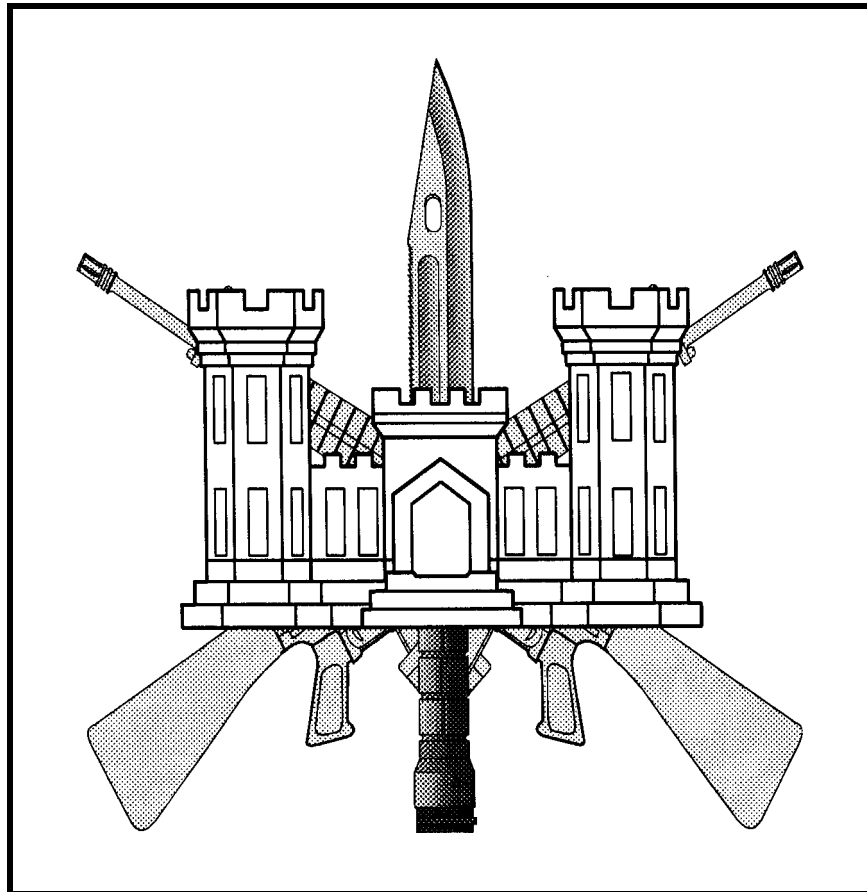


FM 5-71-3

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Brigade Engineer Combat Operations (Armored)



HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

Field Manual (FM) 5-71-3 describes how the mechanized division engineer (DIVEN) battalion supports an armored brigade. The manual is designed as an engineer extension of *FM 71-3*. It serves as a guide for brigade engineers, their staffs, and subordinate commanders in planning, integrating, and conducting engineer operations. The manual also serves as a guide for the brigade staff and subordinate maneuver commanders on the organization, capabilities, and employment of engineers as a brigade combat multiplier.

This manual sets forth the principles that guide the conduct of engineer operations supporting an armored brigade. It addresses engineer tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) as necessary to emphasize critical principles. The TTP are intended to be descriptive rather than prescriptive and are not a replacement for the TTP and standing operating procedures (SOPs) unique to the supported unit.

FM 5-71-3 is fully compatible with Army doctrine 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 5-71-100, 5-100, 71-3, 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 Commander, US Army Engineer School, ATTN: ATSE-T-PD-PM, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473-6650.

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

CHAPTER 1

Engineer Operations and the Brigade Battlefield

Armored brigades are organized to fight successful battles on any part of the battlefield and in conventional, nuclear, or chemical environments. It combines the efforts of its task-organized battalions to perform major tactical tasks as part of a division or corps operation. The key to victory in the brigade battle is the armored brigade's ability to integrate, mass, and synchronize subordinate maneuver battalions and combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) units in support of the brigade fight.

The mechanized engineer battalion focuses on maneuver at the tactical level. The battalion conducts mobility, countermobility, and survivability (M/CM/S) and limited general engineering missions to support maneuver in the brigade area. A brigade normally has under its control—

- Two to five maneuver battalions.
- One to two artillery battalions.
- One forward support battalion.
- One air-defense (AD) battery.

The armored brigade's primary mission is to destroy enemy forces using its mobility, firepower, and shock effect. It defeats enemy assaults using defensive fires, obstacles, and counterattacks (CATKs). The armored brigade's secondary mission is to conduct various operations other than war (OOTW),

- Command and control (C²) facilities (main and tactical command posts (CPs)).
- Other CS assets (such as military police (MP), chemical decontamination, and smoke generators).

The DIVEN battalion is structured to provide support to three mechanized or armored task forces (TFs); it is not structured to provide continuous, dedicated support to the other units.

However, engineer support to the other units is still the brigade engineer's responsibility. He employs nonorganic and/or corps engineer assets to meet this responsibility. Corps-level support normally consists of a company from a corps combat battalion (mechanized), a platoon from a combat support equipment (CSE) company, or a horizontal construction platoon from a combat-heavy company provided in direct support (DS) for specified times or tasks. This level of support may be increased based on the mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T) and the brigade's priority within the division scheme of maneuver (see *Appendix A*).

MISSION

independently, or as part of a joint or combined HQ.

The mechanized engineer battalion conducts engineer battlefield functions for the brigade focusing on M/CM/S tasks. It focuses its effort on the brigade's deep,