



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SERVICE (MAC)
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS 62225

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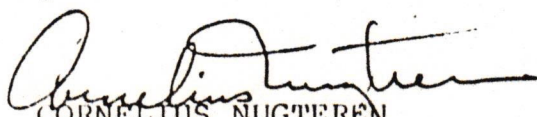
REPLY TO
ATTN OF CC

31 MAR 1980

SUBJECT: Pararescue Tactical Employment Policy

10 39 ARRW/CC 41 RWRW/CC 1550 ATTW/CC
403 RWRW/CC 106 ARRG/CC 129 ARRG/CC

1. My staff has reviewed the roles and missions of our pararescue force. Attachments 1 and 2 are the results of their analysis. The two attachments differ only in level of detail.
2. Request wing commanders and DCS Operations review Atch 1, and DCS Operations and senior pararescue representatives review Atch 2. Your comments are desired and should arrive ARRS/DOX NLT 10 Apr 80.
3. These documents, after coordination, will become pararescue employment policy for implementation at all levels. Applicable directives will be rewritten to reflect this guidance.


CORNELIUS NUGTEREN
Major General, USAF
Commander

- 2 Atch
1. Pararescue Tactical
Employment Policy
2. Tactical Employment
of Pararescue



BACKGROUND PAPER

TITLE: Pararescue Tactical Employment Policy

PURPOSE: To state the purpose and concept of tactical employment and operations for the pararescue career field.

BACKGROUND: Numerous conflicts concerning pararescue tactical employment and interpretations of subject guidance exist at all levels within the command. This paper, when authenticated and coordinated, will be the policy-level source document for all pararescue tactical training, operations and employment, and where procedures carry over, non-tactical or peacetime SAR operations. It will be directive at all command levels and will remain in force until ARRSR's 3-1 (S/NFD) and 55-11 are revised to reflect this guidance.

DISCUSSION: Pararescue tactical capabilities, support requirements, and employment criteria will be implemented as follows:

1. Team size:

- a. Two pararescuemen will constitute a standard team.
- b. Individual pararescuemen may be deployed for survivor assistance in rapid extraction situations.
- c. Three pararescuemen may be employed to increase aircraft, aircrew or survivor protection.

2. Required insertion capability:

- a. Parachute
- b. Hoist
- c. Sky-Genie
- d. Rappeling
- e. Air-landing
- f. Freefall swimmer

3. Required extraction capability:

- a. Air-landing
- b. Hoist
- c. STABO (Emergency Only)

4. Required medical capability:

- a. Diagnose trauma and trauma-induced illness



- b. Stabilize condition and injuries of trauma victim
- c. Know effects of mishandling trauma victims
- d. Correctly prescribe, administer and control drugs and medications
- e. Apply splints, bandages, tourniquets, etc, under field conditions
- f. Prepare litter-load and transport critically injured victim

5. Required tactical capability:

- a. Plan and prepare for tactical employment
- b. Survive and evade for 24 hours individually and unsupported
- c. Practice COMSEC/OPSEC
- d. Use communications devices/signals
- e. Use small arms and munitions
- f. Know and assess factors influencing tactical ground situation
- g. Recognize factors indicating loss of tactical control of situation
- h. Use CW protective equipment/devices
- i. Determine and direct appropriate suppressive fires on threat locations
- j. Navigate and move overland
- k. Perform tactical operations at night
- l. Use night viewing devices

6. Required aircrew capability:

- a. Plan and prepare for aircrew duties
- b. Conduct preflight/post flight duties
- c. Operate aircraft defensive systems
- d. Recognize and accurately describe threats
- e. Organize and marshall evacuees by aircraft load elements
- f. Conduct flight following and navigation point recognition from aircraft

- g. Use rescue devices
- h. Operate aircraft communications systems
- i. Locate and operate aircraft emergency/life support equipment
- j. Perform aircraft emergency procedures
- k. Provide physical security for aircraft insertion/extraction operations

- l. Perform insertion/extraction procedures

7. Hostile environment employment criteria:

a. Will operate within the fire support capability of combat rescue dedicated aircraft

b. Will maintain a continuous communications capability with deployment/recovery aircraft

c. Will deploy and operate within an immediate extraction capability of the combat rescue aircraft

8. Combat skill level criteria:

a. Recognizes that a pararescueman must be capable of operating in any surface threat environment which his assigned aircraft is capable of inserting him into.

b. Trains a pararescueman to deploy and operate in a surface threat environment and in a low risk, high return capacity.

9. Tactical employment support criteria:

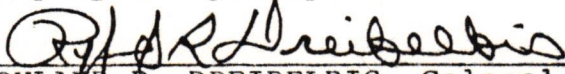
a. The aircraft commander must personally authorize any pararescue tactical deployment from his aircraft.

b. The insertion of pararescuemen into a hostile environment is also a commitment to recover them by whatever means necessary.

CONCLUSION: The tactical employment of pararescue personnel, as an extension of the ARRS aircraft, is a complex role. This action must be thoroughly evaluated, carefully regulated and prefaced with detailed guidance and training.

RECOMMENDATION: The content of this paper be indorsed as para-rescue tactical employment policy.

AUTHENTICATION:


RYLAND R. DREIBELBIS, Colonel, USAF
DCS/Operations

DATE: 28 Mar 80

TACTICAL EMPLOYMENT OF PARARESCUE

1. PURPOSE: This overview will clarify the combat rescue role and tactical utilization of pararescuemen. It also serves as an outline of tactical capabilities and training which pararescue require to adequately prepare for wartime tasking.

2. HISTORY: Usually pararescuemen were deployed into combat from helicopters. A few were deployed from seaplanes. Helicopter deployment methods were limited to hoist and air-landing techniques. Employment consisted of one, two, and occasionally three man elements. While utilizing these concepts in Southeast Asia (SEA), two pararescuemen were captured and four of the 23 KIAS sustained were attributed to enemy contact on the ground. Statistics compiled by the Air University indicate that 87 percent of the survivors ARRS picked up in SEA required assistance on the ground or in the water. Pararescuemen were also required to remain overnight, work in environments where ground FAC procedures were required to suppress enemy opposition. The combat experience level at the close of the SEA conflict was estimated to be 80 percent of the pararescue force. Current manning documents indicate that 31 percent of the pararescue personnel have combat experience.

3. PRESENT CAPABILITIES: Pararescue personnel presently perform aircrew duties to include loading and configuring aircraft, pre and post flight duties, scanning, and clearing procedures, armament systems operation and insertion and extraction procedures in support of the recovery of Aerospace hardware and personnel. They locate and penetrate incident areas by parachute, SCUBA, free fall swimmer deployment, descending devices or by the most practical means. They function individually or in two-man teams. Additionally, they determine the nature and extent of illness or injuries sustained by survivors and provide complete pre-hospital treatment of trauma patients. They also provide physical security for survivors, prepare and evacuate survivors and communicate with recovery of support aircraft.

4. PRESENT TASKING: OPLANS and OPORDs task pararescue personnel to support the ARRS combat mission in the rescue/recovery of downed aircrew members from hostile environments. ARRS directives indicate that this mission will be executed from FOBs and FOLs. Aircraft or aircrew manning is the basis for pararescue manpower availability. Mission deployed element size continues to be a maximum of two men. Pararescue employment or utilization from ARRS aircraft is totally dependent upon the aircraft's ability to penetrate the opposition and gain access to the survivor's location. Within this purview, two-man pararescue teams may be employed from forward units, where they will have established a self sufficient posture to perform aircrew duties and assist survivors during combat rescue missions. Pararescue teams may be employed in a hostile surface environment only when the aircraft is capable of quickly delivering and recovering them on-scene.



b. The H-1 helicopter's tactical VFR ability to gain access to the objective is increased from that of the HC-130 because of basic helicopter flight capabilities. While the probability of getting pararescue personnel to the objective is increased, the opposition encountered at the objective becomes more critical. The present absence of aircraft armament and armor plating, combined with the static targeting of the aircraft during rescue hoist and air-landing operations is an extremely precarious situation. The aircraft's limited ability to cope with threats which represent as much as light opposition is indicative of pararescue personnel being deployed into a permissive environment. Daytime, land and water deployments into light enemy opposition are currently recognized as the typical H-1 tasking for pararescuemen.

c. The HH-3 helicopter demonstrates essentially the same tactical VFR ability to gain access to the objective that the H-1 has. Its ability to cope with the opposition is significantly increased from that of the H-1 through the inclusion of aircraft armament and armour plating. The static targeting of the aircraft during the rescue hoist operation becomes slightly less critical with the ability to apply suppressive/protective fires. However, the deployment of pararescuemen leaves aircraft weapons unmanned and proportionately reduces this ability. The aircraft's increased ability to cope with low threats which represent light opposition is indicative of pararescue personnel being deployed into a lightly contested environment. Daytime, land and water deployments into light enemy opposition are currently recognized as typical HH-3 tasking for pararescuemen.

d. The HH-53 demonstrates the same relative ability to gain access to the objective. However, its ability to cope with the opposition is slightly increased. The static targeting of the aircraft remains a serious concern, but is not as critical as the HH-3 because of the increased ability to bring a high volume of suppressive/protective fires to bear on any enemy target. The aircraft's ability to cope with low threats which represent significant opposition will permit pararescue personnel to be deployed into a moderately contested environment. However, the deployment of pararescuemen again leaves aircraft weapons unmanned and significantly reduces this ability while proportionately elevating the vulnerability of the aircraft. Daytime, land and water deployments into moderate enemy opposition are currently recognized as the typical HH-53 tasking for pararescuemen.

e. The HH-53H demonstrates the greatest ability to gain access to the objective. Its ability to cope with the opposition is significantly increased from that of all aircraft restricted to tactical VFR operations. The static targeting of the aircraft continues to present the most vulnerable period of a mission profile. This aspect is significantly reduced by the enemy infantryman's inability to see the aircraft, determine its origin and accurately target the aircraft at night. The aircraft's ability to cope with moderate threats which represent significant opposition or an area denial effort is indicative of pararescue personnel being deployed into an enemy occupied environment. Night or adverse weather, land and water deployments into a moderately occupied enemy environment with a significant opposition capability are currently recognized as the typical HH-53H tasking for pararescuemen.

5. PRESENT TRAINING: Pararescue aircrew training is adequate; however, tactical training and the ability to function effectively in a surface combat environment is below required standards. These standards are outlined in AFR 39-1, the 115XO STS and ARRSRs 3-1 and 55-11. These inadequacies adversely impact on ARRS mission capabilities as outlined in AFRs 23-19 and 64-3. The standards and training objectives identified in past pararescue tactics conference minutes have not been attained. They were not accompanied with detailed guidance nor adequately supported when they reached the field. The general areas in which deficiencies are noted include basic combat skills such as: mission planning and preparation; environmental survival; map study and terrain analysis; tactical communications; weapons and munitions use; fire movement or maneuver; tactical movement; immediate actions; coordinating supporting fires; physical security; and emergency medical evaluation and treatment under tactical conditions.

6. REQUIRED CAPABILITIES: Pararescue must respond equally well to both the air and ground components of a combat rescue scenario. It is also understood that we must successfully arrive on scene in order to employ pararescuemen on the ground. Therefore, the pararescueman's ground combat capability must be responsive to the aircraft capabilities outlined in paragraph 4. These factors determine where and how pararescuemen will be utilized. The risk factor associated with pararescue utilization also influences their required level of ability. Our ultimate goal is to employ pararescuemen in a low-risk, high return capacity. The instructional guidance for implementation of DOD Directive 1300.7, Survival/Evasion/Resistance/Escapes Training, indicates that pararescue duties entail a significant or high risk of capture and may make them vulnerable to greater than average exploitation efforts by a captor. Pararescue ground combat capabilities must therefore include combat skills which enhance survivability during normal operations and prepare a prospective captured pararescueman to improve his chance of surviving this experience. Skilled pararescuemen will increase the survivability of an aircrew in the event of a forced landing and subsequent evasion.

7. REQUIRED TRAINING: Several actions must be taken to implement an effective training program which guarantees the capabilities outlined in paragraph 6. The overall objective of this training is to develop continuity and attain proficiency in the rapid execution of the mission. Prerequisite to this is the requirement for an instinctive ability to apply basic combat skills. These skills are rote technique involving the defense of the aircraft, aircrew and survivor. To acquire this ability, a training document will be published to establish the detailed individual guidance and base line instruction for the development of formal training programs. It will also serve as the source reference material for testing and in-unit continuation training. The approximate 20 Army field manuals currently being used will no longer be required. A revision of the basic pararescue course syllabus is also required. Formal academic and practical training in basic combat skills will be included in the existing course. The course duration should not be appreciably affected. Additionally, an advanced formal combat qualification course is required to further the capability of pararescuemen, elevate the skills previously attained and rehearse the typical scenarios under the instruction of combat experienced personnel. This can be accomplished at existing DOD schools and will require approximately four weeks of dedicated training. The final step to this type of a graduated program will be the development and implementation of a formal continuation or refresher training course. Proposed duration will be two weeks. It can be accomplished by expanding the existing advanced casualty care course. All pararescue personnel presently requiring attendance, would receive combat training also. Employing a mobile training team (MTT) concept is another method of meeting the requirement. This procedure requires training a small cadre of instructors and deploying them to the units. The Army currently has MTTs available which will administer a combat skills training program such as we require. It is within the charter of the Special Forces, JFK Center, Ft Bragg, to provide DOD agencies, other than their own, with these services.

8. CONCEPT OF EMPLOYMENT: The tactical employment of pararescue personnel refers to the occasion when it becomes most advantageous to deploy pararescuemen from an aircraft involved in a combat rescue mission. Decisions concerning employment feasibility and duration must consider the worst probably circumstances and be mutually understood by both the aircraft commander and the deploying pararescue personnel. The tactical employment of pararescuemen is also a commitment to recover them as expeditiously as possible. Utilizing pararescuemen as an extension of the aircraft may be dictated by the condition of a survivor and/or the urgency of the situation. However, pararescue employment will not be authorized for the purpose of searching for a survivor in other than a known secure area of operation.

9. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS: Pararescue ground operations will be executed within the following parameters in order to maintain the

kind of positive control necessary to predict an acceptable degree of aircrew survivability and maintain a low risk, high return employment probability.

a. All tactically employed pararescue personnel will remain in communication with the delivery/recovery aircraft.

b. They will remain within the protective fire's capability of the dedicated combat rescue aircraft.

c. An immediate recovery/extraction capability must be recognized during all combat ground operations.

The ground component of a combat rescue scenario must be a controlled situation. If at any time the aircraft commander or deployed pararescuemen sense or detect indications that control may be lost or compromised, action will be taken to execute an orderly withdrawal procedure. If control is lost as a result of direct enemy action, the conditioned response and immediate actions of all aircrew members must be focused on the need for regaining control of the situation long enough to recover personnel and egress the area. To prepare for the event of chanced enemy contact, it must be remembered that all immediate actions should be based on absolute and attainable tactical objectives. The indicated operating parameters provide the stability necessary to attain conclusive objectives. These parameters must be given serious consideration prior to the tactical employment of pararescue personnel into an environment of questionable control. Operating parameters should also be considered, but are not binding in the case of a recovery effort which is to be executed in an area under the direct control of a friendly force. Decisions concerning tactical/medical priorities must also address conclusive objectives. When movement of an injured survivor is medically contraindicated and the tactical situation appears to be deteriorating or control of the situation is being lost, an immediate recall will be initiated, medical treatment will cease, the survivor will be moved and all personnel will be extracted in an orderly and expeditious manner. Medical treatment on-board the aircraft will be continued as soon as the tactical situation permits. As often as possible, the survivor will be medically stabilized prior to being moved.

10. IMPLEMENTATION: It is apparent that increased emphasis must be placed on tactical pararescue training. A unilateral combat rescue capability is required within the pararescue force. Commanders and pararescue NCOICs must maximize utilization of the Host Base Support Agreements to alleviate the requirement for pararescue personnel to perform support functions which are presently provided by base agencies (i.e., parachute, raft and LPU packing/inspection). Unnecessary or optional tasking of pararescue resources must be discontinued. Only a proportionate amount of available pararescue training time will be spent on aircrew training. The 115XO STS currently breaks the major tasks down into the following percentage groups: AF Specialty - 20, Medical - 21, Flight Operations - 14, Ground Operations - 33, Water Operations - 5. The STS is being revised to reflect a reduction in

unnecessary tasks and an increase in tactically oriented knowledge and performance requirements. Implementation and support of programs involving tactical pararescue capabilities and priorities will require command support at all levels. This transition must take effect immediately. Acquisition of a unilateral and highly proficient combat rescue capability within pararescue must be realized by late calendar year 80.