

## NORTHERN OPERATIONS

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\*This manual supersedes FM 31-71, 10 January 1963, including all changes.

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**FOREWORD**

This revision provides commanders and staff officers with basic doctrine for northern operations. The doctrine contained herein is generally applicable to operations below division level. The manual provides guidance on the effect of the environment on personnel, equipment, organization and operations. This revision contains the latest doctrinal information available applicable to military operations in any cold weather area of the world.

## CHAPTER 1

### GENERAL

#### Section I. INTRODUCTION

##### 1-1. Purpose and Scope

*a.* This manual provides doctrinal guidance to commanders and staffs for operation and administration of combat, combat support, and combat service support units in the northern regions of the world. The material contained in this manual is directed primarily toward operations below division level. Operations at division level and above will be essentially the same as those in other areas of the world. It is the forward elements of divisions or task forces that must overcome the many summer and winter problems inherent in northern operations. Commanders and staff officers at all levels must understand and appreciate the effects of the northern environment on the operations of these forward units and carefully consider them when planning each operation. The reader should refer to FM 31-70 and FM 31-72 and to other manuals of the arms and services for further information concerning northern operations (app A). The contents of this manual are applicable to—

(1) General war, to include a consideration of the employment and protection from nuclear munitions and chemical, biological, and radiological agents; and operations in nuclear, chemical, or biological environments.

(2) Limited war.

(3) Cold war, to include stability operations assistance in internal defense and internal development operations.

*b.* The provisions of Standardization of Operations and Logistics (SOLOG) Agreement 23R, Arctic Doctrine are implemented in this manual.

*c.* Users of this manual are encouraged to submit recommendations to improve its clarity or accuracy. Comments should be keyed to the specific page, paragraph, and line of text in which the change is recommended. Reasons should be provided for each comment to insure understand-

ing and complete evaluation. Comments should be prepared on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications) and forwarded direct to the Commanding General, United States Army, Alaska, APO Seattle 98749. Originators of proposed changes which would constitute a significant modification of approved Army doctrine may send an information copy, through command channels, to the Commanding General, United States Army Combat Developments Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060, to facilitate review and followup.

##### 1-2. Area of Northern Operations

*a.* The area of northern operations (fig 1-1), for purposes of this manual, is defined as those northern areas of the Northern Hemisphere which lies north of the temperate zone where environmental conditions require the application of special techniques and equipment that normally are not required for operations in a more temperate climate. Included in both summer and winter operations are the considerations of mountain operations and inadequate land lines of communications. Although the area of northern operations is graphically described, the doctrine and techniques put forth in this manual may be applicable in any area of the world that has snow and cold weather.

*b.* The term northern operations, as applied to this manual, includes both the Arctic and subarctic. About 45 percent of the North American continent and 65 percent of the Eurasian land mass lie in these regions.

*c.* For purposes of this manual, the terms, cold weather operations, operations in the subarctic, arctic operations, operations in the far north, operations in northern latitudes, polar operations, and operations on polar ice, will be considered synonymous and will be combined under the all encompassing term, "northern operations." This term embraces operations in both summer and