

Aviation Rescue Swimmer Course

Disentanglement Procedures (Jet Aircraft) LT 3.8

Objectives

- List disentanglement procedures for personnel wearing fixed-wing (jet) aircraft survival equipment.
- Demonstrate disentanglement procedures for personnel wearing fixed-wing (jet) survival equipment.

WARNING

Inhalation of composite fibers resulting from aircraft fires and/or aircraft material damage may be harmful to rescue personnel. If smoke is present, the Rescue Swimmer shall be deployed up-wind and will approach the aircraft in a manner as to avoid any smoke. Discard wet suit if it becomes impregnated with composite fibers.

WARNING

The parachute should never be allowed to come between the rescue swimmer and the survivor, as the rescue swimmer could lose sight of the survivor or could become entangled in the parachute or suspension lines.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33 Integrated torso Harness

- **Assess** situation to determine if survivor(s) are conscious, unconscious, passive, or active. Assessing the situation begins before water entry. The situation may change at any moment.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- **ESTABLISH** communication to determine the condition of the survivor and make approach. Ask, "Are you O.k."? The rescue swimmer shall continually evaluate the medical condition of a survivor during the entire course of a rescue.
- Grasp survivor's harness between the shoulder blades and pull survivor into the wind and away from parachute. Obtain control of survivor "ICIC".
- Remove OXYGEN MASK. Clear head, neck, and chest area. If survivor is conscious ask about any known injuries or conditions.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- If survivor is still wearing oxygen mask completely remove it from both bayonet fittings and push mask through chest strap, and away from survivor.

NOTE

Check for breathing. Give two breathes if required. Continue giving rescue breaths during disentanglement not to **exceed 60 seconds** between breaths until survivor is hoisted free of water.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- Check floatation. (inflate manually or orally if necessary).
- Disentanglement from head to toe, checking for injuries during disentanglement process.
 - Disconnect parachute risers by releasing shoulder kock fittings.
 - Remove parachute risers and throw them to the side, ensuring they do not fall back onto survivor.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- SWEEP ARMS: ensuring that survivor's arms are completely clear of debris. Once it has been verified that the survivor's arms are clear, cross the arms across the survivor's chest.
- SIDE CONTROL: using the side of the survivor as a reference, proceed hand over hand along the:

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- Left side: Move down towards the legs removing any shroud lines along the way. Release oxygen hose if applicable from RSSK, and then disconnect mini-Koch fitting on lap.
- Move back up the left side and go down the right side toward the legs, removing any shroud lines along the way. Disconnect the mini-Koch fitting on lap. This releases the RSSK.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- Move back down the left side and ensure there are no entanglements around the survivor's left leg. Repeat for right leg
- Tow survivor clear of parachute and DISCARD RAFT (if applicable).

NOTE

- At the discretion of the rescue swimmer the raft may be punctured with a knife and sunk before , during or after the survivor has been removed.

WARNING

- Loss of ABC's is a serious life threatening condition requiring immediate medical treatment. This condition takes precedence and survivor should be recovered by fastest means possible.

NOTE

- The litter should be the primary recovery device if survivor is an ejected aviator or other survivor suspected of having a spinal injury based on swimmers evaluation.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- Perform FINAL CHECK, head to toe to ensure that all shroud lines and parachute suspension lines are clear.
- Signal rescue platform.
 - Day – Arm raised, thumb up
 - Night – Arm raised, waving high intensity chemlight.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- As the helicopter is approaching
 - Ensure the AREA CLEAR.
 - Establish a left-hand cross-chest carry, grasping survivor's gated "D" ring in your left hand.
 - With your right hand connect rescue swimmer's snap hook to survivor's "D" ring.
 - Maintain left-hand cross-chest carry while grasping rescue swimmer's lifting "V" ring in your left hand.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- Allow RESCUE HOOK TO TOUCH WATER, discharging static electricity.
- USE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES for rescue device selected.
- Perform SAFETY CHECK on rescue device, signal up hoist.

NOTE

If rescue scenario involves E-2C Hawkeye aircrew, all of the procedural steps are identical with those of ejection seat aircraft. The difference in gear is purely mechanical and will require deviations in technique only.

Review

When giving rescue breaths, the breaths do not exceed how many seconds?

60 seconds

When should the raft be punctured?

Before, during or after the survivor has been removed.

Review

- Why is it important to remove the O2 mask from the RSSK/SKU?

–*So the RSSK/SKU will detach from survivor.*

ICIC means what?

–*In Close and In Control*