

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



# **AIDS TO NAVIGATION STRUCTURE CLIMBER PERSONNEL QUALIFICATION STANDARDS (PQS) MANUAL**

**COMDTINST M16500.14A**

**DEC 2019**





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COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION M16500.14A

Subj: AIDS TO NAVIGATION STRUCTURE CLIMBER PERSONNEL QUALIFICATION STANDARDS (PQS) MANUAL

- Ref:
- (a) Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
  - (b) American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z359 Fall Protection Code
  - (c) Occupation Safety and Health (OSHA) 29 CFR 1926.5 subpart "M"
  - (d) U.S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Manual, Volume I, COMDTINST M16114.32 (series)
  - (e) U.S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Manual, Volume II, COMDTINST M16114.33 (series)
  - (f) Fall Protection Program Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures, CGTTP 4-11-15
  - (g) Safety and Environmental Health Manual, COMDTINST M5100.47 (series)

1. **PURPOSE.** This Manual establishes policies, procedures and criteria and provides standard performance objectives and guidance for training and certifying personnel as Aids to Navigation (ATON) Structure Climbers to the level of training required by References (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g).
2. **ACTION.** All Coast Guard unit Commanders, Commanding Officers, Officers-in-Charge, Deputy/Assistant Commandants, and Chiefs of Headquarters staff elements must comply with the provisions of this Manual. Internet release is authorized.
3. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Personnel Qualification Standards, COMDTINST M16500.14 is cancelled.
4. **DISCLAIMER.** This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.

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	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A												X	X	X	X	X	X		X							
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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

5. MAJOR CHANGES. Created new Advanced Safety Observer competency, established requirement that current CEU qualified climbers must requalify using this PQS, specified that members attending NATON Structure Climber course (ANC-ASC 501850) must at a minimum be Basic level climber qualified, added requirement that members that climb trees as part of their ATON duties must be qualified as Basic or Advanced level climbers and complete a unit Job Qualification Standard (JQS), provided a list of specific Competent Person duties, clarified recertification requirements, removed commercial climbing courses as an alternative to NATON Structure Climber course (ANC-ASC 501850), added first aid qualification and currency maintenance for Advanced and Rescue level climbers, required all climbing equipment to be ANSI, ASME, EN, or NFPA certified, and specified topics to be considered during risk assessment process.
6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT. A resource impact assessment has been conducted. See Appendix A.
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
  - a. The development of Manual and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management, Commandant (CG-47). This Manual is categorically excluded under current Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorical exclusion DHS (CATEX) A3 from further environmental analysis in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 and the Environmental Planning (EP) Implementing Procedures (IP).
  - b. This Manual will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policy in this Manual must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, Executive Order 12114, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) NEPA policy, Coast Guard Environmental Planning policy, and compliance with all other applicable environmental mandates.
8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Manual. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/directives/>, and CGPortal: <https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
9. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Manual has been thoroughly reviewed during the Directives clearance process. There are no further records scheduling requirements in accordance with the Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not create significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
10. FORMS/ REPORTS. The forms Referenced in the Manual area are available in USCG Electronic Forms on the Standard Workstation or on the Internet: <https://dcms.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-C4IT-CG-6/The-Office-of-Information-Management-CG-61/Forms-Management/CG-Forms/>

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M.D. EMERSON /s/  
Director, Marine Transportation Systems  
U.S. Coast Guard





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RATIONALE:			
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## Chapter 1 – INTRODUCTION

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<b>Introduction</b>	<p>ATON structure climbers require thorough training to function as a safe and effective team. To ensure ATON structure climbers develop and maintain a high standard of proficiency, the Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge (CO/OIC) will ensure completion of PQS training as described in this Manual. The tasks in this tiered qualification program only represent the minimum elements of skill and knowledge necessary to safely climb aids to navigation structures. The CO/OIC may require additional training beyond the minimum training specified herein as necessary to qualify and maintain proficiency.</p>
<b>Basic Climber</b>	<hr/> <p><b>ATON Structure Climber – Basic PQS</b> tasks must be completed by personnel who anticipate climbing ATON structures with a height of less than 20 feet.</p>
<b>Advanced Climber</b>	<hr/> <p><b>ATON Structure Climber – Advanced PQS</b> tasks will be completed by personnel who anticipate climbing ATON structures with a height of 20 feet or greater or any structure specifically designated by the command. Personnel must complete ATON Structure Climber – Basic PQS before starting the ATON Structure Climber – Advanced PQS.</p>
<b>Advanced Climber - Safety Observer</b>	<hr/> <p><b>ATON Structure Climber - Advanced Safety Observer</b> must be a certified Advanced level climber, have completed task RC-02, and be certified by the CO/OIC as a Safety Observer. These personnel are only authorized to serve as a safety observer for structures less than 20 feet and designated by the CO/OIC in USAIMS as a Basic level structure.</p>
<b>Rescue Climber/ Competent Person</b>	<hr/> <p><b>ATON Structure Climber – Rescue PQS, Competent Person</b> Rescue climber must meet the requirements of Chapter 1, Section A. of this PQS. <b>Competent Person</b> - The term competent person in Reference (f) is synonymous with the Fall Protection Program Manager (FPPM). In accordance with Reference (f), the unit must train and designate a competent person to manage the unit Fall Protection Program (FPP). This competent person must have the knowledge and understanding needed to identify all fall hazards and must have thorough understanding of all fall protection systems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial qualification can only be obtained by completing NATON’s ATON Structure Climber Course (ANC-ASC, 501850) and being certified by the unit CO/OIC.</li> <li>2. Unit Competent Person must be designated in writing by the unit CO/OIC per Reference (g) and must follow the guidelines in Reference (f) when establishing unit programs and plans.</li> </ol>

**Determining Structure Height**

The height of a structure is determined by measuring the vertical distance from the highest point on the structure that personnel would stand to service the ATON signal to the point that a person would land should they fall from the structure without fall protection.

**Designating ATON Structures**

Units will designate in USAIMS/IATONIS the minimum level of climber certification (Basic or Advanced) required for each ATON structure that they are responsible for maintaining. The CO/OIC will consider in addition to the structure height:

1. The complexity of the structure.
2. Its location.
3. The proximity to cliffs or steep terrain.
4. Any special conditions that could affect the safety of personnel climbing the structure when determining the climber certification level for an ATON structure.

**Required Number of Climbers by Structure Designation**

Type of ATON Structure	Minimum number of ATON Climbers required
<b>Less than 20 feet and designated Basic level structure by CO/OIC</b>	One certified Basic or Advanced climber and one certified Advanced – Safety Observer or certified Rescue climber. The Advanced Safety Observer or Rescue climber will not be the primary climber but will instead serve as the dedicated on-the-ground safety observer.
<b>20 feet or greater and designated Advanced level structure by CO/OIC</b>	One certified Advanced climber and one certified Rescue climber. The Rescue climber will not be the primary climber but will instead serve as the dedicated ground safety observer. Structures greater than 150 feet require an additional Rescue Climber stationed on the tower.

## **Section A. Qualification Requirements to Climb ATON Structures**

<b>A.1 Qualification Requirements</b>	The member must be a responsible volunteer and physically capable of climbing. Personnel may qualify as Basic and Advanced ATON structure climbers upon the completion of the appropriate PQS or formal training, and approval of the CO/OIC.
<b>A.2. Initial Qualification ATON Structure Climber - Rescue</b>	Initial Qualification for ATON Structure Climber – Rescue, requires a signed certificate of completion of the ATON Structure Climber Course (ANS-ASC, 501850) from the National Aids to Navigation (NATON) School Chief before the CO/OIC is authorized to certify their NATON graduate as a Rescue Climber. CO/OIC may require additional training or evaluation before this certification. A copy of this certificate must be kept in the members training record. Recommend members verify that Direct Access reflects course completion and that the member make an electronic copy of this certificate for safe keeping
<b>A.3. Certification</b>	<p>Final approval in TMT from the CO/OIC is required for all climber designations. Final certification is the official statement of the CO/OIC that the member has demonstrated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The minimum required knowledge and skill for the position designation as evidenced by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A completed PQS or formal training</li> <li>b. Practical evaluation</li> <li>c. The recommendation of the qualification examining board.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. The judgment and maturity required to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Act responsibly.</li> <li>b. Perform assigned duties in the manner prescribed by Coast Guard Directives and regulations.</li> <li>c. Function as a team member.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>A.4. CEU Qualified Climbers</b>	Climbers qualified through the old CEU structure climber training program must requalify as Basic or Advanced level climbers in accordance with the requirements of this PQS. Former CEU trained Rescue or Train the Trainer qualified climbers must attend the ATON Structure Climber Course (ANC ASC, 501850) to requalify as a Rescue level climber.
<b>A.5. Tree Climbing Requirements</b>	Units with a requirement to climb trees to attach dayboards must certify their members at a minimum of Basic level climber for trees less than 20 feet or Advanced level climber if the heights climbed are greater than 20 feet, develop



specific unit tree climbing Job Qualification Standards (JQS), and qualify their members to climb trees using the same. Specialized tree climbing equipment must meet ANSI, ASME, EN or NFPA certification standards. Units must assign a designated Competent Person in writing as per Reference (g). Member must attend the ATON Structure Course (ANC-ASC, 501850) to obtain qualification.

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**A.5. First Aid Requirements**

Initial Certification: First aid requirements for all climbers must match the requirements found in Reference (d). Completion of initial certification for boat crew positions concurrently meets the initial certification requirement for ATON structure climbers.

Currency Maintenance: The annual first aid currency maintenance requirement is required for all levels of ATON structure climber. First aid currency requirements must match those found in Reference (c). Completion of this annual currency maintenance for boat crew positions concurrently meets the currency maintenance requirements for all levels of ATON structure climber.

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## **Section B. Unit Climber Requirements**

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### **B.1. Rescue Climber Duties**

ATON units engaged in ATON structure climbing must maintain a minimum of one (1) certified ATON Structure Climber – Rescue who will be designated in writing by the CO/OIC to:

1. Develop the unit's climber training program.
2. Assist command with the unit's Working at Heights program.
3. Serve as the unit's Competent Person in accordance with References (f) and (g). Duties must include: Supervise, implement, and monitor the FPP.
  - a. Identify hazardous and dangerous conditions in the workplace and take prompt corrective measures as needed.
  - b. Inspect and use approved fall protection systems.
  - c. Implement and ensure compliance with the FPP.
  - d. Ensure authorized persons using fall protection equipment are appropriately trained.
  - e. Understand fall protection systems and equipment.
  - f. Understand fall protection regulations and standards.
  - g. Supervise the authorized person in the performance of work in areas where fall protection is used.
  - h. Conduct hazard assessments, inspections, and accident investigations.
  - i. Ensure inspection, maintenance, storage, and care of equipment is per manufacturer's instructions.
  - j. Inspect fall protection and fall rescue equipment on a regular basis (not to exceed one year). Inspections can be made more frequently if it is required by the manufacturer's instructions. Inspections are conducted by the Competent Person and or Certified Rescue Climber, as appropriate, to verify that the equipment is safe for use. Document all inspections.
  - k. Ensure manufacturer's instructions and recommendations on the use, inspection, maintenance, storage, and care of equipment is accessible for review. Authorized members who use, inspect, maintain, or store the equipment access to these instructions as needed.
  - l. Keep written or electronic records of inspections on file for the service life of the equipment.
  - m. Document all inspections conducted by the Competent Person and/or certified Rescue climber, as appropriate, to verify equipment is safe to use.
4. Climb ATON structures of any height.
5. Train and sign off on Basic, Advanced, and Advanced Safety Observer PQS tasks for members assigned to their unit.
6. Manage recertification of climbers per part D of this chapter.
7. Assist unit training officer with the unit's structure climber currency maintenance program.

8. Evaluate Basic, Advanced, and Advanced Safety Observer candidates and provide feedback and recommendations to the CO/OIC.
9. Develop unit rescue plans. Provide unit training on implementing the unit's ATON rescue plans. Include the role of on scene personnel not certified as climbers.
10. Coordinate and perform ATON structure climber rescues.
11. Serve as the safety observer for unit climbing evolutions including all training climbs. Advanced level climbers having completed task RC-02 and certified as a safety observer by the CO/OIC may serve as safety observer in place of a Rescue climber for structures under 20 feet and designated by the command as Basic level structures. Rescue climbers must serve as the safety observer for all structures greater than 20 feet or designated by the command as Advanced level structures.

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**B.2.  
Required  
Number of  
Climbers**

CO/OICs will encourage and facilitate the training, qualification, and certification of as many ATON structure climbers (Basic, Advanced, Advanced Safety Observer, and Rescue) as required to maximize unit efficiency. Units must maintain a minimum of one (1) certified ATON Structure Climber Rescue/Competent Person (FPPM) designated in writing by the unit CO/OIC.

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**B.3.  
Insufficient  
Number of  
Certified  
Climbers**

ATON units, who, due to uncontrollable circumstances, find themselves with an insufficient number of certified climbers, must seek assistance from other units with certified ATON structure climbers. This may include the dpw ATON Training Team. This assistance can include scheduled ATON servicing, discrepancy correction, and with the approval and designation of the CO/OIC, unit training. Under no circumstance will the CO/OIC waive these requirements and allow unqualified or uncertified climbers to climb ATON structures, unless in a designated training environment.

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## Section C. Currency Maintenance Requirements

**C.1. Currency Requirements**

In order to maintain certification as a Basic, Advanced, Advanced Safety Observer, or Rescue climber, personnel must continue to demonstrate proficiency at the level to which they are certified. Should an ATON structure climber fail to meet these currency maintenance requirements, their certification will lapse and they will be required to recertify by completing the appropriate level of this PQS. Units are reminded that Basic, Advanced, Advanced Safety Observer, and Rescue currency climbs can be completed in the course of normal operational climbs and will not require the dedicated training days required for initial ATON Structure Climber qualification. Rescue climber currency rescues must be completed in a training environment.

**C.2. Command Designated Requirements**

The requirements presented in this section represent the minimum semiannual and annual currency maintenance for all certified ATON Structure Climbers. Due to unique mission needs, the unit CO/OIC may impose additional task completion requirements.

**C.3. Currency Periods and Tasks**

Each crewmember’s currency period normally commences upon the effective date of certification or recertification. However, due to the complexity of managing individual currency maintenance cycles, currency will be tracked through the periods 01 January to 30 June and 01 July through 31 December.

Personnel need only maintain currency in the most senior climber position held.

Qualification Level	Currency Maintenance Task	Time Period
ALL	First Aid/CPR	Annual
Basic	Safely climb 5 structures	Semi-Annual
Advanced	Safely climb 5 structures	Semi-Annual
Advanced Safety Observer	Serve as Safety Observer for 5 climbs	Semi-Annual
Rescue	Safely climb 3 structures Conduct two (2) training rescues	Semi-Annual

**NOTE**

Rescue Climber currency requirements for two (2) rescues SHALL be conducted in a training environment.

## **Section D. Recertification**

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### **D.1. Recertification Requirements**

ATON Structure Climber recertification is required when:

A currently certified Basic, Advanced, Advanced Safety Observer, or Rescue climber fails to meet currency requirements. Recertification will at a minimum require completion of the currency maintenance tasks for the qualification held. The CO/OIC may add additional requirements.

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### **D.2. ATON unit to ATON unit PCS transfer**

A previously certified Basic, Advanced, or Advance Safety Observer climber transfers directly to another ATON unit. Recertification will at a minimum require completion of the currency maintenance tasks for the qualification held. The CO/OIC may add additional requirements.

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### **D.3. Rescue Climber: ATON unit to ATON unit PCS Transfer**

A previously certified Rescue climber transfers directly from an ATON unit to another ATON unit. Recertification as a Rescue climber at the new unit will require completion of the currency maintenance tasks and Rescue PQS in chapter 4. If member is required to assume the duties of the new unit's competent person, the unit commander must designate the member in writing.

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### **D.4. Basic, Advanced, or Advanced Safety Observer with break in ATON service**

A previously certified Basic, Advanced, or Advanced Safety Observer climber who has had a break in serving at an ATON unit returns back to the ATON community (e.g. left an ATON unit for a non-ATON unit and returns to an ATON unit). Recertification will at a minimum require completion of the qualification tasks for the applicable level of recertification.

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### **D.5. Rescue Climber with break in ATON service**

A previously certified Rescue climber who has had a break in serving at an ATON unit returns back to the ATON community (e.g. left an ATON unit for a non-ATON unit and returns to an ATON unit) and is required to recertify as Rescue must re-attend the NATON School ATON Structure Climber course (ANC-ASC 501850).

A previously certified Rescue climber may be recertified to the Basic or Advanced level by the unit Rescue climber. Recertification will at a minimum require completion of the qualification tasks for the applicable level of recertification.

**D.6. Tracking in  
TMT**

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ATON structure climber training, currency, and recertification will be documented and tracked in the Training Management Tool (TMT), mapped to Direct Access, and tracked in CGBI.

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## Section E. Trainer Guidance

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<b>E.1. Introduction</b>	Tasks are meant to be learned through constant practice under the trainer's guidance. This is accomplished by following the procedural steps listed below. NATON designated references and ANSI Standards can be obtained at the NATON Portal site under Resources.
<b>E.2. Provide the PQS to the Trainee</b>	Ensure the trainee has access to the listed references and understands the need to review all tasks in order to gain a full understanding of the material covered.
<b>E.3. Assign the task</b>	Tasks should normally be accomplished in consecutive order.
<b>E.4. Confirm comprehension of information</b>	Clarify any misunderstandings the trainee might have about the material.
<b>E.5. Demonstrate the task</b>	Demonstrate the steps required to complete the task. During the demonstration, the trainer should narrate the procedures. If the task is one of the few that does not require demonstration, proceed to the next step.
<b>E.6. Walk the Trainee through the task</b>	In order to ensure that the trainee understands the task, the trainer should walk the trainee through the steps more than once. There is no limit to the number of times the trainer can perform the walk-through; however, the trainee's understanding must be ensured before continuing to the next task.
<b>E.7. Monitor the Trainee's performance</b>	Trainee performance should be monitored during both training and operations. Qualification does not end with the first successful completion of the task. It is an ongoing process that ends only when successful task completion can be met consistently.
<b>E.8. Verify the Trainee's performance</b>	<p>Verify that the trainee's performance meets the standard. This includes two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The trainee must be able to perform the task subject to established conditions and standards delineated for the task.</li> <li>2. The trainee must be able to perform the task with no assistance.</li> </ol> <p>The trainee is expected to perform each task on a consistent basis in accordance with the established standards and conditions.</p>



**E.9. Sign Off the task**

The trainer signs the task at the bottom of the page when he/she is confident that the trainee can perform the task consistently, while unsupervised.

---

**E.10. Maintain Record of Training**

A record of the training accomplished will be kept using the Task Accomplishment Record provided in each chapter of this Manual. The trainer is responsible for keeping the trainee's Task Accomplishment Record and the qualification tasks correct and current at all times.

---

**E.11. Schedule Trainee for Qualification Board**

Inform the unit CO/OIC when all tasks in this Manual are completed. When the trainee has completed all of the required tasks for the position, the qualification process is complete. The trainer should inform the Qualification Examining Board and schedule the trainee for an oral board and certification climb.

---

**E.12. Recommend Certification**

When the Qualification Examining Board is satisfied with the trainee's performance and abilities, they may recommend to the unit CO/OIC that the trainee be certified.

---

**E.13. Trainer Requirements**

The minimum requirement to be a climber trainer is a rescue climber certification. The rescue climbers must have obtained their qualifications from the NATON Structure Climber course (ANC-ASC 501850). Certifications as Rescue Climber DOES NOT in itself designate that person as an ATON Structure Climber trainer or unit competent person. Unit commands must designate, in writing, those rescue climbers who possess the competence, judgment, and skills necessary to safely conduct ATON Structure Climber training and recommend personnel for the ATON Structure Climber.

---

## **Section F. Trainee Guidance**

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<b>F.1. Introduction</b>	<p>It is the trainee's responsibility to proficiently perform the tasks in accordance with the established standards. There are four parts to this learning process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read the references and ask questions.</li><li>2. Pay attention during demonstrations.</li><li>3. Complete required walk-throughs with the trainer.</li><li>4. Practice the skill.</li></ol> <hr/>
<b>F.2. Use references and ask questions</b>	<p>The trainee must become familiar with each task. All references must be read carefully. The trainee should seek guidance from the trainer to clear up any uncertainties.</p> <hr/>
<b>F.3. Pay attention during demonstrations</b>	<p>While the task is being demonstrated by the trainer, the trainee must pay close attention.</p> <hr/>
<b>F.4. Complete walk-through with instructor</b>	<p>The trainee will complete the task the first time with the trainer walking the trainee through the steps.</p> <hr/>
<b>F.5. Practice the skill</b>	<p>The trainee must practice the skill for consistent success at the task. The trainer will not sign off any task as complete until the trainee can consistently and correctly complete the task unsupervised.</p> <hr/>
<b>F.6 Certification process</b>	<p>Once all required qualifications are completed, the certification process can begin.</p> <hr/>

## **Section G. Certification Guidance**

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### **G.1. Introduction**

The CO/OIC will ensure qualification requirements are completed in a timely manner. Personnel will not be allowed to remain in the qualification program without satisfactory progress for extended periods as determined by the CO/OIC.

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### **G.2. Certification Process**

The certification process will be as follows:

1. Qualification Examining Board to review completed PQS.
  2. Trainee to conduct certification climb.
  3. Qualification Examining Board to conduct oral board.
  4. Qualification Examining Board to make recommendations for approval in TMT for the qualification/certification of the trainee to the CO/OIC.
  5. Upon successful completion of the certification climb, and oral board, and recommendation from the Qualification Examining Board, the CO/OIC will approve the trainee in TMT.
-

## Chapter 2 – ATON STRUCTURE CLIMBER – BASIC

---

### Introduction

This Chapter contains a collection of tasks which must be learned, practiced, and performed by the trainee. These tasks represent the minimum elements of skill and knowledge necessary to safely climb aids to navigation structures less than 20 feet. The CO/OIC may require additional training beyond the minimum training specified herein as necessary to qualify and maintain proficiency.

This chapter consists of the following sections:

Section	Title	Page
A	Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber – Basic	2-2
B	Qualification Tasks - ATON Structure Climber – Basic	2-4

### WARNING!

**Climbing is an inherently dangerous operation regardless of the structure being climbed or its height.**

**All applicable safety precautions must be utilized when training or otherwise demonstrating these climbing procedures**

## Section A. Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber – Basic

**NOTE** *sw*

Once completed, trainer should place this section in the trainee's training record.

TRAINEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAINER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETENCY CODE TO BE TRAINED FOR: ATNSCB

**NOTE** *sw*

Trainers should add any additional tasks assigned by the CO/OIC.

Task	Date Started	Date Completed	Trainer's Signature	
BC-01				
BC-02				
BC-03				
BC-04				
BC-05				
BC-06				
BC-07				
BC-08				
BC-09				
BC-10				
BC-11				
BC-12				

**BC-13 Safely Climb Five (5) Structures (Initial Qualification – Basic)**

Date	Aid Name and Light List Number	Type of Structure/Structure Height	Trainer's Signature

## **Section B. Qualification Tasks – ATON Structure Climber – Basic**

---

### **B.1 Introduction**

The instructions for this section are as follows:

1. The purpose of this section is to provide guidance on the trainee’s progress throughout the qualification process.
2. Requires the trainer to present the tasks to the trainee in a logical order.
3. When the trainer is satisfied that the trainee can consistently perform a task in accordance with all standards and conditions, the trainer should sign and date the appropriate task.

---

### **B.2. Requirements**

Completion of this section requires the unit Rescue certified ATON Structure Climber/Competent Person, designated in writing by the CO/OIC, to train and sign off all of the member’s ATON Structure Climber – Basic PQS tasks.

---

### **B.3. NATON Training Prerequisite**

Members wishing to attend NATON’s ATON Structure Climber course (ANC-ASC 501850) must be certified as a Basic level climber prior to attendance.

---

### **B.4. Required Training Climbs**

ATON Structure Climber – Basic trainees must safely climb a minimum of five (5) ATON structures while under instruction, preferably of different types and styles, before certification. The date of climb, aid name, Light List number, structure type, height, and trainer’s name will be documented on the Accomplishment Record (page 2-3). Once certified, an ATON Structure Climber – Basic is authorized to climb ATON structures less than 20 feet in height.

---

### **B.5. Objectives**

The following are objectives of this section:

1. The trainee must demonstrate an understanding of first aid, as well as fall protection/fall arrest regulations, standards, terminology, and equipment.
2. The trainee must demonstrate an understanding of rescue planning and terminology.
3. The trainee must don a climber safety ensemble.
4. The trainee must demonstrate that he or she can determine the scope of work to be performed on an ATON structure.
5. The trainee must demonstrate that he or she can properly inspect an ATON structure prior to climbing.
6. The trainee must perform pre-climb checks.
7. The trainee must safely climb an ATON structure.

8. The trainee must demonstrate that he or she can safely hoist and lower ATON equipment.

**NOTE**

Trainers must ensure that trainees reassess risk at appropriate intervals during climbing evolutions, and that they use the results to modify the evolution as appropriate.

**B.6. Tasks**

This section contains the following tasks:

<b>Task Number</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Page</b>
BC-01	First Aid and CPR Responsibility	2-6
BC-02	Fall Protection Regulations and Standards	2-7
BC-03	Fall Protection/Fall Arrest Terminology	2-8
BC-04	Fall Protection/Fall Arrest Equipment Use and Inspection	2-9
BC-05	Calculate Fall Clearances	2-10
BC-06	Don Climber Safety Ensemble	2-11
BC-07	Rescue Planning and Terminology	2-12
BC-08	Scope Work	2-13
BC-09	Inspect ATON Structures	2-14
BC-10	Perform Pre-Climb Checks	2-15
BC-11	Climb ATON Structures	2-16
BC-12	Hoist and Lower ATON Gear	2-17



**TASK BC-01**

**First-Aid and CPR Responsibility**

**Reference**

- (a) *U.S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Manual, Volume II*, COMDTINST M16114.33 (series)
- (b) Certifying Organization’s Training Manual as listed in the standards shown below.

**Conditions**

Task should be performed at any time, at facilities available to the unit. Trainee must accomplish task without prompting or use of a reference.

**Standards**

Trainee must complete the American Red Cross, National Safety Council, American Heart Association or American Safety and Health Institute First-Aid Course to receive certification.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>First-Aid</b> Certification Type and Date course completed. Course: _____ Date: __/__/__	
2. <b>CPR</b> Certification Type and Date course completed. Course: _____ Date: __/__/__	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK BC-02**

**Fall Protection Regulations and Standards**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Occupation Safety and Health Administration Website – 29 CFR 1926.500 Subpart M
- (c) ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are authorized for final qualification. *When conducting these tasks, personnel will comply with the current and applicable OSHA regulations.*

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the applicable regulations and standards governing fall protection.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Read</b> and comprehend Reference (a)	
2. <b>Read</b> References (b) and (c) and discuss the roles of the following organizations relating to fall protection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)</li> <li>b. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)</li> </ul>	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK BC-03**

**Fall Protection/Fall Arrest Terminology**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) 29 CFR 1926.500 Subpart M
- (d) ANSI Z359.0 – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification. *When conducting these tasks, personnel will comply with the current and applicable OSHA regulations.*

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the applicable terms associated with fall protection/fall arrest.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
<p>3. <b>Define</b> the following fall protection/fall arrest terms and acronyms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ABCD of Fall Protection</li> <li>b. Anchorage</li> <li>c. ANSI</li> <li>d. ASME</li> <li>e. EN</li> <li>f. NFPA</li> <li>d. Arresting Force</li> <li>e. Connector</li> <li>f. Connecting Device</li> <li>g. D-Ring</li> <li>h. Deceleration Device</li> <li>i. Deceleration Distance</li> <li>j. Drop Zone</li> <li>k. Fall Arrest System</li> <li>l. Fall Restraint System</li> <li>m. Free Fall</li> <li>n. Free Fall Distance</li> <li>o. Primary and Secondary Fall Protection</li> <li>p. Lanyard</li> <li>q. Lanyard Ring</li> <li>r. PFAS</li> <li>s. PPE</li> <li>t. Rollout</li> <li>u. Energy Absorbing Lanyards</li> <li>v. Suspension Trauma (Orthostatic Intolerance)</li> <li>w. Swing Zone</li> <li>x. Tie-Off</li> <li>y. Fall Clearance</li> <li>z. Total Fall Distance</li> <li>aa. Work Positioning System</li> <li>ab. Rigid Rail System</li> <li>ac. Cable Grab System</li> </ul>	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK BC-04**

**Fall Protection/Fall Arrest Equipment Use and Inspection**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) Manufacturer’s Instructions
- (d) 29 CFR 1926.500 Subpart M
- (e) ANSI Z359.0, Z359.1 and Z359.2 – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification. *When conducting these tasks, personnel will comply with the current and applicable OSHA regulations.*

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the applicable fall protection/fall arrest equipment. Units may be using several different styles of each type of climbing equipment. Trainees will be qualified on the equipment used at their unit.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Identify</b> the following fall protection/fall arrest equipment, state its purpose, list required approval agencies and demonstrate its operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ANSI Approved Double-Locking Carabineer</li> <li>b. ANSI Approved Double-Locking Snap Hook</li> <li>c. Connecting Hardware</li> <li>d. Fall Arrest Lanyard</li> <li>e. Full Body Harness</li> <li>f. Tether Line</li> <li>g. Work Positioning Lanyard</li> <li>h. ASC PPE Approved Equipment:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANSI</li> <li>• ASME</li> <li>• EN</li> <li>• NFPA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
2. <b>Define</b> the two significant aspects of fall protection/fall arrest equipment that must be evaluated prior to each use.	
3. <b>Define</b> the significant defects that will require the equipment listed in Performance Criteria 1 to be immediately removed from service.	
4. <b>Explain</b> the disposal procedures for fall protection/fall arrest equipment that has been removed from service.	
5. <b>Define</b> how often and who is responsible for inspecting fall protection/fall arrest equipment.	
6. <b>Identify</b> the sources for the recommended use, inspection, care, and maintenance criteria of fall protection/fall arrest equipment.	
7. <b>Describe</b> the procedures for inspecting the equipment listed in Performance Criteria 1.	
8. <b>Explain</b> the procedures for recording fall protection/fall arrest equipment inspections.	
9. <b>Inspect</b> the equipment listed in Performance Criteria 1.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

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**TASK BC-05**

**Calculate Fall Clearances**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) NATON Calculating Fall Clearances Job Aid – Can be viewed at the NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of how to calculate clearances in the event of a fall and deployment of arresting equipment.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Define</b> the following terms and numerical values as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maximum Free Fall (FF) allowed</li> <li>b. Harness stretch</li> <li>c. Lanyard deployment length</li> <li>d. Safety factor</li> <li>e. Climber height</li> <li>f. Distance from dorsal D-ring</li> <li>g. Rope stretch</li> </ul>	
2. <b>Discuss</b> the 3 feasibility factors to review once clearance is calculated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Absorber length compared to the FF distance</li> <li>b. Weight of climber and gear</li> <li>c. Remainder of clearance once system deploys</li> </ul>	
3. <b>Calculate</b> clearances for the following three points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. From the climber’s feet</li> <li>b. From the climber’s Dorsal D-ring</li> <li>c. From the anchor point</li> </ul>	
4. <b>Discuss</b> action to take when fall will exceed available clearance, FF or Absorber.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK BC-06**

**Don Climber Safety Ensemble**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) Manufacturer’s Instructions

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate the ability to don the climber safety ensemble.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Don</b> appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hard Hat/Helmet with Chin Strap</li> <li>b. Safety Boots (Composite/reinforced toe and recommend shank)</li> <li>c. Gloves</li> <li>d. Safety Glasses</li> <li>e. Personal Flotation Device (PFD) when working over water</li> </ul>	
2. <b>Don</b> and properly adjust the full body harness.	
3. <b>Attach</b> work positioning lanyard to full body harness.	
4. <b>Attach</b> fall arrest lanyard (Y-Lanyard or equivalent) to full body harness.	
5. <b>Inspect</b> climbing partner’s safety ensemble once donned to ensure proper wear; ensure own safety ensemble is properly donned, and pass inspection of fellow climbing partner	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK BC-07**

**Rescue Planning and Terminology**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) ANSI Z359.1 and ANSI Z359.4 – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task may be performed at any time. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of a proper Rescue Plan and the applicable terms associated with High Angle Rescue on ATON structures.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Define</b> the following terms pertaining to high angle rescue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Rescue Plan</li> <li>b. Suspension Trauma (Orthostatic Intolerance)</li> </ul>	
2. <b>Describe</b> each of the following rescue methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Rescue Prevention</li> <li>b. Self-Rescue</li> <li>c. Assisted Rescue</li> <li>d. Suspended Rescue</li> <li>e. Outside Services</li> </ul>	
3. <b>Describe</b> advantages and/or hazards associated with each of the methods listed in Performance Criteria 2 above.	
4. <b>Review</b> unit rescue plan and ensure all proper procedures are followed prior to conducting training or maintenance.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK BC-08**

**Scope Work**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) *Short Range Aids to Navigation Servicing Guide*, COMDTINST M16500.19 (series)
- (c) *Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide*

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the preparation required prior to servicing an aid to navigation.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Review</b> aid record prior to leaving the unit.	
2. <b>Review</b> scope of work and ensure all tools and equipment needed to complete the task are on hand.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

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**TASK BC-09**

**Inspect ATON Structures**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) *Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide*

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the aids to navigation structure inspection procedure.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Perform</b> Field Unit Maintenance Inspection on an ATON structure in accordance with Reference (a).	
2. <b>Complete</b> inspection documentation using the ATON Structure Inspection, Form CG-6042. Properly route documentation per unit SOP.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**WARNING!**

**In addition to the platform inspection instructions listed on Form CG-6042, climbers should pay particular attention to the structure’s platform mounting hardware. All platforms should either be welded, or in the case of wood, secured with all-thread or through-bolts with nuts and washers, or lag bolts. Any platform secured with nails, including nails from a nail gun, will be considered unsafe and SHALL NOT be accessed by the climber until such time as the platform has been secured using the approved securing methods discussed above.**

**NOTE**

The ATON program has suffered from numerous structure failure MISHAPs that have included injuries to ATON personnel. Most of these MISHAPs have been attributed to improper methods of securing the platform or the victim standing on A-frame. A-frames are designed to hold batteries and equipment, not technicians.

**TASK BC-10**

**Perform Pre-Climb Checks**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) *Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide*
- (c) *Risk Management*, COMDTINST 3500.3 (series)
- (d) *Safety and Environmental Health Manual*, COMDTINST M5100.47 (series)

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification with the exception of Performance Criteria 8.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate the correct pre-climb procedures prior to accessing an aid to navigation.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Conduct</b> pre-climb safety ensemble inspection.	
2. <b>Don</b> climber safety ensemble.	
3. <b>Check</b> climbing partner to ensure his/her equipment is donned properly.	
4. <b>Stage</b> rescue and first aid equipment.	
5. <b>Complete</b> pre-climb checklist.	
6. <b>Check</b> communications equipment.	
7. <b>Check</b> all equipment before ascending structure. Ensure all tools and equipment to perform the task are present and attached to a safety lanyard.	
8. <b>Conduct</b> pre-climb safety brief in accordance with Unit 2 of Reference (b), and References (c) and (d)	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**WARNING!**

**A pre-climb safety check must be completed before climbing any ATON structure. The pre-climb safety check MUST include the completion of a documented risk assessment to consider all risks, including weather, crew fitness, crew qualifications, structure inspection results, and other hazards such as, but not limited to, dangerous insects, wildlife, and poisonous plants. The risk assessment should include a discussion on mitigating strategies to overcome any identified or unwarranted risks. If risks cannot be adequately abated, provisions must be provided for the execution of a “go/no go” decision. This go/no go decision is the responsibility of the on scene safety observer/competent person. This decision must be defensible by a documented risk assessment.**

**TASK BC-11**

**Climb ATON Structures**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Trainee must be dressed out in the appropriate climber’s safety ensemble and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification with the exception of Performance Criteria 8.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate the ability to safely climb aids to navigation structures while maintaining 100% fall protection.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Ascend</b> structure using proper climbing mechanics.	
2. <b>Select</b> sound anchoring points during ascent, descent, and work positioning.	
3. <b>Maintain</b> fall space and swing zone (if applicable).	
4. <b>Demonstrate</b> proper use of the work positioning lanyard and shock absorbing Y lanyard.	
5. <b>Connect</b> to structure once work position has been reached.	
6. <b>Maintain</b> 100% fall protection.	
7. <b>Descend</b> structure using proper climbing mechanics.	
8. <b>Conduct</b> under instruction post-climb debrief.	
9. <b>Conduct</b> post-climb safety ensemble inspection.	
10. <b>Properly</b> stow all climbing equipment.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK BC-12**

**Hoist and Lower ATON Gear**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) *Aids to Navigation Manual – Seamanship*, COMDTINST M16500.21 (series)
- (c) *Naval Engineering Manual*, COMDTINST M9000.6 (series)
- (d) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Trainee will be dressed out in appropriate climber’s safety ensemble, and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate the ability to safely hoist and lower aids to navigation gear from/to lower level working position. Trainee will complete this task from both the lower level as well as the working position while maintaining 100% fall protection.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Inspect</b> installed hoisting system (if applicable).	
2. <b>Inspect</b> equipment (blocks, line, etc.) to be used for lifting.	
3. <b>Demonstrate</b> accepted rigging practices for overhead lifting.	
4. <b>Hoist</b> and lower equipment from/to lower level work position.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

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## Chapter 3 – ATON Structure Climber – Advanced and Advanced Safety Observer

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### Introduction

This chapter contains a collection of tasks which must be learned, practiced, and performed by the trainee. These tasks represent the minimum elements of skill and knowledge necessary to safely climb aids to navigation structures 20 feet or greater in height. The CO/OIC may require additional training beyond the minimum training specified here in as necessary to qualify and maintain proficiency.

This chapter contains the following Sections:

Section	Title	Page
A	Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber – Advanced.	3-2
B	Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber Advanced – Safety Observer	3-4
C	Qualification Tasks - ATON Structure Climber – Advanced	3-5

### NOTE

Climbers must complete **Structure Climber – Basic PQS** before starting **Structure Climber – Advanced PQS** tasks.

### WARNING!

**Climbing is an inherently dangerous operation regardless of the structure being climbed or its height.**

**All applicable safety precautions must be utilized when training or otherwise demonstrating these climbing procedures.**

---

## Section A. Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber – Advanced

**NOTE**

Once completed, the unit training officer/petty officer must place this section in the trainee’s training record.

TRAINEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAINER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETENCY CODE TO BE TRAINED FOR: **ATNSCA**

**NOTE**

Trainers should add any additional tasks assigned by the CO/OIC.

Task	Date Started	Date Completed	Trainer’s Signature
AC-01			
AC-02			
AC-03			
AC-04			
AC-05			
AC-06			

**AC-07 Safely Climb Five (5) Structures (Initial Qualification – Advanced)**

Date	Aid Name and Light List Number	Type of Structure/Structure Height	Trainer’s Signature




## Section B. Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber – Advanced Safety Observer

**NOTE**

Once completed, the unit training officer/petty officer must place this section in the trainee’s training record.

TRAINEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAINER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETENCY CODE TO BE TRAINED FOR: **ATNSCASO**

**NOTE**

Trainers should add any additional tasks assigned by the CO/OIC.

Task	Date Started	Date Completed	Trainer’s Signature
RC-02			
ACSO-01			

**ACSO-01 Serve as under instruction Safely Observer on Five (5) Basic Level Structure climbs under the supervision of a unit Rescue climber– (Qualification – Advanced Safety Observer, ASCASO)**

Date	Aid Name and Light List Number	Type of Structure/Structure Height	Trainer’s Signature

## **Section C. Qualification Tasks – ATON Structure Climber – Advanced and ATON Structure Climber Advanced – Safety Observer**

---

- C.1. Introduction** The instructions for this section are as follows:
1. The purpose of this section is to provide guidance on the trainee’s progress throughout the qualification process.
  2. The trainer must present the tasks to the trainee in a logical order.
  3. When the trainer is satisfied that the trainee can consistently perform a task in accordance with all standards and conditions, the trainer should sign and date the appropriate PQS task.
- 
- C.2. Requirements** Satisfactory completion of ATON Structure Climber – Basic qualification tasks, is a prerequisite for Advanced climber training.
- Completion of this section may be met in one of two ways
1. Attending and satisfactorily completing authorized formal training and receiving course completion documentation.
  2. Unit Rescue Certified ATON Structure Climber/Competent Person, designated in writing by the CO/OIC trains and signs ATON Structure Climber – Advanced PQS tasks.
- 
- C.3. Authorized Training Sources** NATON’s ATON Structure Climber course (ANC-ASC 501850) is the only authorized formal training course for ATON Structure Climber – Advanced. Member must be certified as a Basic level climber prior to attending.
- 
- C.4. Required Training Climbs** ATON Structure Climber – Advanced trainees must safety climb a minimum of five (5) ATON structures while under instruction; preferably of different types and styles before certification. The date of climb, aid name, Light List number, structure type, height, and trainer’s name will be documented on the Accomplishment Record (page 3-3). Once certified, an ATON Structure Climber – Advanced is authorized to climb ATON structures 20 feet or greater in height
- 
- C.5. Advanced Level Climber Objectives** The following are the section objectives for Advanced level climbers:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of fall protection/fall arrest terminology and equipment.
  2. Demonstrate an understanding of climbing rope and knots.

3. Climb an aid to navigation structure equipped with an installed ladder safety system.
4. Rig a vertical lifeline as a ladder safety system.
5. Rig a vertical lifeline as a back-up fall arrest system.
6. Rig a descent rope for rope access on an aid to navigation structure.
7. Access a work area on rope.

**NOTE**

Trainers must ensure that trainees reassess risk at appropriate intervals during climbing evolutions, and that they use the results to modify the evolution as appropriate.

---

**C.6. Advanced Level Climber Safety Observer Objectives**

The following are the section objectives for Advance Level Climbers serving as Safety Observer.

1. Currently certified Advanced level climbers may serve as the required on scene Safety Observer for unit level climbs less than 20 feet in height and designated as Basic level climber structures by the CO/OIC.
2. To serve in this capacity, the certified Advanced level climber must complete Rescue Climber PQS Task RC-02, Safety Observer, Task ACSO-01; serve as Safety Observer under instruction of the unit Rescue climber for five (5) climbs, and be certified by the unit CO/OIC as a Safety Observer. Certification includes the competency code designation ASCASO. The completion of these tasks must be entered into TMT or its next generation replacement.

**NOTE**

Only certified Rescue level climbers must serve as the mandated on scene Safety Observers for ATON structures greater than 20 feet and/or designated as Advanced level climber structures by the unit CO/OIC.

**C.7. Advanced  
Climber Tasks**

This section contains the following tasks:

<b>Task Number</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Page</b>
AC-01	Fall Protection/Fall Arrest Terminology, Equipment, and Inspection	3-6
AC-02	Climbing/Rescue Rope and Knots.	3-7
AC-03	Climb an ATON Structure Equipped with an Installed Ladder Safety System.	3-8
AC-04	Rig a Vertical Lifeline as a Ladder Safety System/Fall Arrest System.	3-9
AC-05	Rig a Descent Rope for Rope Access on an ATON Structure.	3-10
AC-06	Rescue Planning and Execution of Self-Rescue from a Suspended Position.	3-11

**C.8. Advanced  
Climber Safety  
Observer Tasks**

<b>Task Number</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Page</b>
RC-02		4-6
ASCSO-01	Serve as Safety Observer under instruction of unit Rescue certified climber for five (5) climbs	3-4

**TASK AC-01**

**Fall Protection/Fall Arrest Terminology, Equipment and Inspection**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) 29 CFR 1926.500 Subpart M
- (d) ANSI Z359.0, Z359.1 and Z359.2 – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification. *When conducting these tasks, personnel will comply with the current and applicable OSHA regulations.*

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the applicable fall protection/fall arrest equipment. Units may be using several different styles of each type of climbing equipment. Trainees will be qualified on the equipment used at their unit.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)		
<p>1. <b>Identify and Define</b> the following fall protection/fall arrest terminology and equipment, state its purpose, and demonstrate its operation.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approved Anchor Points (Certified/Non-certified)</li> <li>b. Anchor Devices/Straps</li> <li>c. Fixed Ladder Safety System (Cable/Rigid Rail)</li> <li>d. Ascent Devices (ISC/Knots)</li> <li>e. Descent Devices (Fisk/Industrial Descender (I'D))</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Rope Grab (Fall arrestors)</li> <li>g. Rope Termination Plate</li> <li>h. Self-Retracting Device (SRD)</li> <li>i. Short-Haul system/Block &amp; Tackle</li> <li>j. Vertical Lifeline</li> <li>k. Rope Clamp</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approved Anchor Points (Certified/Non-certified)</li> <li>b. Anchor Devices/Straps</li> <li>c. Fixed Ladder Safety System (Cable/Rigid Rail)</li> <li>d. Ascent Devices (ISC/Knots)</li> <li>e. Descent Devices (Fisk/Industrial Descender (I'D))</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Rope Grab (Fall arrestors)</li> <li>g. Rope Termination Plate</li> <li>h. Self-Retracting Device (SRD)</li> <li>i. Short-Haul system/Block &amp; Tackle</li> <li>j. Vertical Lifeline</li> <li>k. Rope Clamp</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approved Anchor Points (Certified/Non-certified)</li> <li>b. Anchor Devices/Straps</li> <li>c. Fixed Ladder Safety System (Cable/Rigid Rail)</li> <li>d. Ascent Devices (ISC/Knots)</li> <li>e. Descent Devices (Fisk/Industrial Descender (I'D))</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Rope Grab (Fall arrestors)</li> <li>g. Rope Termination Plate</li> <li>h. Self-Retracting Device (SRD)</li> <li>i. Short-Haul system/Block &amp; Tackle</li> <li>j. Vertical Lifeline</li> <li>k. Rope Clamp</li> </ul>		
2. <b>Define</b> the two aspects of fall protection/fall arrest equipment that must be evaluated prior to each use.			
3. <b>Define</b> the significant defects that will require the equipment listed in Performance Criteria 1 to be immediately removed from service.			
4. <b>Explain</b> the disposal procedures for fall protection/fall arrest equipment that has been removed from service.			
5. <b>Define</b> how often and who is responsible for inspecting fall protection/fall arrest equipment.			
6. <b>Identify</b> the sources for the recommended use, inspection, care, and maintenance criteria of fall protection/fall arrest equipment.			
7. <b>Describe</b> the procedures for inspecting the equipment listed in Performance Criteria 1.			
8. <b>Explain</b> the procedures for recording fall protection/fall arrest equipment inspections.			
9. <b>Inspect</b> the equipment listed in Performance Criteria 1.			

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

<b>TASK AC-02</b>	<b>Climbing/Rescue Rope and Knots</b>
<b>Reference</b>	(a) <i>Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures</i> , COMDTINST M16500.25 (series) (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
<b>Conditions</b>	Task must be completed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.
<b>Standards</b>	Trainee must identify various types of climbing/rescue rope and demonstrate the ability to tie, dress, set, and state the purpose of each type of knot associated with climbing/rescue.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Identify</b> the primary types of rope used to climb aids to navigation structures and their purpose. a. Kernmantle Rope b. Laid Rope	
2. <b>Explain</b> the procedure and frequency that climbing/rescue rope will be inspected.	
3. <b>Define</b> the significant defects that will require climbing/rescue rope to be immediately removed from service.	
4. <b>Demonstrate</b> the ability to tie, dress, and set each of the following knots. a. Prusik Knot b. Double Figure-Eight Knot c. Butterfly Knot	
5. <b>State</b> the purpose for each of the knots in Performance Criteria 4.	
6. <b>State</b> the efficiency of each of the knots in Performance Criteria 4.	
7. <b>Demonstrate</b> the ability to rig a rope termination plate.	

**Trainer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**TASK AC-03** **Climb an ATON Structure Equipped with an Installed Ladder Safety System**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) Manufacturer’s Instructions

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Trainee will be dressed out in appropriate climber’s safety ensemble, and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate the ability to safely climb an aids to navigation structure that is equipped with an installed ladder safety system, while maintaining 100% fall protection, proper fall space, and swing zone. If the unit has different types of installed ladder safety systems (rigid rail, flexible cable, etc.) within their AOR, then the trainee must complete this task at least once for each different type of installed system.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Attach</b> ladder safety climbing device to body harness.	
2. <b>Engage</b> ladder safety climbing device to installed ladder safety system on structure.	
3. <b>Test</b> installed ladder safety system for proper operation.	
4. <b>Ascend</b> structure to a point designated by a trainer on the installed ladder safety system.	
5. <b>Disengage</b> from the installed ladder safety system. Traverse to work area, maintaining 100% fall protection while utilizing shock absorbing Y lanyard. Once in position, attach work positioning lanyard.	
6. <b>Return</b> to installed ladder safety system and engage ladder safety climbing device.	
7. <b>Descend</b> structure using proper climbing mechanics.	

**Trainer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WARNING!**

**A pre-climb safety check must be completed before climbing any ATON structure. The pre-climb safety check MUST include the completion of a documented risk assessment to consider all risks, including weather, crew fitness, crew qualifications, structure inspection results, and other hazards such as, but not limited to, dangerous insects, wildlife, and poisonous plants. The risk assessment should include a discussion on mitigating strategies to overcome any identified or unwarranted risks. If risks cannot be adequately abated, provisions must be provided for the execution of a “go/no go” decision. This go/no go decision is the responsibility of the on scene safety observer/competent person. This decision must be defensible by a documented risk assessment.**

<b>TASK AC-04</b>	<b>Rig a Vertical Lifeline as a Ladder Safety System/Fall Arrest System</b>
<b>Reference</b>	(a) <i>Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures</i> , COMDTINST M16500.25 (series) (b) <i>Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide</i>
<b>Conditions</b>	Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Trainee will be dressed out in appropriate climber’s safety ensemble, and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.
<b>Standards</b>	Trainee must demonstrate the ability to properly rig a vertical lifeline to perform as a ladder safety system, while maintaining 100% fall protection, proper fall space, and swing zone.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Inspect</b> anchoring connection hardware, vertical lifeline, and rope grab.	
2. <b>Ascend</b> the structure using proper climbing mechanics.	
3. <b>Connect</b> to structure with work positioning lanyard once work location has been reached.	
4. <b>Rig</b> anchoring connection hardware to suitable anchorage point and attach vertical lifeline.	
5. <b>Engage</b> rope grab to vertical lifeline and test for proper operation.	
6. <b>Descend</b> structure using vertical lifeline as the personal fall arrest system.	

**Trainer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**TASK AC-05**

**Rig a Descent Rope for Rope Access on an ATON Structure**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) Manufacturer’s Instructions

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Trainee will be dressed out in appropriate climber’s safety ensemble, and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate the ability to safely rig a descent rope for accessing a work area on aids to navigation structures that must be reached by rope, while maintaining 100% fall protection, proper fall space, and swing zone.

**WARNING!**

**A vertical lifeline fall arrest system must be rigged and utilized at all times when performing any work using a descent rope.**

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Inspect</b> anchoring connection hardware, termination plate, 45kn carabineers, descent rope, and descent device.	
2. <b>Ascend</b> the structure using proper climbing mechanics.	
3. <b>Connect</b> to structure with work positioning lanyard once work location has been reached.	
4. <b>Rig</b> anchoring connection hardware to suitable anchorage point and attach descent rope system.	
5. <b>Engage</b> descent device to descent rope and attach fall arrest device to the vertical lifeline.	
6. <b>Descend</b> using descent device and vertical lifeline.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

**TASK AC - 06**

**Rescue Planning and Execution of Self-Rescue from a Suspended Position**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) ANSI Z359.4 – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Trainee will be dressed out in appropriate climber’s safety ensemble, and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Utilize available equipment (ascenders/knots) to perform a self-rescue. This task may be performed near ground level on a kernmantle rigged on a structure, overhead, or on any other secure point that allows the trainee to demonstrate proper technique.

**WARNING!**

**A vertical lifeline fall arrest system must be rigged and utilized at all times when performing any work using a descent rope.**

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Discuss</b> what knots/equipment will be utilized for self-rescue. (lanyards/ascenders/carabineers /pulleys)	
2. <b>Utilizing</b> ascending techniques ascend from suspended position on a descent rope.	

**Trainer**

**Date**

**Comments**

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## Chapter 4 – ATON Structure Climber – Rescue

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**Introduction**

This chapter is intended for use in recertifying a Rescue Climber who has transferred from one ATON unit directly to another ATON unit. Task RC-02 is also for use in qualifying an Advanced Safety Observer

**NOTE**

A previously certified Rescue climber who has had a break in service at ATON units (i.e. from ATON to Non-ATON, then back to ATON) must attend formal training (ANC-ASC 501850) to requalify/recertify.

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This chapter contains a collection of tasks which must be learned, practiced, and performed by the trainee. These tasks represent the minimum elements of skill and knowledge necessary to safely act as the unit’s Competent Person and Safety Observer. The CO/OIC may require additional training beyond the minimum specified to qualify and maintain proficiency.

This chapter contains the following Sections:

Section	Title	Page
A	Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber – Rescue.	4-3
B	Recertification Tasks - ATON Structure Climber – Rescue	4-4

---

**Structure Climber – Rescue PQS** tasks will be completed by personnel who anticipate being assigned as the unit’s Competent Person and/or Safety Observer, designated by the command. These tasks will also be completed by personnel who will be responsible for developing, providing training for, and implementing ATON Structure Climber unit rescue plans and/or coordinating and performing actual ATON Structure Climber rescues.

**WARNING!**

**Climbing is an inherently dangerous operation regardless of the structure being climbed or its height.**

**All applicable safety precautions will be utilized when training or otherwise demonstrating these climbing procedures.**

## Section A. Task Accomplishment Record for ATON Structure Climber – Rescue

**NOTE** *as*

Once completed, trainer should place this section in the trainee’s training record.

TRAINEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAINER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETENCY CODE TO BE TRAINED FOR: **ATNSCR**

**NOTE** *as*

Trainers will add any additional tasks assigned by the CO/OIC.

Task	Date Started	Date Completed	Trainer’s Signature
RC-01			
RC-02			
RC-03			
RC-04			
RC-05			

**RC-06 Safely execute 2 rescues under the supervision of a qualified Rescue Trainer (Initial Qualification – Rescue)**

Date	Aid Name and Light List Number	Type of Structure/Structure Height	Type of Rescue	Trainer’s Signature

## **Section B. Recertification Tasks – ATON Structure Climber – Rescue**

### **B.1. Introduction**

The instructions for this section are as follows:

1. The purpose of this section is to provide guidance on the trainee’s progress throughout the recertification process.
2. The trainer must present the tasks to the trainee in a logical order.
3. When the trainer is satisfied that the trainee can consistently perform a task in accordance with all standards and conditions, the trainer should sign and date the appropriate task.

### **B.2. Requirements**

Only a Unit Rescue climber designated in writing by the CO/OIC to train and sign off Rescue PQS for recertification will sign off on this PQS.

### **B.3. Authorized Training Sources**

Initial qualification cannot be obtained at the unit level. Initial qualification can only be obtained through formal training. NATON’s ATON Structure Climber course (ANC-ASC 501850) is the only authorized formal training course for ATON Structure Climber – Rescue. Member must be certified as a Basic level climber prior to attending.

### **B.4. Required Training Rescues**

ATON Structure Climber – Rescue trainees must safely execute two (2) rescues while under instruction, preferably of different types and styles, before certification. The date of climb, aid name and Light List number, structure type and height, type of rescue used and trainers name will be documented on the Accomplishment Record (page 4-2). Once certified, an ATON Structure Climber – Rescue is authorized to act as the Safety Observer, be designated as the unit “Competent Person,” responsible for providing unit climber training, implementing ATON Structure Climber unit rescue plans, and coordinating and performing actual ATON Structure Climber rescues.

**B.5. Objectives**

The following are objectives of this section:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Competent Person and Safety Observer.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of climbing rescue terminology, equipment, planning, and methods.
3. Plan and execute an assisted rescue (conscious and unconscious).
4. Plan and execute a suspended rescue. (conscious and unconscious)

**NOTE** 

Trainers must ensure that trainees reassess risk at appropriate intervals during climbing evolutions, and that they use the results to modify the evolution as appropriate.

**B.6. Tasks**

This section contains the following tasks:

Task Number	Task	Page
RC-01	Competent Person	4-5
RC-02	Safety Observer (task is also used for qualification as Advanced Climber – Safety Observer)	4-6
RC-03	Rescue Equipment and Terminology	4-7
RC-04	Rescue Planning and Execution <b>Assisted</b> Rescue (conscious and unconscious)	4-8
RC-05	Rescue Planning and Execution <b>Suspended</b> Rescue (conscious and unconscious)	4-9

**TASK RC-01**

**Competent Person**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) ANSI Z359.2 – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids are authorized for final qualification.

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the unit climbing program to include immediate supervision, implementation and monitoring of the program, and maintaining/inspecting the unit's fall protection equipment.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Provide</b> the requirements to be a Competent Person.	
2. <b>State</b> the roles and responsibilities of the Competent Person per your unit's policies.	
3. <b>Demonstrate</b> the ability to properly inspect fall protection equipment in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.	
4. <b>Demonstrate</b> the ability to properly document formal inspection findings in the unit climbing gear inspection log and applicable equipment inspection tag.	
5. <b>State</b> the actions to take for equipment that fails inspection.	

**Date**

**Trainer**

**Comments**



**TASK RC-02**

**Safety Observer**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids are authorized for final qualification. Trainee will be dressed out in appropriate climber’s safety ensemble, and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task.

**Standards**

Given an ATON Structure and certified climbers, develop a climbing plan and pre-climb checklist in accordance with reference (b). Ensure proper safety/rescue equipment is available, including a first aid kit on station and ready for immediate use. Ensure climbing plan contains a list of emergency contacts, weather conditions for the duration of the climb, communications plan, work to be completed and qualification of climbers. Complete a thorough risk assessment to include structure inspection and crew fitness. Monitor all personnel for proper use of climbing equipment, climber’s mental, emotional and physical condition.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>State</b> the requirements of a qualified Safety Observer.	
2. <b>State</b> the responsibilities of the Safety Observer.	
3. <b>State</b> the location of the Safety Observer with respect to the Climber(s).	
4. <b>Demonstrate</b> the ability to monitor the climbing evolution.	

**Date**

**Trainer**

**Comments**

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**TASK RC-03**

**Rescue Equipment and Terminology**

**Reference**

- (a) *Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures*, COMDTINST M16500.25 (series)
- (b) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide
- (c) 29 CFR 1926.500 Subpart M
- (d) ANSI Z359.0, Z359.1 and Z359.4 – NATON Portal site - Resources

**Conditions**

Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Task may be performed at any time. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification. *When conducting these tasks, personnel will comply with the current and applicable OSHA regulations.*

**Standards**

Trainee must demonstrate a working knowledge of the applicable rescue equipment and terms associated with High Angle Rescue on ATON structures.

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
<p>1. <b>Identify and Define</b> the following rescue equipment, state its purpose, and demonstrate its operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approved Anchor Points (Certified/Non-certified)</li> <li>b. Anchor Devices/Straps</li> <li>c. Fixed Ladder Safety System (Cable/Rigid Rail)</li> <li>d. Ascent Devices (Rope Clamp/ISC/Knots)</li> <li>e. Descent Devices (Fisk/Industrial Descender (I'D))</li> <li>f. Rope Grab (Fall Arrestors)</li> <li>g. Rope Termination Plate</li> <li>h. Self-Retracting Device (SRD)</li> <li>i. Short-Haul system/Block &amp; Tackle</li> <li>j. Vertical Lifeline</li> </ul>	
<p>2. <b>Define</b> the following terms pertaining to high angle rescue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hierarchy of Rescue</li> <li>b. Suspension Trauma (Orthostatic Intolerance)</li> <li>c. Rescue Plan</li> </ul>	
<p>3. <b>Describe</b> each of the following rescue methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Rescue Prevention</li> <li>b. Self-Rescue</li> <li>c. Assisted Rescue</li> <li>d. Suspended Rescue</li> </ul>	
<p>4. <b>Describe</b> advantages and/or hazards associated with each of the methods listed in Performance Criteria 3 above.</p>	

**Date**

**Trainer**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Comments**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



<b>TASK RC-05</b>	<b>Rescue Planning and Execution Suspended Rescue (conscious or unconscious)</b>
<b>Reference</b>	(g) <i>Aids to Navigation Manual - Structures</i> , COMDTINST M16500.25 (series) (h) Aids to Navigation Structure Climber Course Student Guide (i) ANSI Z359.4 – NATON Portal site - Resources
<b>Conditions</b>	Task must be performed under the supervision of a designated climber trainer. Job aids and references are not authorized for final qualification. The Rescuer conducts a controlled decent to the victim using an authorized decent device and properly rigged life line. Trainee must be dressed out in appropriate climber’s safety ensemble, and conduct all pre-climb inspections/checklists/briefs prior to performing this task.
<b>Standards</b>	Utilize a certified climber or a training mannequin positioned on the structure. Trainee must plan the rescue and articulate each step of the rescue plan to the supervising climbing trainer. Trainee will then execute the rescue bringing the victim to safety while maintaining 100 percent fall protection.

**WARNING!**

**Anytime a certified climber serves as the “victim” in a training environment, a vertical lifeline and rope grab, or a fall safety device must be rigged on the structure on a separate anchor point to protect this person from falls while being lowered by the trainee.**

Performance Criteria	Completed (Initials)
1. <b>Plan</b> the rescue addressing the following: a. Required equipment b. Anchorages c. Notify Command & EMS d. Route to anchorage e. Route to victim f. Method of attaching rescue equipment to victim g. Route of victim while lowered to safety h. Medical needs/First Aid	
2. <b>Lay out</b> rescue equipment.	
3. <b>Ascend</b> the structure and rig descent rope and vertical lifelines as close to directly above victim as possible.	
4. <b>Descend</b> to victim.	
5. <b>Attach</b> victim to your descent device, disconnect victim’s lanyards and transfer weight.	
6. <b>Manipulate</b> descent device to lower self and victim to safety.	

<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
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## APPENDIX A - IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. PERSONNEL RESOURCES REQUIRED. This new task will require the designation of at least one unit rescue climber at the junior or senior petty officer level to manage the unit's PQS program and serve as the unit's competent person per ref. (b). Each CG operational command with an Aids to Navigation (ATON) structure climbing mission should assign at least one such petty officer and be designated in writing. The required number of basic or advanced level climbers per unit will depend on several factors. These include but are not limited to the number of personnel and ATONs assigned to a unit, the height of a unit's ATON structures, the number of crewmembers willing to work at heights, and the preference of the unit's commanding officer or officer in charge. At a minimum, and depending on the structure's height, each ATON structure being climbed requires one basic or advanced level climber and one rescue level climber or advanced climber – safety observer. ATON structure climbing is a long established mission, and as such, no new resources are being provided for this task.
2. TRAINING REQUIRED. The member(s) that a unit deems competent to serve the roles of a rescue climber or the unit's competent person will attend the National Aids to Navigation School (NATON) ATON Structure Climber course, ANC-ASC, Course Code 501850. Units that don't perform ATON missions but provide support (i.e. CEU, WOPL, and District's) must work directly with CG-NAV-1 for a waiver to attend outside training and approval before their command certifies a member to climb ATON Structures. Unit level basic and advance level climbers will be qualified utilizing this PQS. The certifications contained in this PQS include a six month currency maintenance program that must be completed by each member in order to maintain their current assigned level of certification. It is intended that the currency maintenance program for basic, advanced, advanced safety observers, and rescue level currency climbs be completed in the course of normal operations and as such should not add additional work days to the typical ATON operational unit. Currency maintenance requirements for the unit's rescue climbers include actual rescues of either another certified climber or an appropriately weighted manikin. Given the level of risk when performing rescues from heights, rescue climber currency maintenance requirements must be completed in a training environment. It would be expected that the rescue climber currency maintenance requirements would add 2 to 3 additional work days per year to a unit's schedule.
3. FUNDING. Funding needed to complete this new task is expected to be insignificant and will be absorbed within existing funding bases. This is a one-time expense.

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