



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER  
NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND  
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PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32508-5220

NETCINST 3710.1E  
N7  
04 Aug 2025

NETC INSTRUCTION 3710.1E

From: Commander, Naval Education and Training Command

Subj: MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVIVAL AND RESCUE  
EQUIPMENT USED IN THE RESCUE SWIMMER SCHOOL TRAINING  
PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3710.7V  
(b) OPNAVINST 4790.2J  
(c) NAVAIR 13-1-6 Series Manuals  
(d) COMNAVAIRFORINST 4790.2E  
(e) NETCINST 1500.13F

Encl: (1) Survival and Rescue Training Equipment Maintenance  
Guide

1. Purpose. To establish inspection guidance and maintenance procedures for aviation flight, survival, and rescue equipment used in the Rescue Swimmer School Training Program (RSSTP).

2. Cancellation. NETCINST 3710.1D.

3. Scope. This instruction applies only to training activities conducting formal rescue swimmer training courses in the RSSTP per reference (a). The procedures herein are not intended for operational Fleet use of survival and rescue equipment.

4. Background. No standardized guidance has previously existed for maintenance of equipment used specifically in the RSSTP. Aviators' flight gear and survival equipment in operational use are maintained in ready for issue condition per references (b) through (d) for the RSSTP. However, in RSSTP training, equipment is used for demonstration purposes or in controlled scenarios in which modifications to equipment and maintenance procedures have been safely made to facilitate training.

5. Discussion. Much of the equipment used in this training is obtained in used condition from the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services. It is then heavily used in the harsh environment of chlorinated training pools. This instruction

provides standards for maintaining this equipment in a ready for training (RFT) status to ensure safe and serviceable trainers to efficiently train large numbers of students. RSSTP equipment must be inspected as per high risk training evaluation, reference (e).

## 6. Definitions

a. Training equipment. Flight, survival, or rescue equipment acquired and maintained strictly for the purpose of formal training in the RSSTP courses listed in appendix A. Training equipment does not function as lifesaving and does not fall under reference (b) guidelines as operational aviation life support system equipment.

b. RFT. Training equipment, to include courseware and curriculum that is available and operates as intended or expected in the training environment and is maintained per guidance set forth in this instruction.

7. Review. The RSSTP model manager is charged with the responsibility of reviewing recommendations for changes and periodic updating of this instruction.

8. Action. Commanding officers and officers in charge of RSSTP activities will ensure that training equipment is inspected and maintained per this instruction and must designate, in writing, a minimum of one staff member, E-5 or above, to monitor the maintenance of training equipment and survival and rescue gear.

## 9. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager.

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10. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, NETC will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 (Review of Instruction). This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.



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Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically on the NETC public web site ([www.netc.navy.mil](http://www.netc.navy.mil)) or by e-mail at [netc-directives@us.navy.mil](mailto:netc-directives@us.navy.mil).

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# SURVIVAL AND RESCUE TRAINING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE GUIDE

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SECTION I

GENERAL

110 Rescue Swimmer School Training Program (RSSTP). All training equipment used in rescue swimmer school (RSS) must be maintained within the capabilities of individual sites; using procedures contained in reference (c), except that maintenance may be performed by personnel assigned to training sites vice intermediate maintenance activities.

120 Training Equipment. Equipment used in RSS is acquired either through the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services or by purchase through the supply system. Regardless of how equipment is acquired, if used for training by RSS training sites, it is training equipment only, and not to be used by operational Fleet activities. This equipment must be marked "FOR TRAINING USE ONLY."

Rescue Swimmer equipment personally issued to students by a previous command is authorized for use during course of instruction. Equipment may only function in the capacity of training equipment. The learning site is responsible for inspecting equipment prior to student use. Equipment must meet standards in section III, RSSTP Equipment Maintenance. Applicable course data processing codes are identified in appendix A, note\*\*.

130 Modifications to Equipment. A list of authorized modifications to training equipment is located in Section III. Do not incorporate these modifications on fleet assets meant for actual operations in the fleet. Authorization for additional modifications to equipment listed herein may be requested from the RSSTP model manager using the sample letter format in section IV.

140 Maintenance Monitoring. Personnel assigned to monitor critical areas of equipment (e.g., weight bearing straps, buckles, and hardware) will ensure that these items are thoroughly inspected by personnel performing maintenance.

150 Equipment Marking. All inflatable training equipment must be marked "FOR TRAINING USE ONLY" with white paint, and all other training equipment must be stenciled "FOR TRAINING USE ONLY" with a black marker. The purpose of the markings is to clearly indicate the equipment is not to be used for actual survival or lifesaving purposes. Non-functional life preservers will be painted red across the full length and width of the lobes to indicate they are not inflatable.

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160 Display Equipment. All equipment used for training display purposes will be maintained in excellent visual condition in the configurations specified in reference (c).

SECTION II

DOCUMENTATION

- 200 General. A tracking system must be used to ensure that every life preserver and raft used for operational training is leak tested every 30 days. Additionally, the tracking system must ensure that every rescue and quick strop used for live simulated survivor hoisting in a pool or open water environment is inspected per section III and documented using the Equipment Inspection Sheet on page 2-2. A simple and easy system for maintaining training equipment is outlined below. More comprehensive documentation programs that cover the minimum requirements outlined below are authorized.
- 210 Procedures. The following documentation procedures will be used: Using the Equipment Inspection Sheet on page 2-2, list the serial number or local field number and type of equipment of each life preserver and raft down the left side of the form. The month will be listed at the top of the form. Each time equipment is leak tested, maintenance personnel will place their initials in the block for that serial number and under the date the leak test was performed. At the end of the month, any serial number having no initials by it will be due for a 30-day inspection. Using the procedures above, each life preserver unit (LPU) and Tri-Search and Rescue (SAR) harness must be leak tested a minimum of once every 30 days and tracked in the same manner. In addition, list serial number and type equipment for each rescue and quick strop and track inspections performed whenever equipment is to be used. For sites with large student loads, an accurate and efficient maintenance and tracking system will provide a better means of determining how long equipment will last and may be helpful in budgeting for future purchases. Completed inspection records must be maintained for a minimum of 3 months.



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## EQUIPMENT INSPECTION SHEET

(month)

[illegible]

SECTION III

RESCUE SWIMMER SCHOOL TRAINING PROGRAM EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
Wet suits, mask, snorkel, and fins	Visual inspection before each training evolution.	No modifications authorized.
Rescue Swimmer Harness (aviation and surface)	Visual inspection before each evolution.	For pool operations, attached equipment (e.g., chemical lights, knife, SDU-39/N or light, etc.) will be removed. For bay operations, harness may have modified chest and riser straps with additional velcro to permit specific sizing for each student. SDU-39/N light must be installed for night swims. A chemical light attached to the swimmer's mask must also be used for night swims. All other gear is optional.
LPU (bay or pool)	Visual inspection before each evolution. Verify CO <sub>2</sub> live cylinders are installed.  Leak test every 30 days (inflation during a training evolution is considered a leak test). If unit fails to stay inflated during training the unit must be removed for repair or discard. A preserver not used during a 30-day period will be inflated for a 2-hour period. A preserver not maintaining firm pressure	No modifications authorized.

EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
	<p>must be repaired or discarded.</p> <p>Functional checks must be performed yearly at a minimum. If a unit fails to inflate, the unit must be removed for repair or discard.</p>	
TRI-SAR Harness	<p>Visual inspection before each training evolution. Verify CO<sub>2</sub> live cylinders are installed.</p> <p>Leak test every 30 days (inflation during a training evolution is considered a leak test). If unit fails to stay inflated during training, the unit must be removed for repair or discard. A preserver not used during a 30-day period will be inflated for a 1-hour leak check required per NAVAIR 13-6.5. A preserver not maintaining firm pressure must be repaired or discarded. Functional checks must be performed yearly at a minimum. If a unit fails to inflate, the unit must be removed for repair or discard.</p>	<p>For pool operations attached equipment (e.g., chemical lights, knife, SDU-39/N or light, etc.) will be removed.</p> <p>For bay operations, an SDU-39/N or light must be installed. For night swims, a chemical light must also be attached to the swimmer's mask in addition to the light.</p>
Helmet, Head Gear Unit	<p>Visual inspection before each training day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain edge roll.</li> <li>- Ensure pads and liners are intact.</li> <li>- For RSS only, ensure visor assembly is</li> </ul>	<p>Remove communication cables, earphones and cups, boom mike, and swivel. To improve ability of wearer to hear: Drill a 1¼ inch hole</p>

EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
	operational and bayonet receivers are functional.	through helmet shell at the ear cup position.
Helmet, Sound Protective Helmet	Visual inspection before each training day: - Maintain edge roll. - Ensure pads and liners are intact, visor assembly is operational, ear cups are in place, and bayonet receivers are functional.	Remove communication cables, earphones, boom mike, and swivel. To improve ability of wearer to hear: Drill a 1¼ inch hole through helmet shell at ear cup position near bottom of ear cup.
Cranial	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect cloth for frays, tears, and worn velcro. - Check attenuators for cracks and ear pads.	Drill a 1¼ inch hole in center of ear cup for hearing and a ¼ inch hole in bottom of ear cup for drainage.
Oxygen Mask	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for cracks and torn face piece attachment and operation of bayonet fittings.	Remove inhalation and exhalation valve, microphone, and amplifier.
Flight Suit	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for major fraying, rips, tears, and operation of slide fasteners at least weekly.	Slide fasteners may be replaced with velcro.
Flight Gloves	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for matching pairs, major holes, separated seams, and hardness.	No modifications authorized.

EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
Anti-g suit F-18/F-35	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for holes, tears and separated seams. - Inspect for security of attachment of hardware.	No modifications authorized.
Flight Boots	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for matching pairs, nails protruding from heels, and separated soles.	No modifications authorized.
Torso Harness	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for fraying, rips, tears, and operation of slide fasteners. - Use solid film lubricant on slide fasteners at least weekly.	Slide fasteners may be replaced by velcro. Chest strap may be extended using a friction adapter on a piece of like webbing.
CMU-33/CMU-37/F-35 flight jacket	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for deterioration, rips, tears, and fraying. - Use solid lubricant on all slide fasteners at least weekly.	Slide fasteners may be replaced by velcro. (Helo Type) Helo pickup straps must be in place. No additional modification required. Remove survival equipment for pool training.
Life Preservers (to exclude the LPU and TRI-SAR)	Visual inspection before each training day: - Inspect for rips, cuts, seam separation, and tears.  Leak test every 30 days (inflation during a training evolution is considered a leak test). If unit fails to stay inflated during training,	Installation of expended or "dummy" CO <sub>2</sub> cylinders for pool training is authorized.

EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
	the unit must be removed for repair or discard. A preserver not used during a 30-day period will be opened and inflated for a 1-hour leak check required per NAVAIR-13-6.5. A preserver not maintaining firm pressure must be repaired or discarded.	
Parachute Backpack Style Casing Assembly	Inspect before each training day: - Inspect for tears and rips, missing hardware, and proper attachment to canopy.	Remove rubber bands, small detachable parts and ripcord assembly.
Parachute Canopy	Inspect before each training day: - Inspect for tears, missing hardware, and proper attachment to casing assembly. - Weekly: Disentangle shroud lines.	Shroud lines may be cut as necessary to facilitate training.
Seatpan/to include F-35 seatpans	Visual inspection of hardware for damage, wear, ease of operation, burrs, missing hardware, and fittings before each training day. Depending on style, inspect for cracks in fiberglass case or rips and tears in material.	Remove all nonessential training items (e.g., survival kit equipment). - Reattach O <sub>2</sub> hose assembly. - Remove communication leads. - Remove O <sub>2</sub> assembly.
Crewmembers Safety Belt	Visual inspection of all hardware for security of attachment, cracks, wear, and ease of operation before each training day. Examine webbing for faded fabric, wear, fraying, rot, broken stitches, or	No modifications authorized.

EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
	cuts. Ensure webbing belt end-stops are four webbing layers thick.	
Life Rafts	<p>A visual inspection for holes or seam separation must be done before each training day.</p> <p>Leak test every 30 days (inflation during a training evolution is considered a leak test). If the raft fails to stay inflated during a training evolution, it must be removed for repair or discard. Rafts not used during a 30-day period must be inflated for a 2-hour period. A raft not maintaining firm pressure must be repaired or discarded.</p>	Removal of equipment from container and supply pocket.
Level "A" Medical Bag and Supplies	Inspect bag for rips, tears, wear, and fraying before each training day. Ensure all supply items listed on NTTP 3-50.1 inventory list are intact and operational.	Supply items are for training only and do not need to be sterile.
Rescue Net	Inspect all hardware for security of attachment, damage, wear, and ease of operation prior to each training day. The rescue net must be washed after every immersion in saltwater or brackish water.	No modifications authorized.
Rescue Strop	All rescue strops must be kept in excellent condition. Visual inspection of condition	No modifications authorized.

EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
	<p>of rescue strop: Inspect for cuts, deterioration, and abrasion. Inspect seams for adhesion and stitching of attachment and wear. Inspect all hardware for security of attachment, corrosion, damage, deformity, wear, and ease of operation before each training day.</p> <p>Repair as required and replace as necessary.</p> <p>Load testing is only required if equipment has received an excessively hard hit that could affect the weight and lifting capacity of the strop, or possible overstress has occurred.</p>	
Quick Strop	<p>All quick strops must be kept in excellent condition. Visual inspection of condition of quick strop: Inspect for cuts, deterioration, and abrasion. Inspect seams for adhesion and stitching of attachment and wear. Inspect all hardware for security of attachment, corrosion, damage, deformity, wear, and ease of operation before each training day. Repair as required and replace as necessary.</p>	No modifications authorized.
Stokes Rescue Litter (with REU-	<p>Inspect before each use or every 30 days. Inspect litter for</p>	No modifications authorized.



EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
2/H Flotation Assembly)	<p>general condition, cracks, dents, corrosion, and security of all metal. Inspect suspension bed webbing, straps, stitching, and other webbing from head to toe for cuts, tears, strains, fraying, and security of attachments. Inspect carabiner's gate pin hinge and lifting points for deformity, cracks or corrosion. Inspect flotation assembly for general condition, cuts, tears, and fraying of all leg and chest fasteners.</p> <p>Inspect stowage bag mesh material of lift inset, stitches, retainer, and patient straps. Inspect for presence of oil, fuel, grease, or chemical contamination. Inspect lift cables for fray, corrosion, and signs of wear.</p>	
SAR MEDIVAC Litter	<p>Inspect frame assembly for cracks, bends, and security of attachment. Inspect nylon frame cover, foot restraint, head restraint, lumbar pad, bottom flotation, and chest flotation pad assembly for tears, broken or separated stitches, and security. Inspect patient restraint straps for cuts, stains</p>	No modifications authorized.

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EQUIPMENT	MAINTAIN AND INSPECT	MODIFICATIONS
	or fraying. Inspect webbing for cuts, broken or separated stitching, and security. Inspect litter before each training day.	

**\*\*Rinse all training gear with fresh water after use.\*\***

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SECTION IV

FLIGHT EQUIPMENT MODIFICATION FOR TRAINING  
REQUEST OR RECOMMENDATION LETTER FORMAT

3710  
Ser  
(Date)

From: (Requesting Command)  
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Aviation Schools Command (N3D3)  
Subj: FLIGHT EQUIPMENT MODIFICATION FOR TRAINING REQUEST OR  
RECOMMENDATION

Ref: (a) NETCINST 3710.1E

1. Per reference (a), the following request or recommendation  
is submitted:

- a. Equipment:
- b. Brief description of modification:
- c. Brief description of how modified equipment will be used  
for training evolutions:
- d. Purpose of modification (safety, ease of donning,  
extended life of equipment, etc.):
- e. Estimated cost of modification and savings (if any) over  
use of equipment as presently configured:
- f. Attach photograph of modification in static position and  
in training environment or send a testable sample.
- g. Individual given credit for modification:

A. B. SAILOR

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3710  
Ser  
(Date)

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Aviation Schools Command (N3D3)  
To: (Requesting Command)

Subj: FLIGHT EQUIPMENT MODIFICATION FOR TRAINING REQUEST OR  
RECOMMENDATION

Ref: (a) Your ltr 3710 Ser xxx of (date)

1. Final status of your request submitted via reference (a) is:  
(Approved or Disapproved)

C. D. CARRIER

APPENDIX A

COURSE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND COURSE DATA PROCESSING CODE  
APPLICABLE TO THIS INSTRUCTION:

**Aviation Rescue Swimmer School**

Course Identification Number (CIN): C-050-0600  
Course Data Processing (CDP): 6597\*

**Surface Rescue Swimmer School**

CIN: C-050-0500  
CDP: 6952\*  
CDP: 889Y\*

**Rescue Swimmer Refresher Course**

CIN: C-050-0604  
CDP: 425F\*\*  
CDP: 425G\*\*

**Rescue Swimmer Instructor Training Course**

CIN: C-050-0601  
CDP: 915E\*\*

**Aviation Rescue Swimmer Preparatory Course**

CIN: A-050-0612  
CDP: 25DB\*

Notes: \* Students use ready for training rescue swimmer  
equipment owned and maintained by the LS.

\*\* Rescue Swimmer equipment personally issued to students  
by a previous command is authorized for use during  
course of instruction. Equipment may only function in  
the capacity of training equipment. Learning site  
(LS) is responsible for inspecting equipment prior to  
student use. Equipment must meet standards in section  
III, Rescue Swimmer School Training Program (RSSTP)  
Equipment Maintenance. LS will provide student with  
training equipment meeting RSSTP equipment maintenance  
standards.