



Aircrew Life Support (1T1X1)

Manages and performs inspections, maintenance, and adjustments of aircrew life support and chemical defense equipment. Supervises and conducts aircrew shelter processing, chemical defense training and life support continuation training.

Alternate Titles:

PARACHUTE RIGGERS; CLOTHING AND FABRIC REPAIRERS; CANVAS REPAIRERS; MENDERS; GARMENT FITTERS; TAILORS

Duties and Responsibilities:

BACKGROUND

Military personnel often have hazardous assignments. They depend on survival equipment (parachutes, rescue equipment) to protect their lives in case of emergencies. Survival equipment specialists inspect, maintain, and repair survival equipment such as parachutes, aircraft life support equipment, and air-sea rescue equipment.

WHAT THEY DO

Survival equipment specialists in the military perform some or all of the following duties:

- Inspect parachutes for rips and tangled lines
- Pack parachutes for safe operation
- Repair life rafts and load them with emergency provisions
- Test emergency oxygen regulators on aircraft
- Stock aircraft with fire extinguishers, flares, and survival provisions
- Train crews in the use of survival equipment
- Repair tents, tarps, and other canvas equipment

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Normal color vision is required to work with color-coded wiring and repair charts.

HELPFUL ATTRIBUTES

Helpful school subjects include shop mechanics and science. Helpful attributes include:

Interest in working for the safety of others

Ability to do work requiring accuracy and attention to detail

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Survival equipment specialists in the military work in repair shops on land or aboard ships.

TRAINING PROVIDED

Job training consists of 6 to 12 weeks of classroom instruction, including practice in working with survival equipment. Course content typically includes:

Parachute rigging techniques

Repair of inflatable rafts and other survival equipment

Maintenance of oxygen equipment

Maintenance of air-sea rescue equipment

Further training occurs on the job and through additional courses.

CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS

Civilian survival equipment specialists work for commercial airlines, parachute rigging and supply companies, survival equipment manufacturing firms, and some government agencies. They perform duties similar to military survival equipment specialists. Those that specialize in parachutes are called parachute riggers.

OPPORTUNITIES

The military has about 5,000 survival equipment specialists. On average, the services need about 390 new specialists each year. After job training, survival equipment specialists work on survival equipment under the close direction of supervisors. With experience, they work with less supervision and perform more challenging tasks. In time, survival equipment specialists may become supervisors assisting in the management of survival equipment repair facilities.