FM 5-71-2

Armored Task-Force Engineer Combat Operations

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

Field Manual (FM) 5-71-2 describes how the mechanized division engineer company supports a mechanized-infantry or armored battalion task force (TF). It is designed as an engineer extension of FM 71-2. This manual serves as a guide for both TF engineers and subordinate leaders in planning, integrating, and conducting engineer operations. It also serves as a guide for the TF staff and subordinate maneuver commanders on the organization, capabilities, and employment of TF engineers.

This manual sets forth the principles of conducting engineer operations supporting an armored 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. This publication is also designed to be used by corps combat, separate, and armored cavalry mechanized combat-engineer companies.

FM 5-71-2 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, 5-71-100, 5-100, 101-5, and 101-5-1. This manual also implements Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) 2394 and 2868.

The proponent of this publication is Headquarters (HQ), United States Army Engineer School (USAES). Send comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) 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

All United States (US) Army doctrine is based on the tenets detailed in FM 100-5. This chapter relates those tenets to engineer company operations by providing a common, definable framework for doctrinal discussion.

CHALLENGES IN ARMY OPERATIONS

Army forces meet worldwide challenges against a full range of threats, including contingency operations and war. Army forces also conduct joint and multinational operations together with other services and allies. Today's battlefield has become more complex through the use of more advanced vehicles, weapons systems, and communications systems. As a result, we can expect future conflicts to be more chaotic, intense, and destructive than ever before.

ELEMENTS OF COMBAT POWER

Combat power is the ability to fight. Superior combat power is generated by combining the elements of maneuver, firepower, protection, and leadership within a sound plan and then aggressively, violently, and flexibly executing the plan. Engineer leaders understand these elements and also how the engineer force multiplies the combined-arms team's ability to fight.

Maneuver is the movement of forces supported by fire to achieve an advantageous position from which to destroy or threaten the enemy's destruction. Engineer forces maneuver with other members of the combined-arms team. They create mobility opportunities for the force in order to gain advantageous positions. They attack the enemy's maneuver with obstacles that enhance friendly maneuver advantage. With positional advantage, the combined-arms team gains and sustains the initiative, exploits success, preserves freedom of action, and reduces the vulnerability of friendly forces.

Firepower provides the destructive force needed to defeat the enemy's ability and will to fight. Commanders mass fires on the battlefield by rapidly positioning to a place of positional advantage where their effects can be massed on critical enemy targets. Engineer forces enhance the maneuver commander's ability to mass fires by using integrated obstacles within engagement areas (EAs). Engineer terrain analysis assists in the selection of avenues of approach (AAs) and EAs. Rapid obstacle-emplacement capability within the engineer force provides responsiveness to changing situations on the battlefield.

Protection is the conservation of the force's fighting potential so that it can be applied at the decisive place and time. Operations security (OPSEC), deception, reconnaissance, soldier health, safety, and fratricide prevention are all components of force protection. Engineers contribute to force protection by developing fortifications, vehicle fighting positions, and camouflage; by constructing phony and protective obstacles; and by ensuring safe operations. They also prevent fratricide by marking and reporting obstacles.

Leadership is the most essential element of combat power. Competent engineer leaders ensure effective engineer force integration within the combined-arms team. Their leadership provides purpose, direction, and motivation in combat. Engineers give the maneuver commanders options that are not otherwise available to assist them in making