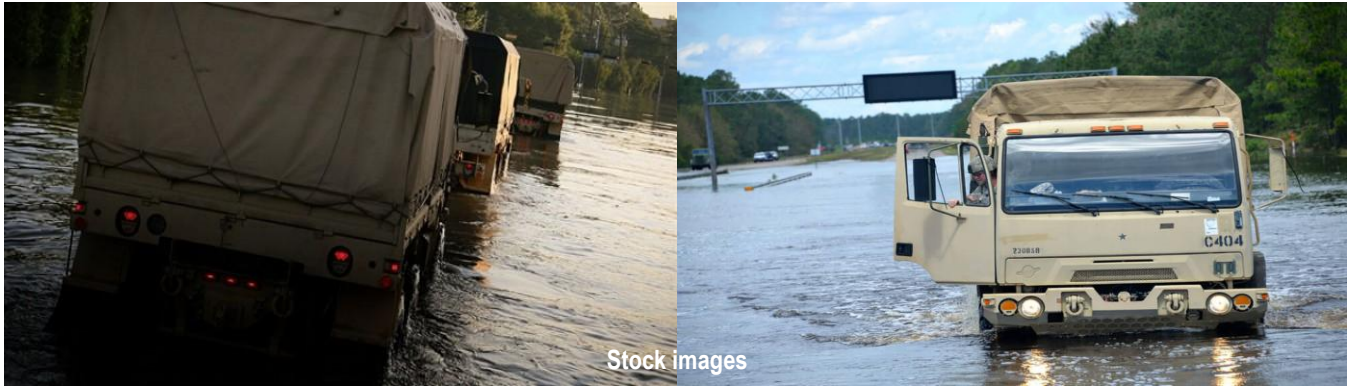


SAFETY ALERT

USARC SAFETY SENDS



WATER CROSSING HAZARDS

Vehicle water crossings are often an inevitable, yet necessary, task for leaders, Soldiers and personnel to accomplish their mission. Because of the inherent danger in water crossings, it is imperative units conduct proper terrain analysis, personnel training in fording operations, equipment preparation, and application of risk management during the planning phase as well as in the execution phase. Analyzing crossing sites and using available resources should allow for safe crossings and minimize unnecessary risks.

Factors Leaders and Soldiers must consider during water-crossing operations:

- Conduct a risk assessment prior to every water crossing.
- Follow all vehicle fording and swimming instructions in accordance with the vehicle's technical manual.
- Ensure the water depth at the crossing site is below the vehicle's fording limits and the site is clear of submerged obstacles.
- Do not exceed 4 mph when entering and traveling through the water.
- Consider not wearing load-bearing equipment during crossing operations. The equipment could snag on vehicle components and prevent crewmembers from egressing during an emergency.
- Consider leaving safety latches (Combat Locks) unlocked during crossings and when operating near bodies of water.
- Store sensitive items and small arms inside the vehicle. If the vehicle sinks, recovery of these items is easier.
- Ensure dismounted troops use a safety line when crossing.
- Do not cross more than one vehicle at a time, and do not cross a vehicle beside dismounted troops.
- Ensure the crossing site has adequate entrance and exit points and a firm bottom.

Twice the Citizen. Combat Ready!

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