

Annex E (Ground Branch Operations) to 1-507th BACSOP

1. General.

a. This annex is a reference to the current existing ground branch SOP.

b. The ground branch SOP has specific details in reference to operational procedures during the first week of training. Before practical work begins on any apparatus, the instructors will explain the purpose of the apparatus and how it will assist the student in preparation for jump week.

c. All PIs must be Black Hat qualified.

2. Training.

a. The training students receive in ground branch lays the foundation for everything else the students will learn in the BAC, and the behavior of the instructors establishes the attitude for the entire three-week course. Instructors must be precise and clear in their teaching, and constantly display to the students a feeling of motivation, energy, and professionalism.

b. Ground week is built around two core tasks: exiting the door of the aircraft and performing parachute landing falls (PLF). The lesson plans contain all the supporting tasks instructors must cover during the blocks of instruction and practical exercises. Appendix 1 (Ground Critical Task List) to ANNEX L (Ground Branch Operations) also lists the tasks for quick review. Every instructor must be thoroughly familiar with every lesson plan, and be capable of teaching and evaluating all the tasks in them.

c. The five essential classes of ground week are:

(1) Donning and Fitting of T11 Parachute / Mock Door Individual Exit (MDIE)

(2) Mock Tower (34-foot tower) Individual Exit (MTIE)

(3) Parachute Landing Falls (PLFs)

(4) Methods of recovery (MOR)

(5) Parachute Orientation (PO)

d. During a normal five-day week, the company begins training with the "Airborne in Action" demonstration, commonly referred to as "Airborne 5000," in the bleachers at Eubanks Field (tower branch). If the "Airborne in Action" demonstration is for a special occasion or VIP, the company will include the "McGillicutty skit" with the basic presentation unless not requested. The state flags will always be posted for Airborne 5000 classes. Man down drills will be conducted during summer months immediately following Airborne 5000. Airborne 5000 will not be conducted during a 4-day training week; therefore, man down drills will be conducted following the MDIE class at Ground Branch.

e. Prior to conducting the Airborne 5000, the company must submit a tower usage request memorandum to Tower Branch during their support week, and must have a certified rescue team in the training area if a jumper is used during the class. The company will send 1 NCO (preferably a certified Mike Sergeant) and a 10-man detail with ACH 1 hour prior to the beginning of the class to set up the near free tower.

f. The PI will coordinate with Tower Branch Master Trainers to sign for the equipment and parachutes, and will turn in all equipment, rehabbed, immediately after the class.

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g. PSGs must give the students an orientation when they first enter Mann Field (ground branch), pointing out the various apparatus, latrines, showers, water points, break areas, etc...

h. Prior to the company arriving in the training area each morning, and at the conclusion of each days training, a designated cadre member will unlock the training apparatus, set up the training area (ice sheets/arm immersion system, Water Trailer), and then close down the training area and relock all apparatuses IAW Appendix 2 (Ground Training Area Unlock Checklist) to ANNEX E (Ground Branch Operations). At the conclusion of the training week, the Company will conduct police call as well as maintenance on the latrines and report any deficiencies to the Master Trainers.

i. Typical ground branch training schedules:

(1) 5-day “standard” training week:

Start Time	End Time	Event	Who	Location	Reference
Monday					
0430	0730	Airborne Physical Fitness Test	1SG	Tower Branch	TC 3-21.220
0730	0815	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0815	0915	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0915	0930	Movement to Airborne 5000	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1015	Airborne In Action / Airborne 5000	PI	Tower Branch	ABN POI
1015	1030	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1030	1100	MDIE class	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1100	1130	Draw Parachutes / Orient Students to Ground Branch	PSG	Ground Branch	Ground SOP
1130	1215	Donning and Fitting T-11	PI	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220
1215	1230	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1230	1330	Lunch	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
1330	1345	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1345	1700	MDIE PE	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1700	1715	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
Tuesday					
0600	0700	PRT/APFT Re-test	CDR	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0700	0730	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0730	0815	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0815	0830	Movement to Tower Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0830	0900	Parachute Orientation	PI	Tower Branch	ABN POI
0900	0915	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0915	1000	MTIE Class	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1010	1215	MTIE PE	PSG	Ground Branch	Ground SOP
1215	1230	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1230	1330	Lunch	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
1330	1345	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1345	1700	MTIE PE	PSG	Ground Branch	Ground SOP
1700	1715	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
Wednesday					
0600	0730	Company Run	CDR	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0730	0815	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0815	0915	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0915	0930	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1000	Parachute Landing Fall Class	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1000	1045	Side Grass Drills	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1045	1200	PLF Wall / LDA Operations	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1200	1230	Lunch (M)	PSG	Ground Branch	Co SOP
1230	1315	Front Grass Drills	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1315	1700	PLF Wall / LDA Operations	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1700	1715	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
Thursday					
0600	0730	PRT	CDR	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0730	0815	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0815	0915	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0915	0930	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1015	Rear Grass Drills	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1015	1215	PLF Wall / LDA Operations	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1215	1230	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5

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1230	1330	Lunch	PSG	Ground Branch	Co SOP
1330	1345	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1345	1700	PLF Wall / LDA Operations	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1700	1715	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
Friday					
0600	0730	Company Run	CDR	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0730	0815	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0815	0915	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0915	0930	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1215	Methods of Recovery Class / PE / Retraining	PI / PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1215	1230	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1230	1330	Lunch	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
1330	1345	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1345	1645	RIGEX #1	PSG	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220
1645	UTC	Clear Training Area / Retraining	PSG	Ground Branch	Ground SOP

(2) 4-day “non-standard” training week:

Start Time	End Time	Event	Who	Location	Reference
Day 1					
0430	0730	Airborne Physical Fitness Test	1SG	Tower	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0730	0815	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0815	0915	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0915	0930	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1015	MDIE class	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1015	1100	Donning and Fitting T-11	PI	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220
1100	1215	MDIE PE	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1215	1230	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1230	1330	Lunch	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
1330	1345	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1345	1630	MDIE PE	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1630	1700	MTIE Class	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1700	1715	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
Day 2					
0600	0700	PRT/APFT Re-test	CDR	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0700	0745	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0745	0830	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0830	0845	Movement to Tower Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0845	0915	Parachute Orientation	PI	Tower Branch	ABN POI
0915	0930	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1215	MTIE PE	PSG	Ground Branch	Ground SOP
1215	1230	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1230	1330	Lunch	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
1330	1345	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1345	1700	MTIE PE	PSG	Ground Branch	Ground SOP
1700	1715	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
Day 3					
0600	0730	PRT	CDR	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0730	0815	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0815	0915	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0915	0930	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1030	PLF Class	PI	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1030	1230	Side Grass Drill / Wall / LDA OPS	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1230	1300	Chow / MRE	PSG	Ground Branch	Co SOP
1300	1700	Front Grass Drills / Wall / LDA OPS	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1700	1715	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
Day 4					
0600	0730	Company Run	CDR	Ground Branch	TC 3-21.220 / BACSOP
0730	0815	Personal Hygiene / Barracks Maintenance	PSG	Co Area	Co SOP
0815	0915	Breakfast	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
0915	0930	Movement to Ground Branch	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
0930	1215	Rear Grass Drills / Wall / LDA OPS	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1215	1230	Movement to Battalion Area	1SG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1230	1330	Chow DFAC	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP
1330	1345	Movement to Ground Branch	PSG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1345	1415	Methods of Recovery Class	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1415	1700	Methods of Recovery PE / Retraining / Clearing/ RIGEX #1	PSG	Ground Branch	ABN POI
1700	1715	Movement to Company Area	PSG	Enroute	FM 3-21.5
1715	1815	Dinner	PSG	DFAC	Co SOP

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(3) Ground week planning considerations:

Ground Week Planning Considerations		
Event	Standard Day of Week	Time
Airborne Physical Fitness Test	Monday	2 Hours
Airborne in Action class	Monday	1 Hour
MDIE Class	Monday	45 Min
Donning and Fitting T-11	Monday	45 Min
MDIE PE	Monday	-3.45 Hour
Parachute Orientation	Tuesday	30 Min
34' Tower Individual Exit Class	Tuesday	.45 Min
34' Tower Individual Exit PE	Tuesday	8 Hours
Parachute Landing Falls Class	Wednesday	.45 Min
Side Grass Drill	Wednesday	1 Hour
(Left Side) "2 off the wall / 2 off the LDA"	Wednesday	.22 Min
(Right Side) "2 off the wall / 2 off the LDA"	Wednesday	.22 Min
LDA Operations (Sides)	Wednesday	3 Hours
Front Grass Drill	Wednesday	1 Hour
"2 off the wall / 2 off the LDA"	Wednesday	.45 Min - 1Hr
LDA Operations (Fronts)	Wednesday	3Hours
Rear Grass Drill	Thursday	1 Hour
"2 off the wall / 2 off the LDA"	Thursday	.45 Min - 1Hr
LDA Operations (Rears)	Thursday	3 Hours
Methods of Recovery Class	Friday	.30 Min
Methods of Recovery PE	Friday	2.5 Hours
Clear Training Area	Friday	4 Hours
RIGEX	Friday	3 Hours

3. Donning the T-11 Parachute Harness and Reserve utilizing the Buddy-Assist Method with a Universal Parachutist RECOVERY Bag (UPRB).

a. The buddy system method provides the best combination of speed and accuracy for parachutists to adjust and check each other's parachutes. Using the buddy system to properly don and adjust the troop parachute harness provides an additional safety check, prevents delays during JM inspection, and provides minimum discomfort to the parachutist while aboard the aircraft. Each PI will explain the following during the PE.

- (1) Explain characteristics and capabilities of the T-11 ATPS.
- (2) Explain and demonstrate how to carry T-11 parachute and T-11 R.
- (3) Sizing and adjusting the T-11 parachute for proper wear.
- (4) Familiarization, folding and donning of the UPRB for the T-11.
- (5) Ripcord handle awareness.

b. Buddy System Method:

(1) Step 1. The main parachute harness requires pre-adjustment prior to fitting. Lay the parachute out the Pack Tray face down. There are two points of adjustment located at the shoulder of the harness. The Diagonal Back Strap Retainers are routed through the Sizing Channels on the Diagonal Back Strap and attach to the Pack Tray. There are five settings for the jumper's height. Each setting is numbered, with 1 being the smallest size and 5 being the largest. There is a Main Lift Web Tuck Tab Assembly, a Main Lift Wed adjustment strap and a Main Lift Web adjuster located on each Main Lift Web. The Main Lift Webs have 3 size settings and are adjustable to the jumper's torso length. The adjustment point above the chest strap is the small setting, the adjustment point below the chest strap is the medium setting and the fully extended Main Lift Web is the large setting.

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NOTE: AFTER DONNING THE PARACHUTE HARNESS THE BUDDY CHECKS THE JUMPER TO ENSURE THE OPTIMUM FIT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. THE TOP EDGE OF THE PACK TRAY WILL BE IN LINE WITH THE JUMPER'S SHOULDER BLADES AND THE CANOPY RELEASE ASSEMBLIES WILL REST IN THE HOLLOW OF THE JUMPER'S SHOULDERS JUST BELOW THE COLLAR BONES.

(2) Adjust Sizing Channels / Main Lift Web Tuck Tab Assembly.

- (a) Unfasten the Directional Snap Fastener of the Diagonal Back Strap Retainer.
- (b) Select the appropriate Sizing Channel.
- (c) Re-channel the Back Strap Retainer in the appropriate Sizing Channel and fasten the Directional Snap Fastener.

(3) Adjust the Main Lift Web Tuck Tab Assembly.

- (a) Unfasten the Snap Fastener on the Main Lift Web Tuck Tab Assembly.
- (b) Set the required size of small, medium, or large by inserting the tuck tab into the tuck pocket and snapping the Snap Fastener.
- (c) Ensure all slack in the Main Lift Web Adjustment Strap is removed using the Main Lift Web adjuster.

NOTE: All excess webbing in the Horizontal Back Strap and Leg Straps will be let out prior to donning the harness.

(4) Step 2 - Donning the T-11 Parachute System:

- (a) Jumper Action – assume a modified “High Jumper” position.
- (b) Buddy Action – place harness over jumper’s arms and hold Pack Tray high on jumper’s back.
- (c) Jumper Action – secure the Chest Strap, secure a two to three finger quick release in its webbing retainer, “S” fold or accordion fold and secure the excess webbing in its webbing retainer ensuring that the tabbed ending points towards the Chest Strap Friction Adapter.
- (d) Jumper Action – secure the UPRB and Leg Straps ensuring that the Ejector Snaps and “L” Shaped Ejector Snap Pads are as far forward as possible. This is achieved during preparation by ensuring that the Horizontal Back Strap is completely extended. Secure the free running ends of the Leg Straps in their Webbing Retainers.
- (e) Jumper Action – secure the “D” rings pull downward to ensure the Pack Tray remains high on your upper back; hold in place while standing erect.
- (f) Buddy Action – Ensure that the saddle is under the jumper’s hamstrings and remove all slack from the Horizontal Back strap by simultaneously pulling up on both sides.

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(g) Jumper Action – remain standing erect, release the “D” rings and apply pressure to the Horizontal Back strap just above the Ejector Snaps when a tight but not uncomfortable adjustment has been made.

(h) Buddy Action - with one hand hold each Diagonal Back strap in place while tightening down the free running ends of the Horizontal Back straps; secure all excess in the Webbing Retainers.

NOTE: Both jumpers will don the main parachute before donning the reserve parachute.

(i) Buddy Action - remove all twist from the Waistband and issue the Reserve Parachute and Waistband to the jumper.

(j) Jumper Action – Jumper will place the reserve in the crook of the left arm and route the Waistband through Waistband Retainers and attach the Connector Snaps to the “D” rings.

(k) Buddy Action - assist the jumper in attaching the Reserve Parachute; secure the Waistband with a two to three fingers quick release to the Waistband Adjuster Panel and ensure that the free running end is accessible to the jumper.

(l) Jumper Action – confirm that you can access the free running end of the Waistband and a two to three fingers quick release is present.

NOTE: The remaining steps for donning remain unchanged for a Hollywood equipped jumper.

(m) Buddy Action - If the Pack Tray is riding improperly on the back, or the canopy release assemblies are not resting in the hollows of the shoulders, remove the harness, make the proper adjustments and repeat steps.

(n) Buddy Action – Inspect the jumper, confirming that all excess webbing is stowed in the webbing retainers and the free running end of the chest strap is “S” folded or accordion folded and properly stowed with the tabbed ending towards the Chest Strap Friction Adapter.

4. Mock Door Training.

a. Mock door training includes the company formal block of instruction and the stick trainers’ supporting practical exercises. This portion of training is a graded event. Students who do not demonstrate proper execution of Mock Door tasks may be subject to recycle or drop from the course pending Command approval. This training covers (in order of presentation):

(1) The “hit it” exercise.

(2) Slow deliberate movement.

(3) Familiarization with unhooking the universal static line snap hook from top carrying handle.

(4) Static line control.

(5) Non static line hand.

(6) The standby position.

(7) Exiting the paratroop door (C-130/C-17).

b. The instructor teaching “donning of the parachute harness and reserve” will utilize one student to demonstrate how to properly put on the equipment. The instructor will rig the student

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and demonstrate to the stick how it is done. The instructor will rig the student up to, but not including the reserve. After all students have donned the harness, the instructor will demonstrate how to don the reserve parachute. The instructors should stress from the beginning that the ACH goes on first, and they must stress the necessity of always keeping the palm of the right hand over the rip cord handle to protect the reserve from accidental deployment. Additionally, each instructor must reinforce “toe to toe” and “heel to heel” contact during practical exercises. The instructor will also brief the Soldiers on the correct execution of the “knee bender” exercise.

c. Instructors will teach the “slow deliberate movement” on the track, breaking the stick down into right and left doors.

d. Students will conduct a minimum of 10 exits from the aircraft mockups; three from the left door and three from the right door (C-130), as well as two from the left door and two from the right door (C-17). For ALL exits from each door, the instructor will be inside the mockup to emphasize proper static line control, transition of the static line to the safety, and the “stand-by” position. Instructors will ensure that no more than 20 jumpers are inside the mock door at a given time. The remaining students will stand outside the mockup observing training and standing “toe-to-toe, heel-to-heel,” with the right hand covering the ripcord handle and the toes of the boots up against the concrete border.

e. Ensure all students qualify IAW MDIE grading standards.

f. Instructors will conduct the “hit-it” continuously throughout the training day, in order to keep the students mentally alert, and to build the students’ automatic reactions/muscle memory necessary for proper exits.

5. Parachute Orientation. Parachute orientation is familiarization of the T-11 Main canopy and reserve; it is conducted at the far 250ft tower. Parachute Orientation must be annotated on the Company’s tower usage report submitted during the Company support week. The primary instructor and set up detail will report to the tower one hour prior for set up of class.

6. 34 ft. Mock Tower Individual Exit (MTIE).

a. Mock Tower Individual Exit (MTIE) training is the company formal block of instruction and the graded practical exercise on the 34’ mock tower. MTIE training continues to reinforce and refine the same tasks taught during mock door training. The instructor teaches and grades the students’ execution of their first three points of performance. The real value of MTIE training is that it teaches the students to control their fear of heights and the second basic jump technique (control of the jumpers’ body position from the moment they exit the door of the aircraft until they receive the opening shock of the main parachute canopy). Any student who refuses to exit the tower on their own after being given the command “GO” 3 times will be removed from the tower and must be seen by the Company Commander/First Sergeant or a Master Trainer prior to removal from training.

b. Students must make a minimum of six exits from the mock tower. For students to qualify on the 34’ tower, their last two consecutive exits **must** be satisfactory. A student who fails to qualify on the tower may continue onto PLF training, but they must qualify on the tower before the week is complete or be recycled into the next ground week company.

NOTE: ALL STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO QUALIFY MUST BE EVALUATED BY THE MASTER TRAINER PRIOR TO BEING RECYCLED TO THE NEXT GROUND WEEK.

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c. To operate both sides of the mock tower, a platoon requires 34 student detail personnel and five (preferably six) cadre members and instructors. See Appendix (34' Tower Set-up) to ANNEX E (Ground Branch Operations) for the positioning of the detail and cadre.

d. Have 30 students per side don a harness and reserve. Cadre will reinforce proper buddy rigging and inspect the students prior to moving to the mock door. The remainder of the students will serve as detail pax, or will sit on the brown benches and observe training. While seated on the brown bench, students will keep their feet and knees together as reinforcement training at all times.

NOTE: ALL CANTEENS AND ACH's WILL BE GROUNDED BEHIND THE BROWN BENCHES, DRESS RIGHT DRESS.

e. Students will make one satisfactory exit from the mock door at the base of the 34' tower prior to each tower exit.

f. The mock door Jumpmaster (JM) will ensure the jumpers have their butterfly snaps hooked to their "D" rings before the student enters the mockup. The mock door JM will refresh the jumper on the proper "stand-by" position, and he will observe and critique the jumper's exit of the mock door. The mock door JM will explain, in detail, jumper deficiencies and coach the jumper to execute the proper exit technique. The mock door JM will not send jumpers to the mock tower until the jumper is making good, strong exits from the mock door. The mock door JM must always be positioned inside the mock door to reinforce static line control.

g. The riser checker (student E-5 or above) will place the risers over the appropriate shoulder corresponding to the door the student is jumping and brief each student on which set of risers is short and which is long. The riser checker will position themselves at the base of the mock tower, and will control the flow of the jumpers.

h. The tower JM hooks the jumpers up to the trolley risers and coaches the jumpers into the correct "stand-by" position. The Tower JM will ensure all four riser butterfly snaps are connected to the correct "D" rings on both jumpers prior to exiting any student. The number one jumper will always be hooked to the outside or furthest out cable and the number two jumper will be hooked to the inside set of risers. The JM then issues the commands of "stand-by", "sound off with your roster number" and "go." The tower JM then directs the rope detail as necessary. One (1) certified airborne instructor must be present in the mock tower, no exceptions.

i. The grader must be a certified Black Hat. The grader observes and evaluates each jumper during the jumper's first three points of performance. The grader records the jumper's grade and deficiencies as necessary. The grader will give each jumper a detailed critique and corrective instructions. The grader rotates jumpers in and out of the harness and details as required. The grader also supervises the mound detail and rope line. The grader is responsible for inspecting each jumper's harness after donning and ensuring that both CRAs are secure/wired shut prior to conducting training.

NOTE: The Mound NCO will be positioned down off the mound and will ensure jumpers' risers are hooked up to the D-rings before leaving the mound.

NOTE: The Rope NCO/Officer will stand on the middle concrete block and control the ropemen and, if needed, assist the ropemen in securing the risers to the MT Jumpmaster.

7. Parachute Landing Falls (PLF).

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a. For PLFs, platoons conduct the formal block of instruction, followed by three phases of practical exercises for each of the three variations of PLFs; side, front, and rear. The three phases of practical work are grass drills, wall/LDA drills, and qualification on the lateral drift apparatus (LDA).

NOTE: ANY CADRE CONDUCTING PLF GRASS DRILLS, NOT ASSIGNED AS THE PI FOR THE CLASS, MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE PSG AND MASTER TRAINER. PI WILL USE BULL HORN DURING GRASS DRILLS.

b. The normal sequence of training PLFs is:

- (1) Side grass drill, four PLFs off the wall, and four PLF falls from the LDA
- (2) Front grass drill, four PLFs off the wall, and four PLF falls from the LDA
- (3) Rear grass drill, four PLFs from the wall, four PLF falls from the LDA

NOTE: EACH OF THE GRASS DRILLS CONSIST OF 2 PLFs FROM EACH SIDE OFF THE WALL, AND 2 PLFs FROM EACH SIDE FROM THE LDA (2/2s).

c. Platoons WILL NOT teach three grass drills on the same day.

d. The grass drill is complete when the PI sees that most students can execute all variations of the PLF and they have done a minimum of three PLFs (both right and left for sides) at full speed. All available instructors will be walking around in the PLF pit during the grass drill to assist the students.

e. If a platoon has given the grass drill for one of the three variations, that platoon must complete the practical exercise of 2-and-2s, for that variation before leaving the training area. If not completed, the platoon must conduct refresher training on grass drills upon return to the training area prior to continuing with PLF training.

f. Instructors will position themselves to the front and to the side that the jumpers' toes are pointed, and will give the command to "land" so that the jumper's feet make contact with the ground approximately five feet from the instructor. The instructor will position themselves no closer than ten feet from the platform, or far enough to give the student momentum to be dropped when he or she is approximately 2 to 3 feet above the ground. The rope man will always be positioned to the rear right of the LDA trolley as the grading instructor is looking at it. In addition, the rope will always remain behind the arms of the jumper. The safety officer must be E-5 or above.

g. A student is qualified on the LDA when he or she has completed a minimum of four falls per variation, with the last two falls in each variation graded as "satisfactory."

NOTE: No physical contact will be made towards the student to get him/her into the correct landing attitude without a PSG, 1SG, or Master Trainer present.

h. During PLF training, instructors will familiarize students with the fourth point of performance; "prepare to land (pull a two-riser slip opposite the direction of drift)," and teach in detail the fifth point of performance; "land."

i. The company will use all 3 pits during grass drills unless receiving prior approval from the Master Trainer.

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8. Methods of Recovery (MOR).

a. The Company will conduct the formal block of instruction at the 34' Demo Tower. This will be followed by practical work on recovery of parachutes and recovery from the drag using the two prescribed methods of recovery (hand to shoulder and hand assist method).

b. Recovery of the parachutes will take place in the field below the white house. The instructors for this station will be positioned in the center or in a place to best monitor the practical exercise. Each student will recover the parachute system using both the tactical method of recovery and the non-tactical method of recovery.

c. Recovery from the drag will take place on the grass next to the White house. Each student will recover from the drag a minimum of one iteration for each method for activation of the CRAs during the recovery from the drag exercise.

d. The instructors will ensure that every student in the company conducts all portions of the MOR training. If the company wants to change the location for a practical exercise, it must be approved by the MT. The company must provide a minimum of six instructors to effectively monitor the practical training lanes. Three instructors are required for recovery of the T-11 parachute, and three instructors for the recovery from the drag exercise.

9. Rigging Exercise (RIGEX).

a. The RIGEX will be conducted by each student using all required equipment (T-11 Parachute, MOLLE Ruck, MAWC and Air Items).

b. The instructor will first teach the proper rigging of a MOLLE ruck and air items. The instructor will then inspect every student's MOLLE to ensure it is rigged to standard.

c. The MAWC will then be introduced, to include how to properly size the weapons container based on the jumper's body height and weight.

d. The instructor will then have students don the T-11 Parachute using the buddy system. Students will attach their combat equipment to the T-11 Parachute. Once all students are complete the instructor will inspect each student for rigging deficiencies or sizing errors.

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Appendix 1 (Ground Critical Task List)

1. Task: Donning and Fitting T-11 Parachute.

- a. Explain characteristics and capabilities of the T-11 ATPS
- b. Identify and name the major components of the troop parachute harness.
- c. Explain and demonstrate how to properly carry the T-11 and T-11R
- d. Don and adjust and size the troop parachute harness and reserve with the UPRB
- e. React to the command "hit it."

2. Task: Mock Door.

- a. Identify and locate the left and right jump doors.
- b. Identify and locate the anchor line cables for the left and right jump doors.
- c. Identify and locate the dual rail cargo handling system.
- d. Define the phrase "stick of jumpers."
- e. Define the term "drop zone."
- f. Define the term "prop blast."
- g. Form a "bite" in the static line.
- h. Assume the slow deliberate movement position.
- i. Execute the slow deliberate movement.
- j. Assume the "stand-by" position.
- k. Assume the number two man position.
- l. Exit the door of an aircraft.
- m. Perform the first point of performance.
- n. Activate the CRA.

3. Task: 34' MTIE.

- a. Don and adjust the troop parachute harness and reserve parachute.
- b. Execute the jump command "stand-by."
- c. Exit the door of the mock tower.
- d. Execute the first point of performance, "proper exit, check body position and count."
- e. Execute the second point of performance, "check canopy and immediately gain canopy control."
- f. Execute the third point of performance, "keep a sharp lookout during descent."

4. Task: PLFs.

- a. Execute the "check your feet" exercise.
- b. Execute the "ready" position.
- c. Execute the "slip" position.
- d. Name the five points of contact in sequence.
- e. Execute a left-side and right side PLF.
- f. Execute a left-front and right-front PLF.
- g. Execute a left-rear and right-rear PLF.
- h. Activate the CRA.

5. Task: MOR.

- a. Activate and reassemble the CRA
- b. Execute the hand to shoulder method of releasing the canopy
- c. Execute the hand assist method of releasing the canopy

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- d. Identify the buddy-assist method of recovery
- e. Recover T-11 parachute systems using the tactical and non-tactical method of recovery.

6. Task: RIGEX.

- a. Properly rig MOLLE with the single point release.
- b. Introduction to the sizing and proper wearing of the MAWC.
- c. Properly attach Combat Equipment to the T-11 Parachute.

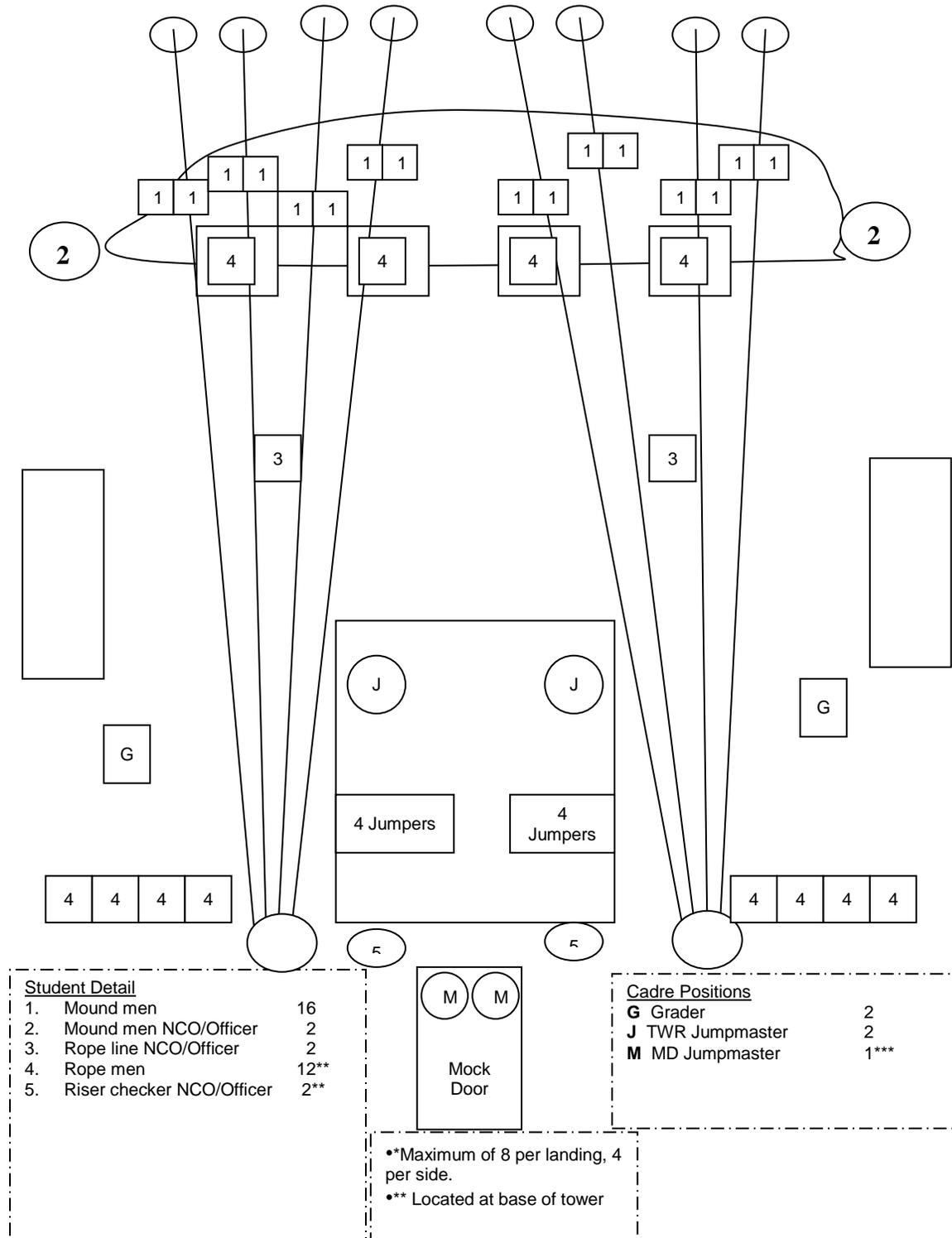
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Appendix 2 (Ground Training Area Unlock/Lock-up Checklist)

1. The “Unlock NCO” from the fill company will secure the keys from the tower branch Master Trainers on fill Friday. Cadre will utilize these keys to unlock the tower training branch, and set up the training area for the APFT on day one of training. Cadre will unlock the remainder of the tower training area IAW Appendix 2 (Tower Unlock/Lock-up Checklist) to ANNEX F (Tower Branch Operations).
2. The “Unlock NCO” will exchange the tower keys with the tower company at the completion of the APFT and/or the “Airborne in Action” demonstration.
3. The following checklist applies for the remainder of the ground week:
 - a. Unlock cable at the entrance to the training area and remove all remaining road barriers.
 - b. Secure arm immersion coolers and place them in the appropriate areas. Ice must be in the immersion coolers at all times unless the water is being used in the corresponding trough. Water buffalo will be placed in a shaded area and secured with chalk blocks. It must be refilled accordingly with water and ice (summer months). The Arm Immersion Coolers must be set up and filled PRIOR to Students arriving in the training area.
 - c. Turn on all the lights to the PRT pits (buildings M6526, M6527, M6323) and mock doors (buildings M6524, M6525) if they will be used that morning. Turn off the lights at daylight (or after PRT).
 - d. Unlock the backside of buildings M6323.
 - e. Unlock building 1262 (mock door harness shed) and T-11 harness shed.
 - f. Unlock buildings 2586, 2633, and 2581 (latrines).
 - g. Unlock buildings M9701, M9856, M9857, and M9858 (34' towers), top and bottom.
 - h. Unlock both sides of the ISU 90's located next to building 2581.
 - i. Drive and open/clear the entire track to ensure there is no debris on the track and conduct a police call.
 - j. All apparatus will remain unlocked for the duration of the workday.
 - k. Students will not handle the unlock keys at any time.
 - l. All apparatus/structures will be inspected for bee infestation prior to the start of training.
 - m. Lock-up procedures are reverse of the unlock procedures outlined above.

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Appendix 3 (34' Mock Tower Set-up)



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Appendix 4 (Ground Clearing Checklist)

PRT Pits	
	All gravel raked level, no wavy ground, not pushed against walls, no felt showing
	All platforms swept
	Ramps swept
	No weeds growing around base of pit
	Base of PRT pit locked
	Rope of LDAs rolled neatly around trolley
Latrines	
	Mopped and dried
	Urinals and stalls wiped clean
	Stalls cleared of any clogs
	2 rolls of toilet paper per stall
	Trash emptied with new trash bag inside
	ALL cleaning supplies provided from individual company
Mock Door and Harness Shed	
	All areas around mock doors raked
	All pits leveled and raked
	No weeds growing through or around the mock door
	All lights turned off
	All Modified T-11 main parachutes and reserves are laid out 10 x 10 in groups of 100
	Once the Master Trainer has inspected the harnesses and reserves, they will be placed into the harness shed 10 high 3 wide for T11
	Static lines in bundles of 10, bundles separated, stored neatly on floor under mains
34' Towers	
	Swept from top down, to include inside base and top NOTE: students will not be on the top landing without supervision from cadre.
	All rocks removed from all concrete pads
	Mock door pit level and raked
	All equipment inspected and laid out for inspection by Master Trainers
	Harness: attach leg straps, chest straps, risers to "D" ring, no rigger rolls
	All knots removed from ropes and laid out for inspection
	Static lines laid out in groups of 10
	All broken bungees replaced
	Grader shack swept and free of trash
	60 harnesses, 20 static lines, 4 ropes, 2/1 shepherds hook: After inspection, equipment stored 5 harnesses per pair of bars corresponding with the correct side, ropes and static placed nice and neatly on the floor
ISU 90 #1 between latrine and track	
	MOR mains stacked neatly with reserve attached
ISU 90 #2 next to the brake area over head	
	Drag pads stacked neatly (legs straps, chest straps and CRA attached properly)
	Drag straps rolled neatly in milk crate and placed on top of the Drag pads
	Arm immersion coolers, troughs, rakes and brooms neatly stacked
MOR/MTIE equipment building M6323	
	Place all DEMO MTIE equipment neatly
	Place all DEMO MOR equipment neatly and rehab the Talon J
Unserviceable Equipment	
	Turn all damaged equipment in to the Master Trainers for replacement
Final Clearing	
	Clear track of debris
	Turn off ALL lights and lock ALL locks
	Rake all debris from break areas
	Conduct final police call