



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
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OPNAVINST 3501.225B  
N85  
6 Jun 07

### OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3501.225B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVY PREMEDITATED PERSONNEL PARACHUTING (P3) PROGRAM

- Ref: (a) MCO 3500.20B, Marine Corps Parachuting and Diving Policy and Program Administration  
(b) NAVSEAINST 13512.1H, Premeditated Personnel Parachuting (P3) Equipment Authorized for Navy Use (ANU) (NOTAL)  
(c) NAVPERS 15560D, Naval Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN)  
(d) FM 3-05.211 (FM 31-19)/MCWP 3-15.6/AFMAN 11 411(I)/NAVSEA SS400-AG-MMO-010, Special Forces Military Free-Fall Operations  
(e) TC 31-24, Special Forces Air Operations  
(f) USSOCOM M 350-3 Training Airborne Operations (Parachuting)  
(g) FM 3-21.220 (FM 57-220)/MCWP 3-15.7/AFMAN 11 420/NAVSEA SS400-AF-MMO-010, Static Line Parachuting Techniques and Training  
(h) COMNAVSPECWARCOMINST 3000.3, Naval Special Warfare Air Operations Manual  
(i) NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department, U.S. Navy  
(j) OPNAVINST 1000.16J  
(k) OPNAVINST 5700.7G  
(l) OPNAVINST 5100.8G  
(m) OPNAVINST 5102.1D  
(n) NWP 1-03.1, Operational Reports  
(o) JAGINST 5800.7D, Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN)  
(p) OPNAVINST 4630.24C (NOTAL)  
(q) OPNAVINST 1500.76A  
(r) SECNAVINST 5000.2C  
(s) OPNAVINST 4441.12C (NOTAL)  
(t) OPNAVINST 1500.75A  
(u) OPNAVINST 5450.180D

1. Purpose. To establish policy and assign responsibilities for the Navy Premeditated Personnel Parachuting (P3) Program. This revision includes major changes to policy, assignment of responsibilities, and definitions. The changes included in this

revision constitute a complete rewrite of the original directive and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3501.225A and OPNAVINST 3504.1.

3. Scope. This instruction applies to all Navy P3 activities in order to maximize combat effectiveness, interoperability, and safety. Marine Corps personnel and U.S. Navy personnel assigned to Marine Corps units are guided by the policies set forth in reference (a). This instruction does not address airdrop cargo delivery or aircrew survival operations, which are contained in other Department of Defense (DoD) publications.

4. Definitions

a. For the purpose of this instruction, parachuting is defined as any activity in which personnel intend to employ, or actually deploy, a parachute during all or part of a descent to the surface from an aircraft in flight.

b. A P3 jump is an intentional, planned parachuting activity during which personnel wear a single or dual-harness parachute system, having at least one approved main parachute and one approved reserve parachute.

c. A non-premeditated, emergency parachute jump is a parachuting activity made necessary because of an in-flight emergency, during which personnel wear or are attached to a single parachute assembly.

d. The following terms are defined as they relate to the Navy P3 Program:

(1) Quality Assurance. The procedure for independent technical review, test, and approval to ensure material and procedural adequacy of P3 equipment or systems to perform safely within specified operational limits.

(2) Quality Assurance Authority. The delegated authority within the Program Executive Office Littoral and Mine Warfare (PEO LMW) responsible for carrying out quality assurance functions and procedures as they pertain to P3 equipment and systems; this term also refers to the specific code so designated within PEO LMW (i.e., PMS NSW).

(3) Authorized for Navy Use (ANU). The designation applied to selected parachute equipment, tools, systems, accessories, and components that have undergone design safety reviews, test and evaluation, or both to ensure parachutist safety. Parachute equipment can be designated ANU only by the Technical Authority for parachuting PEO LMW (PMS NSW). Reference (b) provides a listing of ANU parachute equipment including associated restriction/amplification notes.

(4) Non-Standard Parachute System (NSPS)/Equipment. Commercial off the shelf (COTS) parachutes, associated parachuting equipment, or a combination thereof that has been approved for service use and is identified in reference (b). Requirements for non-standard parachute packing, maintenance, or alterations are provided in the manufacturer's technical manuals, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Maintenance Plans for Premeditated Personnel Parachuting (P3) Equipment, and NAVSEA User's Logistic Support Summary for Navy P3 Equipment.

(5) Qualified Parachutist. Parachutist designation and re-qualification policy, definitions and responsibilities are set forth in reference (c), MILPERSMAN 1220-030.

(6) Waiver. A temporary authorization to depart from established operating/safety procedures, to use parachute equipment not currently ANU listed, or to exceed specified operational limits. Only the Director, Expeditionary Warfare (N85) for the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) can approve a request for a waiver.

5. Policy. Mission accomplishment while maintaining safety of personnel is the primary consideration in all P3 training and operations. Accordingly, the following policies and procedures are established for the Navy P3 Program:

a. CNO is the overall authority for U.S. Navy P3 policy. The Naval Special Warfare Branch (N851), acting for CNO, shall coordinate all P3 matters.

b. The U.S. Army is the DoD proponent for P3 and cargo air delivery operations. Accordingly, the policy, doctrine, and procedures of references (d) through (g) are adopted as official Navy policy and shall be adhered to so long as such adherence does not negatively impact Navy operational readiness. In such instances, adhere to the provisions of reference (h).

c. Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC) is designated the Training Agent for Navy P3 training. NSWC provides guidance for P3 training and is the approval authority for formal P3 related Courses of Instruction (COI).

d. PEO LMW (PMS NSW) is the Technical Authority for ANU designation of all equipment and systems used for the Navy P3 Program. Using non-ANU listed parachute equipment or modifying approved equipment is strictly prohibited, except when a waiver is granted by CNO (N85).

e. Navy P3 activities shall be conducted only by currently qualified military, DoD employed civilian, and qualified DoD contracted parachutists using only ANU parachute equipment, systems, and certified procedures. Additionally, only currently qualified military and DoD civilian parachutists shall be allowed to use Navy parachute equipment or have access to Navy packing and maintenance facilities. Exceptions to this policy require prior approval from CNO (N85).

f. Reference (i) establishes and provides physical standards for Navy parachutists.

g. Parachuting billets shall be established or changed per reference (j).

h. Joint/Combined Training and Foreign Duty Assignment:

(1) Joint Training. Qualified U.S. Navy parachutists are authorized to use another service's P3 parachutes and equipment according to the directives of these other services when their safety requirements are determined to be equal to or more stringent than U.S. Navy regulations. Strict compliance with Navy P3 doctrine, policy, and procedures shall be observed.

(2) Combined Training

(a) Qualified U.S. Navy parachutists engaged in combined parachute training operations are authorized to jump from foreign aircraft and use foreign jump procedures provided the safety requirements are determined to be equal to or more stringent than U.S. Navy regulations by the senior U.S. Naval Officer present. Prior to any such operations, the operational commander of the forces involved must be notified of all planned

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jump activities. The use of non-ANU foreign parachute equipment and systems by U.S. Navy personnel during peacetime allied training operations requires a waiver from CNO (N85).

(b) Qualified foreign parachutists may jump from U.S. aircraft when conducting combined parachute training. The use of U.S. Navy-owned (ANU) parachute equipment, systems, and facilities by foreign parachutists is authorized provided such parachutists are currently qualified in accordance with their particular military service requirements, and U.S. Navy certified procedures are used. Any other use of U.S. Navy-owned (ANU) parachute equipment, systems, or facilities by foreign parachutists requires a waiver by CNO (N85).

(3) Foreign Duty Assignment. Per reference (k), qualified U.S. Navy parachutists permanently assigned to billets with the armed forces of allied nations are permitted to use foreign parachute equipment and comply with the operational standards of that allied force. The senior U.S. Navy parachutist assigned to a particular unit shall ensure that no undue safety hazards exist before allowing the participation of U.S. personnel in parachuting operations.

i. Waiver Requests

(1) All waiver requests shall be submitted to CNO (N85). An information copy shall be forwarded to PEO LMW (PMS NSW) when concerning equipment or a deviation from the ANU List.

(2) Waiver requests shall include a description of the circumstances dictating the need for a waiver, urgency of need, equipment or system material condition, potential impact on personnel safety, required duration of the waiver, and impact if not granted.

j. Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E)

(1) Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV) China Lake is authorized to purchase and use equipment which has not been certified or authorized for Navy use for the purpose of testing and evaluating equipment and/or procedures per specific written authorization as directed by PEO LMW (PMS NSW).

(2) Commander, Naval Special Warfare Development Group (NAVSPECWARDEVGRU), with specific written authorization from the cognizant type commander, operational commander, or PEO LMW (PMS NSW), is authorized to purchase, develop, train with and use equipment which has not been certified or authorized for Navy use in conjunction with performance-related test and evaluation procedures. Prior to PEO LMW (PMS NSW) authorization for operational test employment, NAVSPECWARDEVGRU shall obtain engineering and test plan guidance from NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV, China Lake, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Natick Soldier Center, Natick, MA, or other qualified government agencies for P3 equipment/systems. All operational test data obtained shall be used for the final ANU authorization process.

(3) Commander, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command NECC, with written authorization from PEO LMW (PMS-NSW) is authorized to provide T&E support and services on commercial and non-developmental P-3 equipment as requested by NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV.

k. Training

(1) The following P3 training shall be conducted through formal service approved training programs:

- Static Line Parachutist
- Military Free Fall Parachutist
- Static Line Jumpmaster
- Military Free Fall Jumpmaster
- Special Operations Parachute Rigger (NEC 7353)
- FAA Senior and Master Rigger
- Airdrop Load Inspector Certification
- Automatic Activation Device Assembly Maintenance
- Oxygen Systems Technician/Maintenance
- Other "support courses" with multi-service utility, as required (e.g., Shippers Declaration for Dangerous Goods Certification, Airlift Load Planner, etc.)

(2) The following P3 training may be conducted at the unit level when taught using command approved training programs, (e.g., Job Qualification Requirements (JQR), Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS), Lesson Training Guide (LTG), Operation & Maintenance Manual, etc.):

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- NSPS use and main parachute packing
- Military type-certified parachute systems use and main parachute packing
- Air Operations Trainer
- Parachutist Air-to-Air Camera
- Drop Zone Safety Officer
- Air Operations Training Examiner

(3) With the exception of NAVSPECWARDEVGRU, CNO (N85) waiver approval shall be obtained prior to the use of non-traditional training as a substitute and/or augmentation of formal service approved training programs.

6. Action. All commands exercising operational and/or administrative control of Navy parachutists shall implement the policies and procedures of references (a) through (q) and this instruction as they relate to the Navy P3 Program. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) shall be developed and implementing directives shall be issued as required to ensure P3 activities are conducted using approved procedures/equipment. SOPs should address unit specific issues that are not addressed in current publications rather than restating entire doctrinal publications.

a. CNO (N85) shall:

- (1) Provide Navy P3 Program policy guidance.
- (2) Coordinate fleet requests and establish requirements for specific parachute systems and equipment.
- (3) Be the final authority on all requests for waivers.
- (4) Provide guidance to the Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN) regarding the maintenance of Navy P3 statistics.
- (5) Collect and coordinate all Navy inputs to Joint Service P3 instructions and publications.

b. Fleet Commanders, systems command commanders, type commanders, squadron and group commanders, commanding officers, and officers in charge shall:

(1) Ensure Navy parachutists employ only approved systems and equipment in accordance with specific ANU requirements and parameters, unless addressed elsewhere within this instruction and/or authorized by waiver from CNO (N85).

(2) Ensure all parachute maintenance, storage, training and administrative spaces and facilities are identified as "restricted access" life support equipment spaces and limit access to essential personnel and air operations-related business only.

(3) Ensure all NSPSs are packed, maintained, and altered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and FAA regulations.

(4) Ensure parachute operations are conducted only by personnel following approved procedures and qualified in accordance with reference (c). Periodic re-qualification shall also be performed in accordance with reference (c) and service directives.

(5) Ensure all assigned parachutist-qualified personnel meet the physical standards set forth in reference (i) and are periodically reexamined per references (c) and (i).

(6) Develop and implement command training plans to ensure adequate training of parachutists in all unit parachuting mission areas. Evaluate the effectiveness of such training and compliance with the Navy P3 Program. Training plans must address onboard equipment and systems and provide for development/ enhancement of parachutist skills in all mission areas.

(7) Maintain records of all command P3 activities to include official logs of parachute operations and copies of malfunction and incident reports, permissive orders, and certification letters. This policy is required, regardless of an individual's permanent command assignment. These documents are official records and are to be retained for three years. Additionally, individual parachutists shall maintain a personal parachute log documenting all military parachute jumps.

(8) Ensure P3 reports are completed monthly for all military parachute jumps and submitted electronically, per reference (p), to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School

(USAQMC&S), Ft. Lee, VA. A report is required for each type of jump completed and each type of aircraft used.

(9) Ensure all P3 malfunctions, mishaps, and incidents are reported in accordance with references (l) through (p).

(10) Establish procedures to ensure all parachute equipment involved in an accident remains untouched and secured until completion of any inquiries or investigations required by references (l) through (p). The procedures should specify the equipment shall not be dismantled, cleaned, or altered in any way, except to remove any injured personnel from the equipment or out of danger.

(11) Verify safety of all operations and the compliance with the Navy P3 Program by performing periodic operational, administrative, and material inspections of units assigned parachute operations and their supporting units. Any safety related trend data should be reported to the Naval Safety Center.

(12) Ensure all parachute maintenance facilities have a published Tool Control Program.

c. PEO LMW (PMS NSW) shall:

(1) Designate a technical manager for Navy parachuting whose responsibilities shall include the design, acquisition, logistics, operation, and maintenance of parachute equipment and systems.

(2) Provide technical support to CNO as required in the development of parachuting program policy and advise the CNO on matters which affect Navy parachuting.

(3) Establish and administer programs and procedures for safety assessments of commercially available equipment leading to ANU designation. Maintain a listing of parachute systems and equipment authorized for use by Navy parachutists. Revise the list as required and retain documentation supporting all approvals.

(4) Develop and provide parachute equipment, procedures, and systems with tailored logistics support in response to CNO-approved requirements and in accordance with reference (r).

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(5) Provide technical recommendations to CNO (N851) on all requests for waiver of Navy P3 Program procedures and requirements through coordination with systems commands and other PEOs.

(6) Assist in the correction of safety deficiencies discovered during inspections and administrative site surveys. Provide technical guidance or recommend policy changes for approval by higher authority to preclude recurrence of deficiencies.

(7) Provide technical support for the design and development of changes required to upgrade or correct system design deficiencies identified through surveys and technical reviews.

(8) Implement a Configuration Management Program for NSPSs and related equipment.

d. Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command (COMNAVSUPSYSCOM) shall:

(1) Provide material support to meet fleet requirements for P3 systems and equipment in accordance with reference (s).

(2) Provide supply management guidance for Navy P3 equipment and systems. Maintain liaison with PEO LMW (PMS NSW) in accordance with existing program support agreements.

e. Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS) shall:

(1) Provide for the selection of personnel for basic, advanced, and specialized P3 training. Exercise approval authority over requests to deviate from P3 qualification requirements.

(2) Obtain recommendations from Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) on requests to waive physical and psychological standards.

(3) Develop officer and enlisted premeditated personnel parachutist classification codes.

(4) Establish and publish P3 qualification and re-qualification criteria and the administrative procedures for documentation in member service records and parachute logs.

(5) Establish, monitor, and administer career patterns for P3 parachutists under existing personnel management policies, consistent with the needs of the Navy.

f. Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC) shall:

(1) Provide training safety policy and procedures guidance for Navy P3 curriculum in accordance with reference (t).

(2) Exercise approval authority for P3 related curriculum taught at Navy training activities.

g. Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) shall:

(1) Establish and publish medical standards for P3 parachutists and coordinate proposed changes with the appropriate Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) sponsors.

(2) Provide recommendations to CHNAVPERS concerning requests to waive established standards for P3 candidates and otherwise qualified parachutists.

h. Commander, Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN) shall:

(1) Carry out the provisions of references (m) through (p), (t) and (u) as they relate to the Navy P3 Program.

(2) Maintain a data repository for all parachute and equipment malfunction/incident reports and monthly airdrop reports per reference (p). Analyze compiled data for trends in personnel, equipment performance, and procedural adequacy.

Distribute safety trend analysis results and statistics in conjunction with the P3 Integrated Product Team (IPT) conference.

(3) Provide P3 safety assistance to PEO LMW (PMS NSW) and commands conducting parachute operations as an essential part of their assigned mission, as required.

(4) Advise CNO on the status of the Navy Safety and Occupational Safety and Health Program as it relates to P3 activities.

(5) Maintain a P3 safety checklist and tri-annually conduct safety surveys of Navy P3 commands in accordance with reference (u) or as directed by CNO (N851). This checklist shall be available, upon request, and shall be provided to Navy commands prior to their safety inspections.



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