



USNAPT Water Training



The USNAPT is a public representative of the U.S. Naval Academy, and de facto recruiting unit. In addition to occasional news releases of their competition exploits and public skydiving demonstrations, we like to occasionally acquaint the public with some more intimate views of their activities in pursuit of excellence. This helps to familiarize family members, friends, associates and interested observers with individual TEAM members and some of their lesser known exercises.

Preparation for an unintended water landing is a requisite for the USPA B License. Periodically, the TEAM conducts water training in the academy pool, a uniquely beautiful natatorium. One Tuesday recently, TEAM Training & Safety Officer 1/C Vince Tenebro led a group of 22 Mids into the facility at 0530. This early morning venture was pursuant to a lecture the previous day on the history of past problems the skydiving community worldwide had experienced with unexpectedly landing in the water under a fully inflated canopy. The purpose of the swimming pool session was to simulate the dreaded event and expose the jumper to the exigencies that would be encountered.

Primarily, the training involves prepping the jumper prior to entry into the water, after all attempts to avoid it have been expended, which includes loosening the harness as much as possible without losing control of the canopy, releasing the RSL, taking a deep breath before entry, exposing the jumper to the cold water shock, then escaping the harness under water and swimming away from the canopy before surfacing. It's also a surprise to the jumper to discover the intransigence of the wet nylon canopy versus how billowy it behaves when dry; further, to prepare the jumper for the peril of becoming entangled in the lines underwater.



Hospital Point - An LZ for USNAPT demo training; potential for a water landing requires preparation & a boat crew.

The accompanying video describes a synopsis of all 19 attendees' practice, as the first-timers perform the training before having their logbooks endorsed by the Instructor overseeing. Consideration must also be made for the likelihood that a full jump suit could cause additional hindrance when wet, but allowance is made for the fact that Mids are adequate swimmers. Several of the upper class are repeating the exercise from earlier qualifying to earn higher licenses, but exercising safety leadership examples for the newer TEAM members. In recent years, more and more demo training jumps are being made onto Hospital Point and parade demo jumps into Worden Field and into rugby games at Blake Field. On these occasions, a boat crew is on hand, and flotation gear is worn due to the proximity of the Severn River and local creeks. Someday mother nature will rear her ugly head during a demo and someone will land in the water. [\(Video\)](#)

The TEAM is in the process of raising funds for sending a 22-Midshipman contingent to the USPA National Collegiate Championships at Skydive Arizona, in Eloy, AZ over the New Year's holiday. The effort is organized by CAPT-R Bill Boniface, USN. Your support is respectfully and appreciatively encouraged. The goal is \$13,000, but not limited. The current balance is \$5,350, as of 17OCT22.

Thanksgiving is nigh, followed by Christmas !!!



<https://gofund.me/851e8d3d>

