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## **PREFACE**

This manual provides guidance and technical information relevant to safety and survival equipment/systems used by US Army watercraft. Safety and survival equipment/systems are identified in AR 56-9.

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 personnel. This manual will also be used by key personnel engaged in the supervision, operation, or maintenance of US Army watercraft.

The US Army's environmental strategy into the 21st century defines the Army's leadership commitment and philosophy for meeting present and future environmental challenges. It provides a framework to ensure that environmental stewardship ethic governs all Army activities. The Army's environmental vision is to be a national leader in environmental and natural resource stewardship for present and future generations, as an integral part of all Army missions. The Army's environmental vision statement communicates the Army's commitment to the environment.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) and forward it to Commander, USATC&FE, ATTN: ATZF-CSS (Marine Safety Office), Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5113.

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

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### Section I. General

1-1. **PURPOSE.** This manual provides an up-to-date, single source of guidance and technical information relevant to rescue equipment and survival systems and safety policies used on Army watercraft and by Army watercraft personnel.

#### NOTE

Deviations from configurations of equipment presented in this manual 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.

1-2. **ADMINISTRATION.** Because watercraft units do not have a specific position dedicated to maintenance of rescue and survival equipment, it may be advantageous for the commanding officer to designate, in writing, a person to manage the unit's rescue and survival equipment. It is not intended that this individual actually inspect or maintain the equipment but rather be responsible for administration and coordination of the various requirements set forth in the PMS outlined in this manual. The designated individual should be familiar with this manual and would in effect, become the unit's "expert" for this equipment.

1-3. **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.

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

(1) **Warnings.** Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques, and so on that may result in personal injury or loss of life if not carefully followed.

(2) **Cautions.** Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques, and so on that may result in damage to equipment if not carefully followed.

(3) **Notes.** Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques, and so on that are considered essential to emphasize.