

“KNEES IN THE BREEZE”



“Airborne All The Way”



2018 Liberty Jump Team

Basic Airborne and Refresher Course Dates

March 18 – 25, 2018

North Texas Regional Airport, Denison, Texas

Its Almost here! We hope to see most of you there. Karl has lined up a C-47 for our Saturday jumps. Great way to start off your year!

Call or email Karl if you need a hotel room so he can get you the information.



The History of the LJT by Jil

Liberty Jump Team was formed in answer to an invitation by Mayor Landry of Carentan, France to perform a commemorative jump there for the 2006 D-Day ceremonies. Dominique Launay, who at the time, had jumped with another group for the 60th Anniversary was asked by the Mayor to organize this.



Word got out to our friends and before we knew it we had 14 static line jumpers and 6 HALO to bring in flags. The HALO jumpers included the Navy Leap Frogs CO, a French Gendarmerie, 3 ex SFG soldiers and a former Marine LTC. We all met in May 2006 in Springfield MO to train. Our Jumpmaster was Roger Wolf, former 1st SFG.

Mayor Landry along with Gilles Barbe of the KERDUN Association worked to make the Carentan jump a big festival. We used our contacts to invite the Military Attaché from the US Embassy in Paris along with other US Military personnel.

We decided as well to jump the 507th PIR designated DZ called DZ 'T'. In Amfreville we were joined by Jill's father, LTC Gordon K. Smith (507th PIR) and several friends of his from the British Commandos as well as our US vets and spouses.



We were off to a good start! We needed a name, so we adopted the name LIBERTY JUMP TEAM because the Mayor called the event the LIBERTY JUMP. We made patches, coins, caps and polos with this name. We hired the beautiful C47, 'Drag Em Oot' for our airframe.

We started the week off with a reception at our home with many military personnel, veterans, and mayors from the area and friends. The team members pooled resources; and Peter Plank, who became our Chief of Veteran Affairs, brought five veterans and their spouses over. This group included Jake McNiece, Ralph Manley, Mario Patruno, Reed Pelfrey and Lloyd Neblett.



Before we knew it, we had a full week of other events. We were asked by the US Embassy to host the US Ambassador and his wife as well as former Homeland Security Secretary, Tom Ridge and his family for a lunch at our home preceding the military drop at La Fière. The team was asked to be filmed at Amfreville for jump footage for the new museum at Omaha Beach. We attended the dedication of the monument at Gourbesville which Dominique Launay had designed. We participated in the ceremony at Quineville where we were guests at a reception following this.



We thought it was a one-time deal but we gave it our best effort. Both jumps were well received and considered a great success. New friends were made.

Later in the summer 2006, we began receiving calls asking us, "what is next?" We had no intentions of actually forming a team; but after much discussion, on Sept 19, 2006 Peter Plank, Roger Wolf, Dom Launay and I met to discuss this. We realized that we had the talent and the professionalism to actually become a formal team and began to lay the groundwork for this. We kept the name LIBERTY JUMP TEAM, because we realized after all the amazing things that happened for our first jump effort we had gained recognition with the local community as well as the US Military and US Embassy.

It was this recognition that has brought us the respect and attention from the US Military and the French authorities. This lead to an invite in 2009 to be the lead in jumpers at the La Fière combined forces military drop each year. Our status has grown both in European theater as well at airshows in the U.S., and we continually seek to increase our professionalism and keep safety at the top of our list.



T-10 Series Parachute Nomenclature

From the  Jim Micko

This month we will begin to tackle the subject of proper nomenclature in regard to the T-10 series of parachute.

The T-10 harness, pack tray, static line, etc is the standard container / system regardless if you are jumping a MC1, SF-10, or even a SET-10 parachute.



PACK TRAY

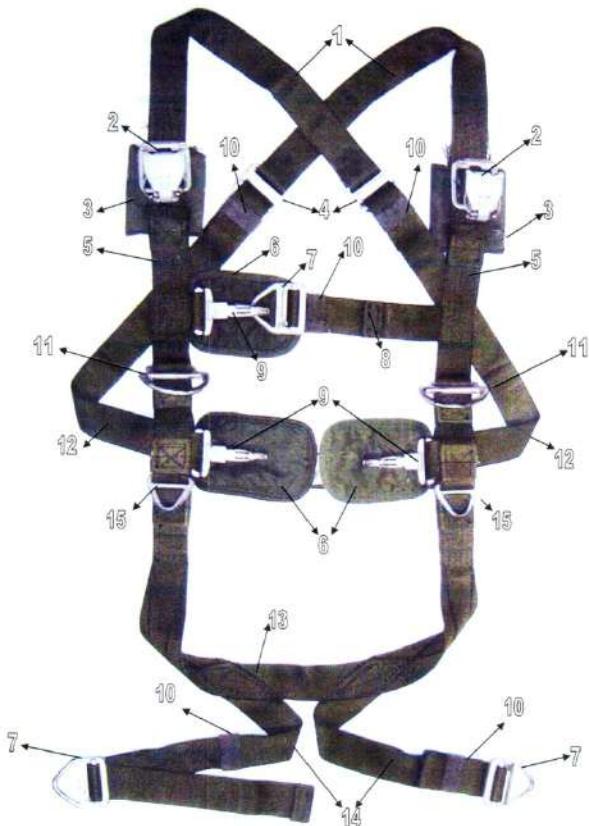
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. PACK CLOSING FLAP | 9. PULL THE DOT FASTENER |
| 2. STATIC LINE SLACK RETAINER | 10. DIAGONAL BACKSTRAP KEEPER |
| 3. OUTER STATIC LINE STOW BAR | 11. HORIZONTAL BACKSTRAP RETAINER |
| 4. INNER STATIC LINE STOW BAR | 12. HORIZONTAL BACKSTRAP KEEPER |
| 5. PACK CLOSING LOOP | 13. WAISTBAND |
| 6. PACK OPENING LOOP | 14. WAISTBAND ADJUSTER PANEL |
| 7. PACK CLOSING TIE | 15. METAL ADJUSTER |
| 8. DIAGONAL BACKSTRAP RETAINER | |

Why is proper nomenclature important? For one, using the proper terminology is key to quickly identifying possible errors in packing or donning. It is the proper language of the Jumpmaster, the Rigger and the Jumper. For example: "You have a twist in that thing there" as opposed to properly, "You have a twist in the waistband."

Two, the Liberty Jump Team strives to be professional in all that we do. If all team members begin to speak utilizing the proper nomenclature, we will show the public (not to mention the military when we jump at Ft. Benning) that we take our business seriously.

And three, the nomenclature provided here is the proper naming for the equipment. This information comes from the United States Army Jumpmaster School, the gold standard for how we operate our round parachutes.

For this edition of the newsletter, we will deal with the Harness and Pack tray. Subsequent issues will expand into the other elements of the system.



HARNESS ASSEMBLY

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. DIAGONAL BACKSTRAP | 9. EJECTOR SNAP |
| 2. CANOPY RELEASE ASSEMBLY | 10. WEBBING RETAINER |
| 3. CANOPY RELEASE ASSEMBLY PAD | 11. "D" RING |
| 4. BACKSTRAP ADJUSTER | 12. HORIZONTAL BACKSTRAP |
| 5. MAIN LIFT WEB | 13. SADDLE |
| 6. EJECTOR SNAP PAD | 14. LEG STRAP |
| 7. QUICK FIT "V" RING | 15. TRIANGLE LINK |
| 8. CHEST STRAP | |

2018 Schedule

March 18-21, 2018	LJT Basic Airborne Course and Refresher	North Texas Regional Airport, Denison, TX
April 18-21, 2018	82nd Airborne Awards Festival	Fryar DZ, Fort Benning, GA
Jump on April 19		
April 28, 2018	Hops and Props	Fort Worth Aviation Museum
May 26, 2018	National WASP World War II Museum	Sweetwater, TX
June 2-7, 2018	74th Normandy D-Day Anniversary	Normandy, France
Jul 13-15, 2018	Greatest Show On Turf	Geneseo, NY
September 20-23, 2018	Operation Market Garden	Holland
October 26-28, 2018	Commemorative Air Force Wings Over Dallas	Dallas Executive Airport
December 13-19	Veteran Affairs Europe Trip	Bastogne, Belgium



Your Board of Directors will attend the International Convention of Airshows again December 3-6, 2018. We look forward to sharing the airshow information, as we have the last few years, after this wonderful event.

SHOUT OUTS and CONGRATULATIONS!



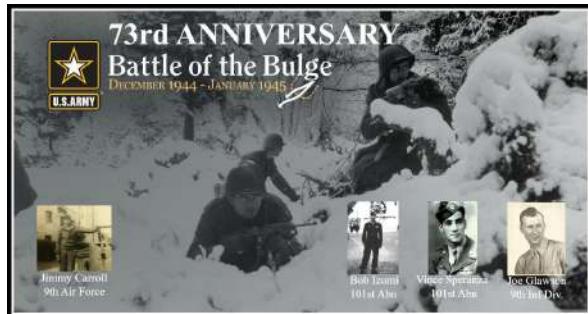
The Liberty Jump Team congratulates our Treasurer, Nick Morey, on his attainment of Series 7, General Security Representative and Series 66, NASAA Uniform Combined State Law Examination licenses. Congratulations, Nick, on a long year of studying and taking on these difficult federal license exams!

The Liberty Jump Team is lucky to have our very own financial planner on staff!

Congratulations to Vice President and Director of Training, Karl Johnson for the purchase of his new home!!!!



LJT Veteran Affairs



Two WWII veterans that participated in the 'Battle of the Bulge' returned to Belgium in December for the first time since the cold winter of 1944/45. For Joe Glawson (9th Infantry Division) and Jim Carroll (9th Air Force), going back to the country they liberated was a trip of a lifetime. Liberty Jump Team USA President, Tracy Huff, along with Veterans Affairs Officer, Peter Plank and his wife Linda, escorted these two heroes and their family members to the 73rd anniversary ceremonies and commemorations that were put on by the thankful and gracious Belgian people. This was the 14th year that Peter has been taking the WWII veterans back to Europe and the countries that these heroes liberated.

Joe Glawson landed in Normandy, France in June 1944 at Utah Beach with the 9th Infantry Division. He fought all through Europe, eventually battling not only the Germans, but the cold, brutal winter of 1944 in the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest. He was wounded in January of 1945 and finished out the war recovering from his injuries. On this trip back to Belgium, Tracy and LJT member Erwin Peters took Joe on a day trip into Germany and the forest where he was wounded.



Jim Carroll was a fuel truck driver who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day +6 and provided fuel to P51 and P38 fighter planes all through France, Holland and Belgium. He would follow the ALG's (Advanced Landing Grounds) as the Allied Army advanced and the airstrips were constructed for the aircraft. In late 1944, his fuel trucks were commandeered by the tank commanders of General Patton to go and get fuel for Patton's tanks that were stranded. In this trip back for Jim, he was escorted by Peter to the American Cemetery in Luxembourg where General Patton is laid to rest. Even though Jim never met General Patton, he was honored to lay flowers and salute the General that he provided fuel for during the war.



This trip was filled with ceremonies, parades, a school visit and a special surprise for the veterans. The schoolchildren of Noville invited the veterans to their school, singing songs and presenting drawings to show heartfelt appreciation to their liberators. The veterans participated in the annual 'Nuts Parade' that commemorates General McAuliffe replying 'Nuts' to the Germans request for surrender. There was also a special invitation to the home and studio of Belgian artist Marie-Elise, who presented paintings to each of the veterans.



The special surprise was arranged by Belgian friend Olivier, who provided a fully restored WWII tank and WWII halftrack for the two veterans to ride in. These two heroes felt like 20 year old soldiers again as they rode down the street and the cheering crowds !!



Each of the group stayed with Belgian host families, who opened up their hearts & their homes....showing a hospitality that will be cherished forever. These WWII heroes were treated like rock stars everywhere they went - signing autographs and taking photos with all that stopped to tell them "MERCI BEAUCOUP POUR LA LIBERATION".

Another trip to Europe is being planned for this coming June, where Peter & Linda will be taking a different group of WWII veterans to Normandy France for the annual D-Day commemorations. If you know of a Greatest Generation hero that served in Europe and would like to go back to France or Belgium, please contact the Liberty Jump Team for more information.



Safety First – ALWAYS!

Carry over from last month – IMPORTANT!

Recently an e-mail was sent to team members for the Westfield Airshow, MA that indicated the carabiner (Fig A) was acceptable as a packing aid to separate lines. Upon review by the Liberty Jump Team Board of Directors, use of this item is NOW BANNED at all Liberty Jump Team events. The suitable tool for separating the lines during packing is the line holder as shown (Fig B). Para Gear sells this item for about \$15.00. Please make the change to your packing kit. If you forget to remove item in Fig. A before a jump, you will have a complete malfunction. We want to ensure we eliminate all variables that could cause a safety issue.



Figure A



Figure B

Even with all the opportunities we give as a team to jump and get current, we know things come up in our personal lives, and finding a place to jump rounds at is not an easy task. Most DZs think rounds are old technology, and no one jumps them anymore, and we all know that is not the case. Either they are scared to jump them themselves, or they are a DZ that is looking to make as much money as they can giving tandem rides.

We have added a page to the website under the “Members Only – Currency Jumps” menu where we list drop zones that we know to be safe places to jump rounds. I invite you all to check them out, and if you have any questions about any of these drop zones, please feel free to send me an email; I will get back to you ASAP.

Brad
Board of Directors, Secretary

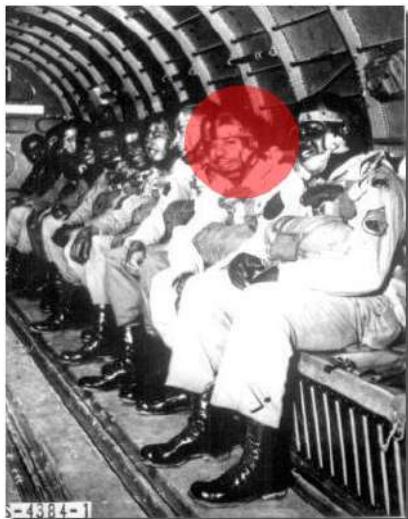


We got the sad news on December 12, 2018 that the last of the surviving original volunteer for the “Triple Nickels” (the all-black parachute regiment), Clarence Beavers passed at the age of 96.

His unit, which formed the original core of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion or Triple Nickels, was never as well known as the Tuskegee Airmen or Buffalo Soldiers. Yet the 17-member group played a seminal role in the integration of the military and the development of smoke jumping, a novel firefighting method in which remote forest fires – sparked by Japanese bombs carried by balloons – were fought by men who protected themselves with modified football helmets and willfully landed in trees.

Beavers was the first volunteer of what was known as the test platoon of black paratroopers, a unit that was meant to decide the fate of African Americans in the airborne. In what he later recalled was “extremely rough and extremely personal training,” he and his fellow black soldiers slept two-to-a-bunk in a cramped, unheated hut and ate separately from their white peers in the mess hall. German prisoners of war experienced better conditions at the base, platoon members later said.

Still, 17 of the unit’s 20 original members, successfully earned their wings, becoming the founding members of the all-black 555th.



The 555th was sent to the Pacific Northwest in 1945 to work with the National Park Service fighting forest fires started by Japan's balloon bombs on a secret counter-terrorism mission entitled “Operation Firefly”.



The Triple Nickels responded to about three dozen fire calls and performed more than 1,200 individual jumps, putting out fires started by bombs as well as by lightning or other natural causes. Working with crosscut saws, shovels and a combination digging-cutting tool called a Pulaski, they sought to starve fires using similar methods to those of contemporary smoke jumpers.

Contrary to their training, when they practiced landing in open fields, they avoided the risk of landing in a rock-strewn meadow or prairie and aimed for the trees themselves – wearing a protective helmet that mixed elements of a football helmet and mesh-faced fencing mask to guard against stray branches.

The 2d Ranger Company in the Korean War were recruited from the Triple Nickel when they were disbanded after desegregation and the 2d Ranger Company became the only all-black Ranger company in history. Mr. Beavers, a staff sergeant after the war, left the service and worked for the VA and DoD retiring in 1978 and becoming a volunteer firefighter in Upstate NY.

Butch Garner, Senior Jump Master
AKA ZButch



Board of Directors Contact Information

Dominique Launay	President ETO	Tracy Huff	President - USA
deltalima44@aol.com	337 60 07 25 77	Tracyiamme@yahoo.com	210-573-5867
Jil Launay		Vice President - Operations and Events	
prncssfrg52@gmail.com		817-966-1026	
Karl Johnson		Vice President - Operations and Training	
defenderontheroad@hotmail.com		817-692-0269	
Nick Morey		Treasurer	
nickmorey40@gmail.com		210-705-4505	
Brad Krewench		Secretary	
bkrewench.ljt@gmail.com		226-345-9252	
Butch Garner		Senior Jump Master	
bgarner82ndab@yahoo.com		727-867-3125	
Jim Micko		Senior Rigger	
mickojim@yahoo.com		478-662-8252	
Peter Plank		Director of Veterans Affairs	
peterplank@yahoo.com		405-474-0900	
David Accetta		Director of Public Relations	
david.a.accetta.civ@mail.mil		910-551-7566	

Headquarters
1515 Mount Gilead Road, Roanoke, Texas 76262

San Antonio Branch
13702 Ridge Farm, San Antonio, Texas 78230

