

LIFE RAFT KITS AND DISCIPLINE



Equipment

Learn the use of life raft equipment now. Don't wait until you really need it. Ask your Personal Equipment Officer to demonstrate its use, and make the most of crew drills.

The parachute is a valuable item of equipment in a life raft. If possible, take at least one out of your plane when abandoning it. The parachute will float for about 5 minutes when packed. Parts of the canopy can be used for bandages, sunshade, or as a sea anchor. The shroud lines can be used for fastening and in rigging the sunshade.

If there are two or more rafts, connect them with line provided, to keep them from becoming separated. Fasten the kit and all loose gear to the raft with tight but easily untied knots.

Get the emergency radio into operation as soon as weather permits. Instructions are on the set. Keep all signaling equipment where you can get at it quickly. Keep flares, Very pistol, and cartridges as

dry as possible. Use a flare only when a ship or plane is near. Fire the pistol almost vertically for maximum height and ahead of the plane so that the shot will be within the visibility range of the pilot.

Use the tarpaulin, yellow side up for a signal, blue side up for camouflage from the enemy.

Keep the sea anchor out. It will head you into the wind or check your drift.

Water and Food

Before any over-water flight, drink all the water you can. Don't run the possible risk of starting your raft expedition thirsty. The pilot is in charge of water rationing. Uninjured survivors should drink no water the first day. Each person should then drink a pint a day until the supply is exhausted. But don't give up even then. With care and good luck you can still survive for several days, even without water. Be prepared to trap rain water.

To cut down on your water requirements:
Rest as much as possible.