



PART TWO

**Duties and Functions of Key Personnel,
Advanced Airborne Techniques and Training**



CHAPTER 7

RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF KEY PERSONNEL

The initial training and follow-on refresher training of key personnel are of major concern to commanders. The proper training and supervision of key personnel ensure that correct procedures and operational safety measures are followed during airborne operations.

7-1. COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The airborne commander designates the key personnel for each airborne operation. These key personnel are the primary jumpmaster (PJM), assistant jumpmasters (AJMs), safety personnel, departure airfield control officer (DACO), drop zone support team leader (DZSTL), drop zone safety officer (DZSO), and malfunction officer (MO).

a. Each aircraft has designated PJM, AJM, and safety personnel. The airborne commander gives the designated PJM command authority over, and responsibility for, all personnel on board a jump aircraft. PJM, AJM, and safety duties are described in Chapters 8, 9, and 10.

b. The DACO is located at the DA and has coordination responsibility with the GLO and TALCE/aircrew for the loading of personnel, equipment, and supplies into the aircraft. Also, the DACO provides the PJM with changes to station time and the overall operational plan; current DZ weather; and airfield crossing procedures and the aircraft parking plan. Complete DACO duties are discussed in Chapter 11.

c. Each DZ has a DZSO or DZSTL. The DZSO or DZSTL has command authority over the actions and safety of all personnel on the drop zone. DZSO and DZSTL procedures for DZ operations are described in Chapters 20, 21, and 22.

d. The MO is subordinate to the DZSO and as a member of the DZST is located on the DZ. Detailed MO duties are described in Chapter 23.

The JM, DACO, DZSTL, or DZSO can delegate their authority to subordinates, but they *cannot* delegate their responsibilities.

7-2. KEY PERSONNEL PREREQUISITES

The following minimum standards must be met before personnel will be allowed to perform PJM, AJM, safety, DACO, DZSO, DZSTL, or MO duties for personnel and heavy equipment airdrop operations. Tables 7-1 and 7-2, page 7-6, indicate the duties that PJM, DZSO, and DZSTL qualified and current personnel may perform, the airdrop method that will be used, and the type of airdrop mission that may be flown.

a. **PJM, AJM, and Safety Personnel.** To be appointed as PJM, AJM, or safety personnel, individuals must meet the following prerequisites:

(1) **Primary jumpmaster.**

(a) Be a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or NCO (E5 or above).

(b) Be JM qualified. To be JM qualified, the JM must be a graduate from an authorized JM course at Fort Benning, GA; at a Fort Benning MTT; at Fort Bragg, NC; or from an SOF JM course. (JMs qualified through SOF JM course must be JM refreshed prior to assuming JM duties outside SOF units.)

(c) Be JM current. To be JM current, the JM must have either performed PJM or AJM duties within the preceding 180 days; or, if a senior or master rated parachutist, performed duty as a safety on USAF aircraft within the preceding 180 days; or completed a JM refresher course in the preceding 180 days. (JM or safety duties performed on Army rotary-wing aircraft will not apply for JM currency.)

(d) Perform duties twice as the AJM and perform duties once as a safety.

(2) **Assistant jumpmaster.**

(a) Be a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or NCO (E5 or above).

(b) Be JM qualified and current.

(c) Perform duties once as a safety.

(3) **Safety personnel.**

(a) Be a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or NCO (E5 or above).

(b) Be JM qualified and current.

b. **DACO, DZSO, DZSTL, and MO.** To be appointed a DACO, DZSO, DZSTL, or MO, individuals must meet the following prerequisites:

(1) **DACO.**

(a) Be a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or NCO (E5 or above).

(b) Be JM qualified and current.

(c) Performed duties as assistant DACO at least once.

(2) **DZSO.**

(a) Be a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or NCO (E5 or above for proficiency jumps, or E6 for tactical airborne operations).

(b) Be JM qualified and current.

(c) Performed the duties of assistant DZSO in support of an airborne operation involving personnel or heavy equipment at least once.

(d) For GMRS operations, must be GMRS certified and have assisted a DZSO during a GMRS airdrop.

(3) **DZSTL.**

(a) Be a commissioned officer, warrant officer, NCO (E5 or above), or civilian equivalent.

(b) Be certified as a DZSTL by having attended one of the following since 1988:

- USAIS Pathfinder Course.
- USAIS Jumpmaster Course.
- USAIS DZSTL MTT.
- 82d Airborne Division Advanced Airborne School DZSTL Course.
- Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC).
- US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) Jumpmaster Course.

(c) Observed and assisted a qualified and current DZSTL while performing his duties during an airdrop operation involving personnel or heavy equipment.

(d) Be DZSTL current. To be DZSTL current, the DZSTL must have performed the duties of DZSTL or assistant DZSTL within the preceding 180 days or completed a DZSTL refresher course in the preceding 180 days.

(e) Be JM qualified and current.

NOTE: DZSTLs in support of CDS airdrops are *not* required to be airborne qualified, on jump status, or be JM qualified and current, but they must have attended an authorized pathfinder or DZST course.

(4) **Malfunction officer.**

(a) Be a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or NCO (E5 or above).

(b) IAW AR 59-4, must be a qualified parachute rigger from the unit providing the air items used during the operation.

NOTE: For multiple DZ operations, it may not be possible to have a parachute rigger CO, WO, or NCO on each DZ. In such instances, the DZSO/DZSTL (or assistant DZSO/DZSTL) may perform temporary MO duties until the appointed MO can perform official MO duties. The DZSO or DZSTL selected to perform the interim/temporary MO duty must receive special training from the parachute rigger unit providing the air items concerning the MO duties discussed in Chapter 23.

DUTY TO PERFORM		AIRDROP METHOD	TYPE AIRDROP
1. JM SCHOOL GRADUATE BEFORE SEP 1988. (A) JM (C): (B) JM (NC):	JM, DZSO NONE	*GMRS	CDS, HE, PERS
2. JM SCHOOL GRADUATE AFTER SEP 1988. (A) JM (C): (B) JM (NC):	JM, DZSO, DZSTL DZSTL	CARP, VIRS (ARMY) CARP	CDS, HE, PERS CDS
C = CURRENT NC = NOT CURRENT			
*GMRS DZ NORMALLY RESERVED FOR SOCOM UNITS.			

Table 7-1. Duties that Jumpmaster and Pathfinder School DZST certified personnel may perform.

DUTY TO PERFORM		AIRDROP METHOD	TYPE AIRDROP
1. USAIS PATHFINDER SCHOOL GRADUATE AFTER SEP 1988. (A) JM (C) DZST (C): (B) JM (NC) DZST (C): (C) JM (C) DZST (NC): (D) NONAIRBORNE DZST (C):	JM, DZSO, DZSTL DZSTL JM, DZSO DZSTL	CARP, *GMRS, VIRS (ARMY), **VIRS (USAF) CARP VIRS (ARMY) CARP	CDS, HE, PERS CDS CDS
2. SFQC DZST CERTIFIED. (A) JM (C) DZST (C): (B) JM (C) DZST (NC): (C) JM (NC) DZST (C):	JM, DZSO, DZSTL JM, DZSO DZSTL	CARP, *GMRS, VIRS (ARMY), **VIRS (USAF) CARP, *GMRS CARP, *GMRS	CDS, HE, PERS CDS, HE, PERS CDS
C = CURRENT NC = NOT CURRENT			
*GMRS DZ NORMALLY RESERVED FOR SOCOM UNITS. **VIRS (USAF) RESERVED FOR SOCOM UNITS.			

Table 7-2. Duties that USAIS Pathfinder School graduate and SFQC DZST certified personnel may perform.