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**Personnel**

**PROCEDURES FOR OVERWATER PARASAIL  
TRAINING (OWPT)**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements AFD 36-22, *Military Training*. It establishes procedures and responsibilities for safe and realistic overwater post-egress parachute training for AETC units conducting this training and for AETC Course S-V86-A, Water Survival Training, Parachuting. This training, designated OWPT, is designed to help personnel (1) Develop confidence in their ability to survive an overwater parachute descent, (2) control the parachute during descent, and (3) correctly execute a parachute water entry, a parachute high-wind drag or canopy release, and/or a canopy disentanglement in the water.

This instruction applies to all AETC units conducting OWPT, specifically the 336 Training Group, Fairchild AFB WA, and its Detachment 2, 66th Training Squadron, NAS Pensacola FL. It applies to all students (active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command) who are enrolled in OWPT. **NOTE:** The use of any specific commercial product, commodity, or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the US Air Force.

Submit suggested changes to this instruction on AF Form 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publication**, to HQ AETC/DOFA, approval authority for changes. The 19AF/DO, waiver authority for this instruction, will forward copies of approved waivers to HQ AETC/DOF. Field units below MAJCOM level will supplement this instruction. They will coordinate supplements to this instruction with HQ AETC/DOFA before publication and send one copy to HQ AETC/DOFA after publication.

See **Attachment 1** for a glossary of references and supporting information. Maintain and dispose of records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication in accordance with AFMAN 37-139, *Records Disposition Schedule* (will become AFMAN 33-322, Volume 4).

**Section A—OWPT Program**

**1. Objective.** The objective of OWPT is to allow aircrew members who rely on the parachute as their primary means of aircraft egress to become proficient at performing overwater post-egress checklist procedures, steering a parachute, preparing to land in the water, and releasing the parachute to avoid being

dragged in high-wind conditions. OWPT is the vital link between an overwater in-flight emergency bail-out or ejection and an aircrew's effort to survive at sea and get safely recovered.

## 2. Overview of OWPT:

- 2.1. The parasail (also referred to as an ascending trainer) is a parachute specially designed to incorporate airfoil-lifting capabilities. Forward speed is obtained by a series of ports or slots that exhaust air aft. The parasail is constructed of low porosity nylon to permit a high percentage of escaping air to be diverted out of the parasail, providing forward thrust.
- 2.2. The parasail is towed aloft by a boat fitted with a specially designed tow winch equipped with enough tow line to permit a safe margin of operation for the altitude of intended flight.
- 2.3. The student is outfitted with the parachute harness, protective equipment, and a life preserver unit (LPU) used on his or her assigned aircraft.
- 2.4. Following a safety check by OWPT staff, the student is attached to a tow line fitted with a student-operated release system.
- 2.5. Using the parasail, the student is towed to approximately 400 feet (a height that allows the average student a 16- to 22-second descent). The student releases the tow line in order to start a free parachute descent and then performs overwater post-egress checklist procedures.

## 3. Prerequisite Training:

- 3.1. The following prior training meets prerequisite training requirements to parasail:
  - 3.1.1. Individuals who have completed a military OWPT course within the previous 5 years, or
  - 3.1.2. Individuals who are performing parachutists duties and who have had OWPT, or
  - 3.1.3. Survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) specialists who are attending course J3ACP1T071000 (7-level).
- 3.2. Prior to the first parasail flight, each student will:
  - 3.2.1. Receive training on overwater post-egress parachuting to include practice clearing common parachute malfunctions and performing the overwater post-egress checklist procedures in the suspended harness ring trainer.
  - 3.2.2. Practice overwater post-egress checklist procedures in the parachute descent trainer. If the parachute descent trainer is not available, the student will practice descent checklist procedures on land or in the suspended harness ring trainer.
  - 3.2.3. Practice parachute disentanglement procedures in the water.
  - 3.2.4. Practice high-wind parachute drag procedures, as a minimum, one front and one back drag while underway in the water.

**4. Responsibilities.** Overwater parasail operations require specialized watercraft. These operations also require specially modified and maintained life support and operational equipment. Due to the uniqueness of the AETC OWPT mission, the following responsibilities apply:

- 4.1. HQ AETC/DOFA will oversee AETC OWPT operations, procedures, and equipment. In addition, HQ AETC/DOFA will provide HQ AETC staff coordination as necessary to ensure continuity of