

# Aviation Rescue Swimmer Course

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Combative survivor

LT 3.9

# INTRODUCTION

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- Naval Rescue Swimmers are sometimes faced with situations where the survivor can be categorized as uncooperative. Uncooperative survivors can be categorized in two distinct types; panicked and combative.

# Objectives

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- Describe characteristics of a panicking survivor.
- State procedures for survivors emergency floatation for both conscious and unconscious.
- Demonstrate emergency floatation procedures for conscious and unconscious victims in a simulated rescue situation.
- List procedural steps for a combative survivor.
- Demonstrate combative survivor procedures in a simulated rescue situation.
- State modified recovery procedures for a combative survivor.
- Demonstrate modified recovery procedures for a combative survivor in a simulated rescue situation.
- State procedures for providing care for combative survivor while aboard the aircraft.
- Describe appropriate combative survivor hand signals.
- Demonstrate appropriate combative survivor hand signals.

# Survivor Characteristics

Naval rescue swimmer's are sometimes faced with situations where the survivor can be categorized as uncooperative. Uncooperative survivors can be categorized into two distinct types:

Panicked

Combative

# Panicking Survivor

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- Some rescues involve panicky survivors (even some Aviators).
- Appearance: wide eyes, frantic activity, grasping for air and other similar behavior.
- Will attempt to grab and get on top of rescuer in order to keep his/her own head out of the water. Rescuers could be drowned in this manner.
- Best defense: Do not get too close until you have assessed the situation and decided on the best approach for the survivor.

# Panicking Survivor

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- It may be possible to calm a panicking survivor by talking to them and explaining who you are and what you are doing.
- Another means of calming a panicked survivor down is to provide flotation.

# Procedures for giving up floatation Conscious/Unconscious Survivor:

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## NOTE

When the survivor has damaged floatation or no floatation, the swimmer may give up his/her SAR-1 vest.

If the swimmer chooses to give up floatation, the rescue swimmer shall use the following conscious or unconscious survivor procedures.

# Procedures for giving up floatation Conscious

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Conscious survivor:

- Approach the survivor and establish communication, using the front surface approach.
- Upon reaching a distance of 6 to 8 feet from the survivor, execute a quick reverse.

# Procedures for giving up floatation Conscious

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- Remove rescue swimmer's mask, unclip, and remove SAR-1 , and replace mask.
- Inflate SAR-1, hold onto end of SAR-1 strap, and pass to survivor. Instruct survivor to place SAR-1 over his/her head with pocket facing out.
- While survivor is donning SAR-1, the swimmer shall swim around to the right and behind survivor with strap in right hand.
- Place left hand cross-chest under SAR-1 and grasp buckle. Bring strap under both arms and clip into buckle. Tighten strap.

# Procedures for giving up floatation Conscious

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- Perform disentanglement procedures
- Complete the rescue using normal procedures.

# Procedures for giving up floatation to an unconscious survivor

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- Approach the survivor using the front surface approach and establish communications or determine unresponsiveness.
- Upon reaching a distance of an arms' length from the survivor, execute a quick reverse.
- Remove rescue swimmer's mask, unclip and remove SAR-1, and replace mask.
- Inflate SAR-1 and place right arm through neck hole with pocket facing in.

# Procedures for giving up floatation Unconscious

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- Use front surface approach procedures

## NOTE

Remove survivor's oxygen mask/helmet/cranial if applicable

- Place SAR-1 over survivor's head with pocket facing out. This is done with rescue swimmer's right arm, while keeping survivor in left hand cross chest carry.
- Place left hand cross-chest under SAR-1, and grasp buckle. Bring strap under both arms and clip into buckle. Tighten strap.

# Procedures for giving up floatation Unconscious

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- Check for breathing. Give two breaths if required.
- Perform disentanglement procedures.
- Complete rescue using normal procedures.

# Combative Survivor

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## **WARNING**

Combative survivors may not initially desire to be rescued and may actively resist assistance from the rescue swimmer. The combative survivor may intentionally try to harm the rescue swimmer or themselves when approached. This type of behavior can continue indefinitely, even after repeated attempts by the rescue swimmer to provide assurance in recovery.

# Combative Survivor

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- Indications that a survivor might be combative are:
  - Prior mentally unstable behavior, suicide attempt, voluntarily jumping into the water.
  - Suspected or known enemy, foreign personnel demonstrating hostility towards Americans, or suspicious personnel aboard vessels being detained.

# Combative Survivor

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- Combative survivor procedures:

## **WARNING**

The Rescue Swimmer shall not be deployed into the water to recover enemy or hostile survivors armed with weapons.

## **WARNING**

Recovery of enemy or hostile survivors should only be attempted using a rescue boat or ships J-Bar davit with armed security personnel on station in the rescue boat or ships forecastle. Helicopter recovery of an enemy or hostile survivor should only be used under operational necessity.

# Combative Survivor

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## **WARNING**

Direct deployment procedures should not be used on a combative survivor. If direct deployment procedures are utilized, the rescue swimmer shall be deployed to a safe distance from the survivor (6 to 8 feet). If from this “safe distance” the rescue swimmer determines that the survivor is going to remain combative, the rescue swimmer should disconnect from the double rescue hook, reattach the quick strop to the double rescue hook and signal the Crewchief “up hoist”. Combative survivor procedures should then be utilized.

# Combative Survivor

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## **WARNING**

A single rescue swimmer should not attempt the recovery of a combative survivor without assistance from a rescue boat and/or a second rescue swimmer.

# Combative Survivor

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- Approach survivor and establish verbal communication. Attempt to calm the survivor with verbal reassurance and commands.
- If survivor is actively combative, do not attempt to immediately gain physical control of the survivor. The rescue swimmer should remain a safe distance (6 to 8 feet) from the survivor, and assess the situation.

# Combative Survivor

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- If survivor does not have operable flotation, the rescue swimmer should attempt to provide a flotation device to the survivor while still maintaining a safe distance.
- Communicate with the rescue platform and brief the situation.
- Request assistance utilizing radio or hand signals.
  - Request rescue boat assistance.

# Combative Survivor

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- Request the assistance of a second rescue swimmer. The second rescue swimmer is backup to the primary rescue swimmer and has the following responsibilities:
  - Ensure the safety of the primary rescue swimmer.
  - Assist the primary rescue swimmer as needed.
  - Deploy with rescue equipment requested by the primary rescue swimmer.

# Combative Survivor

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- Once on scene, the back-up rescue swimmer may assume/help with communication duties to the rescue platform.
- Assist the primary rescue swimmer as required.

## NOTE

There are no dual rescue swimmer procedures. The back-up rescue swimmer should act as a safety observer and assist the primary rescue swimmer as required.

# Combative Survivor

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- Use the following modified recovery procedures:
  - Maintain 6 to 8 feet distance from survivor, remain vigilant and ready to render immediate assistance, and wait for the survivor to tire, calm down, and/or ask for assistance.
  - Be patient. Attempt to calm the survivor and provide flotation to the survivor if needed and/or practical.

# Combative Survivor

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- Assume physical control of the survivor only when deemed safe. Do not attempt to rescue an actively combative survivor unless the following conditions occur:
  - The survivor requests assistance.
  - The survivor becomes unconscious/incapacitated.

# Combative Survivor

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- Ensure the survivor has no weapons.
  - If conscious, direct the survivor to maintain hands in view at all times.
  - Once physical control is established, the rescue swimmer shall remain vigilant for survivor to become actively combative or the presence of any weapons.
- Recover survivor using appropriate device.

## NOTE

The rescue boat or ships J-Bar Davit is the preferred recovery vehicle. If a rescue boat or ship is unavailable, recovery may be made to a helicopter.

# Combative Survivor

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## **WARNING**

In all cases (whether the survivor is determined to be combative, panicked, or cooperative) the rescuer shall not hoist the survivor from an overland or maritime environment without the proper application of the selected rescue device to include any and all safety straps or safety devices per all applicable publications and instructions.

# Combative Survivor

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- Rescue Strop

- The rescue swimmer shall, in all cases, correctly employ the arm restraining straps prior to signaling “up hoist”.

- Direct Deployment

- Shall only be used by a rescue swimmer qualified in direct deployment procedures the quick strop shall only be used in conjunction with the TRI-SAR Harness.
- The rescue swimmer shall, in all cases, correctly employ the quick strop crotch strap prior to signaling “up hoist”.

# Combative Survivor

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- Care and control of a combative survivor on board the rescue platform:
  - The rescue platform shall notify the on-scene commander of the situation, survivor's condition, and request medical and security personnel assistance at the rescue platforms location.
  - The rescue platform crew shall remain vigilant during transit. A member of the crew or security personnel shall be stationed next to the survivor at all times during transit to provide immediate physical control if required.

# Combative Survivor

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## **WARNING**

Restraints will preclude the survivor from being able to egress/swim in the event of an aircraft mishap or rescue boat capsizing during transit. Rescue personnel may need to provide assistance to the survivor to egress the rescue platform in the event of a mishap.

# Combative Survivor

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- Once onboard the rescue platform, the survivor should be secured into a Rescue or Medivac litter at the earliest opportunity. If aboard a helicopter, cabin doors and windows should be secured.

## NOTE

The rescue personnel shall assess condition of survivor and provide medical treatment during transit.

## NOTE

Once rescue platform is safely aboard ship or ashore, transfer survivor to awaiting medical and/or security personnel.

# Combative Survivor

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- Hand signals:
  - Request rescue boat assistance:
    - The rescue swimmer extends both arms directly overhead, palms placed together.
  - Request the assistance of a second rescue swimmer:
    - Rescue Swimmer faces the rescue platform raises one arm from side of body, diagonally (45 degrees), palm down, fingers extended straight out, rotate arm in circular motion.

# Questions?

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- True or false. The rescue swimmer shall be deployed into the water to recover enemy survivors armed with weapons.
- False. The rescue swimmer shall not be deployed into the water to recover enemy or hostile survivors armed with weapons.

# Questions?

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- What is the hand signal for requesting rescue boat assistance?
- Both arms extended directly over head, palms placed together.
- What is the hand signal for requesting assistance of a second rescue swimmer?
- Rescue swimmer faces the rescue platform, raises one arm from side of body diagonally (45 degrees), palms down fingers extended straight out, rotate arm in circular motion.