

Maintenance of Supplies and Equipment
PARACHUTE PACKING, MAINTENANCE
AND AERIAL DELIVERY SUPPORT

SUPPLEMENTATION. Local supplementation of this regulation is prohibited except upon approval of AFVG-SS-CO.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS. The proponent of this regulation is the commander of the 553d Supply and Service Battalion, 13th Support Command (Corps). Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements to the Commander, III Corps and Fort Hood, ATTN: AFVG-SS-CO.

OVERVIEW

	1
Purpose	This regulation prescribes policies and procedures pertaining to the
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● aerial delivery of supplies and equipment● air delivery equipment<ul style="list-style-type: none">● the inspection● maintenance● packing● storage, and● conservation
	1a

REFERENCES

	2
Required Publications	TB 750-126 (Use of Material Condition Tags and Labels on Army Aeronautical and Air Delivery Equipment).
	TM 5-4220-201-12 (Operator's and Organizational Maintenance Manual: Life Preserver, Underarm, Parachutist, Type B-7, CO2, Inflated).
	TM 10-1670-201-23 (Organizational and Direct Support Maintenance Manual for General Maintenance of Parachutes and Other Airdrop Equipment).
	TM 10-1670-213-10 (Operator's Manual for Parachute Personnel, Types 28 FT Diameter, Backs; 28 FT Diameter, Chest, NB-8 Back and Martin-Baker Ejection Seat Harnesses).
	TM 10-1670-213-23 (Organizational and Direct Support Maintenance Manual (Including Repair Parts and Special Tools List) for Parachute, Personnel, Types 35 FT Diameter: T-10 Troop-Back; 35 FT Diameter, Maneuverable Troop-Back; 28 FT Diameter Back, 28 FT Diameter Chest, 28 FT Diameter Back Type NB-8; 28 FT Diameter Seat Type S-21; 24 FT Diameter Troop-Chest Reserve; 35 FT Diameter Troop - Back Model MC1-1, MC1-1A, and MC2-1B; 35 FT Diameter Troop Back Model T10A and T10B).
	TM 10-1670-240-20 (Organizational Maintenance Manual (Including Repair Parts and Special Tools List) Miscellaneous Airdrop Canvas, Webbing, Metal, and Wood Items).
	TM 55-1500-204-25/1 (General Aircraft Maintenance Manual).
	2a
Related Publications	AR 5-9 (Intraservice Support Installation Area Coordinator).
	FH Reg 700-14 (Procedures for Turn-in and Withdrawal from Defense Property Disposal).
	2b

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

3

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

3a

RESPONSIBILITIES

4

Air Delivery
Equipment
Repair
Section

The Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section of Headquarters Company, 553d Supply and Service Battalion, 13th Support Command (Corps)

- provides
 - technical inspections
 - parachute packing
 - maintenance requiring fabrication, and
 - repair or modification of air delivery equipment to authorized Active Army, National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve units at the direct and general support levels as outlined in AR 5-9.
- provides technical assistance on parachute operations to Army Reserve and National Guard units, as required, to maintain proficiency
- inspects, classifies, and maintains air delivery equipment used by subordinate units of Headquarters III Corps and Fort Hood (i.e., slings used for sling-loading)
- performs annual and other required inspections to Active Army and Army Reserve units that maintain air delivery equipment to ensure compliance with current directives and required techniques
- performs aerial resupply training in all phases of air delivery operations e.g.,
 - free drop
 - high-velocity drop
 - low-velocity drop
 - low altitude parachute extraction system (LAPES)
 - high-speed low-level aerial delivery system (HSLADS), and
 - container delivery system (CDS) for
 - Active Army and U.S. Army Reserve units as directed by G3/DPT, Headquarters, III Corps and Fort Hood.

4a

National
Guard

National Guard support is done on a reimbursable basis, except for

- inspection and
- modification on emergency-type parachute.

4b

Capabilities

The Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section is capable of

- receiving, classifying, and performing direct and general support level maintenance on airdrop equipment in support of Active Army, National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve units as outlined in AR 5-9
- performing parachute packing and maintenance activities for other units engaged in airdrop of personnel and equipment
- performing direct and general support level maintenance on airdrop equipment used in Army aircraft
- keeping a stock of airdrop equipment on all supply classes for airdrop by either

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Capabilities (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● free ● high-velocity, or ● low-velocity drop techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● providing technical assistance in recovery and evacuation of airdrop equipment. 	4c
Initial Inspection	<p>Before placing cargo or personnel parachutes in service, using units should ship items in original containers to the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section, Building 4245, Fort Hood, Texas 76544-5081, for determination of operational adequacy.</p> <p>DD Form 1574 (Serviceability Status Tags) should not be removed.</p> <p>Supply officers set up procedures to ship initial issue parachutes to the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section, before final issue to requester. This method will eliminate receiving and forwarding by the using unit.</p>	4d
PERSONNEL PARACHUTE INSPECTION		5
Airdrop Equipment	All airdrop equipment, to include parachutes, should have a routine inspection by parachute rigger before issue.	5a
Troop-type Parachutes	<p>Troop-type parachutes are repacked every 120 days.</p> <p>Parachutes requiring repack are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● separated from serviceable items ● tagged with DD Form 1575 (Suspended Tag - Materiel), and ● returned to the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section. 	5b
Inspection and Packing	<p>Inspection and packing of troop-type parachutes are performed by soldiers on parachute duty status possessing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MOS 92D ● 401A, or ● 43E. 	5c
CLASSIFICATION INSPECTION		6
Using Unit	<p>Using units are not authorized to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● classify ● mutilate ● salvage, or ● dispose of air delivery equipment. 	6a
Air Items	Air items requiring classification are sent to the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section.	6b
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE		7
Preventive Maintenance and Routine Inspections	<p>Preventive maintenance and routine inspection are the direct responsibility of the commander of the using unit.</p> <p>Scheduled periodic inspections are performed to make sure equipment is being properly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● operated ● maintained, and ● stored. 	7a

Deficiencies Deficiencies found during operation or inspection of equipment are handled as follows

- defects within the scope of organizational maintenance are corrected before the item is placed in operation or storage and
- defects beyond the scope of organizational maintenance are evacuated to the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section.

7b

ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE

8

Organizational Maintenance Organizational maintenance consists of

- cleaning
- inspection
- adjusting as required, and
- the completion of repairs within the abilities of
 - personnel
 - equipment, and
 - authorized supplies to the unit.

8a

Cleaning Dirt should be removed with a dry brush.

Units should not use cleaning fluid for cleaning parachutes.

Soiled parachutes should be returned to the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section.

8b

Storage Area Storage area should be

- ventilated
- well lighted, and
- heated in winter.

Safeguards should be taken to prevent contamination of parachute by

- fumes
- acids
- oil
- rodents, and
- insects.

Packed personnel parachutes are stored pack-side up in

- separate
- clean, and
- unpainted bins.

Adequate safety and security measures are enforced.

8c

Storage Bins Bins should be

- smooth or lined to preclude damage to parachute and
- provided with adequate protection to minimize collection of dust and other soiling agents.

8d

Metal Storage Bins	<p>Metal storage bins should have ventilation holes to allow adequate ventilation.</p> <p>A clean, smooth table should be provided for routine inspections.</p> <p>Serviceable parachutes should not be tagged; DA Form 3912 (Army Parachute Log Record) should be used to verify serviceability.</p> <p>Unserviceable or questionable equipment should be tagged as outlined in TB 750-126.</p>	8e
Protection of Parachutes	<p>Parachutes can be protected according to procedures listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● parachutes should not be transported in open vehicles ● aviator kit bags should be used to protect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● personnel parachutes in transit and ● those that have been accidentally opened. ● cargo parachutes should be transported in their respective packs or kit bags. 	8f
Avoiding Exposure	<p>To avoid exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● keep away from fumes, acid, oil, and the direct rays of the sun ● suspend wet or damp parachutes in a well ventilated room ● wet parachutes and all air items should be thoroughly dried as soon as possible; not to exceed an unattended period of 24 hours ● drying speed may be increased by using fans. 	8g
Recovery of Troop-Type Parachutes	<p>After landing, kit bag should never be zipped, snap kit bag closed to avoid snagging or catching the canopy material in the zipper.</p>	8h
Unauthorized Use of Equipment	<p>Air delivery equipment is not used for purposes other than those intended.</p> <p>Possession of Army parachutes or parts is not authorized unless in the hand of or being processed to the proper organizations.</p>	8i
SUPPORT MAINTENANCE		9
Direct Support Maintenance	<p>Direct support maintenance consists of packing, repair, and modification of equipment for using organizations.</p> <p>This is done by use of maintenance float items or on a "repair-and-return-to-user" basis.</p>	9a
Preferred Method of Parachutes Exchange	<p>Parachutes may be transported to Fort Hood, Texas, using organic transportation.</p> <p>Vehicles are furnished for transportation of equipment between the airfield and the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section if parachutes are transported by air.</p> <p>Incoming planes should alert Robert Gray Army Airfield operations for this service.</p>	9b
Optional Method	<p>Parachutes may be shipped by commercial transportation using approved shipping containers.</p>	9c

Notification of Exchange	Units requiring exchange of parachutes should request this service by writing to the Directorate of Reserve Components, ATTN: AFZF-DRC, Fort Hood, Texas 76544-5056 at least 6 weeks in advance of desired exchange date.	9d
Parachutes Damaged by Fault or Neglect	When parachutes have been damaged through fault or neglect, a statement signed by the unit commander is placed on DA Form 2407 (Maintenance Request) declaring that proper administrative action has been taken. If the action is a Report of Survey an additional statement is added, signed by the investigating officer, indicating the property is released for repair.	9e
Issue	Parachutes kept by the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section are issued to using units on a hand receipt signed by a responsible person. Organic transportation is used for pickup and return of air items to Building 4245. The direct responsibility of the using unit is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● recovery ● accountability, and ● the shake out of parachutes. This is done before the return of the equipment.	9f
Airing and Drying	Airing and drying of wet parachutes may be done in Building 4245 on a limited basis only.	9g
Damage Other Than Fair Wear and Tear	Parachutes damaged through other than fair wear and tear are not accepted by the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section until the provisions of 9e this regulations are complied with.	9h
Annual Visits	The Fort Hood Parachute Maintenance Officer will make annual visits to all Army and Army Reserve units supported by Fort Hood. Army National Guard Units desiring maintenance assistance should request this aid through their state maintenance officer.	9i
Technical Assistance	Upon request the Fort Hood Parachute Maintenance Officer or representative provides technical assistance to all supported units in care and preservation of parachutes or other air items of equipment. The technical assistance number is (Commercial: 1-(817)-287-4005, AV 737-4005/3351.	9j
Air Delivery Slings	<p>On-Post Units</p> <p>Semiannual inspections and markings of cargo slings are done by rigger personnel only (MOS 43E).</p> <p>Condemned slings are returned to owning unit for disposal according to FH Reg 700-14.</p> <p>The Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section inspects and classifies cargo slings for all units.</p> <p>Units should send DA Form 2407 to the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section, 10 work days before the date of inspection.</p> <p>Off-Post Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● semiannual inspection of cargo slings are done by rigger personnel only (MOS 43E). 	9k

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- Air Delivery Slings (Continued)**
- may obtain this service by sending a written request to Commander, III Corps and Fort Hood, ATTN: AFZF-DPT-PO, Fort Hood, Texas 76544-5056 at least 6 weeks in advance of the required inspection.

Each off-post unit should coordinate and consolidate the inspection schedules of all units owning slings and have all slings located at a centralized location at time of inspections.

9k

AERIAL DELIVERY SUPPORT

10

Aerial Delivery of Supplies

The aerial delivery of supplies and equipment has become

- a standard method of supply
- essential in certain types of conditions, and
- desirable in others.

In support of the Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training (JA/ATT) program, the Army receives free aircraft support from the Air Force if they provide airdrop loads for training to the Air Force.

10a

Noteworthy Aspects of Aerial Delivery

The parachute riggers

- maintain a tremendous workload supporting units using the JA/ATT program
- simultaneously support both U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units located within a geographical area of thirteen states
- send limited/minimum numbers of riggers (to include civilian technicians) forward to support any exercise
- must have the liberty to operate independently outside field environment on exercises.

10b

Airdrop Training

Airdrop training can be successfully accomplished if the following conditions and requirements are met by the using units

- the using unit must establish and maintain a close working and coordinating relationship with rigger personnel of the Air Delivery Equipment Repair Section
- the riggers provide an important service to using units and require man-power support to
 - prepare
 - rig
 - load
 - recover, and
 - rehabilitate equipment used on airdrops.

10c

Dedicated Support

Dedicated support, particularly at location on drop zone, away from home station, must be rendered to expeditiously return and evacuate riggers and air items to their rigging facility.

A fund cite must be established to purchase damaged air items that incur on an airdrop; to include funds for necessary rigger temporary duty (TDY)

Parachute rigger personnel should have TDY orders (although they use government quarters if available) with a rental car authorized (to be used only if a vehicle is not made available to them by the unit they support)

An adequate rigging facility must be made available for rigging and rehabilitating operations at TDY (located on or as near to an airstrip as possible).

10d

- Safety Officer and Medical Coverage
- A safety officer and medical coverage
 - must be available on the drop zone before airdropping personnel and
 - is highly recommended when dropping supplies and equipment from aircraft.

10e

- Malfunction NCO
- The malfunction NCO
- must be an E5 or above maintaining a Parachute Rigger MOS (43E2P)
 - must be present on the drop zone during all personnel airdrops
 - is highly recommended to be present on all equipment airdrops
 - has the direct responsibility to
 - secure
 - safeguard, and
 - return to the Parachute Maintenance shop with the parachute in the event of a malfunction.

10f

- Malfunction of Parachute
- The parachute will
- be examined by the parachute maintenance officer for determination of malfunction.
 - not be disturbed by anyone other than the Malfunction NCO or
 - the the parachute maintenance technician.

10g

- Drop Zone Safety Officer (DZSO) and the Recovery Officer
- The DZSO must be an
 - Army representative, currently on jump status
 - jumpmaster qualified, and
 - a senior NCO, warrant, or commissioned officer.
 - The commander of the receiving unit must appoint a recovery officer
 - who plans and supervises the operation and
 - organizes teams to recover parachutes and related air items.

Although riggers are sent in to give assistance, the receiving units is responsible for making the recovery.

10h

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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IAW FH Form 1853, (1 cy ea unless otherwise stated)
1, 6, 18, 22, 32(2), 32.1(2), 35, 36(100), 45, 46, 48, 61, 62, 63, 64, 68, 74, 82, 85, 86
Plus: AFGV-SS-HHB (75)

GLOSSARY

Definitions.

a. Abbreviations.

- (1) CDS - container delivery system.
- (2) DZSO - drop zone safety officer.
- (3) HSSLADS - high-speed low-level aerial delivery system.
- (4) JA/ATT - Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training.
- (5) LAPES - low altitude parachute extraction system.
- (6) MOS - military occupational specialty.
- (7) TDY - temporary duty.

b. Terms.

- (1) Air delivery equipment. Equipment used for the preparation and delivery of personnel, supplies, and equipment from aircraft in flight via parachute(s).
- (2) Container Delivery Systems (CDS). CDS is an accurate method of delivering general supplies and equipment by parachute to units on the ground in a relatively small area.
- (3) Drogue parachute. A parachute assembly required to stabilize the ejection seat and activate main ejection seat parachute.
- (4) Ejection seat parachute. A parachute assembly attached to an ejection seat. Canopy is deployed by a drogue gun and drogue parachute.
- (5) Freedrop. Freedrop is the delivery of certain nonfragile items of supply from an aircraft in flight without the use of parachute or other retarding devices.
- (6) Free-type parachute. A parachute not attached to the aircraft, which is operated by the jumper at his or her discretion.
- (7) High-Speed Low-Level Aerial Delivery System (HSSLADS). HSSLADS is designed to provide a means of quick delivery for loads ranging from 250 to 2,200 pounds at speeds of 250 knots at 250 feet above the ground.
- (8) High-velocity drop. High-velocity drop is the delivery from aircraft of supply material in airdrop containers by using an energy dissipator attached to the underside of the load and a stabilizing device such as ring-slot parachutes attached to the top.
- (9) Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System (LAPES). LAPES is a method of delivering supplies and equipment to ground forces by C-130 aircraft without a landing strip.
- (10) Low-velocity drop. Low-velocity drop is the delivery of supplies and equipment from aircraft in flight by using cargo parachutes to retard the rate of descent and shock absorbing material to dissipate shock upon ground impact.
- (11) Routine inspection. Examination of all visible components of air delivery equipment for obvious defects, i.e., rips, stains, deterioration of fabrics, damage to metal, and other components of the parachute assembly which may be inspected for serviceability without opening the pack.
- (12) Troop-type parachute. A parachute used primarily for premeditated jumps. The canopy is usually deployed by a static line attached to the aircraft.

