



The Final Answer on the ASEK Knife



SERGEANT BLADE, WE'VE BEEN GOING BACK AND FORTH ABOUT WHERE TO MOUNT THE ASEK. DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO.



THE HEADSHED NOW SAYS YOU CAN WEAR THE ASEK ON THE PSGC AS LONG AS YOU MOUNT IT **RIGHT!**

Page 20 of PS 728 (Jul 13) said the aircrew survival and egress knife (ASEK) could **only** be worn on the inside or outside of either calf. That's no longer true.

The air warrior headshed recently made a final decision on this matter. A DA Form 2028 has been submitted for TM 1-1680-377-13&P-1 to allow units to attach approved ASEKs to the primary survival gear carrier (PSGC) based on general use safety alert message 13-01.

ASEK can be worn on PSGC vest or on inside or outside of calf



CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO WP 0077 TO REFLECT THE SAFETY ALERT MESSAGE INFORMATION.

WARNING

"Incorrect mounting of the ASEK on the upper front chest of the PSGC may contribute to injury or death to personnel during a crash sequence."

NOTE

"The ASEK may be worn on the inside or outside of either calf."

The change will add steps to the procedures:
"If leg mounting is deemed undesirable, the ASEK may be worn on the PSGC, and must be positioned to avoid a head strike in case of an accident. Prior to flight, from the upright seated position, flex body full forward and chin down to the full seat and harness restraints limits. If there is interference between the ASEK and the head, adjust the position of the ASEK until it is no longer a strike hazard.

"If ASEK interferes with flight controls or required mission tasks, reposition ASEK."

ASEK Mounting Guidance

Because the PSGC was not originally designed for the ASEK, where you mount it matters. Crew member body size varies widely, so strikes zones will be different, too. Use the following individual mounting evaluation methods:

- Don all appropriate flight and survival gear worn during missions.
- Place the ASEK on your PSGC following the info in the new Steps 5 and 6.
- Secure the ASEK with the MOLLE straps.
- Sit in your aircraft crew station as you would on a normal mission.
- Make sure the ASEK isn't mounted where it can interfere with any controls. That includes interference caused by movements in the cabin and tasks such as sling loading or hoist operations.
- Check to see if the ASEK interferes with the restraint system or emergency egress.
- While upright in the seat, flex your body as far forward as the seat and harness restraints allow. If the ASEK touches your head, adjust it to avoid a hazard.

Don't put yourself in harm's way. Take the ASEK mounting guidance seriously!