

Civil Air Patrol

Over-water Operations and Reconnaissance

Updated: 16 Nov 2009

CAP over-water missions require extra caution. For the purpose of this regulation, over-water operations are defined as any flight event conducted outside normal power off gliding distance of land. The reconnaissance phase of the mission will be flown IAW CAPR 60-1, paragraph 2-2e. The confirmation phase will be flown no lower than 500 feet above the surface of the water. Flights are limited to within 50 nm of shore except for special operational missions approved by the NOC. On over-water flights (except short duration, such as takeoff and landing) each occupant will wear a U.S. Coast Guard or Department of Defense (DoD) approved individual flotation device. The aircraft will contain inflatable rafts of sufficient number and size to accommodate all occupants and will contain at least one pyrotechnic signaling device. The individual flotation devices and rafts used on these missions will be recertified in accordance with the manufacturer's suggested schedule. Constant wear anti-exposure suits will be worn by crew members on any preplanned over-water flight when the water temperature is 60F or less. The wing commander may waive the requirement to wear the anti-exposure suit after reviewing appropriate risk management considerations such as the distance from land that the aircraft is required to operate. Any time an aircraft is operating outside gliding distance of land and out of radio range of a land-based agency that can provide flight following, an airborne communications relay platform must be used. During night over-water operations, both front-seat crew members must be CAP qualified mission pilots and both will be instrument qualified and current. The right-seat pilot need not be qualified in that specific aircraft.