

**Report Date:** 14 Apr 2014

**Summary Report for Individual Task  
551-88K-4507  
Conduct Towing Operations Onboard a Vessel  
Status: Approved**

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DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

**Condition:** Assigned as a small Tug Master, Mate or Boatswain onboard an Army vessel, given an Operation Order/Operations Plan (OPORD/OPLAN) in intercoastal waters, rivers, bays, and harbors (confined water), given a barge, steamboat ratchets, towing lines, towing cables, shackles, seizing wire, and chafing gear, all applicable publications, forms, records, tools, materials, personnel, and equipment, day or night, in all weather conditions, in an operational environment scenario. Some iterations of this task should be performed in MOPP 4.

**Standard:** Direct hip tow, stern tow and push tow operations with zero injury to personnel or damage to equipment.

**Special Condition:** None

**Safety Level:** Low

**MOPP:** Sometimes

**Task Statements**

**Cue:** Given an OPORDER/OPLAN to conduct towing operations onboard a vessel.

**DANGER**

None

**WARNING**

None

**CAUTION**

None

**Remarks:** None

**Notes:** None

## Performance Steps

1. Conduct hip tow operations.
  - a. Ensure towing lines are inspected.
  - b. Direct placing spring line on barge.
  - c. Direct securing of spring line.
  - d. Direct placing bow line on barge.
  - e. Direct securing of bow line.
  - f. Direct placing of stern line on barge.
  - g. Direct securing of stern line
  - h. Signal master to go ahead on slow bell.
2. Conduct stern tow operations.
  - a. Ensure towing gear is inspected.
  - b. Signal master to place tug alongside tow.
  - c. Direct personnel to secure bridle on towing bits of barge.
  - d. Direct the draping of towline across the bow of the barge and securing with small stuff.
  - e. Ensure bridle cannot become fouled.
  - f. Ensure the securing of towline on H-bitts of the tug.
  - g. Ensure personnel seize all shackles.
  - h. Direct personnel to install chafing gear once tow is dropped astern.
3. Conduct push tow operations.
  - a. Ensure towing gear is inspected.
  - b. Signal master to put tug against center of the stern of the barge.
  - c. Direct personnel to secure starboard safety line.
  - d. Direct personnel to secure port safety line.
  - e. Direct personnel to attach port pusher cable to port bitts on barge.
  - f. Direct personnel to attach starboard pusher cable to starboard bitts on barge.

g. Direct personnel to lead pusher cables to quarter bits on barge.

h. Direct personnel to secure pusher cables to steamboat ratchets and tighten them simultaneously.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

**Evaluation Guidance:** Score the Soldier GO if all performance steps are passed (P). Score the Soldier NO-GO if any performance step is failed (F). If the Soldier fails any step, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.

**Evaluation Preparation:** Ensure that all information, references and equipment required to perform the task are available. Use the TC and the Evaluation Guide to score the Soldier's performance. Brief the Soldier. Tell the Soldier what is required IAW the task condition and standard.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Conducted hip tow operations.			
2. Conducted stern tow operations.			
3. Conducted push tow operations.			

**Supporting Reference(s):**

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	TC 4-15.51	MARINE CREWMAN`S HANDBOOK	Yes	No

**Environment:** Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to FM 3-34.5 Environmental Considerations and GTA 05-08-002 ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED RISK ASSESSMENT.

AR 200-1 delineates TRADOC responsibilities to integrate environmental requirements across DOTMLPF and ensures all training procedures, training manuals, and training doctrine includes sound environmental practices and considerations. The Army's environmental vision is to be a national leader in environmental and natural resource stewardship for present and future generations as an integral part of all Army missions. Environmental protection is never completed. Continuously be alert to ways to protect our environment and reduce waste.

Leaders must ensure that their unit has an active and strong environmental program. They must understand the laws and know what actions to take. Leaders bring focus, direction, and commitment to environmental protection. Commanding officers should ensure the following environmental programs are in place and are being maintained:

- Hazardous materials program.
- Hazardous waste program.
- Hazardous communications program.
- Pollution prevention and hazardous waste minimization recycling program.
- Spill prevention and response plan program.

**Safety:** In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, Multiservice Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Protection, FM 3-11.5, Multiservice Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Decontamination.

All operations will be performed to protect and preserve Army personnel and property against accidental loss. Procedures will provide for public safety incidental to Army operations and activities and safe and healthful workplaces, procedures, and equipment. Observe all safety and/or environment precautions regarding electricity, cable, and lines. Provide ventilation for exhaust fumes during equipment operation and use hearing protection when required IAW AR 385-10, the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the CAA amendments, and the OSHA Hazard Communication standard.

Accidents are an unacceptable impediment to Army missions, readiness, morale, and resources. Decision makers at every level will employ risk management approaches to effectively preclude unacceptable risk to the safety of personnel and property affiliated with this task.

- (a) Take personal responsibility.
- (b) Practice safe operations.
- (c) Recognize unsafe acts and conditions.
- (d) Take action to prevent accidents.
- (e) Report unsafe acts and conditions.
- (f) Work as a team.

**Prerequisite Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
551-88K-1509	Prepare a Vessel for Inland Towing Operations	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved
551-88K-1511	Prepare a Vessel for Ocean Towing Operations	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved
551-88K-2509	Perform Inland Towing Operations Onboard a Vessel	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved
551-88K-2511	Perform Ocean Towing Operations Onboard a Vessel	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved
551-88K-3509	Monitor Ocean Towing Operations Onboard a Vessel	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved
551-88K-3507	Monitor Inland Towing Operations Onboard a Vessel	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved

**Supporting Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
551-88K-3708	Monitor Navigational Duties Onboard a Vessel	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved

**Supported Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
551-880-9019	CALCULATE ESTIMATED TOWLINE TENSIONS	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved
551-880-9008	DEMONSTRATE TOWING PROCEDURES	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved
551-880-9014	CALCULATE TOW RESISTANCE	551 - Transportation (Individual)	Approved

**Supported Collective Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
55-2-0033	Conduct Fuel Barge Operations.	55 - Transportation (Collective)	Approved
55-2-0039	Conduct Towing Operations.	55 - Transportation (Collective)	Approved
55-2-0058	Discharge Containers and Cargo at a Fix Port using a Barge Derrick	55 - Transportation (Collective)	Approved
55-2-0008(Step: 1.)	Conduct Watercraft Salvage Operations	55 - Transportation (Collective)	Proposed
55-2-0008(Step: 1.)	Conduct Watercraft Salvage Operations	55 - Transportation (Collective)	Approved
55-2-1508	Conduct Vessel Operations	55 - Transportation (Collective)	Approved
55-5-0016	Direct Vessel Operations	55 - Transportation (Collective)	Approved

**ICTL Data :**

ICTL Title	Personnel Type	MOS Data
MOS 88K Watercraft Operator SL 4	Enlisted	MOS: 88K, Skill Level: SL4, Duty Pos: TFJ