

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER  
AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
MANUAL 13-217**



**AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND  
Supplement  
22 APRIL 2022**

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

***DROP ZONE, LANDING ZONE, AND  
HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE  
OPERATIONS***

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This publication supplements and extends the guidance of Department of the Air Force Manual (DAFMAN) 13-217, *Drop Zone, Landing Zone, and Helicopter Landing Zone Operations* and establishes Helicopter Landing Zone Procedures (HLZ) for AFGSC helicopter flying activities. This supplement is applicable to all AFGSC units with rotary-wing assets and describes procedures for use in conjunction with the basic DAFMAN. This supplement does not apply to the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, or United States Space Force. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with (IAW) AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and disposed of IAW Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS). Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*. The authorities to waive wing, and unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a tier number (“T-0, T-2 or T-3”) following the compliance statement. See Department of the Air Force Manual (DAFMAN) 90-161, *Publishing Processes and Procedures*, for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate waiver approval authority, through the publication OPR. This

publication may be supplemented at any level, but all supplements must be routed to the OPR of this publication for coordination prior to certification and approval.

### ***SUMMARY OF CHANGES***

This supplement has been rewritten to reflect changes in the parent manual and establishes a minimum number of HLZs required for AFGSC rotary-wing assets to maintain currency and proficiency.

**1.3. Deviations.** Deviations are reported in accordance with the parent manual.

**1.4. Waivers.** MAJCOM/A3 is the waiver authority for the T-1 and T-2 level.

**2.2. Database.** The Group/CC will ensure valid HLZ surveys are submitted to the NIPR Talon Point. (T-2)

2.3.4.1. **(Added)** Flight Safety Review. Wing flight safety offices will accomplish and document necessary survey safety of flight review. Squadron flight safety offices may perform safety of flight reviews if wing flight safety is unavailable. (T-3)

**5.1. General.** Prepared surfaces (e.g., hospital helipads) posted in the DoD Flight Information Publication, the FAA Airport Data and Information Portal, or host-nation equivalent are considered surveyed and do not require an HLZ survey. The aircraft commander is responsible for determining the Weight Bearing Capacity (WBC) and structural limits (if applicable) of the landing location prior to use.

5.1.1. **(Added)** Operational sites are not considered HLZs and do not require an HLZ survey. In addition to the guidance in paragraph 5.6, groups will maintain a list of approved operational sites and guidance in local instructions. (T-2) Operational site diagrams should follow the guidance in [paragraph 5.6.1](#).

**5.2. HLZ Survey Selection.** Testing for WBC not required to for operations to natural or man-made unimproved surfaces.

5.2.1. **(Added)** AFGSC rotary-wing units will maintain a minimum of 15 unprepared HLZs within the local flying area for the purpose of currency and proficiency training. (T-2) The HS/CC is the approval for site selection, but the installation host wing will sign any required land-use agreements or leases. The unprepared HLZs will be located throughout the local flying area and represent each tasked AFGSC rotary-wing mission environment (e.g., security, search and rescue, etc.). (T-2) Issues regarding HLZs will be worked through the Installation Mission Sustainment Team (IMST) and shortfalls will be reported to the MAJCOM Mission Sustainment Team IAW AFI 90-2001. The ISMT Chair is not permitted to lower the HLZ requirement without approval from the helicopter operations Group/CC. (T-2)

5.2.1.1. **(Added)** Fifteen unprepared HLZs will be accessible year-round for day and night training. (T-2) Not every HLZ is required to be accessible year-round, but the local units will have access to a minimum of 15 HLZs throughout the year (i.e., one HLZ with access from January-June, and another HLZ with access from July-December will meet the intent of a single HLZ).

5.2.1.2. **(Added)** A minimum of 10 unprepared HLZs will be large enough (minimum size of 300 x 300 meters) to accommodate multi-ship formation training IAW AFTTP 3-3.H-1, Combat

Aircraft Fundamentals – H-1, and permit infiltration and exfiltration training of security forces personnel. (T-2)

5.4.1. Helicopter units do not require HLZ surveys for operational missions or HHQ (above wing) directed exercises.

5.4.3. The Group/CC may grant blanket authorization to use the tactical HLZ survey process for group-level and higher exercises and training.

5.4.3.3. **(Added)** This authorization may be for defined geographic boundaries (e.g., group-level exercises conducted within the missile complex) or grant a specific time frame authorization, usually associated with a specific exercise (e.g., Global Strike Challenge). Prior to conducting operations in the designated area, the applicable information from the survey will be made available to the aircrew(s) for mission planning. (T-3)

**5.6. (Added) Missile Alert Facilities (MAF).** (including the access road and helipad), and Launch Facilities (LFs) (including the area within the fenced boundary and access road) are considered operational sites and do not require the AF Form 4303 survey or review process. Landings at areas other than the access road or fenced boundary for training will use the HLZ survey process in paragraph 5.4 of the parent manual. (T-2)

5.6.1. **(Added)** MAFs and LF site diagrams will be assessed annually and will include all obstructions such as terrain, towers, or power lines that may affect the helicopter's route of flight. The site diagram will also list location (e.g., bullseye, coordinates, etc.), any prohibited areas, noise sensitive areas, special use airspace, or other restrictions. (T-2)

MICHAEL A. MILLER, Brigadier General  
Director of Operations and Communications

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

DAFMAN 90-161, *Publishing Processes and Procedures*, 14 April 2022

AFI 90-2001, *Mission Sustainment*, 30 July 2019

AFTTP 3-3.H-1, *Combat Aircraft Fundamentals H-1*, 25 July 2021

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**HS**—Helicopter Squadron

**LF**—Launch Facility

**MAF**—Missile Alert Facility