

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER  
AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND**



**AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 13-217**

**AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND**

**Supplement 1**

**1 OCTOBER 2003**

**Space, Missile, Command, and Control**

**DROP ZONE AND LANDING ZONE  
OPERATIONS**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This supplement implements and extends the guidance of Air Force Instruction (AFI) 13-217, **Drop Zone and Landing Zone Procedures**. The AFI is published word-for-word without editorial review. The Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) supplemental material is indicated in bold face. This supplement describes AFSPC's procedures for use in conjunction with the basic AFI. This supplement establishes the Drop Zone and Landing Zone Procedures for AFSPC flying activities. This supplement applies to all AFSPC commanders of flying units, flying operations supervisors, and aircrews assigned to or attached to all flying activities within AFSPC. This supplement does not apply to Air National Guard nor Air Force Reserve Command units. AFSPC units will send all AF Forms 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publication**, for this publication to Twentieth Air Force Helicopter Operations Section (20 AF/DOH) for coordination. 20 AF will forward the AF Form 847 to Headquarters Air Force Space Command Helicopter Operations Branch (HQ AFSPC/XONH), 150 Vandenberg St., Ste 1105, Peterson AFB CO 80914-4180. Use this integrated supplement in lieu of the Air Force basic publication.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

This supplement has been reintegrated with the newest update of the basic AFI13-217 without revision or additions to any information included in the previous version of the AFI13-217\_AFSPCSUP1.

1.3. Waiver authority is AFSPC/XON. The Air Component Commander (ACC) for AFSPC is the Operations Group Commander (OG/CC).

3.13. Approved operational sites, such as hospital helipads and Missile Alert Facility (MAF) helipads, are not considered HLZs and are not governed by this publication. Follow AFI 11-2H-1 vol III guidance for operational sites. Launch Facilities (LFs) are not considered HLZs, unless specifically singled out for training purposes. LFs used for training purposes will be designated as HLZs and will meet the requirements of this publication.

3.14. Selecting the HLZ location is the joint responsibility of the OG/CC and HF/CC.

3.14.2. (Added) Site Selection for Day/NVG Training. Minimum HLZ size for day training is 110' diameter. A 60' diameter area centered on the touchdown location will be clear of all obstacles that could damage the underside of the fuselage. The entire 110' diameter area will be clear of obstacles taller than 5'.

3.14.3. (Added) HLZ Site Selection for Night Unaided and NVG no-scanner Training. Minimum HLZ size is 160' diameter. A 110' diameter area centered on the touchdown location will be clear of all obstacles that could damage the underside of the fuselage. The entire 160' diameter area will be clear of obstacles taller than 5'. Sites will be selected where the vertical development of the surrounding terrain does not restrict the pilot's option to execute a go-around, with minimum maneuvering, at any point during the approach. Obstacles/terrain within three NM of the site will not exceed 200 feet above the site elevation. Restricting the approach and departure route to directions that will avoid terrain or obstacles exceeding the above criteria satisfies this requirement.

3.15. The center of all HLZs will be identified with a marker that does not prevent landing to any area of the HLZ.

3.16. The HLZ survey program is an HF/DO function.

3.16.1. AIE training will be conducted in surveyed HLZs only.

3.16.1.2. PFPS generated maps are authorized for AFSPC. If 1:50,000 maps are not available, use 1:100,000 maps.

3.16.3. Examples of exercises and contingencies include: security force insertion and exercises, weapons school support exercises, Joint Task Force 6 operations and other types of training where pre-surveyed HLZs are not available or practical. For non-tactical flights, an in-flight high/low recon may serve as a tactical survey. For tactical flights, aircrews are expected to complete a pre-mission map study of the intended landing area, using all available data, such as detailed maps, aerial photos, satellite imagery, etc.

3.17. Completed surveys will be forwarded to the HF/DO.

3.17.1. Missile Alert Facility (MAF) helipads are not considered HLZs and are not governed by this publication. Follow AFI 11-2H-1 vol III guidance for operational sites. Launch Facilities (LFs) are not considered HLZs, unless specifically singled out for training purposes. LFs used for training purposes will be designated as HLZs and will meet the requirements of this publication.

3.17.2. The primary reviewer is the HF/DO.

3.17.4. The HF/DO will determine where HLZ surveys are maintained. Surveys will be accessible to aircrews for use in premission planning.

3.18. For MAFs, follow AFI-11-2H-1 vol III guidance for operational sites. For LFs designated as HLZs, comply with this publication.

A6.1.4.2. The primary reviewer is the HF/DO.

A6.1.8.3.1. A minimum of 110' diameter is required for Day/NVG single-ship training and 160' diameter for Night unaided and NVG no-scanner training.

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