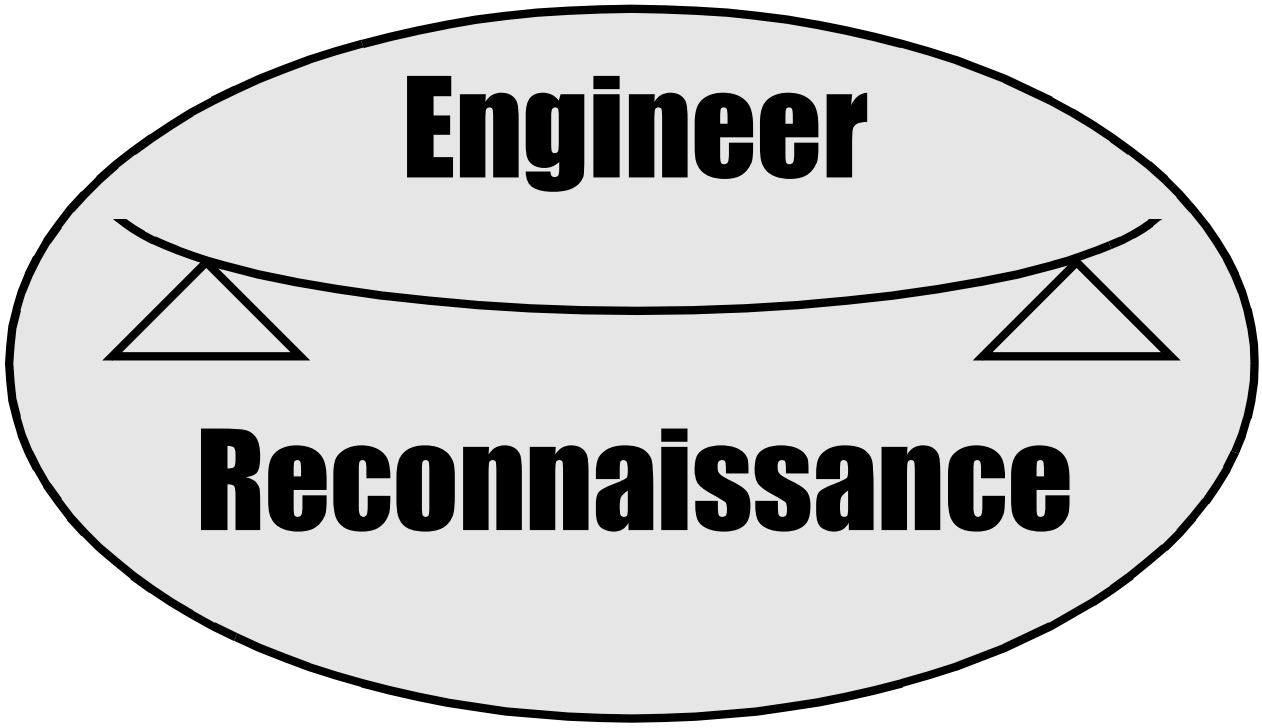
FM 5-170



Headquarters,
Department of the Army

***FM 5-170**

Field Manual
No. 5-170

Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC,

ENGINEER RECONNAISSANCE

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*This manual supersedes FM 5-30, 22 September 1967, and FM 5-36, 10 May 1985.

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Preface

Field Manual (FM) 5-170 describes how engineer recon teams support and augment a maneuver battalion or brigade's recon effort. It is designed as an engineer extension of FMs 17-95 and 17-98. This manual serves as a guide for both brigade and task force (TF) engineers, as well as for subordinate leaders (especially recon team leaders) in planning, integrating, and conducting recon operations. It also serves as a guide for the brigade and TF staffs and subordinate maneuver commanders on the organization, capabilities, and employment of engineer recon teams.

This manual sets forth the principles of conducting engineer recon activities supporting a maneuver brigade or TF. It addresses engineer tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) that highlight critical principles. However, the TTP are intended to be descriptive rather than prescriptive; they are not a replacement for the TTP and standing operating procedures (SOPs) that are unique to the supported unit.

FM 5-170 is fully compatible with Army doctrine as contained in FM 100-5 and is consistent with other combined-arms doctrine. This is not a stand-alone manual. The user must have a fundamental understanding of the concepts outlined in FMs 100-5, 100-7, 100-16, 71-1, 71-2, 71-3, 17-95, 17-98, 5-71-100, 5-71-2, 5-71-3, 34-1, 34-2, 34-2-1, 34-130, 90-13, 90-13-1, 101-5, and 101-5-1. This manual also implements Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 2269, Engineer Resources, Edition 3; STANAG 2027, Marking of Military Vehicles, Edition 3; STANAG 2253, Roads and Road Structures, Edition 4; STANAG 2174, Military Routes and Route/Road Networks, Edition 4; STANAG 2154, Regulations for Military Motor Vehicle Movement by Road, Edition 6; and STANAG 2010, Military Load Classification Markings, Edition 5.

Appendix A contains an English to metric measurement conversion chart.

The proponent of this publication is Headquarters, United States (US) Army Engineer School (USAES). Send comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 directly to Commander, USAES, ATTN: ATSE-TD-D, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 65473-6650.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Combat power is generated by combining the elements of maneuver, firepower, force protection, and leadership within a sound plan and then aggressively, violently, and flexibly executing the plan to defeat an enemy. The key to using combat power effectively is gathering information about the enemy and the area of operations (AO) through recon. A recon provides current battlefield information that helps a commander plan and conduct tactical operations. A recon greatly enhances maneuver, firepower, and force protection when properly executed.

ORGANIZATION

Engineer recon elements may consist of an engineer platoon, squad, team, or other element. During military operations, the engineer may be called on to assist the maneuver force during recon missions. These missions are normally executed by engineer recon teams, which are organized according to unit SOPs. (See Chapter 4 for a complete discussion of the engineer recon team.) Engineer recon teams may operate independently; however, they normally augment cavalry scout platoons; mechanized, wheeled, or dismounted scout platoons; or other maneuver units directly involved in recon operations. The most prominent scout platoon in a force is the high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) scout platoon.

If an engineer recon team is to augment a maneuver scout element, the team should be task-organized with equipment that is compatible with the supported maneuver recon force. The engineer team may use its own vehicle or ride in the vehicles of the scout, cavalry, or infantry unit it supports. It may move mounted or dismounted, depending on its current equipment, organization, command and control (C^2) structure, and enemy situation.

MISSIONS

An engineer recon team's primary mission is collecting tactical and technical information for the supported or parent unit. The team must be able to perform this mission mounted or dismounted, during the day or at night, and in various terrain conditions.

A tactical recon is conducted in a high-threat environment and is a combined-arms effort to—

- Collect information about the enemy's location and obstacles and the terrain within the AO.
- Conduct limited marking of obstacles, routes, and demolition work.
- Conduct limited reduction of obstacles in conjunction with maneuver units.