

Chapter 3

EXIT PROCEDURES



LESSON PLAN OUTLINE

PROGRAM: SMOKEJUMPER

LESSON: EXIT PROCEDURES

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this unit, the trainee will be able to perform large door and small door exits following all correct procedures, both as first and second jumper (also third for large door). Trainees will also be able to perform correct parachute malfunction procedures following all correct procedures. Returning jumpers will refresh on exit procedures and perform small door exits, both as first and second jumper, and large door exits, as a first, second, and third jumper following all correct procedures. Returning jumpers will also perform correct parachute malfunction procedures from the tower meeting performance parameters listed in the unit.

INTRODUCTION: A successful and safe smokejumper operation requires the completion of consistent exits from aircraft. A vigorous and stable exit position is fundamental in providing a good beginning to manipulating the parachute to the designated jump spot. Poor exits can result in twists or malfunctions, which requires precious time to correct and could result in the jumper missing the jump spot. A good exit is essential to a fluid parachute jump.

I. PRE-JUMP EXIT PROCEDURES

A. Static line hook-up.

1. Instructor demonstrates procedure for hooking up static line snap to the appropriate cable.
2. Instructor demonstrates awareness of proper static line routing over shoulder to cable.

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3. Instructor demonstrates appropriate position near the exit door while receiving the pre-jump briefing.
4. Instructor demonstrates proper position prior to exiting mockup, tower, or aircraft on appropriate commands.
 - a. Large door exit command is:

Spotter slaps door sill to indicate trainee/jumper to position left toe on door sill.
 - b. Small door exit command is:

Spotter verbally commands the trainee/jumper to “Get in the Door” with the first person placing left foot on step.

B. Exit Signals.

1. Only first jumper receives the signal, a slap from the spotter, second and third jumpers exit with a 2-3 second hesitation.
2. Large door exit signal is a slap to the calf or upper part of the leg.
3. Small door exit signal is a slap to the scapula or shoulder of exiting jumper.
4. **NEVER** exit from the tower or aircraft on a voice command.
5. In a “No Jump” or go around situations, the spotter will place his/her arm across in front of the jumper or a hand across the face mask of the first jumper.

C. Basic Exit.

1. **Initial thrust.**
 - a. Hand and feet placement.
 - b. Special attention to reserve parachute protection.
 - c. Equal thrust of legs and arms.

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- d. Eyes on the horizon.
- e. Exit up 6 inches and out 36 inches from the aircraft.

2. Body Position.

- a. Head with chin firmly against the chest and eyes open.
- b. Elbows held firmly against the side of the body.
- c. Palms of the hands pressed on both ends of the reserve.
- d. Feet and legs together, knees locked, eyes looking down at toes with the toes pointed down.
- e. Optional leg position: Feet and legs together, feet tucked (try to touch heels to butt while bringing knees up), eyes looking at reserve handle.

3. Exit Count.

- a. Count begins when jumper clears the door on exit.
- b. “Jump thousand, 2 thousand, 3 thousand, 4 thousand, Look thousand.”

4. Standard Checks upon Normal Opening.

- a. Check canopy.
- b. Check jump partner and separation “communicate to ground.”
- c. Check jump spot location.
- d. Wind check.
- e. Set up and landing checks.

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5. Standard Checks with a Malfunction.

- a. Perform correct emergency procedure for the malfunction.
 - (1) Partial
 - (2) Total
 - (3) Twists
 - (4) Inverted
 - (5) Tears
 - (6) Entanglements, others.

II. PROGRESSIVE PRACTICAL TRAINING (NEW JUMPERS)

A. Unit 1

1. Explain reason and function of exit.
2. Explain ground rules for tower operations.
3. Explain grading system.
4. Review exit signals (slap on shoulder or leg).
5. Static line hookup procedures.
6. Demonstrate large door position.
 - a. Explain count, toggles, canopy check and twists.
7. Use “Hit It” exercises on ground.
 - a. Individual jumps up 6” and out 36”, snap into a good body position and hold tightly until told to relax.
 - b. Trainees can count and on “look thousand” look at imaginary canopy and reach for toggles.
8. Demonstrate the correct door position, stressing static line hook up and safety by protecting the reserve handle.

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B. Unit 2

1. Suit up in less than 3 minutes.
2. Review basic instruction, “Hit It” exercise.
3. Mockup, tower or ramp.
 - a. Large door for one jumper.
 - b. Second jumper position.
 - c. Stress body position and exit vigor, up and out.
4. Tower
 - a. Explain tower procedures and safety.
 - b. One exit per trainee.
 - (1) Large door.
 - (2) Single stick, first jumper position.

C. Unit 3

1. Suit up in less than 3 minutes.
2. Demonstrate a small door exit.
3. One jumper stick, small door.
 - a. 1 time each trainee.
 - b. Second jumper assumes door position.
4. Two jumper stick, small door.
 - a. 2 times each.
5. One jumper stick.
 - a. 3 exits each, minimum.

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6. Review main points.
 - a. Hook up static line.
 - b. Check canopy.
 - c. Second jumper hesitation.
 - d. Second jumper assumes first jumper position.

D. Unit 4

1. Suit up in less than 3 minutes.
2. Tower or ramp.
 - a. Large and small door exits.
 - b. One jumper stick (large and small door exits).
 - c. Second jumper assumes first jumper's position.
 - d. Start red tag on crosstie for simulated malfunction and pulling of the reserve.
 - e. Two jumper stick.
 - (1.) Each jumper to be involved in at least one exit of each type.
 - f. Three jumper stick.
 - (1.) Demonstrate on ramp or mockup.

III. EXIT PROCEDURES (EXPERIENCED JUMPERS)

- A. Review hook up and exit procedures for large door and small door exits.
- B. Perform single jumper stick, small door, and then two jumper stick.
- C. Repeat until jumper performs small door exit (first and second position), following proper exit procedures.

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- D. Perform single jumper stick large door and then two jumper stick.
- E. Repeat until jumper performs large door exit (first and second position), following proper exit procedures.
- F. Discuss third jumper position, large door, and go thru a mock up on the ramp or in the training area. This can also be simulated on the tower for correct foot placement and procedures.
- G. Use marker on risers to indicate malfunction and have jumper go through correct malfunction procedures pulling reserve handle.
- H. Additional units may be required depending on size of class.

IV. EVALUATION PARAMETERS FOR EXIT PROCEDURES.

- A. At the completion of this unit, the trainee will demonstrate the following approved smokejumper exit procedures.
 - 1. Consistently (90%) perform an approved smokejumper exit, small door and large door, first and second jumper position, off of the tower exit simulator.
 - 2. Consistently (90%) perform an approved smokejumper exit, small door and large door, first and second jumper position, during training and operational jumps.
 - 3. Describe the major components of an approved smokejumper exit including:
 - a. Door procedures.
 - b. Correct door position in small and large door aircraft.
 - c. No jump procedures (go around).
 - d. The consequences of poor body position during exits.