Lead the Way

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An Azimuth Check

Engineers everywhere are fully engaged in their heavy summer training schedules. Here at Fort Leonard Wood, the drill sergeants and cadre are busy with the annual surge of trainees who migrate with the civilian school cycles. And in our many reserve and guard training areas, engineer units are conducting their annual training that provides their best opportunity of the year to gain collective competence in their mission-essential tasks. At active duty posts, the normal hustle of training deployments and support is increased with reserve augmentees, cadets in apprentice troop-leading roles, supporting reserve unit training, and the surge of personnel turnover.

It is during these busy times when we lose sight of the bigger picture—what we are and what we are all about and how are we doing. Fortunately, our Regiment addressed all that in our recent ENFORCE Conference. It is important that all of us understand the big picture and how it could change. We NCOs must understand it and pass it on to the troops. We have known since George Washington was in charge that American soldiers are more effective, more committed, and more dogged in action if they know the big picture and what they are fighting for. We, as NCOs, are the glue that holds together the senior leadership and the soldiers. So here is a quick, big picture from ENFORCE. Tell your troops about it.

General Shinseki, Chief of Staff of the Army, explained that the Army is "bifurcated." That is, it has the best ever heavy forces in the world's history and light forces that are unmatched. That combination can be effective when used in a deliberate theater of war. But, the combination, when deployed, is either lean OR mean in a hasty theater—which isn't effective. So, General Shinseki has asked the Army to find a way to become lean AND mean by making a majority of its forces medium weight. There would no longer be a heavy force or a light force—just one basic type that combined the best of both forces. This is the Army's Vision.

General Abrams, TRADOC Commanding General, told us that the Army isn't going anywhere without its engineers—that we have always been and always will be an integral piece of Army missions.

Lieutenant General Ballard, Chief of Engineers, expressed his great affection for the Corps and its soldiers. He told us that the branch would come out of this transition better, stronger, and smarter and remain fully engaged throughout. Thus, we cannot lose our perspective. In the end, the result will be a stronger Regiment.

We must pass these words of wisdom out to our soldiers. They, too, must see the big picture.

Essayons!!

CSM's Note:

I want to publicly thank and say farewell to the following command sergeants major who will leave the Army this year after having served with all their being, mind, heart, and body. Our Regiment will be forever in their debt. Their presence in their units will certainly be missed. We wish them Godspeed and the best of everything.

- CSM Harold Montgomery, Division CSM, 1st Infantry Division, Wurzburg, Germany
- CSM Thomas Bruce, 44th Engineer Battalion, Camp Howze, Korea
- CSM John Cooper, Garrison CSM, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
- CSM Michael Garman, 14th Engineer Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington
- CSM Jesus Gomez, Commandant, NCO Academy, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
- CSM Raymond Greigo, 52d Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Colorado
- CSM John Hemrick, 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- CSM Michael Leiber, 5th Engineer Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
- CSM Anthony Orlando, 299th Engineer Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas
- CSM Norman Rowland, 8th Engineer Battalion, Fort Hood Texas
- CSM Lonnie Clark, 588th Engineer Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas
- CSM Frank Hall, 937th Engineer Group, Fort Riley, Kansas
- CSM Robert Seiler, Engineer Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas
- CSM Alvin Shimizu, 29th Topographic Battalion, Fort Shafter, Hawaii