



戰鬥工兵領導課程歷史

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- 取材/2012 年 5-8 月號美軍工兵期刊

As deployments in the Middle East begin to subside after a decade of continuous combat operations, the U.S. Army naturally is shifting its posture to prepare for future conflict. Strategically, this means taking a hard look at the force structure. However, it also means assessing aspects that used to be perfected in the daily Army grind but may have become rusty: counseling, evaluations, training management, command supply discipline, maintenance, and combined arms maneuver. While these areas will be reemphasized again, there is one area of focus that remains relatively silent in this new conversation—unit histories.

當美軍開始撤離這十年因不斷作戰所部署在中東的部隊後，很自然地轉換型態來準備面對未來的衝突。在戰略上來說，這意味著他們將重新嚴格地檢視部隊武力結構。然而，這也意指過去美軍自認為每日精實的訓練，也有可能變得鬆懈，譬如在諮詢、評估、訓練管理、部隊補給紀律、維保以及聯兵操演等方面。儘管這些領域將再次被重視，但有一個領域在這個新對談中仍然顯得相對沉默，就是單位的歷史。

Consider the Sapper Leader Course and the impact it has had on the Engineer Regiment. Though the 169th Engineer Battalion currently oversees the course, oversight has shifted from one unit to the next over the years since its inception in 1985. Remarkably, though it is an important gem to the Engineer Regiment, the history of the Sapper Leader Course remains largely undocumented. The course has a rich group of former instructors who have served the Army well since the course started, including at least 43 senior noncommissioned officer (NCO) leaders who continued to serve as master sergeants or command sergeants major. Yet not even the U.S. Army Engineer School history office or library has an inclusive publication pertaining to the Sapper Leader Course. One might find the history of the term “sapper” dating back to the 16th century, but will find nothing on the Sapper Leader Course.



考量戰鬥工兵領導課程以及其對工兵群的影響，自 1985 年成立已來，都是由不同的單位，每幾年輪替一次，而目前是由第 169 工兵營來管理。很明顯地，雖然戰鬥工兵領導課程對工兵團是一個重要的資產，但仍有大量的資料尚未建檔。這個課程是由先前在陸軍表現優異的教官所組成的堅強團隊，包含至少 43 名曾擔任總士官長或士官長的資深士官幹部。即使是美國陸軍工兵學校校史辦

公室或圖書館都沒有出版有關戰鬥工兵領導課程的相關資料，你也許可以找到「sapper（戰鬥工兵）」這一詞的歷史是追溯到 16 世紀，但卻找不到有關於戰鬥工兵領導課程的相關資料。

In its efforts to collect and produce the history of the course, the 169th Engineer Battalion initiated the Sapper Leader Course History Project in February 2012. The project consists of several steps. The first step—contacting former cadre members—is filling the gaps of the course’s segmented history. An e-mail survey of former instructors and noteworthy graduates is collecting administrative information and providing for cogent interviews at a later time. Sapper Leader Course instructors who would like to participate should go to <<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/668915>>, or look for the Sapper Leader Course History Project on the Engineer School Knowledge Network on Army Knowledge Online. Second, the project focuses on creating systems to ensure the ongoing maintenance of Sapper history. The Web site and its accompanying database will store contact information, survey responses, and any digital donations or articles, pictures, and videos. Interviews with influential leaders from the Engineer Regiment conducted during the April 2012 ENFORCE conference (including one with Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers [Retired], former Chief of Engineers and commanding general of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri) will be available on the Web site.

第 169 工兵營於 2012 年 2 月開始執行戰鬥工兵歷史專案，努力蒐集與製作這個課程的歷史，這個專案包含幾個階段。首先，聯繫之前的幹部成員，填補各階段空缺的片段歷史，接著透過電子郵件搜尋先前教官和值得注意的畢業生，來蒐集行政資訊，提供後續有說服力的訪談。戰鬥工兵領導課程教官想參與的可以上網<<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/668915>>查詢，或在陸軍線上智庫的工兵學校知識網路中尋找戰鬥工兵領導課程歷史專案。其次，這個專案著重於創建系統來確保不斷地維護更新戰鬥工兵的歷史，網站及所屬資料庫儲存相關人員的聯繫資訊、諮詢回覆及任何數位文獻、圖片及影片。網站上也可以找到一些訪談，包含在 2012 年 4 月執行工兵年會中具影響力的工兵群領導幹部，其中包括前工兵署署長及雷納伍德堡的司令官羅伯特·弗勞爾中將(已退伍)。



Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers (Retired) shares his experiences on camera during ENFORCE, contributing to the Sapper Leader Course History Project.

羅伯特·弗勞爾中將(已退伍)於工兵執行年會期間，在鏡頭前分享他的經驗，促成戰鬥工兵課程歷史專案。

To date, more than 15 former Sapper instructors have contributed to the project. Four of them, including Command Sergeant Major Iokimo Falaniko (Retired), Command Sergeant Major Joseph T. Toth (Retired), Master Sergeant James R. Watnes (Retired), and Sergeant First Class William E. Rostad (Retired) shared their stories on camera at Fort Leonard Wood. The Sapper Leader Course History Project interviews with past and present instructors continue. Working with leaders of such high caliber has been a sincere honor and a pleasure. The project also has uncovered articles and annual command histories documenting the early history of the course. In 1985, Captain Michael J. Grove, the officer in charge of the first Sapper class, wrote an article about the success and scope of the Sapper Leader Course from the perspective of a company commander roughing it next to his own platoon sergeants, platoon leaders, and team leaders.

到現在，有超過 15 位先前戰鬥工兵教官已經在這個專案有所貢獻，其中 4 員包括總士官長法蘭尼克（已退伍）、總士官長喬瑟夫·托斯（已退伍）、士官長詹姆士·瓦特尼斯（已退伍）及一等士官長威廉·羅斯塔（已退伍）都在雷納伍德堡透過鏡頭分享他們的故事，戰鬥工兵領導課程歷史專案面談隨著過去與現在的教官們一直延續著，與如此有才幹的領導者一起工作是無上的榮耀與

喜悅。這個專案也發現一些文章和年度文史記載著早期課程的歷史。在 1985 年，負責第一期戰鬥工兵班的軍官麥可·葛拉芙上尉以一個連長的觀點寫了一篇有關戰鬥工兵領導課程成功及領域的文章，描述自己與排級士官、排長及小組幹部一起吃苦的過程。

The effort also uncovered personal 1987 correspondence from Lieutenant General David E. Grange (Retired) to Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr., with an appraisal of the course. U.S. Army Engineer School annual command histories also provide insight on issues and significant events between 1989 and 1999. Eventually, the Web site will include videos, articles, and other products that tell the story of the Sapper Leader Course.

這專案成果還發現在 1987 年的私人信件，是大衛·葛蘭傑中將（已退伍）給陸軍部長約翰·馬歇，談及有關課程的評價。美國工兵學校每年的指揮史也提供對 1989 年至 1999 年間議題及重大事件的見解。最後，這個網站將包含一些影片、文章及其他產品來說明戰鬥工兵領導課程的故事。

In today's circumstances—a shrinking Army, tighter budgets, and increasing competition for talented officers and NCOs—there has never been a greater need to tell the story of the Sapper Leader Course. All Soldiers, especially engineers, know that the course is important, that it is tough, and that its impact on the Engineer Regiment and the Army has been immeasurable. Most Sappers might think that the course will last forever, but it's notable that it almost didn't make it through the early to mid-1990s amid constraints like the Army faces today. Tough budgeting has always earned the course a serious look, and talented NCOs are becoming harder to find. Combat rotations naturally encourage NCOs to seek time with their families rather than seek special training like the Ranger or Pathfinder Schools, and engineer units may want to retain their best NCOs. Leaders across the Engineer Regiment should encourage their best NCOs to serve as Sapper Leader Course instructors, embracing the opportunity to increase the esteem of their own units by putting their best foot forward.

依今日的情勢，陸軍裁編、預算緊縮，優秀軍士官的挑戰日與俱增，從來沒有想過有這麼大的需求要來述說戰鬥工兵領導課程的故事。對所有的軍人而言，尤其是工兵，都知道這個課程是十分重要且艱困的，這對工兵群和陸軍的

影響是無法衡量的。大部分的戰鬥工兵都會認為這個課程將會永遠持續下去，但是很明顯地，在 1990 年代中期這課程差點就因為一些限制因素而撐不下去，就像今天陸軍所面對的一樣。緊縮的預算所換來的是對這課程的嚴格監督，優秀的士官變得很難找。戰鬥輪調自然地鼓勵士官去找時間多陪伴他們的家人，而不是去找遊騎兵或嚮導者學校來接受特殊的訓練，且工兵部隊也想要留住他們最好的士官。所有的工兵群幹部們應該鼓勵他們最好的士官去擔任戰鬥工兵領導課程的教官，抓住這個機會全力以赴，提升單位的尊嚴。

Given the operational tempo of the past decade, there are sound reasons why annual command histories were not always a priority. Nevertheless, as the Army begins to reemphasize the importance of officer and NCO evaluations and stress the proper way to write recommendations for individual awards, perhaps we should consider reinstating the art of telling the stories of units as well. In this case, keep an eye open for the history of the Sapper Leader Course, the cutting edge of our country's sword.

如果給予這 10 年的戰鬥步調的話，就有合理理由說明為何每年的指揮史不是至關重要，然而，當陸軍開始再次強調軍官與士官評價的重要性，以及著重適當方法來為個別獎項撰寫推薦函的同時，也許我們也應該考慮恢復訴說單位歷史的藝術。在這案子當中，持續不斷地關注戰鬥工兵課程歷史，引領國武的尖端。