

1-507th PIR



Hunters from the Sky

# I-507th PIR (Airborne) Static Line News

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## Commanders Corner

As you may have heard we recently experienced a training fatality during the Basic Airborne Course. At this time, I cannot comment on the incident due to the ongoing investigation, but we continue to jump the T-II and are reemphasizing the 3rd point of performance during Sustained Airborne Training. I will be sure to provide feedback to the force regarding this unfortunate accident in our next issue. See the PLR link below for more.

In this issue you will find articles on safety, new equipment, and a study regarding rigger packing injuries. Our hope is that we can keep units informed about recent developments in the Airborne Community and spur conversation at lower levels concerning jumper and rigger safety. Until next time, keep your feet and knees together, and eyes on the horizon.



**LTC Carl L. Bergmann**  
Commander of I-507 PIR

<http://www.benning.army.mil/>

## Combat Equipped Jumper Safety Concerns

The past quarter here at the Airborne school we have been fielding questions from a plethora of units asking about the best method in which to jump body armor (IOTV/IBA), MOLLE rucks, etc.

Before rushing into kitting up a Paratrooper and pushing them from a high performance aircraft in flight there are several factors we as leaders need to focus on in order to better set our paratroopers up for success.

If jumping an IOTV with E-SAPI inserts is paramount to mission success, there is absolutely no reason not to do so. What we need to be careful with, however, is to be sure we are rigging and JMPL'ing our paratroopers

IAW FM 3-21.220 and published Safety Confirmation Letters from the Developmental Test Command (DTC). Are jumpmasters instructing during Pre-jump to push down on the E-SAPI plate before landing to prevent neck injury? The Safety Confirmation Letter (IBA-Amendment 3) explains this additional point of performance. Another factor which demands our attention is paratrooper total weight. Unit leaders at all levels as well as Jumpmasters are responsible for ensuring paratroopers aren't burdened so much by their equipment that they cannot vigorously exit the aircraft.

Ultimately, it's a leader decision whether a jumper dons the IOTV, packs it in their ruck, packages it in a

door bundle, etc. Bottom line-the decision has to make sense not just from a mission execution standpoint but also a safety and practicality standpoint. Before making a decision on the paratrooper's equipment configuration, always ensure you reference published FMs and Safety Confirmation Letters. For JMPL of a combat equipper paratrooper, check out our link.

<http://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/>



Of course it'll work Johnson...

## Modular Airborne Weapons Case Fielding

As new equipment is approved for use during Airborne Operations, Jumpmasters here at the 507th work closely with Army test agencies to ensure the force is getting the right information about the latest and greatest gear.

Certain units across the Army are fielding or are preparing to receive the Modular Airborne Weapons Case (MAWC). The MAWC is a newly designed tactical weapons case for use during Airborne Operations that is padded, durable, lightweight and adjustable to accommodate multiple weapons or equipment concurrently.

It comes in 2 sizes: small and large. It provides the capability to deliver a paratrooper's weapon and select special items of equipment to the ground during an airborne assault without disassembly and without sustaining damage to the weapon system or special

equipment. These capabilities allow paratroopers to rapidly place their weapon(s) into operation upon landing.

The US Army Evaluation Center published a Safety Confirmation Letter highlighting the characteristics, capabilities, and limitations of the MAWC complete with recommended rigging/JMPI procedures. For detailed instructions on how to rig/JMPI the MAWC, please use the hyperlink below.

<http://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/>



Fully extended Small (Left) and Large (Right) MAWCs

## Advanced Emergency Bailout Parachute (AEBP)

The Advanced Emergency Bailout Parachute (AEBP) has been adopted by the Army in response to USAF policy which directed the removal of all non-essential equipment for the C-17 & C-130 fleets by 30 Sep 13.

AEBP improvements over US Air Force system (BA-18) are decreased system size and weight (17lbs vs. 27lbs), increased jumper weight (300 lbs vs. 240), lower opening shock, lower rate of descent (14 ft vs. 20 ft for 200lbs). Training is conducted by DVD instructional video and during the Primary Jumpmaster's Jumpmaster team rehearsal.



Back and side view of AEBP

During the Jumpmaster team's Sustained Airborne Training, the Primary Jumpmaster should review Body Position, Ripcord Activation, Emergency Procedures as they apply with the Static Line Parachute being jumped and Landing. You may view the training DVD by opening the Training Video link. The inspection process for the AEBP should also be reviewed so proper PMCS can be conducted before use.



Training Video

<http://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/>



### T-11 Rigger Ergonomics Assessment

After an initial study done by the MCoE Safety Office and Occupational Therapy it was identified that our riggers are experiencing an increase in injuries that is believed to root from the packing procedures of the T-11.

These injuries included several cases of Carpel Tunnel of the wrist, as well as elbow, shoulder, and knee pain and upper back strains. Several Soldiers have undergone surgeries to have cysts removed from tendons and ligaments in the hands.

The MCoE Safety Office has reached out to other rigger

units to include Ft. Lee's Safety Office to see if other rigger units have been experiencing these issues.

There are currently no other units that pack as many T-11 parachutes as the Basic Airborne School riggers do. They assemble an average of 3300 T-11 parachutes monthly. Each T-11 rigger packs 15 T-11 parachutes daily. One finding from the study was the rigging and workstation standards for the heavier, more complicated T-11 parachute were not changed to accommodate the rigging of the larger canopy. This compounds the difficulty riggers face in packing the parachute. There is no indication that gender plays a part in these work related injuries.

One of the recommendations from MCoE Safety Office

and Occupational Therapy is a new hydraulic or electric work table that will accommodate a larger and heavier parachute. The riggers leadership has also taken a lead in reassessing the physical fitness programs to increase muscular strength and endurance for riggers' wrist, elbow, shoulder, back and knees.



## Want to be a Black Hat?



**Are you interested in becoming an Airborne School Instructor?**

Come join the 507th PIR team and become a member of the prestigious Airborne School!

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Pathfinder School

Ranger School

Silver Wings Demonstration Freefall Team



If interested in joining the 507th Team, or if you have any questions please contact S3 NCOIC at **706-545-6262**.