

**BRIGADE ENGINEER AND ENGINEER COMPANY COMBAT
OPERATIONS (AIRBORNE, AIR ASSAULT, LIGHT)**

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PREFACE

Field Manual (FM) 5-7-30 is the capstone manual for engineer support to airborne, air assault, and light infantry brigade operations. It is designed to be the engineer extension to FM 7-30. The manual serves as a guide for light brigade engineers and light engineer company commanders in planning, integrating, and conducting engineer operations to support a light brigade. It also serves as a guide to the brigade staff and subordinate maneuver commanders on the organization, capabilities, and employment of engineers as a force multiplier. The manual provides division-level engineer planners with the principles of brigade engineer operations affecting their integration into brigade operations.

This manual applies to the light brigade and the light engineer company that supports it. *FM 5-7-30* sets forth the principles that guide the conduct of engineer operations supporting the brigade. It addresses engineer tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) as necessary to emphasize critical points or principles. The TTP are intended to be descriptive rather than prescriptive and are not a replacement for the TTP or unit standing operating procedures (SOP) unique to the supported brigade.

FM 5-7-30 is fully compatible with *FMs 7-30* and *100-5* and is consistent with other combined arms doctrine. This is not a stand-alone manual. The user must possess a fundamental knowledge of the concepts outlined in *FMs 5-100, 71-100, 100-5, 101-5, and 101-5-1*.

The proponent of this publication is Headquarters (HQ), United States (US) Army Engineer School. Send comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA) *Form 2028* directly to Commandant, US Army Engineer School, ATTN ATSE-T-PD-PM, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 64573-6650.

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

CHAPTER 1

Light Engineer Operations and the Brigade Battlefield

US Army light divisions—airborne, air assault, and light infantry—add a new dimension to strategic mobility. From the continental United States (CONUS) and outside the continental United States (OCONUS), these forces can rapidly project to either reinforce forward-deployed forces or to satisfy contingencies in regions of the world that lack a developed structure. Their deployability enables them to arrive in a crisis area even before the conflict begins, often precluding the later necessity for a larger force.

The light brigade forms the foundation of this force. When properly task-organized, augmented, and deployed, the light brigade can fight anytime, anywhere, and against any enemy. This level of warfare demands combat-ready units comprised of skilled

soldiers who can deploy anywhere in the world. These units are established through tough, thorough, and demanding combined arms training programs conducted and managed by leaders that fully understand the effective employment of the light combined arms force.

The light engineer company is the smallest engineer unit necessary to support the light brigade. With additional support from echelons above division (EAD) engineer units, the light engineer company can support light brigades for extended periods of time. It is organized to fight as part of a combined arms team anywhere in the world and win. Our war-fighting doctrine at the engineer company level equates to enhancing the capabilities of maneuver warfare.

THE LIGHT BRIGADE

Today's modern battlefield requires aggressive and quick-thinking leaders who use their initiative to its fullest extent and can make quick and skillful decisions on the battlefield. To support the combined arms team, light engineer companies must be the most physically fit, the most disciplined, and the most aggressive unit that undergoes demanding training. The inherent strategic mobility of the force dictates that the light engineer company prepare itself for no-notice, worldwide deployment in support of the full spectrum of military operations. The light engineer company establishes and

maintains a high state of readiness for the next enemy it will face or the next location to which it will deploy.

This chapter provides a general overview of the brigade engineer and the engineer company's integration to support the light infantry brigade. It also provides a general overview of light engineer organizations and how they integrate into the brigade. Throughout this manual, light forces and their supporting engineers refer to airborne, air-assault, and light infantry divisions and their division engineers (DIVENs) unless otherwise specified.