



Emergency Operations 249TH ENGINEER BATTALION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power)

The 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) is a unique U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asset that the Corps often deploys in response to large natural and manmade disasters and in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, like those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In disaster responses, the Soldiers of Prime Power assess critical electrical needs and manage the installation of generators to provide power that keeps key community facilities like hospitals, water and sewer treatment plants and law enforcement facilities operable until the power companies can restore the commercial power distribution network.

When activated following a disaster, the 249th is supported by the Corps' civilian Planning and Response Teams and contracted forces. The work they do is coordinated with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy and the affected state(s) and local agencies.



Soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) check the electrical requirements for an air conditioning unit at a community center in 2008 in Galveston, Texas after Hurricane Ike struck. Teams of power experts from the unit deployed to provide temporary power to critical facilities where needed. (Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, Los Angeles District)

Key Points About Prime Power

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), is regularly called to action throughout the United States and the world to supply its expertise in quickly providing emergency power to critical public facilities and in support of military operations.
- Recent domestic examples of deployments for the 249th include Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, the 2009 ice storms in Kentucky, earthquake and tsunami in American Samoa, and the earthquake in Haiti.
- Overseas, Prime Power continues to support Overseas Contingency Operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan helping provide power to coalition operating bases and critical facilities, such as wastewater treatment, dams and a wide range of other necessary public works, to help the local people. They also directly support Soldiers overseas in the same power providing capacity.
- The 249th Engineer Battalion is based out of Fort Belvoir, Va., and is made up of three active duty companies and one reserve company. Company A is based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Company B is at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Company C, like the headquarters, is based out of Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and the reserve company, D Company, is based out of Cranston, Rhode Island.
- During emergency power response activities, priorities ultimately are determined by state and/or local officials and are normally prioritized in the following way:
 - (1) life saving (911 centers, police and fire stations and medical facilities)
 - (2) life sustaining (shelters, water and wastewater treatment and pumping facilities)
 - (3) other municipal facilities to reinstitute local command and control and post-event recovery

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – HEADQUARTERS

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