

Annex I (Safety) to 1-507th BACSOP

1. REFERENCES.

- a. AR 385-10, the Army Safety Program, 27 November 2013
- b. TRADOC Regulation 385-2, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Safety Program, 23 January 2009
- c. MCoE Regulation 190-5, Fort Benning Motor Vehicle Regulation, 9 March 2011
- d. DA Pam 385-10, Army Safety Program, 19 January 2010
- e. ATC 5-19

2. PURPOSE. To prescribe policies, procedures, and responsibilities for hazard avoidance, risk mitigation, and accident prevention.

3. GENERAL. 1- 507th PIR will incorporate risk management and risk mitigating techniques into all aspects of the Basic Airborne Course, the Pathfinder Course, and the Jumpmaster Course both on and off duty.

4. SAFETY COUNCIL / CELL.

- a. The Battalion has an established Safety Council IAW AR 385-10.
- b. The Battalion Safety Council will meet quarterly to address potential safety issues, hazards, and discrepancies throughout the Battalion. Minutes will be documented in memorandum format, signed by the BN Commander and posted on the Battalion Safety Board.
- c. Each Company will establish a Safety Cell.
- d. The Safety Cell meetings will be conducted in conjunction with the end of cycle after action review (AAR) to address potential safety issues, hazards, and discrepancies throughout the Company and the Basic Airborne Course.
- e. Safety Cell meeting minutes will be documented in memorandum for record format addressing the issue, discussion, and recommendations. Any topic not corrected at the Company level will be forwarded to the Battalion level and addressed at the Battalion Safety Council.
- f. All Safety Cell memorandums (minutes) will be reviewed and signed by the Company Commander and minutes posted on the Company Safety bulletin board.

5. SAFETY RELATED TRAINING.

- a. 1-507th PIR will, at the direction of the Battalion Commander, conduct a bi-annual "safety stand down and review" day.
- b. Companies will conduct annual hot weather safety classes no later than 1 APR.
- c. Companies will conduct annual cold weather safety classes no later than 1 OCT.
- d. Companies will conduct semi-annual severe weather safety classes in conjunction with the hot and cold weather safety classes.

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e. Company Cadre will conduct quarterly 250-foot tower “man-in-the-steel” rescue drill certification under the supervision of the Tower Branch Master Trainer. No more than 90-days may elapse between the executions of 250’ tower training before a trainer loses his/her certification.

f. All instructors must understand the proper adjustment of training apparatus. If an instructor has any doubts or reservations regarding whether an apparatus is out of adjustment or otherwise unsafe, he will immediately stop training on that apparatus and contact a Master Trainer. Students will not adjust the risers on the ISLT.

g. Companies will conduct monthly safety training.

h. All training conducted will be documented in memorandum format and signed by the Company Commander or his designee, and maintained on file.

6. RISK MITIGATION / DELIBERATE RISK ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS (DRAW).

a. Branch Chief’s will be responsible for the creation and annual updates of the Basic Airborne Course POI on a DA form 2977 Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet (DRAW) for their respective classes and training apparatuses. The Branch Chief will post the deliberate risk assessment worksheets in the visitors’ folder of the training apparatus or class that is being given. All 1-507th PIR Cadre will be responsible for reviewing the DRAW’s and adhering to the mitigation measures to prevent unnecessary injuries to personnel or damage to equipment.

b. Companies will be responsible for conducting daily risk assessments on the FB 385-E for each training event conducted. They will evaluate all tasks to be conducted and all the environmental conditions that may be present at the times training is conducted. The form will be completed in its entirety and approved at the appropriate level before training is conducted.

Companies will conduct updates throughout the day and annotate changes to conditions on the FB Form 385-E as needed (i.e. heat category change from III to V).

c. The following risk assessment values will be used to complete the daily risk assessment worksheet. The preparer will insert following code under the Mission Complexity in the “other” block.

(1) Ground Branch

- Airborne Orientation (Airborne 5000) + 4
- Parachute Landing Fall Training (LDA, 2’ wall, Grass Drills) +3
- Physical Training +3
- Mock Door (Individual Exit) +2
- 34’ Tower (Individual Exit) + 2
- Parachute Orientation +1
- Method of Recovery + 1

(2) Tower Branch

- 250’ Tower Operations +4
- Improved Swing Landing Trainer +3
- 34’ Tower (Mass Exit) +3
- Physical Training +3
- Suspended Harness +2

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- Parachute Malfunctions +1
- Mock Door (Mass Exit) +1
- Count 3 of the “hit it” exercise +1

(3) Mitigation Measures

- Battalion Command Top 3 present for training -3
- Ice Sheets present in the training area IAW BACSOP -1.
- Arm Immersion tables set up in training area IAW BACSOP -1.
- Medic w/FLA -1

d. Commanders are responsible for reviewing and approving the Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet and the FB Form 385-E.

Risk Approval Authority

- Extremely High Risk- Infantry Commandant
- High Risk- A&RTB Commander
- Medium Risk- 1-507th Battalion Commander
- Low Risk- Company Commander

e. Company Commanders, 1SGs, PSG's, and Primary Instructor's will review the Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheets (DRAW) at the beginning of each day and following any change in training location or type. For instance, if a platoon completes Suspended Harness training and moves to the Improved Swing Landing Trainer (ISLT), the Company Cadre should review the DRAW prior to training on the ISLT to ensure all mitigation control measures are in place prior to training beginning.

7. ACCIDENT / INCIDENT REPORTING (OPREP / AGAR).

a. The OPREP is used for any significant incident involving a Soldier, student, family member, or DOD/DA civilian within the Battalion and/or in its area of responsibility. At a minimum, Commanders or their representatives must report the following to higher unit using the OPREP reporting format (see attached):

(1) Death of a 1-507th PIR Soldier, Student, Family Member, or DA Civilian.

(2) Serious illness or injury (including loss of limb or eyesight) to a battalion Soldier, family member, or civilian that could result in death (a confirmed case of heat stroke, hypothermia, or frostbite is considered a serious injury for the purpose of this memorandum). An injury or illness requiring hospitalization in intensive care requires a report.

(3) Heat injuries resulting in hospitalization requires completion of page 3 of the enclosed TRADOC Operations Reporting form per MCoE Policy Memorandum 1-8-2.

(4) Accidents:

(a) Any training accident resulting in injury to a battalion Soldier, civilian, or family member; on or off the installation.

(b) Training accidents that result in death will require completion of page 2 of TRADOC Operations Report (OPREP) form (enclosed), including parachute malfunctions.

(c) Any accident involving manned or unmanned aircraft occurring in the Battalion's

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geographic area of responsibility to include, but not limited to, those involving tenant aircraft or transient aircraft using Fort Benning facilities.

(d) Any accident involving 1-507th PIR equipment or facilities with estimated damages exceeding \$10,000.

(e) Any fire, storm, or flood damage that exceeds \$10,000 damage that involves a battalion facility or equipment which affects significant training.

(f) Any negligent discharge with live ammunition.

(5) Criminal Activity: Serious crimes (aggravated assault, murder or attempted murder, alleged rape, and thefts exceeding \$1,000) involving Soldiers, family members, or civilians. Include all crimes investigated by the CID.

(a) Hate crimes involving 1-507th PIR Soldiers, Students, Family Members, and DA Civilians or their family members.

(b) Terrorist activities, sabotage and incidents initiated or sponsored by known terrorists, dissident groups or criminal elements on the installation or incidents off the installation involving military personnel or property.

(c) Threats made against the President, Vice President, or other high ranking government officials / foreign dignitaries.

(d) Any on post-riot, disturbance, demonstration or similar incident off post involving battalion Soldiers, civilians, or their family members.

(e) Suspected arson fire in the battalion area that results in death or injury.

(f) Bomb threat involving battalion facilities and training areas.

(g) Incidents involving hacking of government websites and computer virus attacks that impact installation computer operations.

(h) Actual or alleged child abuse occurring on the installation.

(i) Any domestic violence involving MP or civilian law enforcement agencies responding to actual or specific threats of violence resulting in apprehension or arrest.

(j) Any DUI/DWI occurring on or off the installation.

(k) Incidents of alleged hazing or trainee abuse as defined in TRADOC Reg 350-6.

(l) Incidents/accidents involving foreign students or faculty. This includes absent without leave, disciplinary problems, criminal activity, training accidents, or any accident causing injury or death.

(m) Suicide or attempted suicide by a 1-507th PIR Soldier, Student, Family Member, or DA Civilian occurring on the installation and suicide or attempted suicide by a Fort Benning Soldier, DA Civilian, or family member occurring off the installation.

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(n) Major outage of communication services in excess of two hours, outages that cannot be resolved by alternate routing, or outages that require support from an outside command.

(o) Environmental accident/incident, on or off the installation, involving 1-507th PIR personnel and/or property, which results in (or has the potential to result in) death, injury, the evacuation of facilities, media attention or will require notification to federal, state, or local environmental authorities. This includes spills and serious or catastrophic failure of operating systems at state and Federal utility plants.

(p) Nuclear or chemical accidents or incidents.

(q) Incidents of actual or alleged sexual harassment.

(r) Any request for public safety or emergency assistance that originates from any headquarters or agency other than Fort Benning. Any actual assistance provided to any headquarters, federal, or civil defense operations.

(s) Significant violation of the standards of conduct Joint Ethics Regulation, DoD 5500.7R involving Battalion Soldiers, civilians, or family members.

(t) Property damage or loss of property or equipment exceeding \$10,000.

(u) Actual or alleged theft, negligence, mismanagement or any other criminal misconduct by civilian firms or contractors, or their employees.

(v) Suspicious Activity.

(w) Personal contact, solicitation, flyers or other literature from any extremist groups.

(x) Theft, loss, suspected theft or recovery of weapons, sensitive items (night vision devices, classified material, and controlled cryptographic equipment), explosives, munitions, as well as a discovery of a loss of accountability.

(y) Any Soldier lost in the field for more than 2 hours (L+2).

(z) Any incident, event, or accident that may generate adverse publicity.

(6) The above criteria are provided as examples and are a minimum standard of what to report. Commanders or their representatives are in no way restricted to reporting only these items. Commanders or their representatives should report any event, accident, suspicious activity, or incident which, in their judgment, looks out-of-place, or could be of interest to the 1-507th PIR Command Group. If in doubt, report it.

b. Company Commanders or their representatives are required to report all OPREPs to Battalion Chain of Command as soon as possible after discovery of the incident. Timeliness takes priority over completeness for Initial Report; forward follow-up information as soon as possible. Do not delay the OPREP in order to get more information. A hand written OPREP will never be accepted.

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(1) The key is to issue an accurate initial report as soon as possible, upon knowledge of the incident/accident, then develop the situation, gather more information, and send a TIMELY update without being prompted.

(2) Battalion is required to report all OPREPs to ARTB within 30 minutes of discovery of the incident. All OPREPs must be delivered via email. During duty hours (0900 to 1700) report incidents to BN XO and S-3 shop to include the S3, AS3, Battalion Safety Specialist, and S3 NCOIC who will in-turn notify the Battalion and ARTB leadership. After duty hours (1700 to 0900) the Battalion SDNCO will email the OPREP to the BN CDR, BN XO, BN CSM, BN S-3, CO CDR, CO 1SG, the Battalion and ARTB S3 shops, including the ARTB SDNCO (BENN.11REGT.SDO@benning.army.mil). The Battalion SDNCO will telephonically confirm receipt with the ARTB SDNCO and will continue to send updates, as required, until the next duty day. The OPREP should contain all available information depending on the type of report. The Five (5) W's (Who, What, When, Where, Why) need to be addressed in the "SUMMARY OF INCIDENT" block in paragraph format with correct spelling. The Chain-of-Command notification and the time they were notified needs to be annotated accurately. INITIAL REPORTS need to be labeled "INITIAL REPORT DATE / TIME" (See example) and should only give a general overview of the type of injury (i.e. lower leg injury, upper arm injury, and lower back injury) and the information should be annotated in regular font underlined format. UPDATE REPORTS will be labeled in the same manner as INITIAL REPORTS and add the number of the update being given (ex. UPDATE REPORT #1). UPDATE REPORTS should give specific details of exactly what type of injury was diagnosed by a trained professional and treatment given to patient and the new information should be annotated in bold font format. Updates should be conducted by the Company chain of command and sent to the Battalion daily or as necessary. (See Enclosure #4) CLOSE OUT REPORTS should be labeled in the same manner as the INITIAL REPORTS. CLOSE OUT REPORTS should give the final outcome of the soldier (i.e. return to duty, medical drop from the course) and the new information should be annotated in a highlighted format. All reports must have the complete history of the incident from INITIAL REPORT to CLOSE OUT REPORT.

(3) ARTB is required to report all OPREPs to Post Staff Duty within one hour of discovery of the incident.

(4) Any OPREP that contains CCIR (felony crime, death, destruction of government property valued over \$2,000, or an injury that requires hospitalization) is first telephonically reported to the Battalion Commander, Executive Officer, or Command Sergeant Major.

c. Reporting Procedures:

(1) Company identifies a serious incident IAW 1-507th PIR BACSOP (If in doubt send an OPREP).

(2) Company Commander or their representative notifies Battalion Commander telephonically immediately with all known information. Company Commander will continue to develop the situation.

(3) Company Commander or their representative compiles the OPREP and ensures completeness and accuracy.

(4) Company Commander, XO, or 1SG will spot-check the OPREP to ensure report is complete.

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(5) Company Commander or their representative will email (during duty hours) OPREP to BN XO and all Battalion S3 personnel. After duty hours (1700), the OPREP is emailed to all Battalion S3 personnel and the Battalion SDNCO
***(BENN.11REGT.507STAFF@benning.army.mil).

(6) Company will confirm receipt of the OPREP by calling either the S3 shop (during duty hours) or the Battalion SDNCO (after duty hours).

(7) S3 personnel or the Battalion SDNCO will provide final verification of the OPREP data and forward it to the Battalion Commander, the Battalion CSM and then to the Regimental S3/SDO.

d. Jump Injuries:

(1) Jump injury OPREPs, which are identified prior to the Company departing the harness shed, send to the 1-507th Battalion Commander, XO, CSM, S3 shop, Safety Specialist, and Chaplain.

(2) Before departing, the S3 representative will confirm with Jump Branch and the Jump Company that all OPREPs have been completed and submitted.

(3) Companies will continue to submit updates to the OPREP upon receiving information relating to the incident (e.g. update, or final).

(4) All Branch Chiefs and Master Trainers notify S3 upon completion of training.

(5) One OPREP per email. Place the following text in the email message to quickly and briefly summarize the event: Company, Soldier; Initial / Follow Up / Final, summary from OPREP. Ensure that OPREPs are attached to email with the following naming convention: SMs last name UNIT/FU/FIN (ex. SMITH_INIT, SMITH_FU, SMITH_FIN).

(6) In accordance with ARTB SOP, a SSG or above will arrive at the hospital within 1 hour of evacuation and will remain there until Soldier is admitted or released and a status can be sent back to the unit.

(7) Serious incident including loss of limb or eyesight to a battalion Soldier, DoD/DA Civilian, or family member on or off of the installation must include page 1 of the MCoE Policy Memorandum 1-8-3. Injuries resulting in death require completion of page 2 and heat injuries require completion of page 3 of the memorandum.

(8) Report IAW MCoE Policy Memorandum 1-8-2 using the enclosed OPREP format.

f. An AGAR (DA Form 285-AB-R) must be completed by the unit and sent to Battalion Safety Specialist under the following guidelines:

(1) If an injury to cadre, student, or DA Civilian occurs that results in the individual being hospitalized beyond the day of the injury.

(2) If the injured individual receives con leave, quarters, or a profile beyond the day of the injury.

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(3) If there is damage to government property (i.e. vehicle, building, or aircraft) greater than \$5000.

(4) In addition to OPREPs, The Company in which the incident / injury occurred must complete a DA Form 285-AB-R (Abbreviated Ground Accident Report) (AGAR) and submit to the Battalion Safety within two weeks of the accident. The Battalion Safety Specialist will complete the final report through the Report-It website. The Battalion Safety Specialist will maintain a database of all Battalion injuries.

8. MEDICAL COVERAGE.

a. Companies must ensure they have a currently certified Combat Lifesaver (CLS) with a fully stocked CLS bag present in the training areas at all times during training.

b. Companies must ensure they have a covered truck available for evacuation of routine injuries from the training area to the MACH ER. Under no circumstances will 1-507th PIR cadre evacuate a student to the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic (CTMC). Companies will call Emergency Medical Services for evacuation of serious injuries or suspected heat injuries to the hospital.

c. CLS personnel will not administer intravenous (IV) fluids.

d. Instructors must closely evaluate and observe any student who hits his/her head hard (especially during PLFs or ISLT training). If the instructor has any reason to suspect the student has a mild temporary concussion or if the student is consistently hitting their head, the instructor will remove the student from that training for that day and take the student to MACH ER or call E-911(if the symptoms or situation appear to be serious enough) for evaluation and referral to the TBI clinic. Some symptoms to look for when evaluating a student for a head injury are:

(1) Loss of consciousness

(2) Vomiting

(3) Blurred vision and/or dilated pupils

(4) Severe head pain

(5) Memory loss

(6) MEDEVAC from the drop zone is covered in Appendix 3 & 4 to Annex I

9. HOT WEATHER SAFETY.

a. All students who have had previous heat injuries will be marked with red tape on the pocket of the sleeve on the ACUs. If the students removes their ACU jackets, the student will wear the red tape on the right front belt loop of their trousers. While wearing the PFU, students will have a piece of red tape on their right running shoe. Students with allergies to bee stings will wear yellow tape in the same fashion.

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b. Whenever possible, companies should schedule split training during the hottest months so that the students spend only half a day in the full sun. For instance, platoons would train on the 34-foot tower in the morning, but spend the afternoon in the shade of the PLF pit doing PLFs. Companies will modify their training tempo to allow for more frequent breaks. Instructors will supervise student water consumption to ensure they stay properly hydrated.

c. Company Commanders and 1SG's, after consulting with the Battalion Commander can reduce the length of the morning PRT company runs to alleviate accumulated heat stress on the students. Unit runs will not exceed 3.2 miles in length during the summer months.

d. The Master Trainers are responsible for monitoring heat categories in their respective training areas. Upon identification of heat category V, the Master Trainers in Ground, Tower, and Jump branches will raise the black flag in the training areas and verbally notify PSGs or senior instructors with each platoon in the training area. The Master Trainers will notify the battalion S-3 telephonically in order for operations to disseminate throughout the Battalion and monitor training activities.

e. When the heat index reaches heat category V, the following will occur:

(1) The best way to mitigate/prevent heat injuries is through proper hydration and nutrition. Companies will encourage hydration prior to PT, lunch, and after the duty day is complete.

(2) Students will:

(a) Un-blouse their trousers from their boots, unzip the ACU jacket to the second hook/pile tab location and roll their ACU sleeve cuffs one roll when they are in the training areas or in transit to and from the training areas. Instructors will have the students re-blouse their trousers before they dismiss the students from the company area. Students who leave the battalion area at any time must re-blouse their boots before leaving the battalion area.

(b) Wear the ACH only when necessary for training safety. Students will wear the ACU cap instead of the helmet.

(c) Movement to, from, and within the training areas will be at a quick time, not double-time. Only the rope-man on the 34-foot tower detail will double-time.

(3) Cadre.

(a) Company Commander's and 1SG's will use sound judgment, with recommendations from their PSG's and Battalion Master Trainer's making adjustments to the heat category V uniform if needed from 31 October to 1 March.

(b) PSGs and the Master Trainers from Tower Branch will closely monitor training on the 250-foot towers. If the tower becomes too hot for a "man-in-the-steel" recovery team to safely negotiate the tower or if the cable motors begin to overheat, platoons will cease operations on the tower. The Tower Branch Master Trainers or the PSG can halt training on the tower in the interest of safety. Neither can override the other and force training to continue.

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(c) During seasonal training when there is the potential for heat injuries, each company will maintain ice sheets at every training event.

(d) From 1 March to 31 October, Companies will provide ice sheets, arm immersion tables, and blocks of ice in the drinking water trailers during all training events that requires a drinking water trailer present, as heat injury mitigation measures.

(e) Arm immersion systems will be utilized in heat CAT IV/V.

(f) Showers will be used in heat CAT IV/V at the discretion of the Company COC. Students will be in full uniform.

10. COLD WEATHER SAFETY.

a. Companies will mark all students with previous cold weather injuries with a piece of white tape placed on the shoulder pocket of the ACUs.

b. Company Commander's and 1SG's will use sound judgment, with recommendations from their PSG's and Battalion Master Trainer's in making adjustments to the students uniform if needed to prevent Cold Weather injuries.

c. If frost or ice creates possible safety concerns on the 34-foot or 250-foot towers, PSGs and Master Trainers will assess the conditions. If the unsafe conditions cannot be reasonably mitigated, the PSG or Master Trainer can halt training on that apparatus.

d. Students can wear gloves in the training area based on Commanders and 1SG's guidance, except when training on any apparatus or jumping.

e. Jumpmasters are authorized to wear non-skid gloves during the execution of JM duties however, no member of the 1-507 PIR is authorized to jump in gloves.

11. SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY.

a. When the installation weather reporting service announces the approach of severe weather, the Battalion S-3 will notify all companies and all training branches by telephone. The Battalion S-3 is also responsible for notifying the companies and branches when the threat of severe weather has passed and training may resume.

b. If the S-3 announces the imminent approach of severe weather IAW MCoE 350-1, PSGs will cease training and move all personnel to safety. If time and the situation permits, instructors should move students into the barracks or other buildings with lightning-protection systems. If time does not allow, instructors in ground and tower branches will move the students into the PLF pits. Cadre cannot continue to train on any apparatus where the student is connected in any way with the metal frame of the structures (Lateral Drift Apparatus (LDA), the ISLT, or the suspended harnesses) until they receive All Clear from the S-3.

c. If severe weather approaches Fryar DZ, cadre will take immediate action to safeguard the students, drop zone detail personnel, and themselves; with the following procedures:

(1) Maintain control/accountability but disperse personnel – do not group together (when outdoors).

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- (2) Avoid metal objects such as: fences, flagpoles, power poles, bleachers, etc.
- (3) If in an open area, crouch (do not lie down) in a ditch or depression. Stay alert for any flash flooding.
- (4) If in a wooded area, take shelter under a small tree among several larger ones. Stay at least six feet away from the tree trunk.
- (5) Never stand under an isolated tree.
- (6) Discontinue the use of radios and cell phones until the storm has passed.

12. THUNDERSTORM AND LIGHTNING.

a. Lightning occurs in all thunderstorms and is also a significant threat to life. Lightning potentially constitutes a serious hazard to the health and welfare of the Soldiers participating in the various types of field training conducted on Fort Benning, Georgia. Cloud-to-ground lightning can kill or injure people by direct or indirect means. The lightning can branch off to a person from a tree, fence, pole, or other object. Flashes may also conduct their current through the ground to a person after the flash strikes a nearby tree, antenna, or other tall object. The summits of mountains, crests of ridges, slopes of above timberlines, and large meadows are extremely hazardous places to be during lightning storms.

b. This standard establishes policies and procedures that allow training to be conducted in a safe and realistic manner. The most important measure in the prevention of lightning injuries is the education of personnel exposed to thunderstorms and the Soldiers of Fort Benning, Georgia.

c. Prevention.

(1) Responsibilities. Leaders will use sound judgment and take precautions to prevent lightning injuries among Soldiers, support personnel, and contractors. Safety is a command responsibility; it is the leadership's responsibility to ensure that preventive measures are practiced. The best defense is to plan ahead and avoid exposure to lightning when a thunderstorm occurs. Know where safe shelter is located and leave enough time to reach safe shelter before the lightning is overhead.

(2) Outdoors. Avoid rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water, high ground, and open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, and power tools. Stay away from lightning rods/tall structures such as: towers, tall trees, telephone poles/lines, tents with metal supports, etc. Take shelter under a small tree among several large ones if possible. Stay at least six feet away from the tree trunk to minimize a side strike and step voltage. NEVER stand under an isolated tree. Stay low (crouch) in a ditch or depression. Other options include a low area, ravine, or foot of a hill. Keep twice as far away from the trees as they are high. Seek shelter or keep low. Find a large enclosed structure (substantially constructed buildings). If you feel your hair standing on end, and/or hear "crackling noises," you are in lightning's electric field. If caught outside during close-in lightning, immediately remove metal objects; **do not drop to the ground!** Assume LSP (Lightning Safety Position) crouch with both feet as close together as possible. Have heels touch. Place hands over ears. Equipment will be grounded and weapons should be stacked at least 50 meters away from personnel. Keep away from antennas, masts, guide wires and all grounding and lightning

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protection equipment; including grounding rods, during electrical storm activity. This includes vehicles with whip antennas, miles gear, and any other metal conductors should be removed. Keep a safe distance between individuals at a minimum of 15 ft. If in a boat, get to shore as quickly as possible and debark the boat. Leave all weapons and radio equipment with the boat and immediately seek cover.

NOTE: Consideration should be given to tactical situation and individual weapons and equipment. Weapons and equipment have to be consolidated to minimize the chances of creating an electrical charge to individuals.

(3) Flash-to-Bang Method. One way to determine how far away the lightning is to use the "flash-to-bang" method (See chart). "30/30 Rule" If 30 seconds or less "Flash to Bang" – seek shelter. By counting the seconds between the lightning "flash" and the "bang" of the thunder, you can tell how far away the lightning was. Each five seconds equals one mile. Example: if you count fifteen (15) seconds, the flash was three miles away and that you know that you are in a high danger zone. The high danger zone extends out six miles. It is important to remember that lightning can strike up to ten miles away from a storm. Wait 30 minutes after last lightning before leaving shelter.

d. Injuries.

(1) Responsibilities

It is the leadership's responsibility to assess the situation if a student is struck by lightning and to decide the appropriate course(s) of action regarding prompt medical treatment.

(2) First Aid Treatment

Most lightning victims can actually survive their encounter with lightning, especially with timely medical treatment. Individuals struck by lightning do not carry a charge and it is safe to touch them to render medical treatment. Follow these steps to try to save the life of a lightning victim:

(a) Radio contact must be kept to a minimum, inform E911 and chain-of-command immediately of any injuries and request appropriate medical evacuation. Provide directions and information about the likely number of victims.

(b) Response. The first tenet of emergency care is "make no more casualties". If the area where the victim is located is a high risk area (mountain top, isolated tree, open field, etc.) with a continuing thunderstorm, the rescuers may be placing themselves in significant danger.

(c) Evacuation. It is relatively unusual for victims who survive a lightning strike to have major fractures that would cause paralysis or major bleeding complications unless they have suffered a fall or been thrown a distance. As a result, in an active thunderstorm, the rescuer needs to choose whether evacuation from very high-risk areas to an area of lesser risk is warranted and should not be afraid to move the victim rapidly if necessary. Rescuers are cautioned to minimize their exposure to lightning as much as possible.

(d) Resuscitation. If the victim is not breathing, immediately call for help of another cadre member, or E-911. Then begin cardiac chest compressions. If it is decided to move the victim; move the victim quickly with consideration to potential injuries; and then begin cardiac chest compressions. Determine if the victim has a pulse by checking the carotid artery (side of the neck) or femoral artery (groin) for at least 20-30 seconds. If no pulse is detected, start cardiac chest compressions. In situations that are cold and wet, putting a protective layer

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between the victim and the ground may decrease the hypothermia that the victim suffers which can further complicate the resuscitation. In wilderness areas and those far from medical care, prolonged basic CPR is of little use: the victim is unlikely to recover if they do not respond within the first few minutes. If a pulse does not return after twenty to thirty minutes of good effort, the rescuer should not feel guilty about stopping resuscitation.

(e) Conclusions. Avoid unnecessary exposure to the lightning threat. During thunderstorm activity, follow these safety recommendations to reduce the overall number of lightning casualties. An individual ultimately must take responsibility for his or own safety and should take appropriate action when threatened by lightning. A weather radio and the use of lightning detection data in conjunction with an action plan are prudent components of a lightning warning policy, especially when larger groups and/or longer evacuation times are involved.

e. Monitoring Thunder and Lightning Storms. It is the responsibility of the leadership to monitor the environmental situation and determine if a prevailing thunderstorm is detrimental to the continuance of training. Firsthand knowledge of impending weather conditions is paramount in the decision making process. Secondly, knowing and understanding cloud and cloud cell formations is crucial in reacting to changing weather conditions as they happen.

f. Radio and Communications Procedures. All radios should be turned off and the antennas lowered. Radio communication should be kept to a minimum as per Commo SOI and procedures.

g. Safety Criteria and Plans.

(1) Each unit will formulate plans to implement the directives of this plan. Such plans will include, but not limited to the following:

(a) Methods of disseminating available information to all personnel assigned to the unit.

(b) Method of safeguarding life, government property, and personal property, in that order.

(c) Actions necessary to comply with requirements for storm warning, Green or Black.

NOTE: Most permanent buildings on post will provide adequate protection in the event of a storm; the basements of such buildings generally offer the best protection.

(2) Personnel receiving a storm warning should seek shelter in the nearest available permanent-type building.

h. Storm Warning Procedures.

(1) General. The weather reporting unit, located at Lawson Army Airfield, monitors the weather continuously. The weather personnel issue Point Warnings (PW's) to the Post Director of Security (during duty hours) or Post Staff Duty Officer (after duty hours). The information is then disseminated down the chain of command by radio, telephone, and/or by sounding the siren. The following exact message will be disseminated:

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“THIS IS A TORNADO WARNING, COLOR CODE BLACK. I REPEAT, THIS IS A TORNADO WARNING. CONDITIONS EXIST FOR THE PROBABLE FORMATION OF TORNADOES, OR A TORNADO HAS BEEN SIGHTED AT _____ MOVING AT _____ MPH. IMPLEMENT TORNADO PROCEDURES IMMEDIATELY.” Severe conditions issued at Fort Benning apply to Ft Benning only, unless otherwise noted. The “ALL CLEAR” signal for Fort Benning will be issued ONLY from Fort Benning weather authorities. ALL CLEARS issued in surrounding areas do not apply to Fort Benning because they represent a geographically different area.

(2) Severe weather terminology – Color Codes:

(a) **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or formation of a tornado is highly probable. **Color Code Black.** Steady 5-minute siren sounding.

(b) **Tornado Watch:** Conditions exist for formation of a tornado **Color Code Green.** Radio and telephone notification from DSEC.

(c) **Storm Watch:** Severe thunderstorms, high winds, 1/2” hail, freezing precipitation, or 2 or more inches of precipitation in a 12 hour period possible. **Color Code Green.** Radio and telephone notification from DSEC.

(d) **All Clear:** Severe weather conditions are over, 3 two-minute siren soundings, interrupted by silent periods of 1 minute each.

i. General Procedures.

(1) Upon initial receipt of a weather warning (**Green or Black**), the Battalion’s HQ will disseminate the weather warning information to all companies.

(2) Company Commanders and staff sections will maintain a plan to secure all buildings, equipment, and provide protection for personnel under their control. All buildings within the company must be left in such condition at the close of business so as to withstand all but the severest of storms, which may occur during off duty hours.

(3) Movement of personnel will be kept to an absolute minimum during the height of the storm.

j. Actions taken upon weather warning green.

(1) Available information is disseminated to all personnel.

(2) Life, Government property, and personal property (in that order) are safeguarded.

(3) Air operations and ground training will normally be postponed to allow the personnel to move to shelter.

k. Actions taken upon weather warning black.

(1) Available information is disseminated to all personnel.

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(2) Soldiers will be sent to the lowest level of the nearest permanent structure if the situation allows.

(3) Leaders will ensure that the following minimum safety precautions are completed:

(a) Securely fasten awnings, doors, shutters, signs, and similar building appurtenances.

(b) Secure loose items that could be blown about, causing damage or injury.

(c) Equalize wind pressure by opening one or more windows on the side of the building opposite from which the wind is blowing.

(d) Prepare to use temporary lighting methods in case of power failure.

(e) Ensure classified materials have been properly secured. In all cases, stay away from windows and doors.

(f) Do not tie up the telephones.