Engineer Doctrine Hierarchy and Publications Renumbering

By Lieutenant Colonel Harry Rossander

The U.S. Army Engineer School and TRADOC are revising the Army doctrine hierarchy and numbering system to be more in line with the Joint doctrine hierarchy and numbering system. Changing the method of numbering and titling Army doctrine manuals will ensure a seamless link between Army and Joint doctrine. TRADOC personnel anticipate that these revisions will help groom young Army officers for Joint, interagency, and multinational military operations; help Army headquarters plan, prepare, and conduct Joint operations; and enable us to move in concert with the Joint doctrine system and the NATO doctrine system as they embrace improvements related to the twenty-first century.

The new doctrine hierarchy consists of a three-tier system for placement of field manuals (FMs) (see *Engineer*, April 1999, page 27). The top tier contains FMs with a direct link to a specific Joint publication, or the scope of the FM addresses multiservice and combined-arms operations. FMs 5-100, *Engineer Operations*, and 90-13-1, *Combined-Arms Breaching Operations*, are examples of manuals on this tier. The second tier contains proponent publications that are branch-specific and address how that branch fights or supports the fight. An example is FM 5-71-100, *Division Engineer Combat Operations*. Third-tier publications are primarily technical in nature, such as FMs 5-34, *Engineer Field Data*, and 5-434, *Earthmoving Operations*.

To implement the new hierarchy and align our publications more closely with Joint manuals, a new numbering convention was proposed by the Engineer School. This new numbering convention follows guidelines found in (draft) TRADOC Regulation 25-36, *The TRADOC Doctrinal Literature Program (DLP)*, and allows us to put some rhyme and reason into how our publications are regimented.

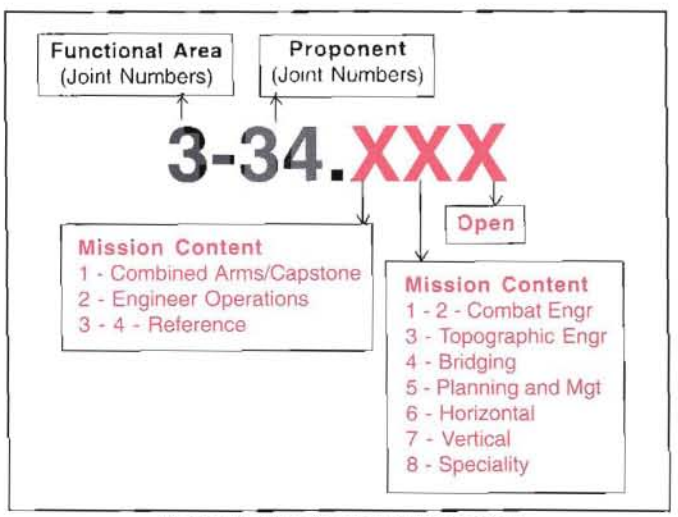


Figure 1. Numbering Convention

Joint Publication (JP) 3-34 is the Joint engineer manual. All engineer manuals will begin with 3-34 and will be followed by a three-number extension. The only exception to this rule will be the engineers' capstone manual, FM 5-100, which will be renumbered as FM 3-34. The first number in the extension will be denoted as shown in Figure 1. This extension number will make it possible for users to quickly determine the tier and the function of the manual. The second number in the extension will permit further segregation of publications by subject matter, something we have been unable to do in the past. The final number in the extension will enable us to put more than one publication in any category and will allow for future expansion.

The new hierarchy and numbering convention was specifically designed so publications can be tracked across all tiers and functional categories. In addition, with this new system, we can more uniformly align with existing Joint doctrinal publications.

The plan for adopting the new numbering system is to introduce it on publications as they are revised, beginning with FM 5-100. However, for at least one publication cycle, both the old and new numbers will be shown on the cover. In addition, a cross-reference system will be developed to enable users to find a publication by either the old or the new number.

Currently, engineers have the second largest publications library in the Army, with responsibility or proponency for more than 90 manuals. In addition to implementing the new doctrine hierarchy and numbering system, Engineer School personnel are reducing the number of manuals to 70 or less in the next two years (see Figure 2). This will be done through review, validation, and consolidation of existing doctrine. The Engineer School will be seeking subject-matter experts from both the schoolhouse and the field to help review and revise many of the existing publications.

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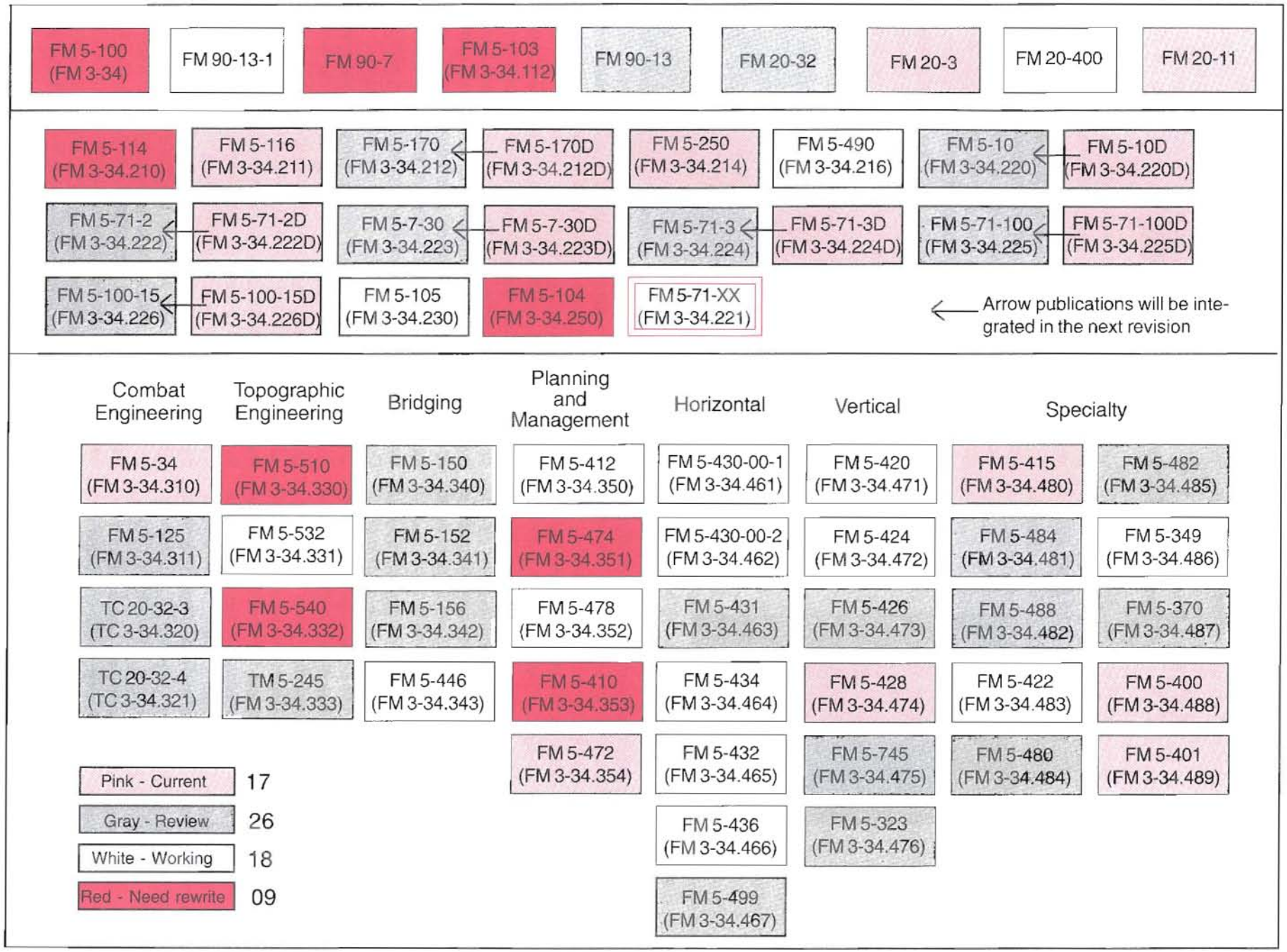


Figure 2. New Hierarchy for Publications