

Army Regulation 385-15

SAFETY

WATER SAFETY

**Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
15 October 1979**

Unclassified

SUMMARY of CHANGE

AR 385-15
WATER SAFETY

Effective 15 November 1979

SAFETY

WATER SAFETY

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

E. C. MEYER
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:

J. C. PENNINGTON
Major General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

History. This publication has been reorganized to make it compatible with the Army electronic publishing database. No content has been changed.

Summary. This revision updates Army policy, planning, and responsibilities in preventing accidents in water activities.

Applicability. See paragraph 1-2.

Proponent and exception authority. Not applicable.

Army management control process. Not applicable.

Supplementation. Local limited supplementation of this regulation is permitted, but is not required. If supplements are issued, HQDA agencies and major Army commands will furnish one copy of each to HQDA (DAPE-HRS), WASH, DC 20310; other commands will furnish one copy of each to the next higher headquarters.

Interim changes. Interim changes are not official unless they are authenticated by The Adjutant General. Users will destroy interim

changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) direct to HQDA(DAPE-HRS) WASH DC 20310.

Distribution. *Active Army, ARNG, USAR:* To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-9A requirements for AR, Safety-A.

Contents (Listed by paragraph and page number)

Purpose. • 1, *page 1*
Applicability. • 2, *page 1*
References. • 3, *page 1*
Explanation of terms. • 4, *page 1*
Responsibilities. • 5, *page 1*

*This regulation supersedes AR 385-15, 18 June 1971.

RESERVED

1. Purpose.

This regulation sets forth responsibilities for the prevention of accidents to persons engaged in water activities.

2. Applicability.

This regulation applies to the Active Army, the US Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard.

3. References.

- a. DA Pam 385–6, Safety in Recreational Water Activities.
- b. TB Med 163, Sanitary Control of Army Swimming Pools and Swimming Areas.
- c. FM 21–20, Physical Readiness Training.
- d. Federal Boat Safety Act, Title 46, USC 1451–1489.
- e. 46 CFR 160, Lifesaving Equipment.

4. Explanation of terms.

a. *Water recreational activities.* Activities such as boating, surfing, water skiing, scuba diving, fishing, wading, swimming, snorkeling, and sailing.

b. *Water operations.* Tactical water crossings by vehicle, boat, pontoon bridges, rafts, and foot, and overwater operations.

c. *Bodies of water.* All streams, rivers, lakes, oceans, ponds, and swimming pools that may be used for water operations and water recreational activities.

5. Responsibilities.

a. All commanders will—

(1) Establish policies and procedures for preventing water-related accidents within their commands.

(2) Issue standing operating procedures for water operations and recreational activities. Include need for inspection of marine equipment and facilities to comply with US Coast Guard and local requirements.

(3) Assure that all water recreational and operations facilities and equipment under their control comply with safety and health requirements. (See references in paragraph 3 for requirements.) Army boats and lifesaving equipment must comply with U.S. Coast Guard and State or host country requirements.

(4) Assure that water recreational activities they sponsor or control are supervised adequately.

(5) When possible, provide swimming instruction and water survival training for persons who engage in water recreational activities.

(6) Publicize approved and off-limit areas for water operations and recreational activities within their geographical areas.

(7) Inform personnel of the hazards of swimming alone, in cold water, after drinking, during hours of darkness, or in unauthorized areas.

(8) Provide water safety briefings before the start of any water operations and the swimming season.

(9) Train persons involved in water operations on accident prevention measures. References in paragraph 3a through c should be used. Stress procedures for ensuring the serviceability of personal flotation devices before use.

(10) Identify military nonswimmers within their commands. Provide swimming instruction or water survival training for persons who will be involved in water operations. See FM 21–20 for detailed guidance.

(11) Assure prompt investigation and reporting of water related accidents. Apply lessons learned.

(12) Ensure that equipment used for water crossing operations is pre-dipped to detect water leakage.

b. Installation commanders will perform the following within their areas of jurisdiction:

(1) Designate approved and off-limit areas for water recreational activities and water operations.

(2) Provide for inspection of water recreational and operations facilities, equipment, and adjacent areas on Army owned or leased properties. Such inspection will assure that safety and health requirements are met.

(3) Enforce rules against using unauthorized water facilities.

(4) Provide sufficient lifesaving equipment, communication equipment, first aid facilities, protective devices, and other equipment as shown in TB Med 163. Such services are provided at Army-controlled water recreational and operations areas.

(5) Ensure that Red Cross certified or equivalent lifeguards will be on duty at Army water recreational areas at all times during hours of operation.

(6) Publish data on the Annual National Safe Boating Week. Obtain information from the Secretary, National Safe Boating Council, Inc., c/o US Coast Guard G-BA 2100 2d Street SW, WASH DC 20590.

Unclassified

PIN 004130-000

USAPA

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING SYSTEM
TEXT FORMATTER ... Version 2.61

PIN: 004130-000

DATE: 05-20-99

TIME: 09:40:07

PAGES SET: 5

DATA FILE: e211.fil

DOCUMENT: AR 385-15

DOC STATUS: NEW PUBLICATION