



SKED-EVAC YAK EXTRACTION SYSTEM (Y.E.S.) OPERATIONAL USE GUIDELINES

PRODUCT NOMENCLATURE: SKED-EVAC YAK EXTRACTION SYSTEM (Y.E.S.)

SKED-EVAC YAK EXTRACTION SYSTEM (Y.E.S.) SK-970 (MANUAL CASUALTY EXTRACTION SYSTEM) NATIONAL STOCK NUMBER 6530-01-537-2363

OPERATIONAL USE GUIDELINES

I. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND STATEMENT OF NEED

Increased use of armored vehicles and the incidence of improvised explosive devices in both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, **SKEDCOs Extreme Medicine™ Product Development Division** was challenged to develop a product, when employed is capable of rapid, manual extraction of casualty from fixed or rotary wing aircraft, ground vehicles, confined space environments, or to move casualties out of harms way on the modern battlefield. The product must be constructed of Mil Spec hardware, materials, and sewing and must employ only basic extraction techniques. Working closely with U.S. Army Special Operations Forces personnel, **SKEDCOs** team accepted the challenge, resulting in the development of the “*SKED-EVAC Yak Extraction System (Y.E.S.)*,” SK-970.

Throughout the development process, emphasis was placed on fit, form, and function along with casualty and operator safety resulting in a dynamic extraction system ready to meet the rigors of casualty extraction in a variety of operations, today, tomorrow, and into the future.

The extraction strap itself, SK-971 is constructed of 1.75” Mil Spec Type 13 webbing with 7,000 lb. tensile strength, PS 70124-1 black steel buckles proof load tested to 5000 lbs. and double bartacked throughout using 138 red polyester thread. The system comes complete with a general purpose utility pouch, SK-972, **MOLLE/PALS** compatible, constructed of 1000 denier Army Camouflage Uniform (ACU) pattern or coyote brown **CORDURA®** nylon and two SKEDCO-SMC black, “Lite Steel” Locking D Carabiners, SK-206B.

II. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

When employed properly by trained personnel, the SKED-EVAC Yak Extraction System can rapidly extract a casualty from fixed or rotary wing aircraft, ground vehicles, confined space environments, or can be used to rapidly move casualties out of harms way on the modern battlefield. Employment of the SKED-EVAC Yak Extraction Strap with two to three SKEDCO-SMC carabiners provides a system for extraction by one or more of the following methods depending on the casualty’s position and the tactical situation.

- The horizontal drag is used to move casualties horizontally along the surface out of confined spaces, movement of casualty with possible spinal injury and rapid extraction is required, or when the tactical situation limits exposure to the environment.
- The vertical lift is used to vertically raise or lower a casualty to safety.
- The piggy back or Fireman’s Carry is used to rapidly move a casualty out of harms way by a buddy when other more appropriate litters are not available.

III. INVENTORY, INSPECTION, AND PACKING GUIDELINES

SKED-EVAC YAK EXTRACTION SYSTEM (Y.E.S.), SK-970 (NSN: 6530-01-537-2363) includes the following sub-components:

- SKED-EVAC YAK Extraction Strap, SK-971 (NSN: 6530-01-537-2365)
- SKEDCO General Purpose Utility Pouch, SK-972 (NSN: 6530-01-537-2368)
- SKEDCO-SMC “Lite Steel” Locking D Carabiner, Black, SK-206B (NSN: 6530-01-262-4510) (2) *The system comes complete with two carabiners, though some extractions require three. It is recommended that an additional carabiner of equivalent rating be dedicated for use with the system when required.

Each sub-component should be inspected thoroughly using the following criteria:

- **Stitch integrity** for broken or disruptive stitches (The SKEDCO “Stitch Integrity System” uses contrasting colored thread that allows for ease of routine inspection of stitch integrity.).
- **Webbing integrity** for abrasion, burns, cuts, excessive wear, or staining indicating exposure to caustic substances rendering the webbing unsafe for use.
- **Hardware integrity** for breaks, cracks, excessive wear, or missing sub-components.

To package the Y.E.S. for operational use, place the SKED-EVAC YAK Extraction Strap in the main compartment of the SKEDCO General Purpose Utility Pouch and one SKEDCO-SMC “Lite Steel” Locking D Carabiner in the front and rear slash pockets.

IV. CASUALTY EXTRACTION-HORIZONTAL DRAG

- STEP 1.** Place upper end of Yak extraction strap with gray marking tape over casualty’s head.



STEP 2. Place lower end of strap over casualty's stomach and between his legs. *Be sure to position adjusting buckles away from groin area.



STEP 3. Run left and right leg straps under casualty's legs from inside to outside, routing strap under buttocks and up casualty's back.



STEP 4. Run lower end of straps under top portion of strap with gray marking tape to form a drag handle or loop.



STEP 5. If strap is too tight, lengthen using adjuster buckles.



STEP 6. If strap is too loose, no action is required as it will tighten when casualty is moved.



V. CASUALTY EXTRACTION-VERTICAL RAISE/LOWER (requires three carabiners)

FOLLOW STEPS 1 THROUGH 6 LISTED ABOVE, THEN PROCEED TO STEP 7.

STEP 7. Insert carabiner into sizing loops on the casualty's chest allowing for adequate space between the casualty's neck and carabiner.



STEP 8. Pull loop formed in STEP 4 cradling casualty's head while lifting or sitting casualty upright to assist with raise or lower. *An optional carabiner may be inserted through the loop serving as a lifting point.



STEP 9. With casualty in vertical position, insert carabiner through appropriate lower abdominal attachment loop and webbing located directly behind casualty forming a seat. Repeat step on opposite side of casualty.



STEP 10. Once both sides are secure, the casualty can be vertically raised or lowered to safety.



VI. CASUALTY EXTRACTION-PIGGY BACK/FIREMAN'S CARRY (requires three carabiners)

STEP 1. Place upper end of Yak extraction strap with gray marking tape over casualty's head and under each arm.



STEP 2. Slide lower end of strap under each of casualty's legs from outside to inside to a point just underneath buttocks.



STEP 3. Pull up on strap to remove slack from under armpits and around buttocks.

STEP 4. Attach carabiner to chest loop on one side.

STEP 5. Have rescuer sit between casualty's legs if lying down or stand directly in front of casualty if standing, place one strap over each shoulder like a rucksack strap, and connect carabiner to chest loop on opposite side.



STEP 6. Position rescuers's back high on casualty's abdominal area and remove excess webbing slack by using the adjuster buckles. If standing, have rescuer squat down as low as possible while bending forward and remove webbing slack as above. *The strap should be as tight as possible to assist with lifting the casualty.



STEP 7. Rescuer secures one of casualty's arms, hugs it tightly to rescuer's chest with casualty lying on his back and rolls with casualty to opposite side onto rescuer's knees.



STEP 8. Rescuer stands up one leg at a time, supporting weight of rescuer and casualty by pushing on rescuer's knee. If conscious, casualty's arms can hang over rescuer shoulders or if unconscious, they can hang to rescuer's side.



STEP 9. From this position, the rescue can carry casualty like a rucksack, having both hands free to shoot if necessary.



VII. A WORD OF CAUTION

WARNING!

THE SKED-EVAC YAK EXTRACTION SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO BE USED BY PERSONNEL TRAINED IN CASUALTY EXTRACTION/ OR RESCUE UNDER AUSTERE, COMBAT LIKE CONDITIONS WHERE LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES MAY EXIST! WHEN TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT, TECHNICAL RESCUE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES SHOULD BE EMPLOYED! AIRCRAFT OR VEHICLE EXTRACTION, WHERE SPINAL INJURY IS SUSPECTED, THE OREGON SPINE SPLINT II[®], SK-300 (NSN: 6530-01-265-3583) IS THE PREFERRED DEVICE! THE OREGON SPINE SPLINT II[®] MUST BE APPLIED PRIOR TO ATTACHING THE SKED-EVAC YAK EXTRACTION SYSTEM AND CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT LATERAL OR REARWARD MOVEMENT OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES DURING EXTRACTION!