

HQMC
20 Aug 04

E R R A T U M

to MCO 3500.42A

MARINE CORPS HELICOPTER ROPE SUSPENSION TECHNIQUES POLICY (HRST)
AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

1. For administrative purposes, the Publications Control Number (PCN) has been reidentified. Change the PCN "10203353300" to read: "10203356900".

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MCO 3500.42A
POE-30
9 Jul 04

MARINE CORPS ORDER 3500.42A W/ CH 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS HELICOPTER ROPE SUSPENSION TECHNIQUES POLICY (HRST) AND
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Ref: (a) MCO P5102.1A
(b) MCO 1553.1B
(c) MCO 1553.2
(d) MCO 3500.27A
(e) MCO 3502.2A
(f) MCRP 3-11.4A

Encl: (1) Qualification Requirements for HRST Master
(2) Manifest for HRST Operations

1. Situation. HRST is the collective term for rappel, fast rope, Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction (SPIE) and Jacob's Ladder operations. HRST systems were developed as a means to insert and/or extract, by helicopter, ground forces (primarily reconnaissance teams) into or from rough terrain, urban areas or water. HRST is designed to be used in situations where aircraft landings are impractical due to terrain or tactical situation. The policies and procedures described herein are intended to maximize unit and individual combat effectiveness, interoperability, and safety. Commanders and cognizant personnel will ensure that unit and activity programs are administered in accordance with this order and other pertinent directives. Requests to waive any criteria or coordinate permanent changes to this order, must be submitted via the chain of command to DC, PP&O (POE) for approval.

2. Mission. Establish policy designating assigned responsibilities for the conduct of the Marine Corps HRST programs. HRST skills apply to insertion/extraction by helicopter and include the developmental preliminary training conducted from static towers. HRST gives the unit the ability to conduct helicopter insertions or extractions where aircraft landings are impractical.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Commanding Generals, Marine Forces Pacific/Atlantic, Reserves and Commanding Officers from Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific/Atlantic; as well as, all cognizant Commanders/Officers in Charge of units performing HRST operations will conduct all HRST operations and training in accordance with this order and other applicable directives. All safety related reporting will also be submitted as required.

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distribution is unlimited**

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(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Rappelling. Rappelling from aircraft shall only be conducted by units whose operational requirements dictate insertion by that means.

(b) SPIE. SPIE shall be conducted by units whose operational requirements dictate insertion/extraction by that means.

(c) Fast Roping. Fast rope from aircraft shall be conducted by units whose operational requirements dictate insertion by that means.

(d) Jacob's Ladder. Units, whose operational requirements dictate extraction by that means, shall conduct Jacob's Ladder training from aircraft for currency.

b. Subordinate Element Mission

(1) DC, PP&O

(a) Serve as the Headquarters Marine Corps functional expert in all reconnaissance and HRST related issues. Additionally, serve as the Reconnaissance Occupational Field Manager, Reconnaissance MOS Specialist, and the Marine Corps Supervisor of HRST.

(b) Serve as a proponent in the Combat Development System, assisting in the development of MAGTF organization, training, equipment and doctrine related to reconnaissance, HRST and related special reconnaissance capabilities/skills.

(c) Consolidate, submit, and/or monitor reports as required in this order and initiate Marine Corps-wide corrective/preventive action as required.

(d) Establish, enforce and monitor policy to ensure standards are being met.

(2) Commanding General, MCCDC

(a) CG, Training Command (C 47)

1 Take the lead, with DC, PP&O (POE) and CG MCCDC (Total Force Structure Division), on annual validation of all Marine Corps HRST school requirements.

2 Develop, publish, and review as required, Marine Corps training policy and standards (ITS, MPS and/or T&R Manual) related to HRST.

3 Evaluate the effectiveness of current and proposed training programs, review and approve Programs of Instruction, inspect and identify deficiencies and forward recommendations DC, PP&O (POE) measures to correct noted deficiencies.

4 Standardize HRST training in the Marine Corps.

5 Ensure Standardize of HRST courses of instruction (HRST Master and Unit HRST Refresher Training). Review and approve Programs of Instruction submitted by Lead Agencies.

(b) Requirements Division (C 443)

1 In conjunction with DC, PP&O (POE) serve as the User Representative for all HRST equipment related issues. Coordinate with operating forces, supporting establishments, higher headquarters, and inter-service and government agencies to ensure current equipment deficiencies are corrected and desired HRST capabilities support Marine Corps Required Operational Capabilities.

2 Take all actions necessary to support equipment requirements for HRST capabilities.

3 In coordination with Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (C 2IA), maintain inter-service liaison to ensure equipment inter operability and facilitate requirement development to support HRST operations.

(3) Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (CBG)

(a) Coordinate and manage all HRST equipment research, development and acquisition as identified by MCCDC (C443) and validated by DC, PP&O (POE).

(b) Provide for Marine Corps-wide coordination and standardization of all approved and fielded systems.

(c) Serve as the HRST Equipment Sponsor, responsible for developing technical operational procedures, refining employment techniques, updating equipment and monitoring compliance with applicable safety procedures.

(d) Provide assistance to DC, PP&O (POE) and CG MCCDC (C 443) with regard to safety, procedures and techniques as requested.

(4) Commander, Naval Safety Center

(a) USMC Parachute Safety Analyst (Code 47) and High Risk Training Analyst (Code 48)

1 Evaluate all HRST equipment malfunctions/HRST incidents and related mishaps. As directed by DC, SD and DC, PP&O (POE), participate in the conduct of safety mishap review boards, as a board member and technical adviser, providing technical and procedural expertise for class A, B, and selected C and D, HRST mishap investigations.

2 Provide assistance to CG MCCDC (C 443) with regards to safety, procedures, and techniques, pertaining to HRST equipment and operations.

3 Maintain a data repository for all HRST equipment malfunction/incident reports. Analyze compiled data for trends in personnel and equipment performance and procedural adequacy. Annually distribute statistics to all commands that conduct HRST operations.

(b) USMC Parachute Safety Analyst (Code 47)

1 Provide a safety assessment on all HRST equipment under research, development and acquisition as identified by CG MCCDC (C 443) and validated by DC, PP&O (POE).

2 Conduct an HRST equipment inspection on all Marine Corps units authorized to conduct refresher training at least once every 2 years. Conduct

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assistance inspections requested by the commanding officer or directed by DC, PP&O (POE).

(c) High Risk Training Analyst (Code 48). Conduct High Risk Training Safety Inspections on all Marine Corps units authorized to conduct HRST Master instructor training at least once every 2 years.

(5) II MEF SOTG. II MEF SOTG is designated the Lead Agency for HRST courses of instruction and shall submit to CG, Training Command (C 472) for review and approval all required and appropriate documentation for HRST Master and Unit HRST Refresher Training.

(a) In coordination with those Units and Activities authorized to instruct/train HRST courses, develop and submit Programs of Instruction for the HRST Masters Course and Unit HRST Refresher Training to CG, Training Command (C 472) for review and approval.

(b) Upon approval of HRST Programs of Instruction (HRST Masters and Unit HRST Refresher Training) provide a complete Master Lesson File (one copy each of: Program of Instruction, lesson plans, student outlines, class instructional support material) to each activity and unit authorized to instruct and CG, Training Command (C 472).

(c) Establish and convene Course Content Review Board, and coordinate participation by all authorized HRST training sites and Units per MCO 1553.2. At the conclusion of the CCRB submit a Record of Proceedings via the chain of command to CG, Training Command (C 472) and provide copies as required to DC, PP&O (POE) and Naval Safety Center.

(d) Maintain an information base of all current and ongoing HRST developments with COMMARCORSYSCOM (CBGR) on new equipment, procedures, and items of safety for HRST operations.

(6) Training Activities/Unit Commanders. Commanders will ensure the safe conduct of all HRST training/operations. All HRST operations will use ORM procedures for mitigating risk in accordance with reference (g).

(a) Maintain HRST Master Lesson Files provided by the Lead Agency.

(b) Ensure HRST operations within the organization are conducted and supervised by a currently certified HRST Master and Safety Insert Officer.

(c) Ensure HRST Refresher Training, certification and recertification dates are properly annotated in each Marine's OQR/SRB, as appropriate, and Training Record.

(d) Ensure all personnel conducting HRST from a helicopter have successfully completed static tower training within the previous 60 days, per paragraph 3.c.(6) of this Order.

(e) Ensure all HRST equipment is properly maintained, inspected, and stowed after use, per references (b) and TM (In Draft by COMMARCORSYSCOM (CBGR)).

(f) Ensure only a currently certified HRST Master maintains the HRST Storage Locker.

(g) Ensure all HRST Master Refresher Training is conducted in accordance with this Order and the Master Lesson File for HRST Master Refresher Training.

(h) Submit recommended additions and/or changes to this MCO to DC, PP&O (POE).

(i) In coordination with the Lead Agency for course of instruction, participate in HRST Course Content Review Boards. At anytime submit recommended changes and/or additions to courses of instruction to Lead Agency.

(7) Unit Commanders. The Commander is responsible for ensuring that all HRST within the unit is accomplished per this order. Additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Ensure HRST operations within the unit are conducted and supervised by a certified and current HRST Master and Safety Insert Officer (SIO).

(b) Ensure all HRST Refresher Training, certification and recertification dates are properly annotated in each Marine's SRB/OQR as appropriate, and Training Record.

(c) Ensure that all personnel conducting rope suspension training from a helicopter have successfully completed static tower training within the previous 60 day rule.

(d) Ensure that all HRST equipment assigned on the unit's table of equipment is properly maintained, inspected and stowed after use, per references (a) to (f) and the technical manual.

(e) Ensure that only a properly certified and current HRST Master maintains the HRST locker.

(f) Ensure that all HRST Master refresher training is conducted per this order.

(g) Submit any recommended additions or changes to this order to DC, PP&O (POE).

(h) Always use reference (g) to properly evaluate Operational Risk.

(8) HRST Masters. NCOs and above who successfully complete the HRST Masters Course, outlined in enclosure (1), will be certified as HRST Masters. This qualification and date of qualification shall be annotated in the Marine's SRB/OQR, as appropriate, and Training Record. A certified and current HRST master is responsible for the training of personnel, as well as direct supervision of all HRST operations. All training will be conducted in accordance with this order, individual training standards and information contained in reference (f). Prior to the conduct of training, qualified HRST Masters will be assigned in writing by the Commanding Officer of the unit conducting training.

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(9) Safety Insert Officer (SIO). An assigned SIO will be a SNCO or above, who has successfully completed the HRST Masters Course. The SIO will be fully qualified and current in order to conduct HRST operations. The SIO is in charge of the HRST operation regardless of rank. Until relieved, his decisions are final during the HRST operation. The SIO makes the final decision as to whether or not it is safe to conduct HRST operation.

(10) Medical Support. Assignment of a qualified military medical support person (i.e. HM8404, HM8427, HM8403, HM8425, IDC, Air Force Medic, Army Medic, Physician Assistance, or Medical Officers) is mandatory. Civilians who are licensed (i.e. EMT-Is, Paramedics) may be used when military medical support is not available. The medical support must be trained and equipped for HRST type emergencies. The medical support works for the SIO and is responsible for treating all injuries. If the assigned medical support leaves the area, the HRST operation will cease until medical support resumes.

(11) U.S. Navy Personnel. Navy Personnel are subject to this order while assigned to Marine Corps units and activities except as stipulated in the Navy Military Personnel Manual NAVPERS 15560C. Unless otherwise stated, all references to Marines apply to Naval personnel assigned to Marine Corps units. Naval Special Warfare personnel who have attended their service HELO Rope Suspension Training and HELO Cast Master certification are authorized to conduct training on USMC aircraft. These personnel must conduct all training in accordance with this order and references (a) to (f).

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) USMC Authorized Courses of Instruction. Only those Marines who have successfully completed a CG Training Command (C 47) approved Marine Corps HRST Master Course or other service training courses for helicopter rope suspension, may be designated as a HRST Master. The Marine Corps trains to meet only valid operational requirements. Quotas to these course will be assigned to authorized Units/Activities. The following are the only training organizations authorized to qualify HRST Masters:

- (a) Special Operations Training Groups (SOTG)
- (b) Division Schools, 1st Marine Division
- (c) 3d Marines Regimental Schools, 3d Marine Division

HRST courses will be taught by certified HRST Master Instructors. Per reference (e) the only authorized training organization for HRST Master Instructors certification is the formal schools houses listed in above paragraph c.(1). Foreign and civilian HRST or related specialties are not recognized courses of instruction because course content and training standards may be different from those of the Marine Corps.

(2) Authorized Units/Activities. Only those units/activities having mission essential requirements, as indicated by their T/O mission statement and appropriate allowance in their Table of Equipment (T/E) are authorized to possess the equipment for the conduct of HRST operations. Requests for changes to current T/Os and mission statements will be forwarded via the chain of command to their designated Advocate at HQMC, Washington DC for review and final endorsement/approval. Only the following type units/activities are authorized to conduct HRST operations and maintain appropriate equipment. Authorized HRST units include the following:

- (a) Reserve, Force Reconnaissance Companies.
- (b) Active Component and Reserve, Reconnaissance Battalions.
- (c) Radio Battalion, Radio Reconnaissance Platoon.
- (d) Ground Weapons Raid Reconnaissance Section/Test Facility, Marine Corps Systems Command (CBGR).
- (e) Reconnaissance Training Company, School of Infantry West.
- (f) Special Operations Training Group.
- (g) Division Schools, 1st Marine Division.
- (h) Marine Corps Recruit Depots (Tower only).
- (i) Marine Corps University (TBS, IOC).
- (j) 3d Marines Regimental Schools, 3d Marine Division.
- (k) Infantry Battalions.
- (l) Marine Corps Security Force Regiment.
- (m) Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

(3) Authorized Units HRST Master Refresher Course

(a) The HRST Master Refresher Course is designed to keep certified HRST Masters current in their skills. The course is taught by the following units:

- 1. Special Operations Training Group.
- 2. Active Component and Reserve, Reconnaissance Battalions.
- 3. Reserve, Force Reconnaissance Companies.
- 4. Division Schools, 1st Marine Division.
- 5. 3d Marines Regimental Schools, 3d Marine Division.
- 6. Reconnaissance Training Company, School of Infantry West.
- 7. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

(b) The Commanding Officer will appoint in writing a senior, current HRST Master, as the HRST Master Refresher Course Instructor and will ensure that the refresher training is taught in accordance with this Order, the approved Program of Instruction from II MEF SOTG, and that all requirements are met before a non-current HRST Master is recertified. The course will be documented with a signed LOI, an attendance roster, and reflect training received. These files shall be maintained at the unit for two (2) years. The course may be tailored to the individual HRST Master needing specific currency training. The following will be instructed during the course:

- 1. Demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in proper storage, preventative maintenance, marking, rope logs, shelf/service life requirements, current authorized modifications to equipment, equipment serviceability requirements, equipment malfunction and incident reporting, and HRST operation administrative requirements.

2 Demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in rope management and knots.

3 Demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in the briefing/debriefing of all individuals participating in HRST operations to include pilots.

4 Demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in equipment, tower inspection, and helicopter inspection.

5 Properly rig a rappelling tower for all rappelling and FAST Rope training.

6 Properly rig the following aircraft for HRST operations: CH-46E, UH-1N, and CH-53D/E.

7 Conduct two evolutions of each HRST operation (Rappelling, FAST Rope, and SPIE) from a tower and from an aircraft.

(4) Demonstrations. HRST demonstrations shall be conducted only by units authorized to conduct HRST operations. Additionally, the same demonstration personnel must be retained from the rehearsal period to the actual event.

(5) HRST Master Currency. HRST Masters, once certified, must maintain a current status in three separate areas: Rappel, SPIE, and Fast Rope. The Commanding Officer will ensure that all HRST Masters remain current per this Order. HRST Masters that are not current in one area may perform duties in another area provided they hold currency in that area. Non-current HRST Masters shall attend a HRST Master Refresher Course to renew their currency. The refresher course shall be annotated in the Marine's SRB/OQR and Training Record. HRST Master currency standards are set forth according to the following guidelines:

(a) Rappel: As the HRST Master, conduct a rappel operation within 12 months.

(b) SPIE: As the SPIE Master, conduct a SPIE operation within 12 months.

(c) Fast Rope: As the Fast Rope Master, conduct a fast rope operation within 12 months.

(6) HRST 60-Day Rule. Prior to an individual conducting/participating in HRST operations from a helicopter, they must have conducted/participated in an HRST operation within the previous 60 days. If not, refresher training from a static tower must be conducted. A roster of all personnel participating in this training will be maintained in the unit training files.

(7) Participation With Other Services and Agencies. Marine Corps unit commanders and officers in charge are authorized to determine the necessity and feasibility of Marine Corps participation in HRST operations conducted by other U.S. Military services, U.S. Government agencies or foreign military services. Other agencies and services may not follow the same high quality standards for the maintenance of life support equipment. Therefore requests for authorization for participation in HRST operations with foreign military services with the use of foreign military equipment will be granted in writing by the first Colonel or O-6 in the chain of command after an in-depth risk assessment has been conducted per

reference (d). Other U.S. service, U.S. Government, U.S. Government Civilian Employees, MCCDC approved civilian contractors, and foreign military personnel may participate in Marine Corps HRST operations, if authorized by competent orders from their operational commander, and on a not-to-interfere basis, based on operational mission requirements. Authorization for this will be granted in writing by the first Colonel or O-6 in the chain of command after an in-depth risk assessment has been conducted per reference (d).

(8) Participation with COMMARCORSYSCOM. Participation in HRST operations with COMMARCORSYSCOM using equipment under research, development and acquisition status requires a special set of permissive orders from the individual's Commanding Officer stating that the individual will be using equipment under research, development and acquisition, by COMMARCORSYSCOM (CBGR) that is of a nonstandard nature. COMMARCORSYSCOM will authorize, in writing, the use of equipment identified as under research, development and acquisition status. When COMMARCORSYSCOM issues research and development equipment to other units, that is under an acquisition status; an authorization of use letter will accompany the equipment that specifically identifies the command, dates of use and type of equipment. The unit Commanding Officer will identify the personnel authorized to use the equipment

4. Administration and Logistics

a. Safety

(1) Safety is a paramount concern in all training exercises. Requests for waiver or modification of stated procedures, techniques or equipment as established by this order, will be submitted via the chain to DC, PP&O (POE). All equipment malfunctions and incidents will be reported per this order and reference (d).

(2) During combat operations, safety policies and prescribed operating procedures will be adhered to unless mission accomplishment is jeopardized by the policy/procedure. Commanders and other cognizant personnel will exercise extreme caution when modifying or waiving approved procedures, techniques or equipment. When operationally feasible, requests for waiver or modification of standard procedures, techniques or equipment as established by this Order will be submitted via the appropriate chain to DC, PP&O (POE). All equipment malfunctions and incidents will be reported per this order and reference (a).

b. Facilities and Personnel. Due to the sensitivity of handling and maintaining HRST equipment, centralization of support facilities and personnel is encouraged when operationally feasible.

c. Authorized Equipment. The use of HRST equipment, which is not approved for military service use or unauthorized modification of approved equipment, is strictly prohibited. Any request to modify equipment will be forwarded via the chain of command to DC, PP&O (POE) for approval with info copy to COMMARCORSYSCOM (CBGR), and COMNAVSAFECEN (C 47). Request for changes to current equipment allowances will be forwarded via the chain of command and to CG MCCDC (TFSD) for review and approval with info copy to DC, PP&O (POE), COMMARCORSYSCOM (CBGR), and COMNAVSAFECEN (C 47). Present and potential equipment deficiencies that negatively impact mission capability or safety should be identified to CG MCCDC (C 44). Only government-owned HRST equipment will be used for military operations and shall not be used for off duty activities. Any request to modify equipment will be forwarded via the chain of command to DC, PP&O (POE) for approval info copy to COMMARCORSYSCOM (CBGR), and COMNAVSAFECEN (C 47).

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d. Course Management. The lead agency, per reference (e), will submit Programs of Instruction for HRST Master and Unit HRST Master Refresher Training for review and approval to CG, Training Command (C 472) per references (b) and (c). The lead agency will also conduct Course Content Review Boards (CCRB) at a minimum of every two years.

e. Publications. Authorized units/activities that maintain HRST lockers will retain and maintain current copies of this Order, the appropriate references, HRST advisories, and the publications that pertain to their equipment and operations. This library will be readily accessible to all personnel.

- (1) MCO 1510.35D, Individual Training Standards (0321)
- (2) MCO 3501.10A, MCCRES MEU/SOC
- (3) MCO 1510.87B, Individual Training Standards (HRST)
- (4) MCRP 3-11.4A, Marine Corps Helicopter Rope Suspension Training
- (5) TM (IN DRAFT) Marine Corps Helicopter Rope Suspension Training
- (6) MCO P5102.1A Ground Mishap Reporting
- (7) MCO 3500.27A Operational Risk Management

f. Record Keeping/Reports

(1) Individual Records/Logs. HRST Master certification, assignment, termination, and reinstatement entries will be made in the individual's SRB/OQR as appropriate and the MCTIFS BTR/ITR under the local schools section, with date, location and course description.

(2) Unit/Activity Logs. All authorized units/activities described in paragraph 3.b.(2) of the basic Order will maintain consolidated records for 2 years.

(a) HRST logs will include:

1 A unit special order assigning each qualified HRST Master.

2 A current HRST operations order, Letter of Instruction (LOI) including a signed manifest and assigned safety, support, and supervisory personnel, for each operation.

3 Operational Risk Management. Each operation involving HRST will conduct a risk assessment done per reference (d), utilizing the Risk Assessment Matrix. This assessment will be a part of the HRST LOI.

4 Detailed after-action notes based on the HRST Master's observations of operational conditions, debriefing of all participants, and recommendations for future operations.

(b) Copies of all malfunction and mishap reports.

(c) HRST qualifications, certifications, and refresher training letters.

(3) HRST Reports

(a) Equipment Malfunctions/Incident. An equipment malfunction is defined as a piece of equipment that fails to function as designed. Some examples are: rope breaks, snap link bends or breaks. An incident is defined as anything that is not normal during the operation. Some examples include: individual falls off the rope, rope is fouled in the trees, rope becomes prematurely disconnected, rope is cut, individual is injured for any reason, or equipment damage for any reason. All equipment malfunctions on HRST incidents will be reported on the Naval Safety Center HRST Equipment Malfunction and Incidents Reporting web site within 10 days of the actual incident. Do not report fatalities on the web site. The timely reporting of all equipment malfunctions and incidents may save lives and equipment in ongoing and future operations.

(b) Accidents Involving Death or Injury

1 In addition to the requirements outlined above, notification of HRST equipment malfunctions/HRST incidents which result in death or in patient hospitalization of 3 or more personnel will be submitted by the individual's parent command (to arrive within 8 hours) to DC, SD and DC, PP&O (POE), and COMNAVSAFECEN (C 40) per reference (a).

2 If a HRST equipment malfunction is suspected, a message will be transmitted within 12 hours and simultaneously to the appropriate chain of command, CMC (SD), COMMARCORSYSCOM (C 2IA), DC, PP&O (POE), and COMNAVSAFECEN (C 47) Commander Naval Safety Center (C 47), USMC Parachute Safety Analyst, DSN 564-3520 ext 7160/59 or commercial (757)444-3520 ext 7160/59 or FAX DSN 564-6044.

g. HRST Locker Requirements. The climate control, maintenance and storage requirements for HRST Life Support Equipment will be strictly maintained and stored IAW with all applicable equipment technical publications, TM (IN DRAFT), and NAVAIR 13-45-2. Due to the safety hazard from improperly maintaining and storing HRST Life Support Equipment, waivers for maintenance and storage requirements will not be granted. Humidity and temperature sensors will be used to assist compliance to acceptable humidity/temperature ranges as listed in NAVAIR 13-1-6.2. All HRST equipment will be stored off the floor and maintained in a manner to prevent condensation, mold, mildew, high humidity, direct sunlight, rodent and insect infestations. The HRST Life Support Equipment will be kept locked in a secure area at all times. HRST equipment when taken on deployment and/or aboard shipping will be locked in a secure area under the control of the HRST Master, and stored in containers such as a small sealable moisture proof box. Desiccant bags will be used inside the moisture proof box as a means of moisture control.

h. Wet SPIE or Jacob's Ladder Operations. Wet SPIE/Jacob's Ladder operations are methods of amphibious extraction from an area of operations for reconnaissance units. Reconnaissance units should conduct this training on a regular basis. For safety purposes the guidelines below will be strictly adhered to. All other procedures will be strictly followed per reference (f).

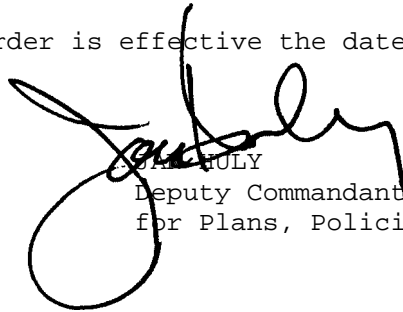
(1) Safety Boats. At a minimum, two power driven recovery boats are required near the extract point. The safety boat must have an "easy access" platform for recovery of personal and must have an inflatable boat or ladder rigged along side if they have to freeboard more than three feet and/or the boat does not provide an easy platform for recovery of personnel. The coxswain's only duty is to navigate the boat. The boat coxswain cannot act as the safety swimmer or corpsman.

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(2) Safety Swimmers. A minimum of one safety swimmer must be on board each safety boat. The safety swimmer must have fins, facemask, knife, and an inflatable life preserver. The safety swimmer cannot be additionally assigned as the boat coxswain or corpsman. The safety swimmer will have a minimum swim qualification of WSQ. The safety swimmer will attend pre-training for SPIE/Jacob's Ladder water operations.

(3) Individual Requirements. The minimum swim qualification for participation in SPIE/Jacob's Ladder water operations is CWS-1. Pre-training for SPIE/Jacob's Ladder water operations, will be done at a minimum of once every six months for maintaining currency. All personnel involved in executing these types of waterborne operations must attend unit level refresher training if currency lapses beyond 6 months.

5. Command and Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



J. M. JULY
Deputy Commandant
for Plans, Policies and Operations

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10203356900

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

MCO 3500.42A Ch 1
OCT 27 2008

MARINE CORPS ORDER 3500.42A Ch 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: CHANGE TRANSMITTAL

Encl: (1) New page insert to MCO 3500.42A

1. Situation. To transmit new page insert to the basic Order.
2. Mission. To include Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) into the basic Order.
 - a. MCO 3500.42A does not include MARSOC as an authorized unit or activity to conduct Helicopter Rope Suspension Techniques (HRST).
 - b. MCO 3500.42A does not include MARSOC as an authorized unit to conduct HRST Master Refresher Course.
 - c. MARSOC has the mission essential equipment and requirement to conduct HRST operations.
 - d. Active Component Force Reconnaissance Companies have been deactivated, personnel and equipment were transferred to MARSOC.
3. Execution. Remove page 7 and insert new page 7 in the basic Order.
4. Filing Instructions. File this change transmittal in front of the original Order.

J. F. DUNFORD JR.
Deputy Commandant for
Plans, Policies and Operations

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release;
distribution is unlimited.

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10203356901

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HRST MASTER

1. Qualification Requirements. NCO'S through Commissioned officers will be considered qualified as HRST Masters and Safety Insert Officers when the following requirements are met at a HRST course:

2. Rappelling. A suitable 30-90 foot tower shall be used. There will also be a written test which is covered in the student handout. Airframes will be rigged in a 8-minute time limit while static. This must be done successfully before the student can attempt to rappel with personnel from an aircraft. No helicopter rappel training will be conducted prior to satisfactory completion of the tower portion of the training.

a. Tower

(1) Conduct 4 daylight wall rappel descents, 2 with and 2 without combat equipment.

(2) Conduct 2 night wall rappel descents, 1 with and 1 without combat equipment.

(3) Conduct 2 daylight skid rappel descents, 1 without and 1 with combat equipment.

(4) Conduct 2 evolutions of at least 4 men, each as a HRST Master, 1 daylight, 1 night.

b. Aircraft

(1) Conduct 2 daylight rappel descents from either UH1N, CH-46E, or a CH-53D/E, 1 rappel must be with combat equipment.

(2) Conduct 2 night rappel descents from either UH1N, CH-46E, or a CH-53D/E, 1 rappel must be with combat equipment.

(3) Conduct 2 evolutions of at least 4 men, each as a HRST Master from either UH1N, CH-46E or CH-53D/E, 1 day, 1 night.

c. Rigging

(1) Properly rig the CH-46E or CH-53D/E and the UH-1N for rappelling.

NOTE: Both the 46 and 53 aircraft are rigged in the same manner.

(2) Properly rig the tower for available rappel points (wall, helicopter skid and hellhole).

d. Demonstrate proficiency in all rappelling operations.

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3. Fast Roping. No helicopter fast rope training will be conducted prior to satisfactory completion of the tower portion of fast rope training.

a. Tower

(1) Conduct 4 daylight Fast rope descents, 2 without and 2 with combat equipment.

(2) Conduct 2 night Fast rope descents, 1 without and 1 with combat equipment.

(3) Conduct 2 evolutions of Fast rope operations as a HRST Master, 1 day, 1 night.

b. Aircraft

(1) Conduct 4 daylight Fast rope descents from either a CH-46E, UH-1N or CH-53D/E. At least 1 Fast rope must be made with combat equipment.

(2) Conduct 2 night Fast rope descents from either a CH-46E, UH-1N or CH-53E. 1 Fast rope must be with combat equipment.

(3) Conduct 2 evolutions of Fast rope operations as a HRST Master, 1 day, 1 night.

c. Rigging

(1) Properly rig the tower for Fast rope operations.

(2) Properly rig the UH1N and CH-53D/E, or CH-46E for Fast rope operations.

d. Demonstrate proficiency in all Fast rope operations.

4. SPIE Rigging

a. Conduct 1 SPIE.

b. Properly rig the UH1N and CH-53D/E, or CH-46E for SPIE operations.

c. Conduct 1 evolution of SPIE operations as a HRST Master.

d. Demonstrate proficiency in all SPIE operations.

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5. Jacob Ladder Reconnaissance units only
 - a. Conduct 1 Climb from pool to 10 foot platform.
 - b. Properly rig the UH1N and CH-53D/E, or CH-46E for Jacob Ladder operations.
 - c. Conduct 1 evolution of Jacob Ladder operations as a HRST Master.
 - d. Demonstrate proficiency in all Jacob Ladder operations.

6. Demonstrate Proficiency in the following

- a. Rope grading and gear inspection.
- b. HRST commands and hand and arm signals.
- c. Knot proficiency.
- d. HRST members and aircrew briefs.

NOTE: When conducting HRST training, for familiarity, all USMC airframes that HRST are conducted from should be utilized.

7. HSRT Master Refresher Training Requirements. Non-current HRST Masters will be considered current as a HRST Master/SIO, when the following requirements have been met as supervised by a current HRST master per this order 3.c.(3) and 3.c.(5). (Requalification requires 100% mastery)

- a. Pass a knot test.
- b. Properly rig the tower for all rappelling and fast rope operations.
- c. Properly rig the CH-46E, UH-1N, CH-53D/E for all HRST operations.
- d. Conduct 2 evolutions of HRST operations, one from a tower and one from an aircraft.
- e. Demonstrate proficiency in tower inspection, helicopter inspection, and equipment inspection.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency in briefing, and debriefing, and all HRST operations.
- g. Demonstrate proficiency in rope management and knots.
- h. Demonstrate proficiency in proper storage, preventive maintenance, marking, rope logs, shelf/service life requirements, current authorized

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modifications to equipment, equipment serviceability requirements, equipment malfunction and incident reporting, and HRST operation paperwork requirements.

i. Recommendation from the HRST Master that conducted the refresher training and assigned in writing by the unit's commanding officer.

