Ira M. Engineer was born in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in September 1997. He attended Recruit Training aboard Parris Island, South Carolina and graduated in November 1998 from Hotel Company Platoon 2096. Private First Class Engineer was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal after being selected as the Company Honor Graduate. In January 1999 Lance Corporal Engineer graduated from Marine Combat Training aboard Camp Lejeune and was awarded a Meritorious Mast for graduating in the top 5 in his class. Continuing on to his MOS training at the Marine Corps Engineer School, Camp Lejeune, he served as the Class Commander for his course. Upon graduation from the Basic Combat Engineer Course, he was assigned his first duty station at 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion, Camp Lejeune.

While assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> CEB, Lance Corporal Engineer's duties included platoon supply and tool room non-commissioned officer and assistant squad leader. His deployments there included Mountain Warfare Training Package and Assault Climber's Course in Bridgeport, California, and battalion training exercises at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. Once promoted to Corporal in January of 2000, he assumed the duties of a squad leader where he deployed his squad in support of Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines on numerous deployments and training exercises to include two Combined Arms Exercises and one Mediterranean float. Upon completion of the exercises, Corporal Engineer received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for noteworthy performance of a junior non-commissioned officer.

While deployed with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit in 2000, Corporal Engineer participated in peace keeping operations in Kosovo, Macedonia, and Croatia. Some of his missions while there included identifying known and unknown mined areas, conducting cache sweeps, setting up and operating vehicle check points, conducting search and seizures, building combat out posts, and improving force protection measures. He was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant while deployed in January 2001. For his actions in a combat environment, Sergeant Engineer was awarded both an Army Achievement Medal and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

After returning from the MEU in June of 2001, Sergeant Engineer was selected to become an instructor at the Engineer Training Area 3. There he served as the battalion's duty expert in the areas of mobility, countermobility, survivability, and general engineering, training 5,721 Marines throughout II Marine Expeditionary Force and MARFORLANT. As chief instructor he received numerous Certificates of Commendation, Letters of Appreciation, and his 3<sup>rd</sup> Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for superior performance of his duties.

In August 2002, Sergeant Engineer received orders to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for Recruiter School. Upon graduation he was assigned as a recruiter to Recruiting Station Hickory, North Carolina. Successfully completing his first year of recruiting, he was runner-up for Recruiter of the Year and received numerous Meritorious Masts for his achievements throughout the year. In November 2004 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant where he continued to excel throughout the remainder of his tour. Staff Sergeant Engineer received numerous awards throughout his tour to include plaques, trophies, Meritorious Masts, and Letters of Appreciation.

In October 2005, Staff Sergeant Engineer reported to 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion, Okinawa, Japan where he served as the Company Gunnery Sergeant for Alpha Company. He deployed in February 2006 as a platoon sergeant for Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There he completed such tasks as Route Clearance Section Leader, Lead Vehicle Commander, and Combat Outpost Construction Chief. Completing his tour in September of 2006 he received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for outstanding performance in combat operations.

In February 2007, Staff Sergeant was attached to Combat Logistic Battalion 4 for a second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as a Section Chief for missions such as Crater Repair, Combat Outpost Construction, Vertical Construction, Force Protection Improvements, and Obstacle Clearing. He also assisted Task Force Troy in teaching counter-IED classes for service members throughout the Area of Operation.

I would like to be considered as an instructor at Combat Engineer School to enhance the future Marines that will be coming out to the operating forces and pass on my knowledge and love for the engineer field. I have been a Marksmanship Instructor and Recruiter, and found it to be a very rewarding venture training junior Marines new skills. I have a lot of knowledge from my time with different elements of the MAGTF. I have tried to be a well-rounded Marine and look forward to passing it on to the next generation of Engineers.

Staff Sergeant Engineer is married to the former Tina Sailor, they have two children Oscar(4) and John(3).

Staff Sergeant Engineer is currently serving as the SNCOIC of the Remain Behind Element and in the zone for promotion for Gunnery Sergeant.