

TECHNICAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION (FAI)



Technical & Safety Information Notice No.	06/2009	W.N. 27
Date of Issue	21 November 2009	
Subject Matter and Applicability	<p><u>MILITARY PARACHUTES DE FRANCE BT80 CANOPIES</u></p> <p>1. It has come to our attention that a military Parachutes de France BT80 main canopy had been recovered and fitted to a Vector tandem parachute system. This particular BT80 canopy has now been returned, however, there is a possibility that other canopies might be used in a similar manner.</p> <p>2. You will be aware that the standard civilian BT80 variant is authorised by the BPA for use as a tandem canopy, however, the military variant is heavily modified and completely unsuitable for civilian parachuting.</p> <p>3. The drogue pilot-chute modification is designed to reduce the opening forces when deployed at high altitude. Therefore, if deployed at the normal tandem deployment height of 5000ft AGL, military BT80 canopies will open extremely slowly, thereby, compromising the safety of the tandem instructor and passenger.</p> <p>4. The following features identify military BT80 canopies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The drogue pilot-chute bridle-line passes through the canopy and attaches to the slider.b. There are no cross-port vents.c. The canopy is a silver grey colour. <p>5. BPA Club Chief Instructors, Riggers and Advanced Packers are asked to be vigilant, ground any equipment that meets this description to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. BPA Technical Officer, Mr Tony Butler on 0116 27 85271 or skydive@bpa.org.ukb. RAF Parachute Training Officer, Flight Lieutenant David Skinner on 01494 49 7110 or david.skinner778@mod.uk	

Compliance	<u>Immediate</u>
Concerned Publication	20090722-Airborne Forces Eqpt-Safety Management-Incident-Incident Register-M-R
Authority	Royal Air Force, Airborne Delivery Headquarters No 2 Group, Royal Air Force, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4UE Tel. +44 (0)1494 497153; Fax +44 (0)1494 497794 E-mail: david.skinner778@mod.uk
Acknowledgement	Thanks to Tony Butler, Technical Officer, British Parachute Association for bringing this notice to the attention of the T&S Committee and to Flt Lt David Skinner, Royal Air Force, UK, for permission to publish. <i>Liam McNulty</i> IPC Technical & Safety Committee 21 November 2009

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The Information Notices may result from:-

- 1 An incident or experience in the field being reported.**
- 2 A directive or notice issued by an aviation or government authority concerning parachuting operations or parachuting equipment.**
- 3 The issue of a notice by a manufacturer or by a National Parachuting Organisation. In the case of equipment being the subject of the bulletin the reader is advised to check with the manufacturer regarding the current status or position of that equipment.**

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**Liam McNulty, Technical & Safety Committee, International Parachuting Commission.
21 November 2009**