



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## ANNEX 3-34 ENGINEER OPERATIONS

### COMMAND AND ORGANIZATION

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To preserve unity of command, the joint force commander (JFC) will usually delegate operational control (OPCON) of Air Force forces to the [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR). Through the air expeditionary task force (AETF) structure, the COMAFFOR has both OPCON (as delegated by the JFC) and administrative control (ADCON), as established by the Air Force, of Air Force civil engineers assigned or attached to the JFC.

Civil engineer units performing regional operations are normally attached to an AETF and report directly to the COMAFFOR. Air Force civil engineers may be placed under the tactical control of a joint force engineer command structure if requested by the joint force commander.

The civil engineer organization consists of a total force mix of regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard (ANG), and civilians. Air Force engineers are assigned or attached to organizations performing installation support, construction projects, and emergency response. Engineers provide training activities that support base and homeland operations, major commands (MAJCOMs), and numbered Air Forces (NAF) along with their subordinate wings. The civil engineer governance structure provides standardized guidance, training, equipment, and procedures through a corporate process.

To support the COMAFFOR, civil engineers are deployed as [Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force](#) (BEEF) or [RED HORSE](#) forces. Both train as organic units and remain fully prepared to rapidly deploy as full [unit type codes \(UTC\)](#) or tailored force packages. UTCs are ideally suited to provide the right skills at the right time. [Prime BEEF](#) organizations rapidly respond worldwide to provide a wide range of engineer support required to establish, operate, sustain, recover, and reconstitute installations. [RED HORSE](#) is a self-sufficient, mobile heavy construction unit capable of rapid response and independent operations in a Level 1 threat environment. They provide heavy repair and construction capability that exceed Prime BEEF capacities.

The organization of Prime BEEF and RED HORSE forces under a single engineering commander has been proven as an alternative operational concept to support COMAFFOR requirements. Under this concept, limited theater-wide engineering forces can effectively be leveraged to prioritize and mass engineering capabilities, either light and/or heavy, at the right time and place to meet the demands. This concept first emerged in 2009 with the establishment of the Expeditionary Prime BEEF Group and evolved in 2012 into the Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group which placed both Prime

BEEF and RED HORSE forces under a single engineering commander with an empowered staff.

Maintaining unit integrity should be considered when building deliberate plans. Unit integrity enables engineers who train together to deploy together and provides the COMAFFOR an integrated mission-ready team.

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