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Army Watercraft Safety

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Preface

This manual provides guidance and technical information relevant to safety and survival equipment/systems used by US Army watercraft. Items listed in Appendix A are provided by the Marine Safety Office as safety equipment recommended for use aboard Army Watercraft. Vessel Technical Manuals and Basic Issue Items lists should be consulted for required equipment.

The manual contains guidance, instructions, technical data, illustrations, and procedures pertinent to the application, inspection, modification, maintenance, and the use of safety equipment, safety policies, and survival systems. The primary users of this manual are watercraft masters and key personnel engaged in the supervision, operation, or maintenance of US Army watercraft.

This publication applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the United States Army Reserve unless otherwise stated

The proponent of this publication is the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). The preparing agency is the United States Army Transportation Center and School. Submit written comments and recommendations for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, USATC&FE, ATTN: ATZF-OCT-S (Marine Safety Office), Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5407. Send comments and recommendations on electronic DA Form 2028 by email to marinesafety@conus.army.mil and to LeeeATCLFC@conus.army.mil (Attn: Doctrine Division).

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Introduction

PURPOSE

This manual provides a single source of guidance and technical information relevant to rescue equipment, survival systems and safety policies used on Army watercraft by Army watercraft personnel.

NOTE: Deviations from configurations of equipment presented in this manual are not recommended and are not authorized. To maintain standardization and to preclude the dangers of operating with potentially unsafe equipment, modifications to rescue equipment and survival systems are not authorized.

ADMINISTRATION

Because watercraft units have a unique requirement for the specific vessel Annual Safety Survey, commanders will appoint, in writing, a person to manage the unit's Annual Safety Survey program in addition to the generic duties of the Unit Safety Officer. This individual is responsible for the unit administration and coordination of the safety equipment inspection and maintenance requirements outlined in this manual.

CONTENTS

This manual contains guidance, instructions, technical data, drawings, illustrations, procedures, and descriptions pertinent to the configuration, modification, application, inspection, fabrication, maintenance and repair, and the use of rescue equipment and survival systems. The Transportation Branch Marine Safety Office, Fort Eustis, VA, will formulate, produce, and distribute applicable changes to the equipment and to respective chapters of this manual.

Warnings, Cautions and Notes The following definitions apply to "WARNINGS," "CAUTIONS," and "NOTES" found throughout this manual.

WARNING

Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques may result in personal injury or loss of life if not carefully followed.

CAUTION

Operating maintenance procedures, techniques, may result in damage to equipment if instructions are not carefully followed.

NOTE: Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques, and so on that are considered essential to emphasize.

USE OF THE WORDS "SHALL," "WILL," "MAY," AND "SHOULD"

The following definitions apply to the words "shall, will, may," and "should" throughout this manual.

- Use of "shall" and "will" indicates a mandatory requirement.
- Use of "may" and "should" indicates an acceptable or suggested means of accomplishment.

UPDATING

This manual will be updated periodically by the issuing of a List of Effective Pages that includes all original, revised, added, and deleted pages. This list will be inserted in the front of each volume, immediately following the title page. Revised and added pages, appropriately dated, will be issued with the change and will be inserted into this volume according to page numbers. The replaced and/or deleted pages and the superseded List of Effective Pages will be discarded. National Stock Numbers (NSN) and associated equipment listed may change as technologies advance. As recommended, interim changes will be submitted for insertion to this manual by means of the US Army Watercraft Safety Advisory from the Marine Safety Office. All directives shall be complied with that are issued after the date of the latest change. These directives will be incorporated into the next change or revision of this manual.

GENERAL

Regulatory guidance for rescue and survival equipment and systems are contained in AR 56-9. Policies and procedures pertaining to all other aspects of the equipment and systems are stated in this manual.

ALLOWANCE

Allowances of rescue and survival equipment are determined by the type of vessel and mission. Additional equipment may be required to provide for passengers and maintenance. Specific allowances may be found in the appropriate watercraft Basic Issue Items (BII) list. Appendix A of this manual provides a quick reference guide, but must be verified with the BII.

Chapter 1

Marine Safety Program

The Army's watercraft safety program is designed to help mariners perform their mission in a safe manner and to give the Risk Level Decision Maker the necessary support/advise tools to make an informed decision. The program uses vessel safety surveys, a hazard tracking system, and institutional training to ensure that watercraft and the personnel assigned are able to maintain operational readiness and mission effectiveness. Topics covered in this section are:

- Safety Surveys and inspections
- Army Accident Reporting and Investigation
- Watercraft Safety Notification and Readiness
- Safety Inspections

SAFETY SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS

1-1. **Surveys.** The Transportation Branch Marine Safety Office is assigned the task of performing Marine Safety Surveys to meet the Department of the Army's triennial requirement. All Army watercraft will undergo a safety survey every three (3) years conducted by the Transportation Branch Safety Office (TBSO), Marine Safety Specialist (MSS), Fort Eustis, VA., and annually by the Battalion or below. Surveys will not be conducted on watercraft in overhaul, at sea, or within the first three months after being placed in service. The purpose for the safety survey is to:

- Uphold and maintain the safety posture of Army watercraft as related to readiness.
- Provide compliance with Army and other federal safety regulations.
- Assess the level of safety standardization within the Army watercraft field.
- Provide on-site assistance for crew safety training.
- Accumulate lessons learned from Army watercraft crews.

1-2. **Survey Guides.** Safety Survey Guides are designed to be generic to vessel classes and are periodically updated as both vessel safety equipment and governing laws/regulations improve. Standardized Safety Guides have been developed and are available from the Transportation Branch Marine Safety Office and the Army Electronic Product Support web site.

1-3. **Inspections.** Safety inspections are the responsibility of the Commander. Army watercraft must follow Army Regulations, Department of Defense Regulations, United States Public Laws and International Maritime Laws. Both Coastal and International laws allow the Department of the Army to establish different criteria as long as these criteria do not adversely impact any other Maritime organization or Maritime operation. The vessel master is ultimately responsible for insuring vessel inspections and surveys occur as required for his or her assigned vessel, with special attention to rescue and survival equipment.

1-4. Both the public laws and DOD/DA Regulations require Safety inspections of each watercraft to be performed within specific time frames. Public law requires annual inspections be performed by the owning organization and periodic inspections by law enforcement agencies of the national flag of the vessel. DA Regulations require an annual safety inspection of all equipment and facilities managed/owned by each specific command. Additionally, DOD Regulations require a triennial safety inspection of all vessel equipment and management processes be conducted by a major component command level. The Army has assigned this task to Commander, Training and Doctrine Command, who further assigned the task to the Chief of Transportation.