

FEIAP ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011



Lt Gen (Rtd) BS Dhaliwal, (IEI)

Lieutenant General (Retired) BS Dhaliwal, PVSM, AVSM, VSM is a decorated soldier with a distinguished and chequered career, spanning 41 years, in the Corps of the Engineers of the Indian Army. Possessing eminent self-motivation, the General Officer has made a difference, wherever he has served, with a remarkable aptitude for pragmatic, intuitive and logical deduction. His deeds and out-of-box ideas have left an indelible mark in all appointments he has served in. Throughout his service, he has utilized his engineering knowledge and skills, with a capability and capacity to endure and to accomplish tasks, in a time-bound manner, during peace and war and in all terrains.

One notable example, worth bringing to the notice of the audience, was in the terminal phase of 'Operation PARAKRAM', when a strategic relocation of forces was ordered in India. He employed innovative and unconventional drills oblique procedures to complete de-mining operations in record time, without a single fatal casualty.

In India, one of the roles of the Corps of Engineers, in peacetime, is to assist in relief operations when disasters occur. The General Officer, with his tremendous experience and expertise combined with and visionary ideas, has been at the forefront in providing succour to the people of his Country in all disaster relief operations – whether floods, snow and avalanches, earthquakes or tsunami.

As the Commandant of the College of Military Engineering, he is remembered even today for blazing new trails and revitalizing the Institution, advancing in pace with technology but never losing sight of the basics. As Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army, his contribution has been un-fathomable. Besides operational achievements, he rejuvenated the ethos and functioning of the organization. His visionary zeal and sheer effort gave a huge fillip to the use of non-conventional energy sources. In the field of eco-conservation, he ensured that the Armed Forces include waste water re-cycling plants and rainwater harvesting schemes into all major projects coming up in the country. The General Officer has lectured extensively on Environment and Ecology, an issue very close to his heart. In recognition of his endeavours, he was awarded the 'Golden Peacock Award for Eco-Innovation' by the World Environment Foundation.

The General Officer is a member of a large number of professional societies. He has published a number of papers in technical journals of repute, two of which have been conferred with prestigious awards. He is a voracious reader and a teacher of "Rapid Reading." He is also a postgraduate in Human Rights. A keen sportsman, he has excelled in Rowing and has been awarded the 'Admiral Kohli Trophy' for lifetime achievement in Sailing.

As they say, a soldier never retires. Immediately after his superannuation, in August 2007, the General Officer was picked up as Advisor (Technical) to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab. In the past three years, with his meticulous sense of professional organization, he has revamped the system to bring in much greater transparency and accountability. By initiating a number of steps in quality control, he has ensured timely completion of projects with least time and cost over runs.

Striving for perfection, in this age of mediocrity, his mode of leadership and supervisory qualities are manifest and conveyed by example. He has always encouraged an environment that promotes leadership and initiative at all levels, open to ideas, and focussing on results and managing - rather than avoiding risk – giving greater flexibility in managing resources and priorities. To sum up, the FEIAP Engineer of the Year - 2011 is a Soldier and a Gentleman, and above all, an Engineer par excellence.

