

Combat Engineers

According to the encyclopaedia Wikipedia, combat engineering is the practice of using the knowledge, tools and techniques of engineering in combat. A combat engineer is a military specialist using tools and engineering technology under combat conditions, who may perform any of a variety of tasks. Such tasks typically include bridge and road construction, laying landmines, or detecting and clearing hazards. Generally, the combat engineer's tasks involve facilitating movement of friendly and allied forces while impeding enemy movement. Usually, a combat engineer is also trained as an infantry rifleman and has general combat-engineering training as well as special expertise.

Combat engineers are highly versatile and skilled professionals capable of employing state-of-the-art machinery to deliver responsive engineer support to the army. The combat engineers are an indispensable force in the battlefield because they provide the army with mobility, counter-mobility and survivability advantage to overcome the enemy.

Where the army needs to go, the combat engineers are there first paving the way for the rest of the army. They convert the "No Go" terrain to "Go" terrain (*mobility*) by bridging gaps and clearing minefields to facilitate speedy advance of the forces into the enemy's depth to secure a swift and decisive victory.

They are also highly capable of converting the "Go" terrain to "No Go" terrain (*counter mobility*) by constructing obstacles such as anti-tank ditches to impede the enemy's movement. With their earth moving capabilities, they construct trenches, drainage systems and other related infrastructure to enhance the survivability of the troops during operations. Their mission is to provide mobility, counter-mobility and survivability support for the army which is crucial.

Combat engineers also perform non-combat tasks during national peacetime contingencies and multilateral peace support operations in foreign countries.

Combat engineers must meet very demanding physical requirements. Agility, balance and the ability to perform strenuous physical activities over long periods of time are a necessity.