

PREFACE

This field manual (FM) presents a series of concise, proven techniques and guidelines that are essential to safe, successful military free-fall (MFF) operations. The techniques and guidelines prescribed herein are generic in nature, and MFF-capable organizations of all sizes from all branches of the joint community should observe them.

The procedures contained in this FM apply for all MFF operations. These techniques represent the safest and most effective methodologies available for executing MFF operations and should be used in joint as well as combined endeavors. In events where multinational forces are involved, United States (U.S.) forces personnel should govern their actions by common sense, guided by the contents of this FM.

This FM incorporates the lessons learned from years of testing and from several actual instances of combat application. It closely follows pertinent portions of United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Directive 350-2 (Draft) Air Operations. It applies during training as well as during real-world operations.

Although the MC-3 Military Free-Fall System is still available in the procurement system, user units should make the transition to the Ram-Air Parachute System (RAPS) to ensure joint interoperability and a lower injury rate in airborne operations. Some Reserve and National Guard elements still use the MC-3 System (see Appendix A).

When conducting service-pure MFF operations, services will also use their applicable regulations and standing operating procedures (SOPs).

The proponent of this FM is the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS). Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 to Commander, USAJFKSWCS, ATTN: AOJK-DT-DM, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000.

This FM implements Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 3570.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.