The regiment played an important role in World War II with campaign credits for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe and the Asian-Pacific theatre. The regiment was deactivated on July 8, 1955 and its elements allocated to the regular Army.

It was re-designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Aviation Brigade in Japan and subsequently inactivated on June 25, 1956. On June 16, 1969, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Aviation Brigade was re-designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Brigade and activated in Hanau, Germany.

From December 1995 to January 1996 all units in the brigade, except the 320th Engineer Company (Topographic), deployed to Croatia or Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. (The 320th Engineer Company deployed their topographic surveying platoon the following year.) In December 1995, the 502nd Engineer Company deployed to Zupanja, Croatia and placed the historic ribbon bridge over the Sava River. The company operated 24-hours a day for three months crossing critical traffic in support of Task Force Eagle and IFOR. The company also assisted in the construction of the first fixed bridge over the Sava River in Brcko-Gunja. The 502nd Engineer Company redeployed in May 1996, with a rafting section remaining at Slavonski Brod to support the force restructuring of Task Force Eagle.

Units of the 130th Engineer Brigade were deployed to Kuwait in early 2003 and moved into Iraq in March where they supported Operation Iraqi Freedom with bridging and infrastructure support. The 565th Engineer Battalion built the "birthday bridge" – the longest float bridge constructed in a combat theatre with a span of 580 meters – over the Tigris River in Tikrit on Saddam Hussein's birthday, April, 28 2003.

The 502nd Engineer Company also conducted river patrol operations in Baghdad and Tikrit. This new mission for the company was essential for force protection, troop transportation, search and cordon operations and to protect against sabotage on fixed bridges. In September 2003, with the inactivation of the 38th Engineer Company (Medium Girder Bridge), the 502nd Engineer Company became a multi-role bridge company with both float and fixed bridging capabilities and the only bridge company in support of USAREUR.

Brigade units redeployed to Hanau in late 2003 and early 2004. The 502nd Engineer Company became the first V Corp company-size unit to return for a second tour in Iraq when it deployed in September 2004. The company returned to Hanau in September 2005. The brigade deployed to Iraq again in September 2005; and the 54th Engineer Battalion followed in October, returning in October 2006.

The 130th Engineer Brigade said goodbye to Hanau with a casing of the colors ceremony on Pioneer Kaserne on May 4, 2007. The brigade headquarters become part of U.S. Army Pacific on June 16, 2007. The brigade had originally been slated to relocate to Fort Lewis to replace the 555th Engineer Brigade, which was scheduled to be inactivated. But with the Army's recent authorized increased end strength the brigade remains on active duty. The 130th Engineer Brigade uncased their colors in Hawaii

in 2008.

**Symbolism:** Shoulder Sleeve Insignia: Scarlet and white are the colors used for Engineer organizations. The bar refers to a lever, support, fastener or a measuring device and other facets of engineering operations, the embattlements denoting the military aspects of the Brigade. In numerology, three is the symbol for completeness.

Distinctive Unit Insignia: The embattle tower was suggested by the unit's shoulder sleeve insignia. The 130th Engineer Brigade's five battle honors (Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe) are represented by the three merlons of the tower, the spade and bayonet. The masoned tower with the spade also symbolizes the unit's engineering achievements while the bayonet alludes to the combat readiness of the Brigade. Scarlet and white are the colors used by Engineers.

**Organization:** Former organization (Germany)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Brigade  
54th Engineer Battalion (Combat Mechanized)  
94th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy)  
565th Engineer Battalion  
38th Engineer Company  
320th Engineer Company (Topography)  
502nd Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge)  
Future organization (Hawaii)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Brigade  
65th Engineer Battalion  
84th Engineer Battalion

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

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

Scholarships: We need your help to spread the word about AEA scholarships. We have three \$1000 scholarships available every year to Enlisted soldiers in our Regiment - Active or Reserve Component. Many of these go unclaimed every year. More importantly, we need your help to get the word to our combat wounded and families of our combat fallen. Several \$2500 Baswell scholarships are available now. Details on how to submit are available on the AEA website:

<http://www.armyengineer.com/scholarships.htm>

For more info, email Jack O'Neill, [xd@armyengineer.com](mailto:xd@armyengineer.com)

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Colonel, US Army Corps of Engineers (Retired)  
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703-428-6049 [www.armyengineer.com](http://www.armyengineer.com)

For AEA Member information -- please share with anyone you know who may have an interest in this program. Members may validate member status at the member portal - at [www.armyengineer.com](http://www.armyengineer.com).

Every Engineer MOS soldier is eligible for membership in the Engineer Regiment's fraternal organization, the Army Engineer Association.

AEA is the nucleus of the Regimental network, providing information and services to Engineer **Soldiers** now serving and **Veterans** through:

- Bi-monthly magazine, Army Engineer
- Discount insurance and banking services through AFBA
- Career and Job Services
- Memorials to Units and Individuals
- Support to Engineer Fallen and Wounded
- Performance Excellence Awards for Junior and Senior Personnel
- Academic Scholarships for Individuals and Family Members
- Support to the Army Engineer Museum

### Popular Downloads

- **The Evolution of Fort Leonard Wood from 1941 to 2010.** Photographic essay that shows how much the "home" for Army Engineers has changed over the years.
- **The Inseparable Bonds of Engineer Service:** Click [here](#), for a 12-page PDF file to learn more about why being an Army Engineer veteran is so special.
- **Engineer OCS Graduates:** Click [here](#) for a 8-page PDF file about Engineer OCS, Fort Belvoir, VA 1966-1967.
- **Engineer Equipment Development Over the Years:** Click [here](#) for a first hand report written by a retired Army Combat Engineer, who went on to a very successful career with Caterpillar, Inc.
- **Women in Engineering:** Click [here](#) to read about women who once served in the military as engineers, and who later went on to successful careers with industry...pathways opening for them by their excellence.

\* 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>

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

Upcoming Events:

#### [Peninsula Engineer Conference](#)

POC: [Ann McLeod](#)

**April 3-5, 2012**

Seoul, Korea

#### [SAME Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo](#)

Co-Hosted By SAME HQ

**May 22-25, 2012**

America's Center, St. Louis, Mo.

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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. **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. [Army Engineer Spouses' Club:](#)

a. The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from *wives and family members over 18 years* of age of the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees: military grades E-7 and above and civilian grades GS-07 and above, whether active, retired or deceased; and with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who have been associated with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

b. **Membership Benefits:** Becoming a member of the only worldwide Engineer network for those other than Active Duty Military, you will receive a 10% discount at the Castle Boutique -our online Engineer boutique- receive the monthly newsletter- the Castle Gram- be able to join others for monthly outings in the DC area & receive the yearly Red Book -Castle Directory

c. The Army Engineer Spouses' Club (AESC) would like to personally invite you to become a member. Membership is open to spouses of all Active, National Guard, Reserve, Retired US Army Engineers and all USACE Civilian employees worldwide. AESC offers a monthly Castle Gram newsletter and activities in the greater Washington DC area as well as scholarship opportunities. For more information, please visit our website, <http://armyengineerspousesclub.com>. When at our website, don't forget to visit our Castle Boutique – you don't have to be a member to order, just click the shopping cart!

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