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# U.S. Army Garrison-West Point DPTMS – Range Operations Policy & Procedures

## Standard Operating Procedure Air Assault Tower



Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Garrison West Point  
United States Military Academy  
West Point, New York 10996-5000

## Document History

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### Document Location

All hard copies will be located at Building 1403 Range Operations Fire Desk. Also, electronic copies may be retrieved via DPTMS website (Training Link), or upon request.

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### Approvals

This document requires the following approvals:

Name	Title
	USAG-WP, Range Manager
	USAG-WP, Chief of Training
	USAG-WP, Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization & Security

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# 1. General Information

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## 1.1 Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides standard instructions and checklists for unit and individuals using the Air Assault Tower Site. It defines standardized steps and procedures to be followed for its safe and efficient use.

This SOP is directive based and complies with applicable United States Military Academy and Department of the Army Regulations, current doctrine, policy and guidance.

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## 1.2 Applicability

This SOP is designed to provide units with safe operating procedures and guidelines. It applies to all units of the U. S. Armed Forces, civilian organizations, and individuals who are authorized to use this training facility at West Point, and by all applicable users IAW West Point Regulation 350-11, TRADOC Pam 385-1, and TC 21-24 Rappelling.

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## 1.3 Responsibility

Use this SOP in conjunction West Point Reg. 350-11, TC 21-24 and TRADOC PAM 385-1 which provide specific and detailed specialty course responsibilities for using units. These directed and required actions are necessary for the safe conduct of rappelling activities. Full compliance IAW the afore-mentioned regulations as well as steps and procedures of this SOP, is the responsibility of the commanders, as well as the personnel of using organizations or units. Personnel of any non-DoD civilian agency or activity, using West Point ranges and training facilities must also comply with the provisions and requirements outlined in West Point Reg. 350-11.

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## 1.4 References

All required and related publications are those covering the training conducted and those listed in the applicable chapters of West Point Reg. 350-11 or other respective regulations, policies and procedures. Additional references are also listed at Appendix E, of TC 21-24, Rappelling.

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## 1.5 Suggested Improvements

The proponent of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is the Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, U.S. Army Garrison West Point, ATTN: DPTMS, Building 621 Wilson Road, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York 10996-5000. Users are encouraged to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms).

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## 2. Specialty Course Description & Characteristics

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### 2.1 Course Description

The Air Assault Tower Site offers a 34' Rappel Tower and six-lane Slant Wall.

The Air Assault Tower Site offers facilities for the training of beginner through advanced rappelling. It is designed for Soldiers to receive instruction, practice their skills and then conduct rappel training. The tower supports training in Harness Swiss Seat Rappelling. The Slant Wall supports Harness, Hasty and Body Rappelling.

Australian rappelling or any method wherein an individual descends to the ground head first (facing the ground) is **strictly prohibited**.

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### 2.2 Course Location

The Air Assault Tower is located at 18TWL8759982804 near South Dock on the West Point Cantonment Area. The site is accessed via Ernst Road.

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### 2.3 Specific Requirements

A unit must have the following on site in order to conduct training at the Air Assault Tower:

- a. Certified OIC (Air Assault/Ranger/Sapper or Rappel Master)
- b. DOD Certified Rappel Master or Civilian Equivalent
- c. One Rappel Lane NCO (RSO) per Rappel station (Rappel Master)
- d. One Belayer for each rope station
- e. Two military rappel ropes for each rope station.
- f. Gloves and helmets.
- g. A trained medical aid person, MOS qualified. This individual will be equipped with a litter, Spine board, neck brace and radio communication, and a complete medical aid bag, containing all required CL VIII items that have a valid expiration date.
- h. A dedicated medical evacuation vehicle, capable of transporting a litter, and properly equipped, and with a current PMCS. Medical aid personnel assigned to these ranges, along with the supporting medical vehicle, will not be used for any other duty.
- i. A dedicated evacuation vehicle capable of carrying a litter with driver.
- j. Communications equipment for continuous communication with Range Operations.
- k. Units will provide all equipment for rappelling training, to include ropes, karabiners, rappel harnesses/Swiss seats and all PPE.

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### 2.4 Authorized Parking

Military Vehicles – Military parking is next to the course.

Civilian Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs) – POVs may be parked along Ernst Road.

## **2.5 Communications**

All specialty courses must maintain two separate means of communication with Range Operations at all times. Primary means of communication with Range Operations will be by issued Motorola Handheld on the "Live Fire" Channel.

There is NO commercial telephone available at the Air Assault Tower Site.

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## **3. Safety & Security Procedures**

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### **3.1 Individual Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)**

- a. Ballistic (Kevlar or Army Combat Helmet (ACH) is to be worn for safety and protection by all personnel negotiating participating in rappelling activities and individuals in close proximity to rappel tower. The use of ACH is mandatory.
- b. The use of leather gloves is mandatory. Gloves should be reinforced, preferably with a double-layered, abrasion resistant surface on palms.

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### **3.2 Facility Specific Safety Measures**

- a. General safety precautions that must be considered and conducted:
  - 1) Inspection of structural integrity and safety devices prior to tower use utilizing enclosed Rappel Tower Inspection Criteria Checklist.
  - 2) Safety equipment must be inspected and tested prior to use. Landing and fall areas must be raked and refilled as needed before each use.
  - 3) Training is postponed when tower is slippery due to inclement weather.
  - 4) No personnel are authorized on the tower or slant wall during when lightening or thunder is present.

## 4. Course Operational Requirements/Responsibilities

### 4.1 Officer in Charge (OIC) / Range Safety Officer (RSO) Appointment Requirements

WEAPON SYSTEM	OFFICER IN CHARGE (OIC)			RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO)		
	OFF	CADET	NCO	OFF	CADET	NCO
Practice hand grenade simunitions training devices; simulators, and small arms (5.56mm and below)	X	N/A	E6(P)	X	X (Wpns Qualified)	E5(P)
Chemical Agents (CS) and smoke	X	N/A	E6 (MOS Qualified)	X	N/A	E5
Aerial gunnery, live grenades, grenade launchers, grenade machine guns; Live mines, and demolitions.	X	N/A	E7	X	N/A	E6
Field Artillery and LASER ranges	X (0-3)	N/A	N/A	Battery XO X	N/A	N/A
Live Fire Exercises using organic weapons, team through squad.	X	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	E7
Mortars	X	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	E6
Direct fire antitank rockets	X	N/A	E7	X	N/A	E6
Specialty Non-LFX Courses	X	N/A	E6	X	X	X
Specialty Non-LFX Courses (Rappel) * Air Assault, Sapper or Ranger. Certified Rappel Master must be on site.	X*	N/A	E7*	X	N/A	E6

Table 4-1, OIC / RSO Appointment Requirements

### 4.2 Officer in Charge (OIC)

The Range OIC holds the responsibility and accountability for the conduct of the activity and the adherence to governing regulations and guidance.



### 4.2.1 OIC Qualifications

A commissioned, warrant, or noncommissioned officer (NCO) may serve as a Specialty Course OIC. NCOs serving as OIC will be in the minimum grade as shown in Table 4-1. Facility OICs (DOD) will hold a current Army Rappel Master Certification or be Air Assault, Ranger or Sapper Qualified, knowledgeable in the duties and responsibilities IAW TC 21-24, will have satisfactorily completed a safety certification program, and be certified via memorandum by their Battalion/Unit (O5 & Above) Command. A certified Rappel Master must be on site.

Civilians will be qualified rappel instructors holding current certificates from civilian or law enforcement rappel instructor schools. A copy of the certificate must be provided to Range Operations to validate instructor status.

### 4.2.2 OIC Actions & Procedures before Facility Occupation

STEP	ACTION	TAKEN
1	Thoroughly plan the operation and/or training activity and determine the personnel and equipment support requirements.	
2	Be currently certified as Rappel Master, Air Assault, Sapper or Ranger (DOD) or certified civilian Rappelling Instructor (Non-DOD).	
3	Receive the mandatory Range Operations briefing within ONE DAY prior to use.	
4	Ensure qualified rappel instructors are trained on the operation and correct negotiation of each obstacle prior to running the course.	
5	Verify that all personnel in a direct supervisory role or safety position are familiar with the provisions of this SOP, USMA Reg. 350-11, and TC 21-24, Rappelling.	
6	Ensures that the required and appropriate medical support personnel are qualified. All appropriate equipment and supplies are available to support the training activity.	
7	Check in at Range Operations upon arrival to the installation to receive an updated briefing and sign for the facility and necessary support equipment.	
8	Develops a composite risk management worksheet for all phases of the range operation(s) and/or training activity, and mitigate initial high and extremely high hazards through appropriate control measures, using DA Form 2977.	

### 4.2.3 OIC Actions & Procedures before Operations

STEP	ACTION	TAKEN
1	Conducts an inspection of the Air Assault Tower and Slant wall IAW the Rappel Tower Inspection Criteria Checklist.	
2	Conducts an OIC safety brief to the obstacle instructors, reinforcing their duties and responsibilities on the conduct of each obstacle and general safety requirements.	
3	Directs and supervises that the required designated areas of the training facility are established and set up as required/planned.	
4	Establishes radio and communications with Range Operations, and notifies Range Operations upon initial occupation.	
5	Verify that the required medical personnel and equipment support is on site, with strip maps to local medical treatment facilities is present, prior to requesting a HOT status.	
6	Verify the continuous safety and security of all personnel as they engage in rappelling training. Ensure rappelling demonstrations are conducted when necessary.	
7	Verify that all personnel wear the required personal protection equipment, as the commander dictates.	

8	Ensure all applicable references and regulations are physically present and on hand:	
9	Notifies Range Operations and requests permission to place the range in a HOT status (Refer to paragraph 7.1).	
10	Implements risk management actions and applicable control measures identified for this phase of the range operations and/or training event.	

#### 4.2.4 OIC Actions & Procedures during Operations

STEP	ACTION	TAKEN
1	Be present at all times at the Air Assault Tower Site is in a HOT status, and maintains a constant observation of the facility to ensure that training is conducted safely and IAW TC 21-24. Greet and brief all range visitors/VIPs, and Range Operations personnel.	
2	Verify that all personnel prior to rappel training receive a safety briefing.	
3	Ensures that communications with Range Operations are maintained, and that hourly radio checks are performed (Refer to paragraph 7.4)	
4	Immediately calls or announces a self-imposed "Cease Training" and notifies Range Operations when:	
4a	Any unsafe action is observed or reported by ANY individual observing an unsafe act.	
4b	When communications are lost with Range Operations and/or Gate Guards.	
4c	When any personal injury occurs.	
4d	Whenever the OIC or medical support leaves the training facility.	
4e	Notifies Range Operations when a change in OIC is needed (refer to paragraph 7.3).	
5	Implements risk management actions and applicable control measures identified for this phase of the range operations and/or training event.	

#### 4.2.5 OIC Actions & Procedures after Operations

STEP	ACTION	TAKEN
1	Notify Range Operations upon completion of training and request permission to go COLD (reference procedure 7.2). Be prepared to report:	
1a	Number of personnel trained.	
2	Contact Range Operations for range clearance/inspection after performing the following:	
2a	Remediate any obstacle deficiency created during facility use (i.e. raking landing/fall areas) and replace safety equipment in appropriate storage area.	
2b	Police range for all trash and place in local dumpster. NO MREs, kitchen waste will be placed in the dumpsters.	
2c	Check overall condition of the range to include all range support facilities and repair any deficiencies or faults discovered if applicable.	
2d	Hand receipted range equipment and supplies are recovered, cleaned and prepared for turn-in.	
3	Conduct a joint inventory IAW range clearance agreement with a Range Operations representative for clearance of the training area, and secure the facility.	
4	Return all hand-receipted range equipment, along with any applicable reports/forms to Range Operations.	

**NOTE: All rubber chips WILL be raked back into original location before Range Operations allows the unit to clear. No equipment is to be left on site unless the Air Assault Tower is signed out for multiple training days (CST, Air Assault Training).**

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## 5. Specialty Course Medical Requirements & Evacuation

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### 5.1 Unit Medical Support Requirements

Units will comply with the following range medical support requirements:

- a. A trained medical aid person, MOS qualified. This individual will be equipped with a litter, radio communication, and a complete medical aid bag, containing all required CL VIII items that have a valid expiration date.
- b. A dedicated medical evacuation vehicle, capable of transporting a litter, and properly equipped, and with a current PMCS. Medical aid personnel assigned to these ranges, along with the supporting medical vehicle, will not be used for any other duty.

#### 5.1.1 Execution

- a. Using unit medical personnel will review and familiarize themselves with the strip map route(s) to KACH ER and the local community hospital prior to conducting operations.
- b. Whenever the dedicated medical aid person or vehicle must leave the area for any reason the training facility must “Cease Training” and remains in a “COLD” status until a replacement is provided, or until the assigned vehicle and medical personnel have returned to the facility. Range Operations will then grant the unit permission to re-open the facility and place the facility in a “HOT” status.
- c. Medical support personnel at the facility will provide treatment for minor injuries and basic first-aid for life-threatening injury or illness.
- d. Medical evacuation vehicles will display all frequencies and telephone numbers in case of immediate use:
  - a. Range Operations Frequency is on Motorola Handheld “LIVEFIRE” Channel.
  - b. West Point Fire & Emergency Services Division – 845.938.5197
  - c. KACH ER frequency is VHF 150.7.
  - d. KACH ER – 845.938.4004 / 5169.

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### 5.2 Keller Army Community Hospital (KACH)

Injuries and/or illness requiring immediate emergency support will be immediately reported to the KACH ER, with the location of the site for patient evacuation by KACH.

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### 5.3 Serious Incident Report (SIR) Requirements

Full and immediate medical attention directed at the patient is the first and foremost priority. As soon as possible, the OIC will contact Range Operations and report the medical injury/accident. Be prepared to provide at a minimum “the Five W’s” (Who, What, When, Where and Why).

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### 5.4 Emergency MEDEVAC Flight Requests

The USMA does NOT have an organic MEDEVAC capability to support training complex operations; units and organizations will plan medical evacuation with their organic assets. Stat

Flights are for the emergency evacuation of injured personnel by air ambulance. Only the emergency first responder on site, DES dispatcher or KACH medical personnel are authorized to request or terminate a MEDEVAC mission.

To obtain a Stat Flight, contact Range Operations by Motorola Handheld "LIVEFIRE" Channel or by telephone at (845) 938-3930. After Hours the Military Police Dispatch at (845) 938-3333. Air Frequency is VHF 126.20.

9-LINE MEDEVAC		
ANNOUNCED		LINE INFO DESCRIPTION
LINE	LINE INFO	
1		Location of the Pick-Up site by 6-digit grid and any prominent terrain features nearby.
2		Unit Identification
3	A= B=	Number of Patients by evacuation category/precedence A=Urgent (requires immediate evacuation to prevent loss of life B=Priority (serious injury, but <u>NOT</u> life threatening)
4	A= B= C= D=	Special equipment needed: A=none B=hoist C=extraction equipment D=ventilator
5	A= B=	Number of patients A=litter B=ambulatory
6		Number and types of wounds, injuries and illnesses
7		Method of marking landing zone/pick-up site A=panels B=pyrotechnic signal C=smoke signal D=none E=other
8		Patient nationality and status A=US military B=US civilian C=other (describe)
9		Terrain description of pick-up site, any site hazards; if none=so state

## 5.5 Hospital Strip Maps & Directions

### 5.5.1 Keller Army Community Hospital

Reference Tab 10A, Local Strip Map to Keller Army Community Hospital

### 5.5.2 St. Luke's Community Cornwall Campus Hospital, Cornwall, NY

Reference Tab 10B, Local Strip Map to Saint Luke's Community Hospital.

## 6. Rappel Tower Inspection Criteria Checklist

	AREA	STANDARD	YES	NO	N/A
1	Inspect	a. Is the tower structurally sound? Do structural support members appear serviceable, free from deterioration, breaks, or damage?			
		b. Are there any signs of insect infestation? [29 CFR 1910.141(a)(5)]			
		c. Are bolts that connect structural members or support cables serviceable and properly connected/tightened?			
		d. Are stairs or ladders firmly attached to the tower?			
		e. Do stairs/fixed ladders comply with OSHA standards? [29 CFR 1910.24 and 29 CFR 1910.27]			
		f. Are all areas marked in yellow that pose a potential trip hazard or head hazard? [29 CFR 1910.144(a)(3)]			
		g. Are the tower platform and all rappel rope stations accessible without having to climb over any obstacles (guard rails, support cables, etc.)?			
		h. Is the tower deck free of slip/trip hazards such as water, protruding nails/bolts/splinters, loose equipment, etc? [29 CFR 1910.141(a)(3)(ii) and 29 CFR 1910.141(a)(3)(iii)]			
		i. Are the tower deck and any open areas (above 4') not actively being used for rappelling, guarded with guardrails? [29 CFR 1910.23(c)(1)]			
		j. Are all guard rails a minimum of 42" high and capable of withstanding a side force of 200 lbs? [29 CFR 1910.23(e)(1) and 29 CFR 1910.23(e)(3)(iv)]			
		k. Are toe boards or similar barriers installed in all areas where personnel could pass underneath? [29 CFR 1910.23(c)(1)]			
		l. Do all tower rope stations have primary and secondary anchor points?			
		m. Are all anchor points in serviceable condition and free of corrosion, sharp edges, burrs, or grooves that could cut or damage ropes?			
		n. Have all anchor points been designed to ensure they will accommodate a weight of at least 400 pounds for each Soldier attached? [29 CFR 1910.66, appendix C (I)(c)(10)]			
		o. Is the rappel wall face area free of protruding nails, bolts, or splinters?			
		p. Is the rappel wall face area free of broken, loose, decayed, or missing boards?			
		q. Is padding material in place on all edges that ropes and/or personnel cross?			
		r. Is the edge padding in good condition and securely fastened?			
		s. Is the edge padding free from protruding nails, bolts, or other fasteners that could fray or cut ropes or injure rappellers?			
		t. Are all structural areas of the tower properly padded that a rappeller might contact during rappel operations?			
		u. Is the structural padding in serviceable condition, securely fastened, and free from protruding nails, bolts, or fasteners?			
		v. Is the landing area free of obstructions and hazards?			

	w. Does the landing area extend an uninterrupted distance of 15' from the tower base and at least 2' beyond the width of the base with cushioning material in the event of a fall?			
	x. Is the landing area adequately cushioned in case of a fall (24" of non-compressed wood chips, mulch, or sawdust; 12" of commercially produced shredded rubber; or safety pads that offer similar fall protection)?			
	y. Has the cushioning material in the landing area been loosened up prior to use and, if large numbers of students are rappelling, are procedures in place and equipment available to loosen it up again during training?			

	AREA	STANDARD	YES	NO	NA
2	Physical security and fire protection criteria	a. Is there a positive locking device on the ladder/steps or a locked fence around the tower that denies unauthorized access to the tower?			
		b. Is there a prominently displayed warning sign that discourages unauthorized use of the tower (i.e., WARNING: OFF LIMITS TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL)?			
		c. Are NO SMOKING signs posted at the tower to preclude potential ignition of cushioning materials?			
3	CRM and training considerations	a. Is there a current risk management worksheet on file and available onsite?			
		b. Has the risk management worksheet been reviewed, approved, and signed at the appropriate level?			
		c. Is the tower within 1 hour of an advanced trauma life support facility?			
		d. Are certified combat life support or medical personnel and a dedicated medical vehicle onsite to render emergency medical aid and evacuation, if required?			
		e. Is training conducted in accordance with Training Circular 21-24 and the appropriate TSP?			
		f. Is there a current SOP available that delineates requirements for instructors, students, support personnel, and other requirements?			
		g. Are properly "certified" instructors available to conduct rappel training? <b>(IF NO, DO NOT CONDUCT RAPPEL TRAINING!)</b> Name(s): <b>All instructors are certified by the WTC MTT.</b> Location and date of certification: <b>WTC, Fort Benning, GA</b>			
4	Ropes and equipment	a. Are rappel ropes serviceable and properly inspected and stored?	<b>UNIT RESPONSIBILITY</b>		
		b. Are rope inspections and usage properly documented on DA Form 5752-R (Rope Log (Usage and History))?			
		c. Are snap links serviceable (no excessive rust, sharp edges, improper gate opening and closing, excessive pin movement, missing pins, etc.)?			
		d. Are properly sized, serviceable, heavy leather gloves available for rappellers?			

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## 7. Radio Procedures

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### 7.1 Requesting a Hot Status

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS THE AIR ASSAULT TOWER, OVER

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. GO AHEAD, OVER.

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER. REQUEST A HOT TIME, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS, DO YOU PHYSICALLY HAVE ON SITE REQUIRED MEDICAL SUPPORT WITH EQUIPMENT, FACILITY SAFETY SOP BINDER, RED RANGE FLAG FLYING, OVER.

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER, YES, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. I GIVE YOU A HOT TIME OF \_\_\_\_ HOURS. MY INITIALS ARE \_\_\_\_\_. CONFIRM HOT TIME AND SEND YOUR FACILITY OIC INITIALS, OVER.

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER. I CONFIRM HOT TIME OF \_\_\_\_\_. OIC INITIALS ARE \_\_\_\_\_, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. CONDUCT RADIO CHECKS WITH RANGE OPERATIONS HOURLY AT THE TOP OF THE HOUR, YOUR FIRST RADIO CHECK IS DUE AT \_\_\_\_\_. RANGE OPERATIONS OUT.

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### 7.2 Requesting a Cold Status

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. GO AHEAD, OVER.

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER. REQUEST A COLD TIME, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. I GIVE YOU A COLD TIME OF \_\_\_\_\_. MY INITIALS ARE \_\_\_\_\_. CONFIRM COLD TIME, SEND YOUR OIC INITIALS, AND YOUR NUMBER OF PERSONNEL TRAINED, OVER.

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER. I CONFIRM COLD TIME OF \_\_\_\_\_. OIC INITIALS ARE \_\_\_\_\_, WITH \_\_\_\_\_ (#) PERSONNEL TRAINED, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS, ROGER, OUT.

### 7.3 Change of OIC

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. GO AHEAD, OVER.

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER. REQUEST A CHANGE OF OIC, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. SEND THE LAST NAME AND THE INITIALS OF THE NEW OIC, WITH YOUR INITIALS, OVER.

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS A AIR ASSAULT TOWER. NEW OIC LAST NAME IS \_\_\_\_\_, NEW OIC INITIALS ARE \_\_\_\_\_. MY INITIALS ARE \_\_\_\_\_, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS. ROGER, OUT.

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### 7.4 Requesting a Radio Check (Hourly at the Top of the Hour)

FACILITY: RANGE OPERATIONS, THIS IS AIR ASSAULT TOWER. RADIO CHECK, OVER.

RANGE OPERATIONS: AIR ASSAULT TOWER, THIS IS RANGE OPERATIONS, ROGER RADIO CHECK, OUT.



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## 8. Safety and Safety Briefing

The following personnel and equipment must be present during static tower training:

1. Two military rappel ropes for each rappel station.
2. One safety officer and one Rappel Master for each rappel site.
3. One rappel lane NCO per rappel station.
4. One medic with medical kit and backboard.
5. One safety or medical evacuation vehicle with driver.
6. One belayer for each rope station. Rappellers alternate stations.
7. \*\* One belay safety for each two rappel stations (four ropes).

\*\* Belay Safety must be Ranger or Air Assault qualified.

**SAFETY BRIEFING:** This general safety brief is not all inclusive and requires the OIC to include commander's guidance, and/or any unit specific or other situational dependent areas of concern:

1. Identify the Officer in Charge (OIC) and the Safety Officer (SO) at a minimum.
2. Identify the Location of Instructors, Medic & the Evacuation Vehicle and others as required.
3. Prescribed uniforms and personal protection requirements (helmet and leather gloves as applicable).
4. Locations: Break/Smoking Areas, latrines, mess area, parking and bleacher site. Also include any off limit or restricted areas.
5. Procedures for Medical Emergency.
6. Severe weather plan, environmental requirements, issues and concerns.
7. ALL VEHICLES on this Range will have a GROUND GUIDE.
8. Movement on Air Assault Tower as directed by the instructors.
9. NO pushing, NO shoving or horseplay at ANY time.
10. If you observe ANY UNSAFE situation, call & indicate "CEASE TRAINING" IMMEDIATELY.
11. The course should not be used in wet weather if it makes the obstacles slippery.

The rappel master briefs all personnel on safety to include the following instructions:

1. Each rappeller ensures loose clothing and equipment are secured.
2. Rappel seats are tied (or harnesses donned) by the Soldier and inspected by the rappel master before climbing the tower. Rappel seats are removed upon completion of every rappel. They are then retied and re-inspected by a qualified rappel master or rappel lane NCO before subsequent rappels.
3. Rappellers climb the tower only when directed by the rappel master or rappel lane NCO.
4. Rappellers stay in the center of the tower until instructed to move to a rappel point.
5. If using a troop ladder, only three Soldiers are on the ladder at one time. Soldiers do not climb the ladder until directed to do so by a rappel master.
6. All personnel working within 3 feet of the edge of the top of the tower must wear a restraining strap, safety rope attached to the anchor, or safety rope attached to the rappel rope with break applied. No one is allowed within 3 feet of the tower's top edge without being secured.
7. No one should lean or sit on the railing or banisters of the tower.

8. When attaching the rappel rope to the snap link, rappellers pull the slack toward the anchor point. The rappel master or rappel lane NCO physically check each hookup.
9. All personnel weighing more than 200 pounds will conduct a standard hookup rappel to determine if they require a friction hookup. A friction hookup is created by placing an additional two ropes in the gate of the snap link (for a total of six ropes in the snap link).
10. Combat equipment is positioned on the rappeller so it does not interfere with the brake hand. The weapon must be slung diagonally across the back with the muzzle pointing down, and on the opposite side of the brake hand.
11. Heavy duty gloves are required for all rappel training.
12. Ballistic or safety helmets with chin straps fastened are worn during tower rappel training.
13. While on the tower, the rappeller maintains eye contact with the rappel master or rappel lane NCO and receives all commands from them.
14. The rappeller ensures that he has a belayer on his rope.
15. The belayer keeps both hands on the rope at all times. He also faces the rappeller at all times.
16. All tower rappelling is performed with a double strand of rope.
17. No running is allowed on the tower.
18. No smoking or eating is allowed near the tower.
19. All participants who are unable to rappel, lack confidence, or refuse to rappel are reported to the rappel master or OIC. These participants are immediately removed from the training area.
20. The RSO and rappel master must be aware of the overconfidence and carelessness of some rappellers. The rappel master ensures all personnel are tower qualified before beginning aircraft rappel training.

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NOTE: Insert appropriate risk management worksheet hazards and control measures identified as applicable as required and/or applicable.

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## 9. Risk Management & Mitigation

OIC will review, add and update DA Form 2977, Deliberate Risk Management Worksheet.

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## 10. Reference Information, Reports & Forms

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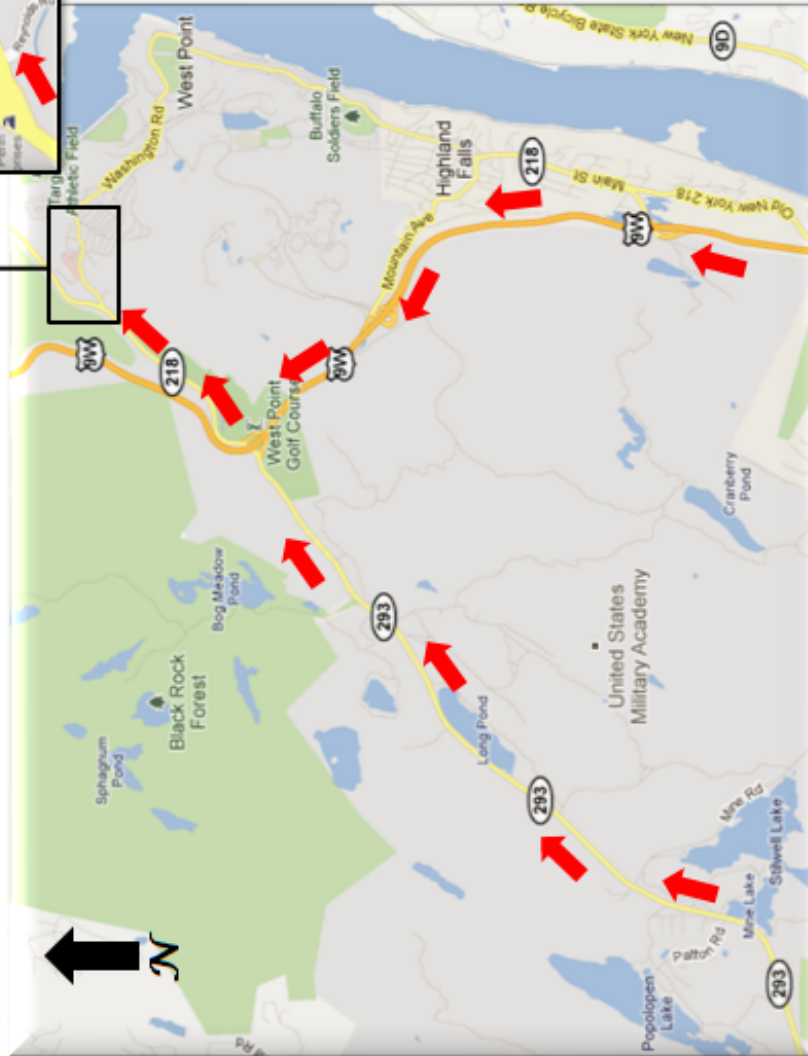
### INDEX

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<b>TAB</b>	<b>NAME</b>
10A	Local Strip Map to Keller Army Community Hospital
10B	Local Strip Map to Saint Luke's Cornwall Community Hospital
10C	Open

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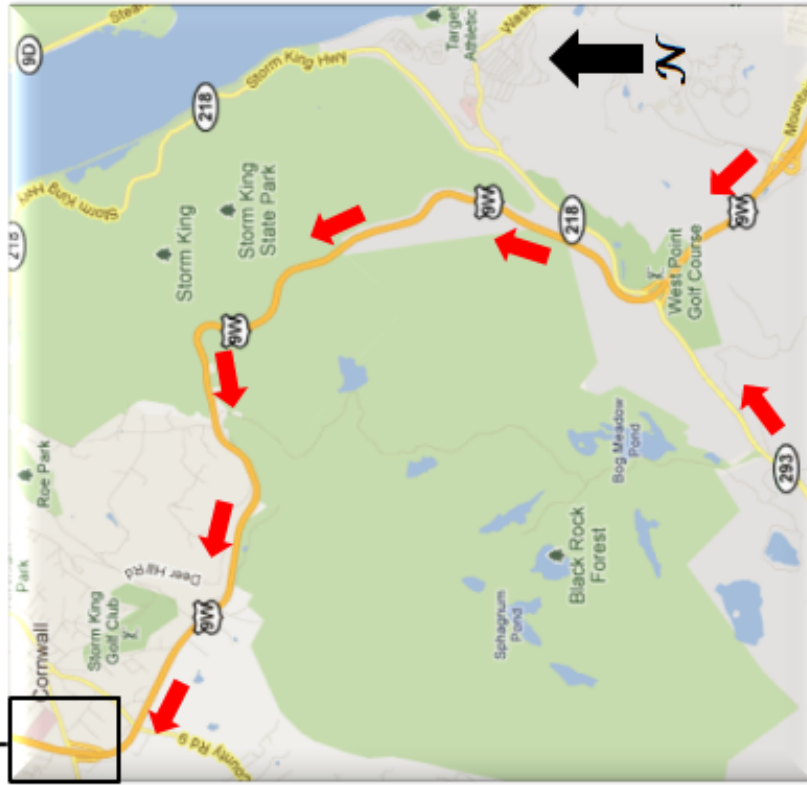
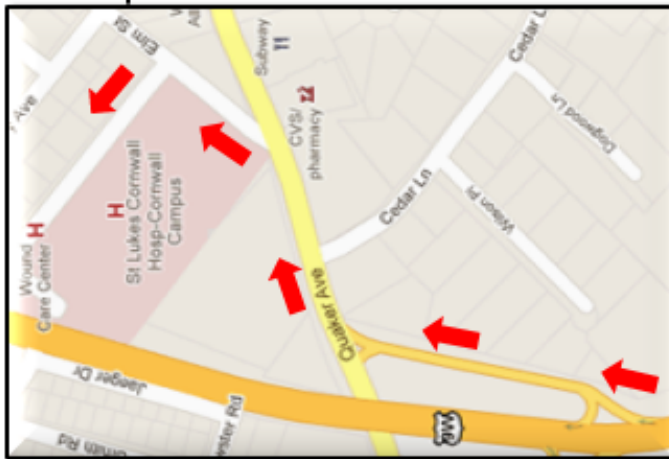
**LOCAL STRIP MAP TO  
KELLER ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
Phone #: (845) 938-4004**



**DIRECTIONS**

- North on Route 293 or 9W.
- Exit onto Route 218 N (approx. 1.2 miles to Washington Road Gate).
- Enter Installation via Washington Road Gate.
- Keller Army Community Hospital is on the left (approx. 3/10 miles from Washington Road gate).

**LOCAL STRIP MAP TO  
ST. LUKES WOUND CARE CENTER  
&  
ST. LUKES CORNWALL HOSPITAL  
Phone #: (845) 458-4512**



**DIRECTIONS**

- North on Route 293 or 9W.
- Continue North on 9W to Cornwall.
- Exit 9W onto Quaker Ave exit.
- Turn left onto Elm Street.