

CHAPTER 11

DEPARTURE AIRFIELD CONTROL OFFICER

The DACO is appointed by the airborne commander and is responsible for coordination and control of the loading of personnel, equipment, and supplies into aircraft. The DACO is located at the departure airfield.

11-1. INITIAL COORDINATION

When advised of appointment, the DACO is furnished the following information:

- The unit(s) that is jumping.
- Type of jump and number of personnel.
- Type and number of aircraft.
- Number of lifts.
- Load time.
- Station time.
- Weather decision time.
- Drop zone.
- Names of DZSO, assistant DZSO, DZSTL, JM, AJM, and safety personnel.

11-2. TANKER/AIRLIFT CONTROL ELEMENT (TALCE) COORDINATION

At the departure airfield, the DACO makes contact with the TALCE/aircrew to discuss, coordinate, and confirm the following:

- Aircraft parking plan.
- Aircraft tail number(s).
- Time of pilot/jumpmaster briefing.
- Time aircraft will be available for jumpmaster inspection.
- Weather data.
- Flight line safety measures.
- Appointment and identification of the GLO.

- Current safety regulations (TALCE/aircrew advises DACO).
- Aircraft loading procedure and time.
- Return of jump refusals: how they are to be managed.
- Manifest distribution to TALCE/aircrew.
- Upon return to DA, inspection of aircraft for air items and other airborne unit equipment left on board.

11-3. DROP ZONE SAFETY OFFICER/DROP ZONE SUPPORT TEAM COORDINATION

The DACO—

- Contacts the DZSO/DZSTL one hour before drop time.
- Informs the DZSO/DZSTL of aircraft aborts.
- Updates the DZSO/DZSTL on changes.
- Requests a closure report from the DZSO/DZSTL.
- Requests timely wind readings from the DZSO/DZSTL.

11-4. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTURE AIRFIELD CONTROL OFFICER

The DACO—

- Maintains radio and telephone contact with TALCE/aircrew and higher headquarters.
- Controls movement of all vehicles.
- Coordinates with TALCE/aircrew/GLO for airfield lighting to assist night airdrop DA operations.
- Ensures all units police their area prior to enplaning.
- Reports all serious incidents.
- Is physically present for all weather briefings and decisions.
- Ensures parachute maintenance personnel are present for issue and technical assistance.
- Becomes familiar with regulations and the SOP of the unit involved in the operation.

11-5. AIRFIELD AND RUNWAY SAFETY

The DACO—

- Is responsible for the movement in and around aircraft, taxiways, and runways.
- Briefs PJM/AJM on airfield procedures.