Foot Marches

APRIL 2017

This publication supersedes FM 21-18, dated 1 June 1990.

Headquarters, Department of the Army

Preface

ATP 3-21.18 serves as an **authoritative reference for personnel developing doctrine, materiel**, and force structure, institutional and unit training, and standard operating procedures for foot marches.

The proponent agency is TRADOC and the preparing agency of ATP 3021.18 is the United States Army **Maneuver Center of Excellence** (MCoE).

SECTION III – MOVEMENT OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

3-38. The movement of supplies and equipment by dismounted units requires careful planning and execution. For example, the Infantry battalion forward support company has limited organic transportation for the movement of supplies and equipment, often resulting in trade-offs. The battalion commander must ensure assets are being employed correctly to accomplish the mission. Time is critical and the battalion must reduce on station time so all movement requirements can be met. **The commander must be creative in maximizing usage of available transportation assets to lighten Soldier loads**.

SOLDIER LOAD TRANSFER

3-44. **Loads transferred from the Soldier to combat load handling equipment reduces the Soldier's fighting load. This reorganization of the Soldier's load entails resourcing combat load handling equipment and sustainment load handling equipment**. Provision of combat load handling equipment at company level and sustainment load handling equipment at battalion level is the responsibility of the command having control of transportation resources for ongoing operations.

LOAD CARRIAGE USING **WHEELED CARTS**

3-45. **Load carriage using wheeled carts is often an option to the commander to transport loads in certain situations**. Generally durable; they are able to carry or exceed their rated loads (91 kilograms or 201 pounds to 181 kilograms or 399 pounds); and can be used effectively on flat terrain, in barrier construction, and in resupply. On the negative side, carts create problems on rugged terrain. They are noisy in brush or rocky areas, thus reducing tactical surprise; and equipment can get caught in the wheels of some carts.

3-46. Combat load carts appropriate for military operations should have low center of gravity, wide wheel base, and large wheel size. **Compared with body carriage, energy expenditure is reduced** by 88 percent when 50 kilograms or 110 pound load is pushed in a cart on smooth surfaces. Pulled carts, rather than pushed, seem to be easier to control on uneven terrain and result in considerable energy expenditure-savings.