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FOOT MARCHES

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PREFACE

This manual is a guide for commanders and their staffs in the procedures and techniques of foot marches. It describes the march mission, characteristics and types of foot marches, and march training to include planning procedures, duties of commanders, march discipline, march hygiene, and march safety. The material herein applies to all levels of conflict without modification.

This manual is for use with other field manuals where modification of foot marching procedures and techniques for specific regions of the world is required. Details concerning operations in desert, jungle, northern, and mountain areas are contained in FM 90-3, FM 90-5, FM 31-71, and FM 90-6, respectively. Tactical foot marches are discussed in FMs 7-10 and 7-20.

The provisions of this publication are the subject of the following international agreement:

STANAG 2154 Regulations for Military Motor Vehicle Movement by Road

When amendment, revision, or cancellation of this manual is proposed, which will effect or violate the international agreement concerned, the preparing activity will take appropriate reconciliation action through international standardization channels to include the departmental standardization officer.

The term "company" as used herein can also mean battery or troop.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms), and forward it to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5410.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.



CHAPTER 1

Introduction to FOOT MARCHES

Foot marches are the movement of troops and equipment mainly by foot with limited support by vehicles. They are characterized by combat readiness, ease of control, adaptability to terrain, slow rate of movement, and increased personnel fatigue. Foot marches do not depend on the existence of roads.

1-1. HISTORICAL EXAMPLES

Many examples of successful marches exist throughout the history of warfare.

a. A good example of a successful march occurred during World War II. It was the grueling foot march during the Sicilian campaign from 20 to 21 July 1943. The 3d Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division performed this march. The battalion was directed to move on foot across mountains from Aragona to San Stefano to enter into a coordinated attack on enemy forces in San Stefano. The battalion made this record-breaking, 54-mile, cross-country march in only 33 hours due to continuous marching. Two hours after arrival, the battalion was committed in the attack on San Stefano, which resulted in its capture.

b. A second example was the movement of large elements of the 3d US Army during the battle of Ardennes in 1944 to stop.