



Sea Rescue
 NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE
 AIR SEA RESCUE - Cape Town

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
 USCG Medivac Litter

Revision date: 15 March 2003

1. Description

The TRANSACO is deployed into the water together with two Rescue Swimmers to extricate a survivor from the water. When lowered into water, the s/steel frame will sink until the buoyancy of the board restrains it. It falls to the full Trendelenburg position. The leg is locked in extended position by a sprung sleeve which slides over the joint. Thus the frame becomes a keel and if the stretcher is rolled over will always regain head-up attitude. This procedure will be used during training and operations. Only ASR Rescue Swimmers certified may use this procedure from a helicopter. This SOP excludes any medical treatment procedure.

2. Definitions

Crew	Air Sea Rescue crew that are part of the National Sea Rescue Institute ASR Unit
ASR	Air Sea Rescue
RS	ASR Rescue Swimmer
TS	Transaco Stretcher

3. Equipment

RS will be dressed in a wetsuit and booties.
Hood and gloves are optional.
Harness and life jacket joined by a carabineer
Attached to the harness is a short sling and snap hook, clipped back onto the harness.
Fins and Mask
Transaco Stretcher
Trail Line

4. Training Requirements



AIR SEA RESCUE UNIT – CAPE TOWN

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
TRANSACO Stretcher

Note: Trail Line may only be deployed when hoisting from land or a vessel
 Trail Line may not be used for hoisting the TS out of the water

Pool Training	4 per year
	Must be logged in log book
Airborne	2 per year
	Must be logged in log book

5. Safety Requirements

A safety boat must be in attendance during training
Medic with jump bag min Basic Paramedic

6. Procedure

6.1 Transaco Pre take off Inspection

Overall condition
Open TS and prepare for use
Obvious metal fatigue
Hoisting cables
Quick release snap working
Cracks in flotation board
Securing straps neatly made off
Chest flotation secured
Lead weight secured
Check foot locking mechanism works
Load TS into aircraft ready for hoisting
Two RS will prepare for hoisting
Fins, Mask and Snorkel will be worn at all times

6.2 Deployment



AIR SEA RESCUE UNIT – CAPE TOWN

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
TRANSACO Stretcher

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Helicopter will hover with the survivor in the 2'clock position out of rotor wash
Two RS will be deployed into the water. OK Signals to be given
RS will swim to the survivor and provide patient care injuries as required
RS crew will signal to lower the TS
Helicopter will move upwind of survivor
Deploy smoke flare
Deploy TS upwind of survivor. Care to be taken to deploy TS a safe distance away from the survivor and RS.
One RS to remain with the survivor and the other to swim to the TS and tow back to the survivor
Helicopter to move back and left and maintain hover keeping the survivor in the 2'clock position out of rotor wash
One RS will disconnect the TS from the hoist hook and give signal
Ensure that the TS has assumed the correct attitude in the water
Disconnect the HEAD hoist rig cables and drop the cables over the bottom
Disconnect all the straps
RS then positions the survivor on the TS maintaining c-Spine management if required
Strap down the chest strap first
Secure the nappy
Secure the head
Secure lower straps
Give the signal to the helicopter to move in for pickup.
One RS member to swim and get the hoist hook
One RS member completes final checks
Dive down and recover the hoist rig cables and secure to HEAD of frame
Check cables are correctly positioned and will not injure survivor
Release the FOOT lever (RED HANDLE) so that the frame will close correctly on hoisting
Check the frame lock at the FOOT is released
Protect survivor's face from the rotor wash
Connect hoist hook to TS hoisting cables
Give signal to hoist the TS



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Both RS to maintain eye contact with engineer and TS
Swim on back to 2'clock position just out of rotor wash
Helicopter will hoist the TS to level with the door
The Engineer will pull the quick release snap and level the TS
RO to assist engineer to recover the TS into the helicopter
Helicopter will move in to pick up two RS as per SOP.

6.4 Risks

Forgetting to release the foot handle
As the TS closes on hoisting... arms and fingers must be out of the way
TS hoist cables must be checked before hoisting