



CHAPTER 3

THE RAM-AIR PARACHUTE SYSTEM DONNING AND RECOVERY

The method of donning and adjusting the RAPS provides an additional safety check and prevents unnecessary delays during the jumpmaster personnel inspection (JMPI). It also ensures minimum discomfort to the parachutists aboard the aircraft (or from the opening shock during parachute deployment). The buddy system, or the pairing of parachutists, within each operational element provides the most efficient and accurate way for parachutists to adjust and check each others' parachutes.

Preparing and Donning the Aviator's Kit Bag

The jumpmaster determines if the kit bag will be front or rear mounted. The parachutist prepares the kit bag by closing its slide fastener and securing all its snap fasteners. The jumpmaster's decision on whereto attach the kit bag determines how the parachutist further prepares the kit bag for mounting,

Front Mounting

The parachutist folds the kit bag in two folds from the bottom leaving the handles centered (Figure 3-1). He places the folded kit bag across his lap. He laces one leg strap through one kit bag handle and fastens the leg strap. He repeats the process with the other kit bag handle and leg strap,

Rear Mounting

The parachutist folds each end of the kit bag with one fold toward the center leaving the handles exposed at one end (Figure 3-1). He positions the kit bag between the small of his back and the parachute container with the kit bag handles to his

right side. He laces the waistband through both kit bag handles and fastens the waistband.

Donning the Ram-Air Parachute System

See Figure 3-2 for procedures when donning the RAPS. Each parachutist first checks the parachute assembly for visible defects. He then lets out all harness adjustments for ease of donning. Finally, he lays the assembly out with the pack tray face down (Figure 3-2, Step A).

To don the parachute, the parachutist (No. 1) assumes a modified high jumper position. A second parachutist (No. 2) holds the parachute assembly by the main lift webs at the canopy release assemblies and places it on No. 1's back (Figure 3-2, Step B).

No. 1 remains bent forward at the waist and No. 2 pushes the container high on No. 1's back. As No. 1 threads and fastens the chest strap (Figure 3-2, Step C), No. 2 prepares the leg straps.

No. 2 calls out "Left. (right) leg strap" and passes it to No. 1.

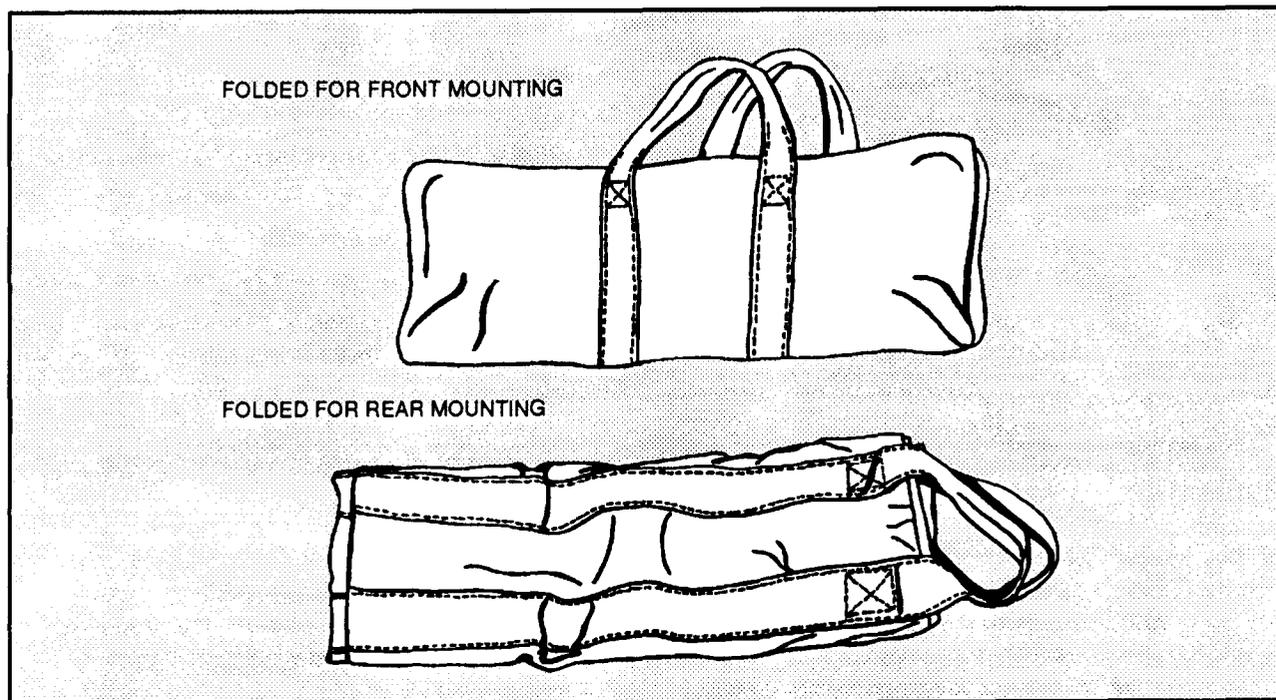


Figure 3-1. Folded kit bag for front or rear mounting.

No. 1 repeats “Left (right) leg strap” and grasps the leg strap with one hand. With his other hand, he starts from the saddle and feels the length of the leg strap, removing any twists and turns. He inserts the leg strap through one kit bag handle (if the kit bag is front mounted) and fastens the leg strap (Figure 3-2, Step D). He repeats the procedure for the remaining leg strap.

No. 1 stands erect and checks to ensure the canopy release assemblies are in the hollows of his shoulders by adjusting the main lift webs (Figure 3-3 Step E).

No. 2 locates the free running ends of the horizontal adjustment straps and tightens the harness until No. 1 indicates it fits snugly and comfortably (Figure 3-2, Step F).

No. 1 then threads the long running end of the waistband through both kit bag handles (if the kit bag is rear mounted) and fastens the waistband to the waistband extension (Figure 3-2, Step G).

After final adjustment, No. 1 rolls all excess webbing outward and secures it using the elastic

keepers. No. 1 should be able to stand erect without straining (Figure 3-2, Step H).

No. 1 and No. 2 then change positions and repeat the procedure.

When both parachutists have donned their parachute assemblies and adjusted their harnesses, they face each other, make a visual inspection of each other, and correct any deficiencies prior to the JMPI.

Recovering the Ram-Air Parachute System

If jumping oxygen, the parachutist locks the ON/OFF switch in the OFF position. He removes the bailout bottles and pouch from the waistband.

NOTE: The parachutist does not place the oxygen mask on the ground unprotected during parachute recovery. Moisture from breathing and condensation due to temperature changes will cause dirt and debris to adhere to the mask, making cleaning difficult.

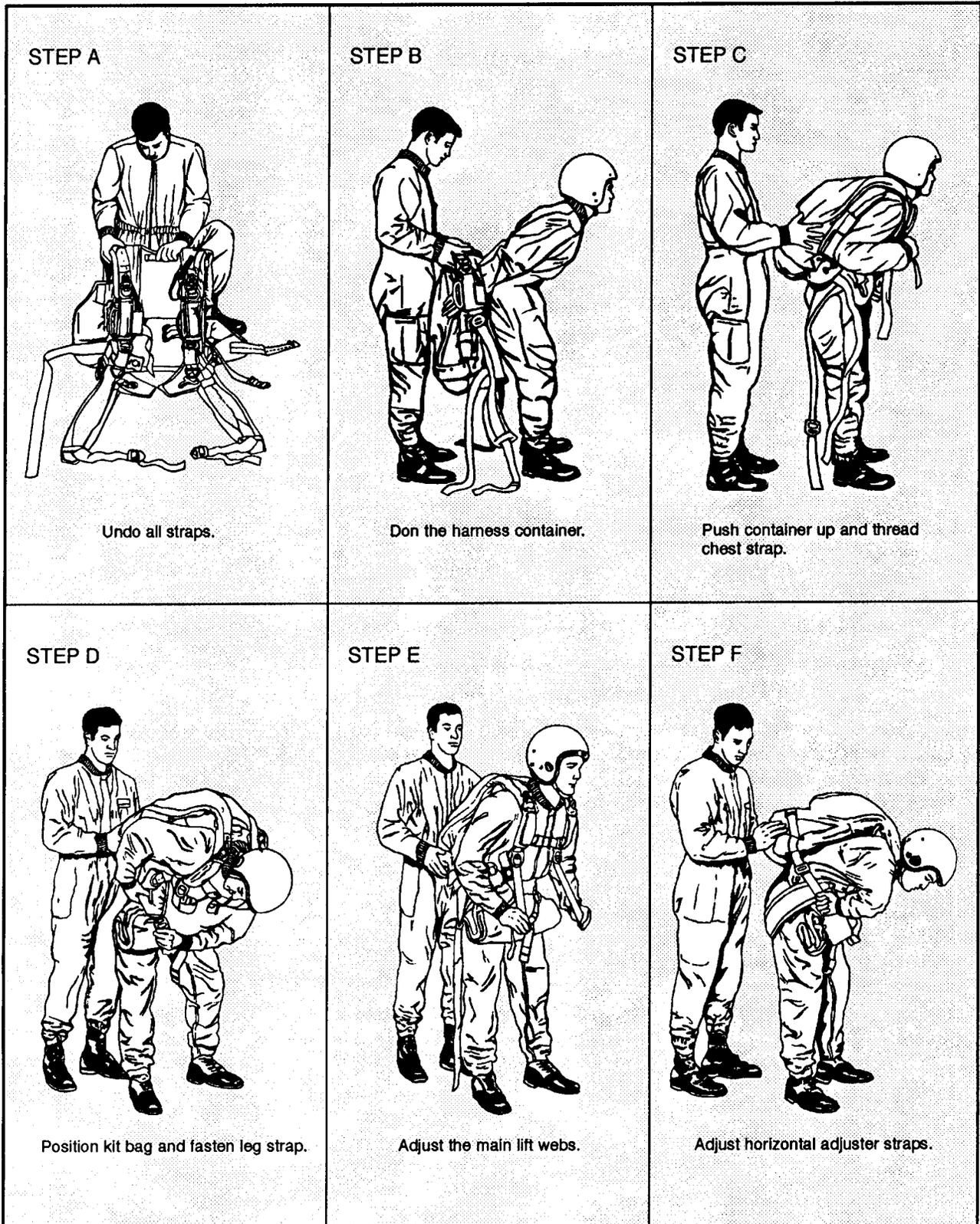


Figure 3-2. Donning the Ram-Air Parachute System.

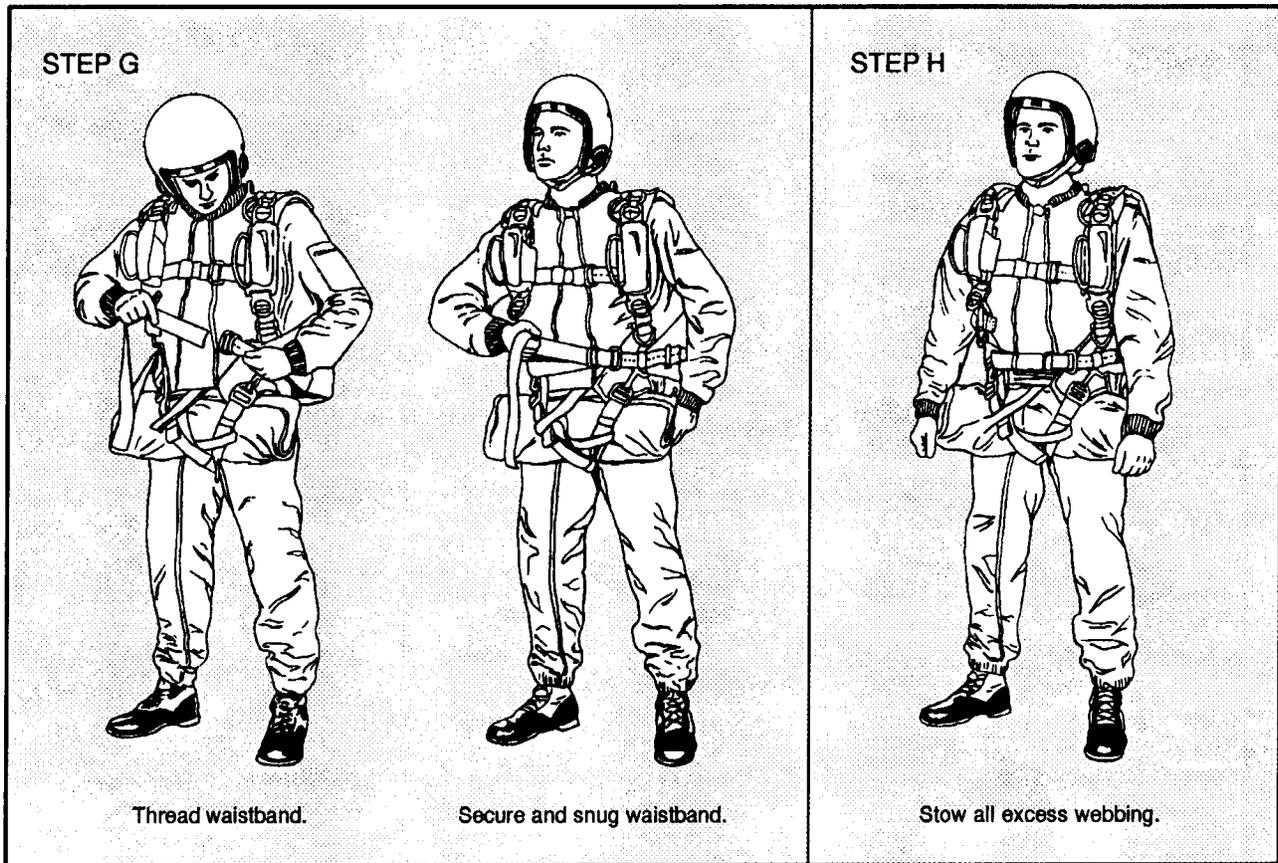


Figure 3-2. Donning the Ram-Air Parachute System (continued).

The parachutist removes the harness and container. He removes the aviator's kit bag and opens it. He then replaces the arming pin in the ARR. Next, he replaces the rip cord into the rip cord cable housing and replaces the rip cord handle into the stow pocket.

The parachutist places the pilot chute next to the kit bag. He places the canopy deployment bag, suspension lines, and risers in the kit bag. He then removes the quick-release snap hooks and lowering line quick-ejector snap from the equipment rings

on the parachute harness. Next, he places the harness and container in the kit bag with the backpad facing up to protect the ARR. Finally the parachutist places the pilot chute in the kit bag and snaps the fasteners.

CAUTION

The parachutist does not use the slide fastener (zipper) to close the kit bag, as the teeth can damage any protruding canopy fabric.