

CHAPTER 5

JUMP COMMAND SEQUENCE AND JUMPER ACTIONS

A sequence of jump commands is given by the JM to ensure positive control of parachutists inside the aircraft and immediately before exiting. Every command requires specific actions by each parachutist. To ensure the positive control of parachutists inside the aircraft and immediately before exiting, a sequence of nine jump commands is given by the JM. When commands are executed properly they ensure a safe exit from the aircraft.

5-1. PRESENTATION

The commands are given orally but, as a backup, arm-and-hand signals are also used with each command because of the aircraft engine noise. The signals must be precisely executed, smooth, and coordinated.

a. The commands listed, with variations explained in Chapters 17, 18, or 19, are employed on jump aircraft. JMs ensure that the correct sequence is used for a particular aircraft. The correct commands are explained and demonstrated to parachutists during prejump briefing.

b. The following sequence of jump commands is used on high-performance aircraft. The commands are given by the JMs. Prior to the 10-minute time warning, the JMs hookup to the inboard anchor line cable, hand the static line to the safety, and announce, SAFETY, CONTROL MY STATIC LINE. The JMs then issue the jump commands. If the aircraft is configured with only one anchor line cable, the JMs hookup to the one cable.

5-2. GET READY

GET READY is the first jump command.

a. **Command.** This jump command alerts the parachutists seated in the aircraft and directs their complete attention to the JM.

(1) The JM starts the command with his arms at his sides and gives the arm-and-hand signal by extending both arms to the front at shoulder level with his palms facing the parachutists.

(2) He begins at shoulder level, fingers and thumbs extended and joined, palms facing toward the parachutists. He extends both arms forward until the elbows lock, with the palms toward the parachutists. He gives the oral command GET READY, then returns to the start position with arms at the sides (Figure 5-1).

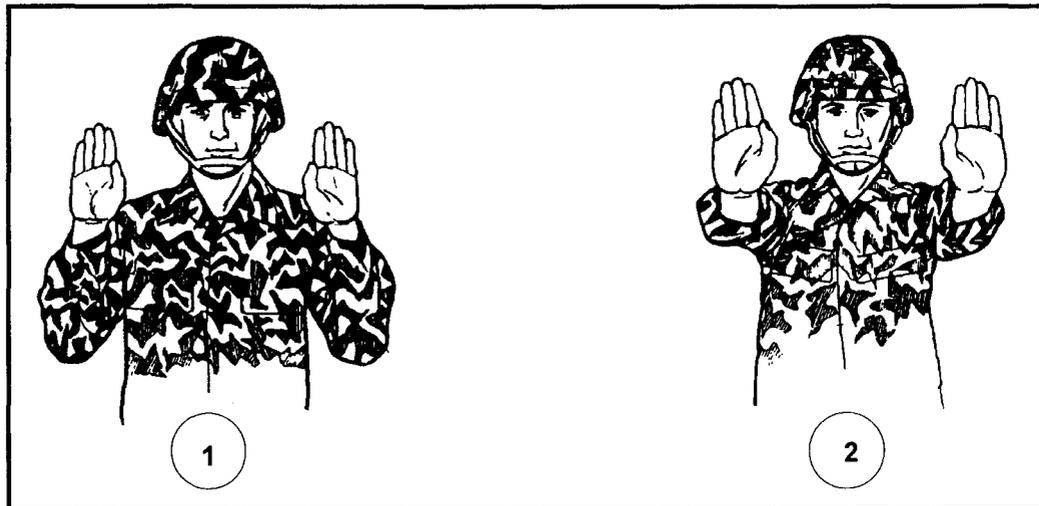


Figure 5-1. GET READY.

b. **Static Line.** The static line is over the appropriate shoulder and fastened to the top carrying handle of the reserve parachute. Parachutists do not remove the static line snap hook from the reserve parachute after the JM inspection or anytime before the command HOOK UP.

c. **Jumper Actions.** Each parachutist signifies alertness by leaning forward and placing both hands on his knees. Each parachutist positions his foot nearest the jump door under the seat and places his foot nearest the pilot's compartment in the aisle.

5-3. OUTBOARD PERSONNEL, STAND UP

OUTBOARD PERSONNEL, STAND UP is the second jump command. For this command, the arm-and-hand signal has two parts.

Part One. The JM starts at the shoulders, index and middle fingers extended and joined, with remaining fingers and thumbs curled to the palms. He gives the command OUTBOARD PERSONNEL, lowers the arms down to the sides at a 45-degree angle, and locks the elbows.

Part Two. The JM gives the command STAND UP. He extends and joins the fingers and thumb of each hand, rotates the hands so the palms face up, and then raises the arms straight overhead, keeping the elbows locked

(Figure 5-2). At this command, parachutists sitting nearest the outboard side of the aircraft stand up, raise and secure the seats, face the jump doors, and assume the shuffle position.

NOTE: The method of releasing the seats from the floor varies, depending on the model and year of aircraft. Before takeoff, these devices are inspected and the method of release explained.

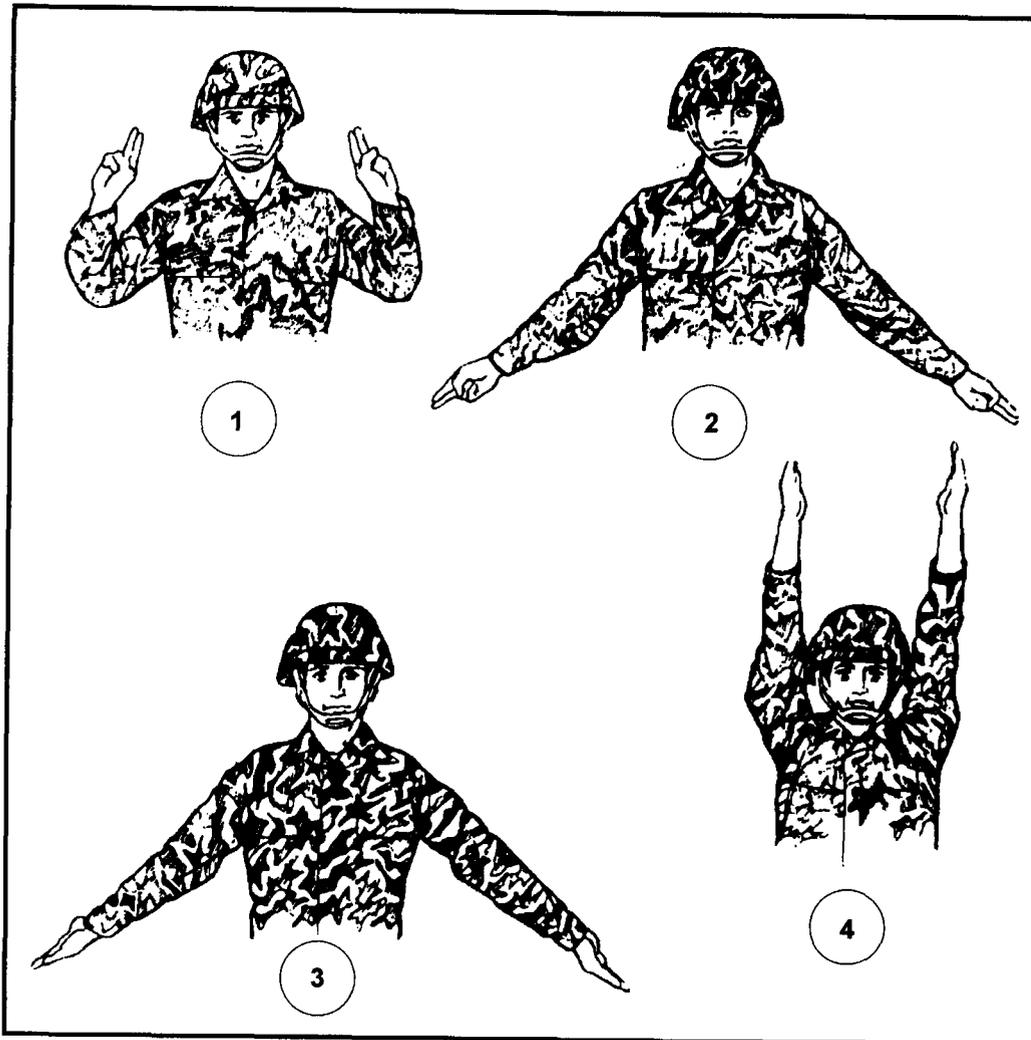


Figure 5-2. OUTBOARD PERSONNEL, STAND UP.

5-4. INBOARD PERSONNEL, STAND UP

INBOARD PERSONNEL, STAND UP is the third jump command. The arm-and-hand signal has two parts.

Part One. The JM starts with the hands centered on the chest at shoulder level, index and middle fingers extended and joined, remaining fingers and thumbs curled to the palms. He gives the command **INBOARD PERSONNEL**, extends the arms forward at a 45-degree angle, toward the inboard seats, and locks the elbows.

Part Two. The JM gives the command **STAND UP**. He first rotates his arms to the sides and down at a 45-degree angle. Then he extends and joins the fingers and thumb of each hand, rotates his hands so the palms face up, and raises his arms straight overhead, keeping the elbows locked (Figure 5-3).

The Parachutists seated inboard react in the same manner as the outboard personnel described in the previous paragraph.

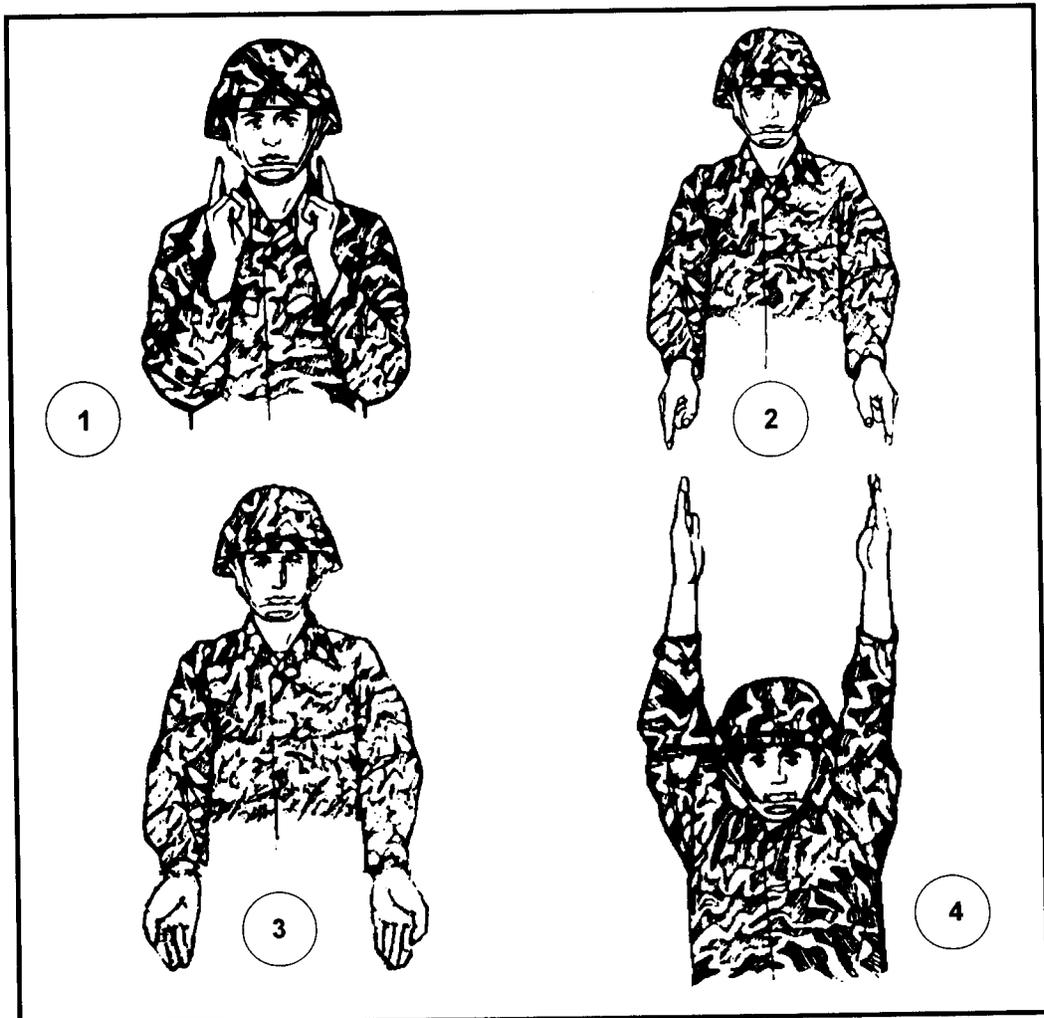


Figure 5-3. INBOARD PERSONNEL, STAND UP.

5-5. HOOK UP

HOOK UP is the fourth jump command.

a. Command.

(1) The JM begins with his arms either extended directly overhead with elbows locked or with arms bent, hands at shoulder level.

(2) He forms a hook with the index finger of each hand. He forms fists with the remaining fingers and thumb of each hand (Figure 5-4).

(3) As he gives the oral command, he move his arms down and up in a pumping motion. He repeats the arm-and-hand signal at least three times.

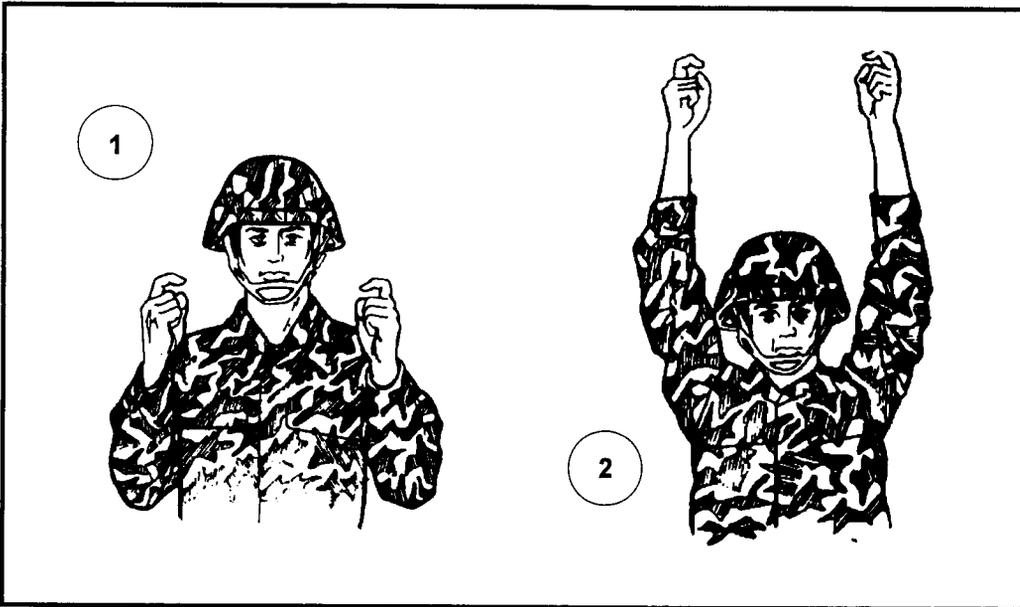


Figure 5-4. HOOK UP.

b. Jumper Actions.

(1) At this command, each parachutist detaches the static line snap hook from the top carrying handle of the reserve parachute and hooks up to the appropriate anchor line cable, with the open portion of the snap hook toward the outboard side of the aircraft. Each parachutist must ensure that the snap hook locks properly.

(2) The safety wire is inserted in the hole and folded down. To protect the eyes, the wire is inserted by pointing it toward the rear of the aircraft. Then a bight is formed in the static line and held at eye level. The bight is not released until the parachutist moves into the door.

(3) Personnel jumping the left (right) door have the static line over the left (right) shoulder.

5-6. CHECK STATIC LINES

CHECK STATIC LINES is the fifth jump command.

a. Command.

(1) This is a plural command since there are several static lines attached to the anchor line cable. It begins at eye level, with the thumb and index finger of each hand forming an "O."

(2) The JM extends and joins his remaining fingers with the palms facing in. As he gives the oral command, he extends his arms to the front until the elbows are nearly locked, then returns to the starting position.

(3) He repeats the arm-and-hand signal at least three times, ensuring the knife edge of his hands are toward the parachutists and the palms face each other (Figure 5-5).

b. Jumper Actions.

(1) Upon receiving this command, each parachutist checks his static line and the static line of the parachutist to his front.

(2) Each parachutist checks visually and by feeling with his freehand. He does not release the bight for checks. He verifies the following items:

- Static line snap hook is properly attached to the anchor line cable with the safety wire properly inserted. Static line is free of frays and tears.
- Static line is not misrouted and is properly stowed on pack tray.
- All excess slack in the static line is taken up and stowed in the static line slack retainer.
- Pack closing tie is routed through the pack opening loop.
- Pack tray is intact.



Figure 5-5. CHECK STATIC LINES.

NOTE: The last two jumpers in each stick face about. The next to last jumper inspects the last jumper's static line and gives him a sharp tap to indicate that the static line and pack tray have been checked and are safe for jumping.

(3) Each parachutist gives the parachutist to the front a sharp tap signifying that the static line and pack tray have been checked and are safe for jumping.

5-7. CHECK EQUIPMENT

CHECK EQUIPMENT is the sixth jump command.

a. Command.

(1) The JM starts this arm-and-hand signal with the fingertips centered on his chest, palms facing the chest, and fingers and thumb of each hand extended and joined; or with his arms extended to the sides at shoulder level, fingers and thumbs extended and joined, and palms facing toward the parachutist.

(2) He gives the oral command, extends his arms to the sides at shoulder level, and then returns them to the chest; or bends his arms at the elbows, bringing the fingertips to the center of the chest, and then returns to the extended position (Figure 5-6).

(3) He repeats the arm-and-hand signal at least three times. (The JM must check his own equipment.)

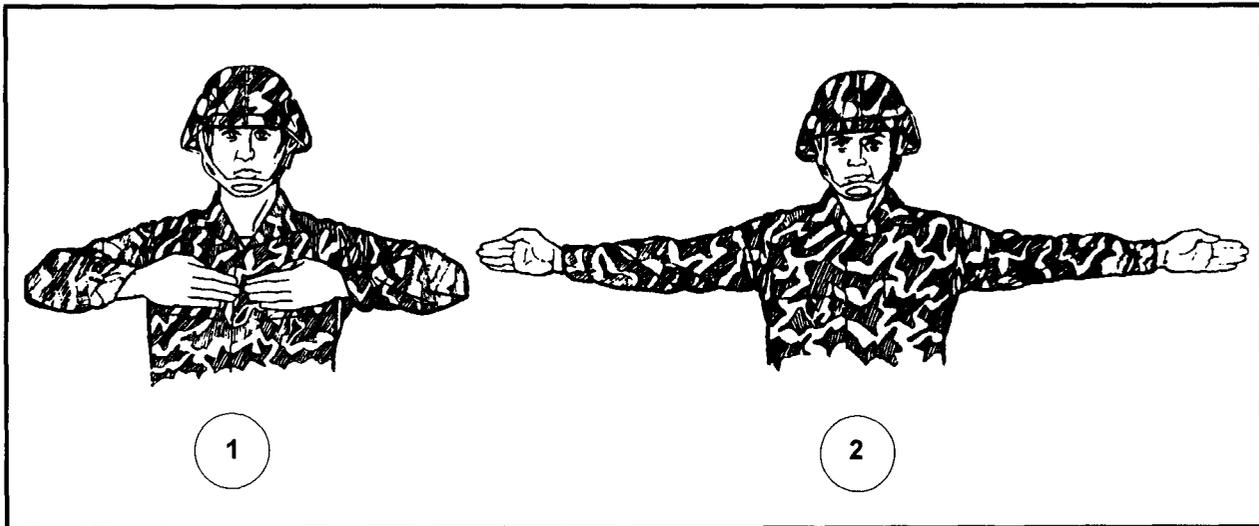


Figure 5-6. CHECK EQUIPMENT.

b. Jumper Actions.

(1) At this command, each parachutist checks his equipment, starting at the helmet, and ensures there are no sharp edges on the rim of the ballistic helmet and that the chin strap and parachutist retention straps are properly routed and secured. The parachutist then physically seats the activating lever of the chest strap ejector snap and the leg strap ejector snaps. If jumping combat equipment, the parachutist also ensures the ejector snap of the HPT lowering line is properly attached and seated.

(2) The parachutist completes these actions with the free hand while maintaining a firm grip on the static line bight with the other hand.

5-8. SOUND OFF FOR EQUIPMENT CHECK

This is the seventh jump command.

a. Command.

(1) The JM cups his hands and places the thumbs behind the ears.

(2) He gives the oral command SOUND OFF FOR EQUIPMENT CHECK (Figure 5-7).

b. Jumper Actions.

(1) At this command, the last parachutist in the outboard stick sounds off, saying "OK," and gives the parachutist in front a sharp tap on the thigh. The signal is continued until it gets to the number 1 parachutist, who notifies the JM by pointing to the JM and saying, "All OK, jumpmaster."

(2) For a C-130 aircraft, this signal is passed to number 25 parachutist (just forward of the wheel well), who forms a circle with his index finger and thumb of his free hand, turns toward the center of the aircraft, and gives the okay signal to number 24 (the last parachutist of the inboard stick). The tap and indication that all previous parachutists are okay is passed up to number 4, first parachutist of the inboard stick, who signals number 3, first parachutist to the rear of the wheel well. The signal is continued until it gets to the number 1 parachutist, who notifies the JM by pointing to the JM and saying, "All OK."

(3) A parachutist who has an equipment problem notifies the JM, AJM, or safety personnel by raising his outboard hand high above the anchor line cable, palm facing the JM. The parachutists do not pass this signal. The JM, AJM, or safety either corrects the deficiency or removes the parachutist from the stick.

NOTE: After the JM receives "All OK, jumpmaster," he regains control of his static line from the safety and takes the number 1 parachutist position.



Figure 5-7. SOUND OFF FOR EQUIPMENT CHECK.

5-9. STAND BY

STAND BY is the eighth jump command. This command (Figure 5-8) is given about 10 seconds before the aircraft reaches the release point and only after the aircraft has cleared all obstacles near the DZ.

a. Command.

(1) Starting at the shoulders, the JM extends and joins his index and middle fingers, curling the remaining fingers and thumb of each hand toward the palm.

(2) He extends his arms down to the sides at a 45-degree angle by locking the elbows, and points to both doors at the same time.

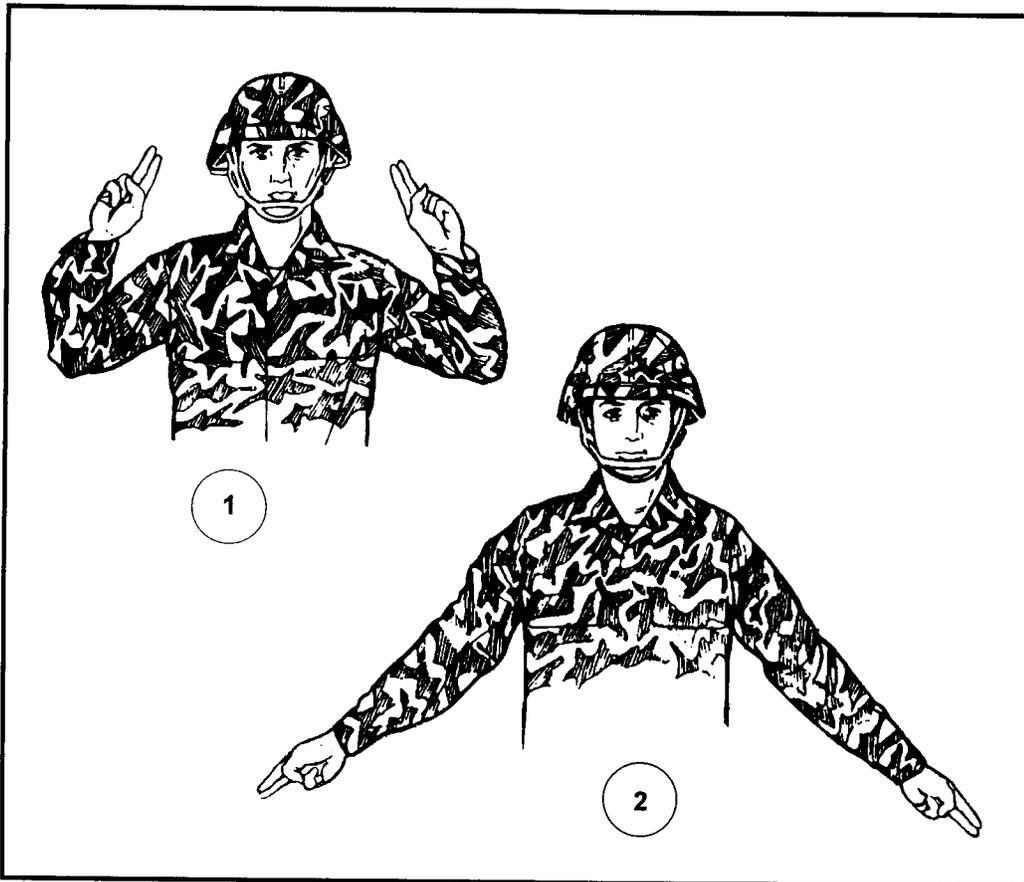


Figure 5-8. STAND BY.

b. Jumper Actions.

(1) At this command, parachutist number 1 shuffles toward the door, establishes eye-to-eye contact with the safety, hands the safety his static line, holds his elbows firmly into his sides with his palms on the end of the reserve, executes a half-left or half-right face to the open jump door, and awaits the command GO.

(2) All following parachutists maintain the static line bight and close up behind the preceding parachutist (Figure 5-9, page 5-9).

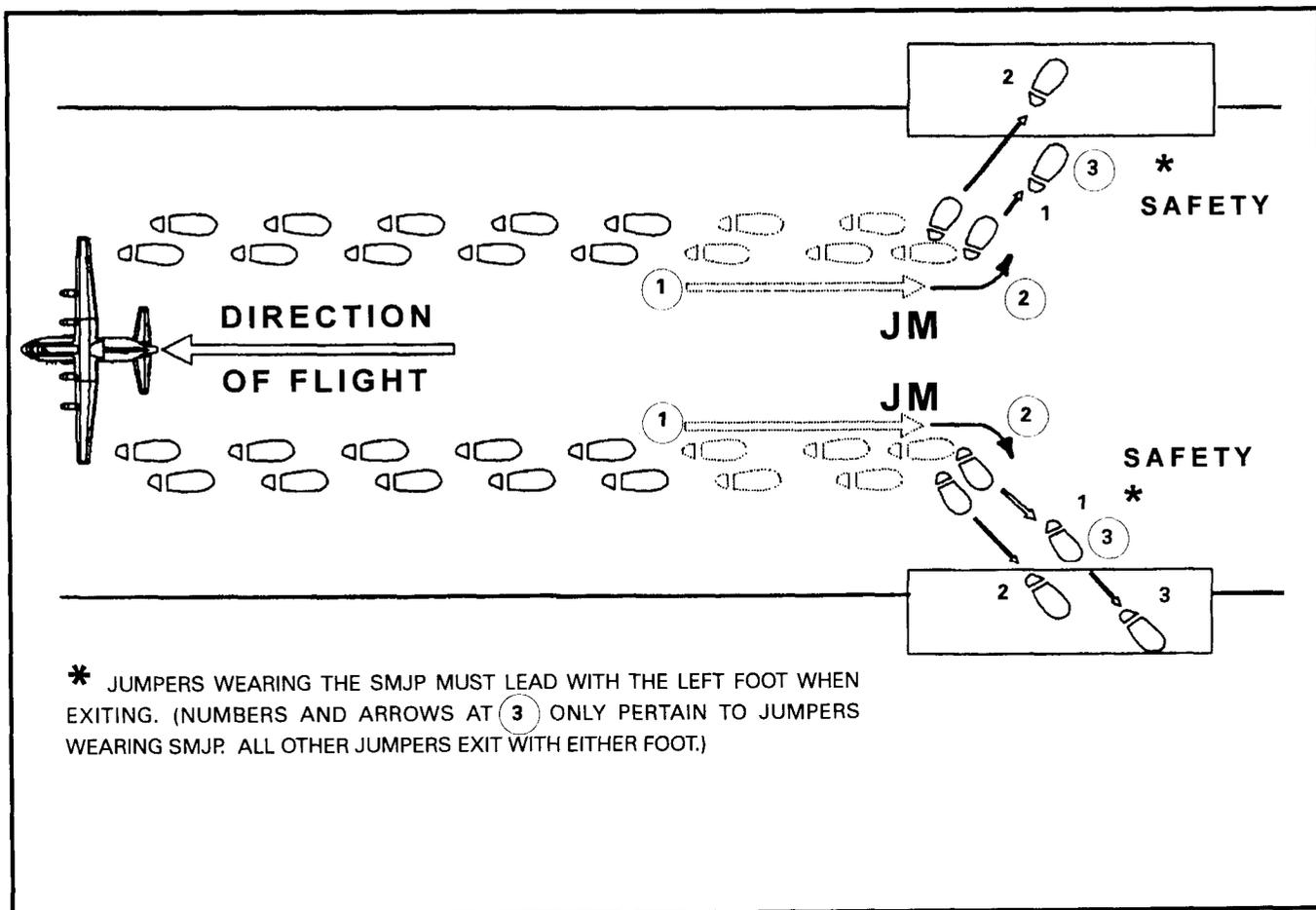


Figure 5-9. Jumper execution upon receiving the command STAND BY.

5-10. GO

GO is the ninth jump command. The green light is the final time warning on USAF aircraft. It tells the JM that as far as the aircrew is concerned, conditions are safe and it is time to issue the ninth jump command, GO.

a. Command.

(1) The JM gives the verbal command GO and may also tap the first parachutist out.

(2) In this case, the command GO and a sharp tap on the thigh is the signal to exit. If this signal is used, it is explained during the JM's briefing.

b. Jumper Actions.

(1) At the command GO, the first parachutist walks out the door and executes the first point of performance. Each succeeding parachutist moves to the door and exits the same way without command.

(2) Movement into the door is a normal walking pace. Parachutists pass the static line to safety personnel, place the hands on the ends of the reserve parachute, and exit.

(3) Exits are made at an angle toward the rear of the aircraft and are not vigorous.

NOTE: The commands STAND BY and GO are first taught during the initial training periods on the mock door and the 34-foot tower. As training progresses, the complete command sequence is taught.