10 Aug 99

Memorandum

From: Department Head, Aviation Enlisted Aircrew Training School (AEATS)

To: Port Operations Officer, NAS Pensacola

Subj: BOAT OPERATIONS SUPPORT FOR AVIATION RESCUE SWIMMER SCHOOL (ARSS) OPEN WATER LABS (OWLS)

Ref: (a) NASP/NASC Support Agreement, dtd 11 Feb 99
(b) CNATRAINST 1542.94D

Encl: (1) AEATS Pre-Mishap Plan

1. Open Water Laboratories (OWLs) are an essential element in the ARSS curriculum in that they teach Rescue Swimmer Trainees about the actual operating environment. The following OWLs are conducted at ARSS: day and night bay swim and water entry (helo hoist). The safe conduct of these evolutions requires the support of safety boats with the minimum crewmembers necessary to operate the boat. As per reference (a), NAS Pensacola Port Operations will provide this support.

2. OWLs will normally be conducted as per the training schedule promulgated by ARSS for the fiscal year. Changes to the schedule will be initiated as early as possible and will require approval from NAS Pensacola Port Operations.

3. Tactical control of each evolution will be exercised by the ARSS Instructor of the Day.

4. The following information describes the crew requirements as well as the typical actions required of safety boat operators for each event:

(DAY/NIGHT swims are conducted consecutively)

a. Day Bay Swim (1 boat):

1. Safety boat manning:
Coxswain (Port Ops)
Engineer (Port Ops)
Instructor of the day (ARSS)
Safety Observer (ARSS)
Safety Swimmer (ARSS)

2. Attend mission brief 1 hour prior to OWL at ARSS, bldg 672. Briefing to be conducted by the ARSS Instructor of the Day as per annex F of reference(b).

3. Safety boat will proceed to the swim area adjacent to the west end of the NAS Pensacola seawall and position buoys (provided by RSS) 200 yards apart, parallel to the beach.

4. The students will swim out to the swim area accompanied by ARSS instructors.

5. The safety boat will stand off from the swimmers approximately 25 yards to observe training and will keep area clear of boat traffic.

6. Students will swim for approximately 30 minutes and then swim back to the beach to await darkness (Day swim is scheduled to be completed as close to sunset as practicable).

b. Night Bay Swim (1 boat):

1. The students will swim back out to the swim area accompanied by ARSS instructors.

2. Safety boat will stand off from the swimmers approximately 25 yards to observe training and will keep area clear of boat traffic.

3. Students will swim for approximately 30 minutes.

4. Upon completion of swim the safety boat will recover buoys and return to base. Students will swim back to the beach.

c. Water Entry (helo hoist) (1 boat):

1. Safety boat manning: Coxswain (Port Ops)
Engineer (Port Ops)
Instructor of the day (ARSS)
Safety Observer (ARSS)
Safety Swimmer (ARSS)

2. Attend mission brief 1 hour prior to event at ARSS bldg 672. Briefing to be conducted by the ARSS Instructor of the Day as per annex F of reference (b).

3. Students will board the safety boat at Port Ops for transportation to the jump area which will be determined by the Instructor of the Day.

4. Once the helicopter arrives on station, deploy one in-water instructor with two students. Deploy another in-water instructor with two students approximately 100 yards up wind of the first group.

5. The safety boat should stand off approximately 100 yards from the group of students that are jumping and being hoisted.

6. Each student will be hoisted and will jump 2 times. After a group is complete, the safety boat will retrieve that group and then deploy two more students to the in-water instructor. This will be repeated until all students have completed the evolution.

7. Upon recovery of the last student, return to Port Ops.

5. Mishaps will be handled in accordance with the enclosure. A copy of the enclosure will be held by the Instructor of the Day, who will coordinate its execution.

6. POC for this command is Capt Fanning, 452-4640, or AWCS Turner, 452-3008.

K.E. McCoy

K. E. MCCOY