



MESSAGE TO THE REGIMENT #97:

“The Engineer Blast”

29 March, 2013

A. Overview: The Office of the Chief of Engineers is pleased to forward this 97th 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 Chuck Hagel has announced that the President has nominated the following Army Competitive Category brigadier general for promotion to the rank of major general:

Brigadier General Richard L. Stevens (EN)

Director, Joint Engineering Directorate, United States Forces-Afghanistan and Commander, Transatlantic Division (Forward) OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, Afghanistan APO AE 09356



Automated Integrated Survey Instrument (AIS) Transition to the Automated Integrated Survey (AIS) underwent a transition several months ago, with the intent to combine assets under one LIN, S03726. This was not a smooth transition across the force structure due to several moving parts that did not align and synchronize at the proper time. As a result, Units are either turning in assets or requesting turn-in disposition instructions for what appears to be an overage to the authorized quantity on their property books.

LIN S03794 was rendered obsolete. Assets under this LIN should have been administratively transferred to LIN S03726. In addition Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCOE), in conjunction with Product Director Combat Terrain Information systems (PDCTIS) drafted a change request to the existing Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) and submitted the changes to HQDA G3/5/7. While the changes have been approved they are not showing on Unit's property book, thereby indicating the authorized quantities.

The authorized quantity of LIN S03276 for a Brigade element is seven (7) and for a Survey and Design Co is five (5). Units should not turn in any AISI assets if their MTOE shows less than the aforementioned quantities for their respective Unit type.

For additional information PD CTIS POC is Tom Cox 703 428 6716 thomas.m.cox.jr@usace.army.mil or MSCOE POC is Cathy Pryor 573 596 5719 cathy.s.pryou.civ@mail.mil .

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

1. USACE News Stories:

- March 27, 2013 - [Picking up after Hurricane Sandy](#)
- March 27, 2013 - [Wounded Warriors Gain Hands-On Experience with Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- March 27, 2013 - [Army Corps of Engineers transfers land in Texas](#)
- March 27, 2013 - [For eroding island, engineers' efforts start with models](#)
- March 27, 2013 - [Celebrating USACE women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics](#)
- March 21, 2013 - [Completion of critical project milestone celebrated for Tamiami Trail One-Mile Bridge](#)
- March 15, 2013 - [Far East District, DoD schools sign STEM agreement](#)
- March 15, 2013 - [Swamp rats, an 1899 act and why waters of the United States are important to you](#)
- March 15, 2013 - [Ground breaks for largest-ever Army Reserve land exchange](#)
- March 13, 2013 - [Marine veteran brings "can-do" attitude from one Corps to another Corps](#)
- March 12, 2013 - [Army Corps of Engineers and FLW to partner on efforts to connect America's youth with the outdoors](#)
- March 11, 2013 - [Scientists measure sea spray at Mount Desert Rock](#)
- March 05, 2013 - [Army Corps of Engineers completes multi-purpose chapel at Dover Air Force Base](#)
- March 05, 2013 - [USACE electrical engineer embodies STEM](#)
- March 05, 2013 - [New Huntsville Center office offers DoD-wide information technology acquisition support](#)

2. The [412th Theater Engineer Command](#) offers the following: [Facebook](#), [412th Engineer Association](#),

Soldiers of 'Brigade of Choice' honored, reunite with Families after Afghan deployment Taking the Title

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. - Ninety Soldiers with 411th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, received a warm welcome home Saturday after a nine month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. [More](#)



FORT DEVENS, Mass. - On a snowy winter day at Fort Devens's South Post in Massachusetts, ten engineer Soldiers from the 368th Engineer Battalion competed for the unit's Best Warrior Competition title March 8-10, 2013. [More:](#)



3. [The 416th Theater Engineer Command](#) offers the following: [Bridge Magazine](#) (Spring 2013), [Facebook](#), [Flicker](#).



704th Company Commander, Capt. Joshua Yarbrough and 510th En. Co., Capt. Ben Weaver pose for a photo with the Executive Officer and 3rd Platoon Leader of RCC 2/207th Corps ANA. They just conducted a key leader engagement discussing future partnership and training opportunities between 704th and 2nd RCC. 704th is responsible for mentoring and training them to conduct independent route clearance operations.

For more great info about the 416th ENCOM, check out the newest version of the [Bridge Magazine](#).

4. [Transatlantic Division \(TAD\)](#):

[Soldiers put the “Army” in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – At U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts around the world, [\[Read More\]](#) Published: Mar-28-13

[USACE STEM professionals excel in Afghanistan](#)

KABUL, Afghanistan — According to a Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) release, [\[Read More\]](#) Published: Mar-26-13

[She took a leap of faith and landed strong](#)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Many agree a high-quality education is a commanding force for [\[Read More\]](#) Published: Mar-25-13

[Middle East District awards flight simulator facility at Al Mubarak Air Base, Kuwait](#)

WINCHESTER, Va. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District awarded a contract for the [\[Read More\]](#) Published: Mar-21-13

[BUILDING STRONG® for Afghanistan’s security](#)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers builds Afghan National Security [\[Read More\]](#) Published: Mar-19-13

[Putting family first results in rapid rise through the ranks](#)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — More than two decades ago, Elizabeth Blackburn witnessed something [\[Read More\]](#) Published: Mar-19-13

[Electricity powers economic development in southern Afghanistan](#)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Modern economic development requires energy to fuel everything from [\[Read More\]](#) Published: Mar-19-13

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

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

Date	Title	Author
3/28/2013 New	Soldiers put the “Army” in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Karla Marshall
3/25/2013	She took a leap of faith and landed strong	Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
3/19/2013	Putting family first results in rapid rise through the ranks	Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
3/18/2013	Breaking down barriers, building up respect	Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
3/18/2013	Electricity powers economic development in southern Afghanistan	Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
3/15/2013	BUILDING STRONG® for Afghanistan’s security	Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
3/6/2013	Anatomy of a FAT: fire suppression systems on Kandahar Airfield pass the test	Karla Marshall
3/4/2013	How does she do it? She puts her mind to it!	Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo
3/2/2013	USACE Electrical Engineer embodies Women’s History Month theme	Karla Marshall
2/27/2013	USACE to make improvements to Afghanistan’s Kajaki Dam	Karla Marshall

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:

Regimental Addresses



The Commandant's annual Address to the Regiment and the Chief of Engineers' Address will be live streamed on 19 April 2013 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. CDT. These addresses will also be recorded and available for viewing after April 22, 2013. Links will be posted on the ENFORCE website found at the following link: <http://www.wood.army.mil/enforce>.

Mr. James Rowan, Deputy Commandant

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

One Regiment

As we move forward as one Regiment towards the Army of 2020, there is so much unlocked synergy between the four (4) components of our Regiment (Active Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and USACE). We continue to analyze the topic of governance across the Regiment and how best to make use of critical face to face interactions. Just as our Commandant frequently will say that there is no single purpose engineer Soldier, the same can be said that there (in the future) should be no such thing as a single purpose event. So many of the stovepipe discussions we have had in sub-tribes within our Regiment are actually germane to the Regiment as a whole. USACE districts and divisions hold tremendous opportunities for training/development/certification for the other three (3) components, as much as the green suit Army holds depth on the bench for USACE in an era of declining resources. The end result is an interconnected Regiment, and through critical thought, we can realize this goal that benefits not only our Army, but our Nation as well.

The key element to how we look at the heartbeat of the Regiment is how does it interact with the heartbeat of the Army and the Joint Staff. We must have a governance structure that informs the big decisions such as POM builds or TAA, but also has the malleability to accommodate a last minute question that requires a "position" from any of the "stovepipe" positions or one that crosses all stovepipes. The Chief of Engineers Reserve Component Council (CRCC), Engineer Advisory Team, and Engineer Advisory Board, and other numerous forums are important, but we need to define the connective tissue that allows us to cross all of the stovepipes. If any of you have specific thoughts on the subject that you would like to share, please feel free to contact me directly as we shape our engagement (and governance) strategy moving forward.

TEC and EAB Redesign

The staffing of the TEC Redesign includes the TEC Senior Working Group, the USAES, the EAB Community of Practice, and MSCoE CDID. Key to the success of the TEC Redesign is defining not only gaps that either the TEC (or subunits of the TEC) can fill that support Phase 0 shaping operations at the ASCC level, equally important is the definition of areas where a senior mission command headquarters can provide both engineer technical competence as well as mission command capability in the Army of 2020 across all phases of the operation. If you have specific inputs (or frank criticisms) please contact me directly so we can incorporate your thoughts into the overall process. The staffing of the EAB Combat Company will begin shortly, and we continue to work ICW the SOF community as it relates to their specific needs as the 11th Army Division in contact for the foreseeable future.

Battalion/Brigade PCC

For those about to take command (of an MToE, Training, FEST-M), or have been in command for up to six (6) months, the Battalion/Brigade Pre-Command Course remains open to all components. If you, or your CSM, are having difficulties getting into this course, please contact me directly because we NEED the leaders of the Reserve Components to be a part of this critical developmental course. The remaining classes for FY13 are listed below:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Report date</u>	<u>Start date</u>	<u>End date</u>	
Class 007-13	12 May 13	13 May 13	24 May 13	BSTB
Class 009-13	21 Jul 13	22 Jul 13	02 Aug 13	All (-MP)

I look forward to seeing many of you at the multitude of Regimental activities we have in the coming months to include the Engineer Regimental Week 15-19 APR 13 here at Fort Leonard Wood. Please continue to maintain the passion and momentum as we move forward towards the Army of 2020, and as always, your Engineer School is here to support you in the field. Thank you all for what you do in the service of our Nation.

I can be reached at adam.roth@us.army.mil.

“Essayons!”

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

From the Desk of the Deputy Assistant Commandant (National Guard)

Missouri National Guard Engineer Brigade Change of Command

The Missouri National Guard's 35th Engineer Brigade has a new commander. Col. William Blaylock II recently took over for Brig. Gen. Randy Alewel, who has been the unit's commander since February of 2010, after a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Engineer Museum's regimental room at Fort Leonard Wood.

The brigade, headquartered at Fort Leonard Wood, is the higher headquarters for all Missouri Guard engineer assets. The unit undertakes plans, integrates and directs the execution of engineer missions conducted by the 1140th Engineer Battalion, headquartered at Cape Girardeau, and the 203rd Engineer Battalion, headquartered at Joplin, with their respective subordinate units; and when federalized, mobilizes with three-to-five mission tailored engineer battalions and augments engineer units organic to corps and division.

Photo from the Missouri National Guard Website. For complete story - [More:](#)



LTC Rodney Graham, Deputy Assistant Commandant, National Guard

What Engineer Officer Skill Identifiers Mean For The Regiment

As the Army transitions from 12 years at war, the Engineer School has made it a top priority to lead the Total Force in preparing its leaders for Army 2020. Technical competency will be the foundation for what the Engineer Regiment continues to be for the Army of the future. Engineer officers will continue to possess an innate ability to evaluate and assess problems, brainstorm possibilities, and quickly implement solutions to solve problems facing maneuver commander as well as those confronting elected officials such as natural disasters.

The new Engineer Officer Skill Identifiers (SI) are an attempt to make the assignment process more streamlined and transparent with regards to professional credentials and technical proficiency. The principal reason for establishing and awarding SIs to Engineer Officers is to quickly identify pools of talent and expertise to place in jobs that require very specialized training or skills. Traditionally, Engineer Assignment Officers manually searched Officer Records Briefs (ORBs) individually to determine if an officer was qualified for specific duty positions. On many occasions ORBs did not accurately reflect the individual's credentials and education, making the officer selection and assignment process more difficult. Examples of this are that Project Management Professional credentials are not listed on the ORB and ORBs did not identify if an engineering degree was from an ABET accredited University. Conversely, the jobs that required specialized skills were often vague in the exact qualifications needed for success. In some cases, jobs coded for Professional Engineers were better suited for a Project Management Professional.

That being said, all Engineer officers will be coded 12A as of April 2013. Positions requiring a special skill will now be coded with the new SIs and assignment officers at Human Resources Command (HRC) will make every attempt to fill unit vacancies with individuals possessing the right knowledge, skills and abilities. The new skill identifiers are: S4 Sapper Leader, W1 Facilities Planner, W2 Geospatial Engineer, W3 Professional Engineer, W4 Degreed Engineer (ABET only), W5 Project Management Professional, W6 Project Engineer and W7 Environmental Officer. Officer skills diversification will remain an important factor during the assignment process and officers possessing multiple SIs will have the greatest opportunity for diverse assignments.

The Engineer Regiment continues to encourage officers to obtain credentials necessary to earn SIs such as PE, PMP and Project Engineer. One of the goals in implementing SIs is to encourage officers to further their civilian and professional military education. These SI will not guarantee or identify an Engineer officer for a specific command, or

limit career progression. The lack of a SI could possibly limit assignment diversity for individual officers. Coding positions on TDAs and MTOEs with SIs will assist in making additional resources available for credentialing requirements. In the past, the Engineer Regiment was unable to articulate or identify the exact number of technical degrees and certifications needed at each rank. This made it difficult for the regiment to justify a credentialing program. The existence of a documented skills requirement allows the regiment more flexibility to fund programs and schools that produce special skill sets.

Officers desiring to have SIs added to their Officer Record Brief (ORB) need to forward their qualifications to the Chief of [Engineer Personnel Development Office \(EPDO\)](#) at the United States Army Engineer School (USAES). The information will be reviewed; a determination will be made by EPDO and forwarded to Human Resources Command for inclusion to the officer's records brief. Officers not meeting the minimum requirements for a SI will be notified regarding file deficiencies. The requirements for each SI can be found in Table 4-3 in [DA PAM 611-21](#).

The senior leaders of the Engineer Regiment are very sensitive regarding talent management and will continue to incorporate strategies to make this process better. Leaders at all levels will be expected to coach, teach, and mentor as assignment officers manage the Army's most important resource – its people. Collectively, the SIs will codify Engineer officers as better problem solvers and as an invaluable asset to the Army and Nation.

POC: MAJ Samantha Bebb, Engineer Personnel Development Office Chief email: samantha.r.bebb.mil@mail.mil

Engineer Doctrine

APD has rescinded the following Engineer manuals:

* FM 3-34.331, TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYING (THIS ITEM IS INCLUDED ON EM 0205), January 16, 2001, Rescinded, March 07, 2013. Valid techniques will be incorporated into the next revision of Construction Surveying (TM 3-34.55)

* FM 5-482, MILITARY PETROLEUM PIPELINE SYSTEMS (THIS ITEM IS INCLUDED ON EM 0205), August 26, 1994, Rescinded, March 07, 2013. Relevant technical information will be added to TM 3-34.62, Earthmoving Operations,

* FM 5-553, GENERAL DRAFTING (THIS ITEM IS INCLUDED ON EM 0205), January 06, 1984, Rescinded, March 07, 2013. Valid techniques will be incorporated into the next revision of Construction Drafting (TM 3-34.51)

* TM 5-235, SPECIAL SURVEYS, September 18, 1964, Rescinded, March 07, 2013. More current information can be found in FM 3-34.170, Engineer Reconnaissance, dated March 2008, and TM 3-34.55, Construction Surveying, dated August 2012 .

POC is LTC Sinlan Morrow, Engineer Doctrine Chief sinlan.r.morrow.mil@mail.mil

USAES on the Network

Links have been updated as of 26 March 2013.

- [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 \(Forum for the Engineer NCO community on milBook\)**](#)
- [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 CAC authentication required

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

My Board File. All NCOs in the zone of consideration for a promotion board must read and heed the My Board File MILPER (<https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-050>) and the board instructions for each board. Do not wait until your board convenes to update your file and photo. Work with your S1 team to get this done at the earliest opportunity, and every time you have a change ensure it gets posted to your file. Remember that you are your best career manager.

MOS Conversion Bonus. At this point in the year we have had well over 100 Sappers take advantage of the “OUT” call and choose another at, or under-strength, MOS. There are a few MOSs that still pay a bonus for those who qualify and can successfully become MOSQ. See MILPER 13-052 <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-052> for the details.

Soldier Record Accuracy. MILPER 13-055 (<https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-055>) outlines everyone’s responsibilities in ensuring our Soldier’s records are updated in a timely manner in our systems of record (ie., eMILPO).

FY13 SGM Board. MILPERs 13-037 and 13-038 (links: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-037> and <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-038>) outline all details for the JUN 13 SGM Board.

E8 QSP. The MSG (E8) QSP board will be conducted in conjunction with the FY13 SGM Board. Those in the MOSs 12X, 12Y, and 12Z in the zone of consideration for promotion to SGM will also be looked at for QSP. At this time we do not know if any NCOs from these MOSs will be selected due to MOS overstrength or promotion stagnation, but there is a slight chance. Therefore, regardless if you think you are not competitive for promotion, ensure you read MILPER 13-063 <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-063> and update your records and certify your board file. That will help ensure you are not competitive for selection under QSP.

USAR Notes

Other than the promotion MILPER information provided on the preceding page, here are a few notes specific to our RC population:

IMA Opportunities. There continue to be a number of world-wide IMA opportunities that go unfilled. If interested please visit this weblink, <https://www.hrc.army.mil/STAFF/IMA%20Program%20Overview> and read for more information. The contact information for our newly-formed IMA/IRR team is also at this link.

Semi-Centralized Promotions USAR AGR SGT / SSG Board Proceedings. This message applies to semi-centralized promotions for USAR AGR Soldiers. It clarifies promotion board proceedings requirements as of 1 Jun 11. See the message for specifics. <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-93072>

USAR TPU SFC SEP13 Promotion Board. The Army Reserve will convene the Automated Sergeant First Class (SFC) Promotion Board on or about 1 September 2013 for all eligible Staff Sergeants serviced by a Continental United States (CONUS) - based Regional Support Command (RSC). All eligible Staff Sergeants within the zone of consideration whose records are serviced by any of the four CONUS-based RSCs will be considered at the 88th RSC. Visit the following link for more information. <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-94794>

High School Senior Stabilization (HSSS)

It’s that time of the year again for you to submit your HSSS requests. We’ve already recommended approval for a handful, but for those of you who aren’t sure here are the essential elements of information:

- The window for consideration is open now (MAR) through SEP '13 for your dependants who graduate in the Spring of 2015 (which means they are likely sophomores right now).
- The teen must be your dependant (as verified in DEERS) and living with you.
- Your child's school must provide a letter stating they are expecting to graduate on time (ie., Spring '15).
- This action stabilizes your student, not the military member (you can still be placed on a dependant-restricted tour) – but we will work to get you back for their graduation if we send you on a “short tour.”
- If dual-military you AND your spouse must submit HSSS requests (DA Form 4187 through your chain of command).
- The approval rate is over 95% - if you qualify and submit on time it will very likely be approved.
- Call or email Branch, or see your S1, if you have questions.

Ranger Regiment Volunteers

We have a number of NCOs who serve in our Special Forces and Ranger units. The 75th Ranger Regimental Engineer, MAJ Sellers, asks that any NCO (12B30 or 12B40) that may be interested in volunteering to serve in the “other” Regiment send him a note at Michael.sellers@soc.mil, contact the 75th Rgr Recruiting Team at 74recruit@soc.mil, 706-545-5124, or visit the website at www.goarmy.com/ranger.

IMA Opportunities. There continue to be a number of world-wide IMA opportunities that go unfilled. If interested please visit this weblink, <https://www.hrc.army.mil/STAFF/IMA%20Program%20Overview> and read for more information. The contact information for our newly-formed IMA/IRR team is also at this link.

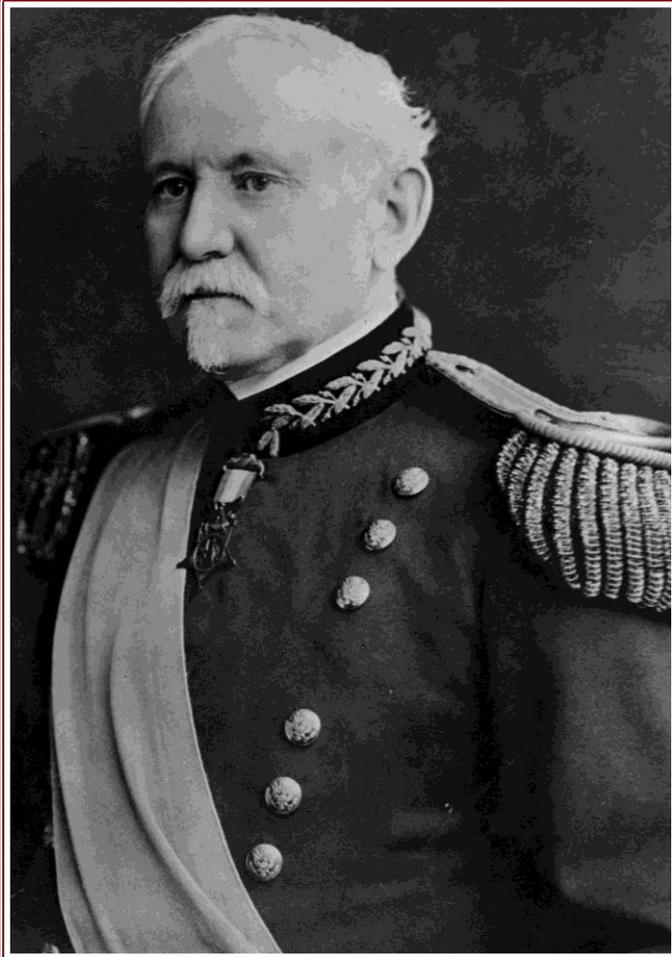
E. The Office of the Chief of Engineers provides the following information:

MILPER MESSAGE 13-070, RELEASE OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014 ARMY COMPETITIVE CATEGORY SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGE SLATE, ISSUED: [14 MAR 13]. This message announces those officers slated for Academic Year 2013-2014 Army Competitive Category Senior Service College (SSC) attendance. <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/13-070>

Congratulations to all the selectees.

BARRON CHRISTOPHER JOHN	LTC(P)	EN	QUEENS UNIVERSITY (CANADA)
BAUMGARTNER CRAIG STEVEN	LTC	EN	SYRACUSE
BECK CHRISTOPHER GARRECHT	LTC(P)	EN	AIR
BUCK JOHN GEORGE	LTC(P)	EN	ARMY
DANIELS MICHAEL JAMES	COL	EN	ARMY
GILBERTI JAYSON COSMO	LTC(P)	EN	MIT (DEF & ARMS)
GUTTORMSEN DOUGLAS BERWIN	LTC	EN	EISENHOWER
HUDSON CALVIN CARDELL II	LTC(P)	EN	ARMY
LANDERS KEVIN PAUL SR	COL	EN	HARVARD JFK
MCFADDEN ERIC MICHAEL	LTC(P)	EN	ARMY
QUANDER MARK CHRISTOPHER	LTC	EN	ARMY
RAY DAVID GEORGE	LTC	EN	ARMY
ROEMHILDT STEVEN JOHN	COL	EN	EISENHOWER
SHOREY ALAN BRADLEY	LTC(P)	EN	ARMY
TRUESDELL BRYAN PAUL	COL	EN	ASIA PACIFIC CTR (HAWAII)
WARDEN HEATHER JEANE	LTC(P)	EN	NATIONAL
ZETTERSTROM LARS NICLAS	LTC	EN	ARMY

F: Engineer History: The 22nd Chief of Engineers – BG George Lewis Gillespie, Jr.



Brigadier General George Lewis Gillespie, Jr.

Chief of Engineers

(May 3, 1901–January 23, 1904)

George Gillespie, Jr., was born October 7, 1841, in Kingston, Tennessee. He graduated second in the Class of 1862 at the Military Academy and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. As a Southerner who remained loyal to the Union, Gillespie joined the Army of the Potomac in September 1862. He commanded two companies of the engineer battalion that built fortifications and ponton bridges throughout the Virginia campaigns until the Appomattox surrender. He received the Medal of Honor for carrying dispatches through enemy lines under withering fire to General Sheridan at Cold Harbor, Virginia. He was later Sheridan's Chief Engineer in the Army of the Shenandoah and the Military Division of the Gulf. After the Civil War, Gillespie successively supervised the improvement of harbors at Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, and New York. He initiated construction of the canal at the Cascades of the Columbia River and built the famous lighthouse on Tillamook Rock off the Oregon Coast. Gillespie also served on the Board of Engineers and for six years as president of the Mississippi River Commission. He commanded the U.S. Army's Department of the East in 1898. While Chief of Engineers, he was acting Secretary of War in August 1901. He had charge of ceremonies at President McKinley's funeral and at the laying of the cornerstone of the War College Building in 1903. He served as Army Assistant Chief of Staff in 1904–1905 with the rank of major general. Gen. Gillespie retired June 15, 1905, and died September 27, 1913, in Saratoga Springs, New York.

George Gillespie graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1862. At the turn of the 19/20th Century, it was George Gillespie who designed the NEW Medal of Honor that is currently presented to members of the U.S. Army, which is sometimes called the "Gillespie Medal." He retired as a U.S. Army Major General.

Awards and Citations - Medal of Honor

Awarded for actions during the Civil War

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to First Lieutenant (Corps of Engineers) George Lewis Gillespie, Jr., United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 31 May 1864, while serving with the Engineer Corps, in action at Bethesda Church, Virginia, in exposed himself to great danger by voluntarily making his way through the enemy's lines to communicate with General Sheridan. While rendering this service First Lieutenant Gillespie was captured, but escaped; again came in contact with the enemy, was again ordered to surrender, but escaped by dashing away under fire.

General Orders: Date of Issue: October 27, 1897

Action Date: May 31, 1864

Service: Army, Rank: First Lieutenant, Division: Engineer Corps

GEORGE LEWIS GILLESPIE

GILLESPIE, GEORGE LEWIS, soldier, engineer, brigadier-general and chief of engineers of the United States army, is a native of Tennessee, born at Kingston, Roane county, on October 7, 1841. His parents were George Lewis and Margaret Alice Gillespie. On July 1, 1858, he was appointed to the military academy, at West Point, from which he was graduated June 17, 1862, and appointed to the army, with the rank of second lieutenant of engineers. His service began with active duties in the field during the war and his participation in that struggle lasted until its close. From 1862 to 1864, he was assistant engineer with the Army of the Potomac, and from 1864 until Lee's surrender at Appomattox, he was chief engineer of the Army of the Shenandoah.

This period of service included the operations and engineering work necessitated by the Maryland campaign, Antietam, the Rappahannock campaign, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Pennsylvania campaign, the Rapidan campaign, Richmond campaign, Cold Harbor and the defensive works about and at the siege of Petersburg. On October 30, 1864, he was made assistant engineer on the staff of General P. H. Sheridan, and chief engineer in the following year. As such he participated in the engagement at Waynesborough, in the action at Ashland, the battle of Dinwiddie's Court House, battle of Five Forks, action of Appomattox station, and the capitulation at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865. On the latter date, he was brevetted lieutenant-colonel for gallant and meritorious services in the campaign from Winchester to Appomattox, and received the Medal of Congress for bravery.

From Appomattox, Colonel Gillespie accompanied General Sheridan to New Orleans as chief engineer of the military division of the Southwest and took part in the reconstruction of the Gulf States, and in the restoration of the Republic of Mexico. He returned North in 1867, under orders, and was engaged in the construction of fortifications and in various harbor improvements at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and at Boston, Massachusetts, until August

GEORGE LEWIS GILLESPIE

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1, 1869. For the next succeeding four years he was superintending engineer of the tenth lighthouse district, when he was again assigned to General Sheridan's staff for the purpose of making a series of surveys, embracing the battlefields of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek, Dinwiddie's Court House, and other historic sites, in connection with Sheridan's campaigns in the Shenandoah region.

From May 9, 1877, to July 12, 1878, Colonel Gillespie was on leave of absence, in Europe. Upon his return, he superintended the surveys and improvements of rivers and harbors in Oregon, and the defenses at the mouth of the Columbia river, as well as the thirteenth lighthouse district. He was stationed in New York city, from 1881-86, in charge of the river and harbor improvements and interior defenses of New York harbor; and from 1886 to 1888, he was in temporary charge of the improvements of New York harbor, the Hudson and Harlem rivers; Raritan Bay, New Jersey; East River, Hell Gate, and other riparian projects, at the same time supervising the East River bridge. During the succeeding years he had charge of the defenses at Fort Hamilton, New York, and Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and was a member of the board of engineers of the United States army. In 1892 he completed the plan for the fortification of the lower bay, New York, and in 1894 emplaced the gun-lift battery at Sandy Hook, the first designed in this country for modern armament. In 1895 he was made president of the Mississippi river commission, and was chiefly responsible for the selection of Galveston, Texas, and San Pedro, California, as deep-water harbors.

During the Spanish-American war, in 1898, he was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers and assigned to command the department of the East, with headquarters at Governor's Island, New York. In 1900, he visited Porto Rico, as a member of the board of officers to determine what lands were necessary for military and naval purposes of the United States. He received the appointment of chief of engineers of the United States army, with the rank of brigadier-general, on May 3, 1901. He is president of the Board of Ordnance and Fortifications, and a member of the Army War College Board of Washington, District of Columbia.

G. Special Interest: [Triple Nickel Tribune](#)

Message from the Commander Colonel Nicholas Katers, "Able 6"

The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of Joint Task Force Triple Nickel continue to set the standard for excellence here in Afghanistan. While our mission is tough and dangerous, I am always impressed with the positive attitudes and "Essayons" spirit of our force. Every day, hundreds of Triple Nickel Warriors spend valuable time teaching the Afghan Engineers how to perfect their trade. There are now more Afghan engineers in the fight than U.S. engineers and they continue to get better every day. Soon there will be four Afghan Engineer Battalions in the fight. We are setting the stage to let them take over completely.

I have had numerous opportunities over the last month to visit our troops in the field, and what they accomplish through their hard work and skill is definitely impressive. Commanders around Afghanistan tell me that we are a decisive force in shaping the way to Afghan self reliance. Please follow JTF Triple Nickel on Facebook to see the great accomplishments of your Soldiers. You will not be disappointed.

We are Willing and Able!

- Col. Nick Katers

"Able 6"

The following two pages are excerpts from the "Triple Nickel Tribune. Please review the [entire document](#).



307th Engineer Battalion arrives, assumes mission of safeguarding Afghan roads



By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Alessandra Braun
Task Force SAW Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The mission to keep roads safe in Afghanistan is getting an Airborne boost with the arrival of the 307th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne).

On the morning of Feb. 24, Lieutenant Colonel Brett Sylvia, commander of 307th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), assumed command from Lt. Col. William M. Myer of the 507th Engineer Battalion during a ceremony on base here in southwest Afghanistan.

The 307th, along with several other companies in theater, will form Task Force S.A.W. (Sapper, Athlete, Warrior). The task force will fall under the leadership of the Theater Engineer Brigade, Joint Task Force Triple Nickel, and they will resume the ongoing mission in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Their primary focus will be on partnership operations with Afghan Army engineers. Engineer Training Teams (ETT) will be partnering with their Afghan

National Army (ANA) engineer force and providing mentorship in engineer operations to ensure the ANA are capable of operating as an independent fighting force.

U.S. route clearance packages will also conduct partnered patrols with ANA forces. Their primary mission is to ensure safe passageway for coalition forces and Afghan civilians. They work to find and eliminate the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The transfer-of-authority ceremony was held at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. During the ceremony the 307th unfurled their battalion colors for the first time since departing Fort Bragg, N.C., signifying their arrival in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

At the same time, the departing 507th Eng. Bn. cased their colors until their safe return home to Michigan. Over 250 Soldiers attended the transfer-of-authority ceremony with the command teams and headquarters and headquarters companies as well as the forward support companies from each battalion.

Task Force SAW is ready for their mission, said Lt. Col. Sylvia during the ceremony.

Turning to Col. Nicholas Katers, commander of JTF Triple Nickel, Sylvia added, “We will carry your torch, and we will do it the only way we know how – with discipline, initiative, and synchronized with our teammates and partners. All the Way!”

U.S. route clearance packages will also conduct partnered patrols with ANA forces. Their primary mission is to ensure safe passageway for coalition forces and Afghan civilians.



Photo by U.S. Photo by U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Neill Sevelius, Combat Camera

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Brett Sylvia, commander, 307th Eng. Bn., Task Force SAW, and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Steven Tetreault uncase the unit colors during their transfer-of-authority ceremony. The event marked the unit’s arrival in Afghanistan. TF SAW will continue the mission of Afghan Army engineer development and route clearance in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

The 307th is the only engineer battalion with a company in every regional command in Afghanistan besides Kabul. They spent over a year training and preparing for partnership operations and their route clearance mission. This is also the fourth time that the “All American” Engineers have answered the call to duty since the Global War on Terror began over a decade ago.





Afghan Army engineers build up ‘Super FOB’: Entrance rebuilt to improve traffic and security at Afghan base

By U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Brock Eastman
Task Force Prowler Public Affairs

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan — As part of base security enhancements, Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers of the Engineer Coy, 4th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 203rd Corps are this month rebuilding the entrance to a massive forward operating base (FOB) known as the Khair Kot Castle (KKC) “Super FOB.”

The enhancements include building more force protection and creating two lanes of traffic, one for military traffic, and another for civilian vehicles entering the base.

Citizens traveling in the KKC area may have already noticed a road change along the outside of the base. Prior to construction, the 4th Kandak created a bypass route approximately 10 meters out from the base. All civilian traffic is now routed to this bypass.

The original road is reserved for traffic entering and leaving the base. This is part of the plan to improve security at the base entrance. People driving by may have also notice an increase in the number of “HESCO,” or wire-framed sand-filled container, walls outside the gate.

The Engineer Coy is currently building a multi-layer guard tower.

“Ali Ahmad is having the soldiers tear down and rebuild the top layer” said Shakur Allah, the Afghan non-commissioned officer who was overseeing the construction on Saturday. Ali Ahmad is the coy’s acting first sergeant and is the principal quality control approver for the project. “The top layer was not square enough, and the entrance needed to be moved,” Shakur added.

United States Army engineer soldiers are closely watching this project. The project will serve as



Afghan Army engineers chain a cement barrier to a track hoe bucket, Mar. 2. Soldiers of the Engineer Coy, 4th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 203rd Corps are this month rebuilding the entrance to a massive forward operating base known as the Khair Kot Castle (KKC) “Super FOB.”

the final validation for the Afghan coy. For the last several months, U.S. engineers have been advising and assisting the engineer coy during projects. This project is free of any direct American input and,

when complete, will prove the engineer coy is prepared to work independently.

Construction is underway and is expected to be done this month.

Triple Nickel engineers help transfer, close bases: As part of drawdown, former joint base handed over to Afghans

By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Tyler Dovel
Task Force Diehard Public Affairs

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — As the Soldiers from the 857th Construction Company began packing their trucks and preparing for the journey back to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shank, their job site was curiously empty. The flat empty land they were leaving behind at FOB Altimur showed very little evidence of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) ever having been there, which is exactly what the Horizontal Platoon wanted.

“One of the things we want to do is return the land back to its original state,” said 2nd Lt. Jimmy Bodies, a native of Clarksdale, Miss., and the platoon leader of

the 857th Horizontal Platoon.

This was his first deconstruction mission, but with the gradual decline of ISAF personnel in Afghanistan as the Afghan National Army (ANA) continues to take the lead in the fight, it probably won’t be his last.

“Base closures are always critical missions to perform. I’m extremely proud of the guys’ motivation,” Bodies said.

The platoon of roughly thirty Soldiers received help from Afghan soldiers stationed in the area and finished the task two days ahead of schedule. FOB Altimur, which had served as a joint base in the Logar Province, was one of many bases that were in the process of being handed over to the ANA completely.

The platoon deconstructed between twenty and thirty buildings on the older northern section of the FOB, including a fuel and a water point. A few buildings were left behind for ANA use, including classrooms and several tents. They left a large stand-off distance between the remaining structures and the outer perimeter of the FOB, something that was part of the overall plan to help increase the 1st Kandak’s defense posture once they became the sole residents.

The 1st Kandak of the 4th Brigade, 203rd Corps is the ANA’s battle space owner for security in the Southern Logar area. Their responsibility extends past the Baraki Barak, Charkh, and Kherwar districts, as well as the southern

area of Pul-e Alam. They are the only Kandak operating in the area without a direct ISAF partnership. According to Maj. Rodriguez, the former mayor cell officer in charge, there are plans of a Czech Military Advisor Team to arrive in the near future, but all of the 1st Kandak’s operations so far have been unilateral.

In an agreement between Lt. Col. Rauf, the 1st Kandak Commander, and Maj. Rodriguez, much of the salvageable materials and lumber were saved for the 1st Kandak.

“They were really thankful for all of the stuff we left at Altimur,” Maj. Rodriguez said. “As we left, Lt. Col. Rauf promised to defend the FOB and defeat the insurgent threat.”

H. Recurring Links: [Engineer Casualties](#) ; [PASSAGES](#) ; [Military OneSource](#) [Transatlantic Division](#)
[Topographic Engineering Center](#) ; [United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center](#) ;
[Joint Task Force North](#) ; [ENGINEER UNIT REGIMENTAL LINKS](#) ; [Maneuver Support Center of Excellence](#)
[Great Lakes and Ohio River Division](#), [Mississippi Valley Division](#), [North Atlantic Division](#), [Northwestern](#)
[Division](#), [Pacific Ocean Division](#), [South Atlantic Division](#), [South Pacific Division](#), [Southwestern Division](#),

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 more info, email Jack O'Neill, xd@armyengineer.com

Jack O'Neill
Colonel, US Army Corps of Engineers (Retired)
Executive Director, Army Engineer Association
703-428-6049 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.

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 an 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>

Army Engineer Unit Reunions 2013

815th EN BN Association

includes 102nd EN Co.

May 15–17

Hampton Inn

103 St. Robert Plaza

St. Robert, MO

To make hotel reservations, call 573.336.3355 | Group Code 815ENG

Hosted visit to Fort Leonard Wood on May 16.

Contact Dave Darwin at 785.841.2888, daved@ku.edu, or 706.769.7072, 815thengr@gmail.com

697th Engineer Company (Pipeline)

May 15–19

Branson, MO

Contact Tom Petty at 515.981.3066 or tom697th@gmail.com

168th Combat EN BN

May 16–18

Holiday Inn Express

6939 N. 102nd Circle

Omaha, NE

Call 402.505.8181 for reservations (room rate: \$75/night; includes breakfast). Be sure to note you are with the 168th. Reservations must be made before May 1.

The hospitality room will be open Thursday afternoon and evening and all day Friday and Saturday. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided. You can bring your own alcohol, but it must be consumed in your room or in the hospitality room only.

An Omaha Steaks dinner (\$20 per plate with all the trimmings) is planned for Saturday night.

After you make your reservations, let me know how many will be in your party and when you are arriving. If you are flying to Omaha, send me the name of the airline, flight number, and arrival time. I will meet you; otherwise the cost of a taxi is \$25 to \$30 one way.

Further information can be received from [Robert Ekdahl](#).

70th Combat EN BN

June 7–9

Radisson Hotel Branson

Branson, MO

For more info, contact Roger Rock at 775.623.1029 or 70engrs@gmail.com

84th EN BN Construction (Vietnam)

June 20–23

Baymont Inn / Saint Robert

Fort Leonard Wood / Waynesville, MO

For more info, call 810.714.4158 or RLWallner@charter.net

To reserve your room, call Betsy at the Baymont Inn at 573.336.5050 and say you're with "The 84th."

2. [Society of American Military Engineers](#) : [The Military Engineer](#): [Membership](#) : [Bricks & Clicks](#)

a. SAME membership offers industry professionals and service members in the A/E/C, facility management and environmental fields the opportunity to connect through national and regional events, build those relationships through our [worldwide network of Posts](#), and engage in training and development to improve their skill set and that of the nation's military engineering workforce.

[Join Online Today!](#) SAME offers for a one-time \$60 fee continuous membership throughout the duration of your time in uniform, as well as reduced rate pricing tiers for public sector and private sector employees.

b. Education & Training

Continue your professional education at SAME [local and national events](#), including regional training symposiums and the annual [Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo](#) (JETC).

SAME's Continuing Education Program *includes a vast array of continuing education courses geared toward providing in-depth information for professionals working in the DOD marketplace. SAME also offers five courses through our Strategic Partners including the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) and the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS). All courses provide PDHs and many offer additional continuing education or learning units that have been approved by other organizations and certification programs.*

In an effort to bring these timely educational opportunities to professionals in their local area, SAME Posts and Military Installations may select courses of specific interest and serve as the host for the training. SAME HQ does the rest. The benefit is that local members get access to education that meets their specific needs—and they get it at a location that is conveniently located near their home or office.

Posts or Installations interested in hosting educational sessions can contact Belle Febbraro, SAME Program Manager, at 703-924-2616, or bfebbraro@same.org.

c. Committees & Councils

Engage with others in professional disciplines such as Facility Asset Management, Energy & Sustainability, Joint Engineer Contingency Operations, Small Business, or new in 2013, Architectural Practice. Participating in [SAME's Committees & Councils](#) is a great chance to help shape the conversation among other leaders and decision-makers across DOD and industry.

d. Career Opportunities

Transitioning from military service? Retiring from 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!](#) The site is utilized by hundreds of companies that gain access to your resume through their placement of job announcements and best of all it's free for SAME Members!

Also check out the annual [SAME Transition Workshop & Job Fair](#)—a great way to connect with SAME Sustaining Member firms and public agencies as you leave the service or are just looking for new career opportunities!

e. Information Services—In Print and Online

Stay on top of developments in the A/E/C field through our industry-leading publication, [TME—The Military Engineer](#) magazine and the new *TME Online*, where you'll discover in-depth features on contracting and design, environmental

engineering, civil works and infrastructure resilience, emerging technology, energy and sustainability, engineering lessons learned from the battlefield, and much more.

The editorial staff is always accepting article submissions on a variety of topics, so check out the [Editorial Calendar](#) today or contact the [TME editor](#) for more.

The [Directory of Member Companies and Organizations](#) can point you in the right direction when starting a new project, while [Bricks & Clicks](#) and [SAME's Flickr page](#) bring you news, notes and photos from events year-round!



f. Future Engineers

SAME continues to reach out to aspiring engineers through its Student Chapter program—now at 49 colleges and universities across the country. SAME membership is FREE for students and provides them with opportunities for leadership and mentorship, plus potential internships or first jobs. To learn more about the SAME College Outreach program, please visit www.same.org/college.

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

a. 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://armyengineerspouses.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!

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. [April Program](#)

April 21, Sunday - AEMA Scholarship Brunch
1:00 pm

Our Army Engineer Memorial Awards committee has worked hard to choose deserving award winners out of our 75 applicants this year.

R.S.V.P April 14th with payment of \$28

[See flyer for reservation form](#)

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

Former "Messages to the Regiment"

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Alternate response email address is usarmy.pentagon.hqda-occe.mbx.daen-zc@mail.mil