



JEEPERS TOSCO 76

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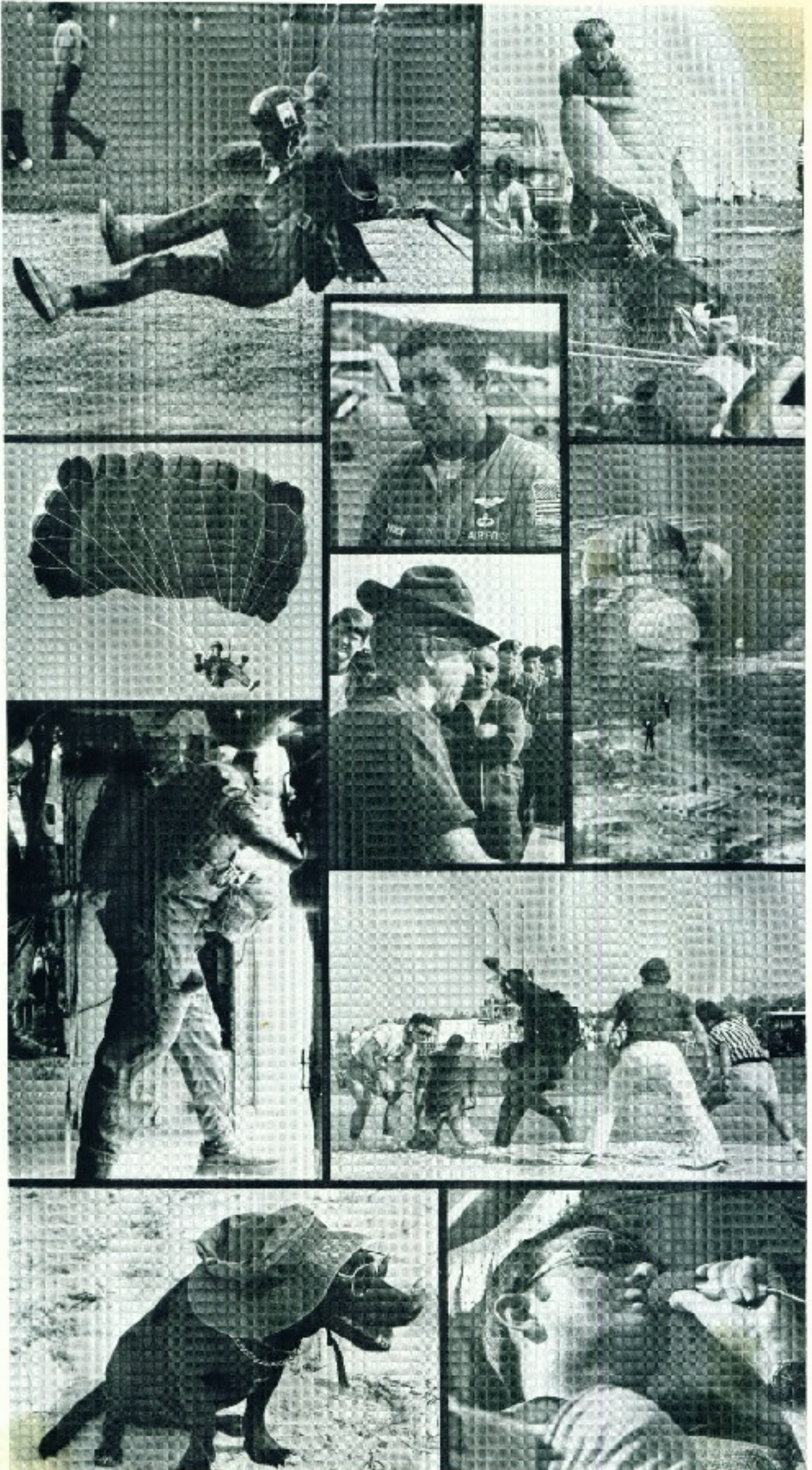
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JUMPFEST '76

The history of Jumpfest dates back to the days of the Southeast Asia War when an Air Force Technical Sergeant named John W. Hall came up with the idea to host a military parachute competition in honor of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Little did he know at that time, but his idea would flourish into the largest military parachuting competition known. "Thanks John, hope to see you this year."

It all happened in October 1970 when, with the help of the 1st Special Operations Wing Combat Control Team and Colonel Harry C. Howton, U.S. Air Force retired, Air Force Association POW/MIA Committee area coordinator, the first POW/MIA Jumpfest was held at the U.S. Army Ranger Camp.

With 150 jumpers participating and the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Parachuting Team taking top honors, the free-fall and static line competition proved to be a tremendous success.

Although the military parachutists had shown their support of the prisoners and missing, they weren't about to quit there. To further prove their support they held two more POW/MIA Jumpfests, in 1971 and 1972, before the Prisoners of War were released in 1973.

It was then in 1973, that the contemporary name "4th Annual Jumpfest" originated and the competition had grown to be one of the highlights of military competition. The meet was also moved to Hurlburt Field and became international when members of the Royal Canadian Air Force entered.

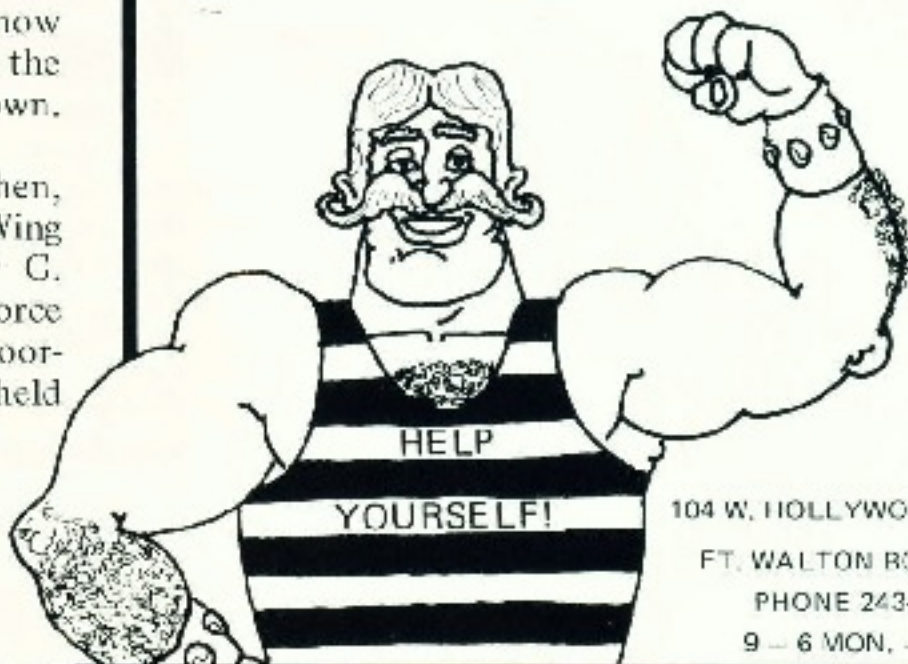
As Jumpfest continued to grow, the 5th Annual Jumpfest in 1974 brought more than 300 competitors who delighted the some 20,000 spectators with their aerial competition and demonstrations.

The annual Jumpfest has come a long way since its founding, and the 6th Annual Jumpfest promises to be the biggest and best yet. More than 350 participants are expected to compete with a Bicentennial demonstration of four-man teams trailing smoke for 5,000 feet highlighting the event.

It is hoped that spirit in which Jumpfest is held will continue to grow bringing the competitors together wherever it may be held in the future. --- Joe DeCredico

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WORLD'S LONGEST FREE FALL

A red haired Air Force Colonel became a Prisoner of War in Hanoi in May of 1972. Almost a year later, in March 1973, the record holder for the world's longest free-fall, Colonel Joseph W. Kittinger, Jr., returned to his family and the continuation of an Air Force career.

As a part of an Air Force experimental project known as *Excelsior*, Colonel Kittinger, then Captain made three record breaking jumps, - the first and second from 76,000 feet and the third from 102,800 feet. On the first jump, Colonel Kittinger left the gondola of his balloon and upon reaching a terminal velocity of 423 miles per hour, went into a flat spin. Had it not been for a specially designed chute, he would not have made it. On the second jump everything went perfectly.

He was ready for the third and final jump.

In an open gondola, hung beneath a shimmering cloud of plastic, he ascends to the awesome height of 102,800 feet. He looks about him at a world that is not the world of man. The atmosphere of his planet lies beneath him. The velvet blackness of space is close enough to reach out and touch. He is absolutely alone. He stands up in the open door of the gondola; he looks down at the clouds, turns and depresses the button to start all the cameras.

Now-home lies straight down. To reach there safely is a task beyond his control.

He looks up, and the words ring sharp and clear as he says, "Lord, take care of me now". He stepped out -- 102,800 feet above the earth. He has no sensation of falling, no wind hissing in his ears or billowing his clothing. Even when he had reaches 90,000 feet and a speed of 702 miles per hour, he has only an exhilarating feeling of just hanging in space.

Having fallen approximately 17.5 miles in four minutes, thirty seconds, he is at 18,000 feet. His main chute opens. The prayer of thanksgiving comes through in a clear, crisp voice to the *Excelsior* ground crew.

"Thank you, God, thank you.

Thank you for protecting me during that long descent.

Thank you, God.

Thank you"

Colonel Kittinger has written a breathtaking story of the man who made the world's highest jump, *THE LONELY LEAP* by Captain Joseph W. Kittinger, Jr., USAF, with Martin Caidin.

Thank you for your contribution to parachuting Joe, and welcome home!



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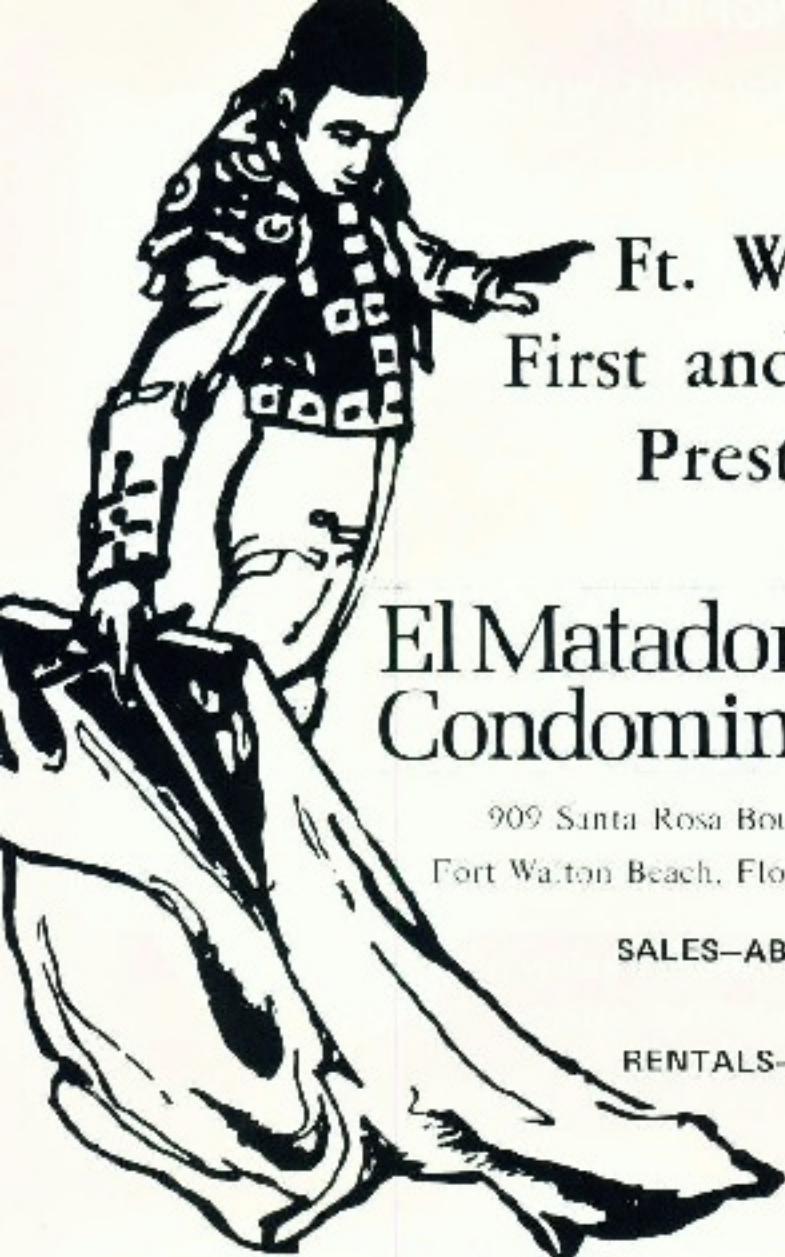
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PORTS OF ASIA





Photo by Jerry Irwin

HOW YOU WIN

The tall slender figure stands, sweat forming on his anxious face. He is bent slightly forward straining to see the spot where his team will jump.

As he reminisces over past attempts, he thinks of his mistakes and how he will correct them this time.

He is a military parachutist preparing for his final chance at the 6th Annual Jumpfest crown.

The noise of the whirling propellers and the whine of the engines is almost deafening but he is determined to keep his concentration.

Far below, circled around a pea gravel pit, some 12,000 spectators crane their necks for the first glimpse of the jumpers leaving the aircraft. Although they are only spectators, they feel the tenseness in the air ... almost as if they were up there waiting their turn.

Suddenly, the jumper sees his teams spot telling him the moment of truth is here. As his team leaps from the plane they instantly begin their descent towards earth where one mistake could cost them another year of preparation.

Around the pit, people point, feeling the satisfaction that they were the first to see the small dark objects dot the sky. A small lump begins to grow in their throat as they feel the pressure of this the final day of competition.

After only a few seconds, the chutes open and the parachutists begin to maneuver towards the pit. From where they are they can't see it, but they know in the middle of that pit is a small 3-inch disc ... the only thing separating them from the sweet taste of victory or a long ride home.

As they come closer to the disc, the fans wave and cheer their favorites on, hoping they'll be the ones who take home the shining trophies this year.

Yet, as the old cliché goes, it matters not who wins, its how you drink your beer afterwards that counts.

Joe DeCredico



The Point

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GENERAL RULES

1. Since one of the prime goals of the Jumpfest is to further community relations, it would be greatly appreciated if all jumpers would cooperate as fully as possible in answering the questions and helping with the problems the public may have.
2. This is a military meet and the jumpers will conduct themselves in a military manner.
3. Due to the proximity of the target area to the public, no profanity will be tolerated by the jumpers.
4. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed in the designated area during parachute competition.
5. Any jumper suspected of consuming alcoholic beverages twelve hours prior to a scheduled jump will be eliminated from competition.
6. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES!**

ACCURACY EVENT RULES

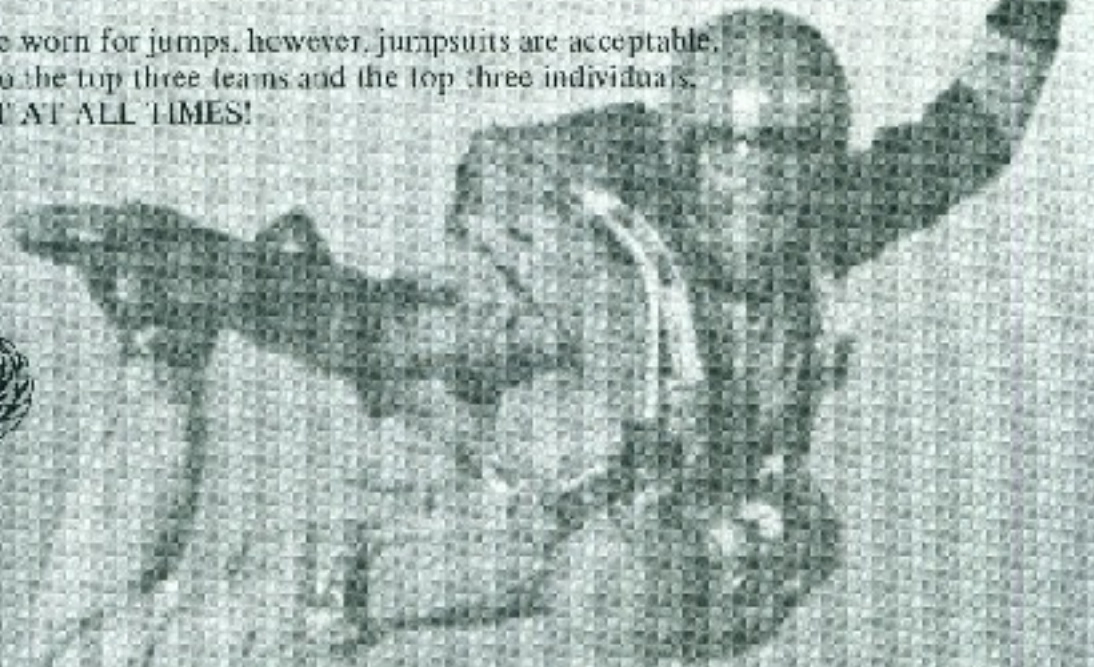
1. Teams will be made up of four jumpers who are United States Parachute Association members, "C" License-qualified.
2. Each team will be required to spot for themselves.
3. The target will be a 10-meter pit with everything outside that pit considered an "OUT".
4. Additional rules will be briefed by the Chief Judge.
5. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams and the top three individuals.
6. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES!**

DEMONSTRATION EVENT

1. Teams will be made up of four jumpers who are United States Parachute Association members, "C" License-qualified.
2. One jump will be made by each team, with the exit point determined by the Chief Judge.
3. Scoring will be based on execution, originality and beauty of the jump. Themes for the event will be Bicentennial oriented.
4. Additional rules will be briefed by the Chief Judge.
5. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams.
6. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES!**

STATIC LINE RULES

1. Teams will be made up of four personnel currently on jump status.
2. Parachutes will be either A-28S-12's, -17's, or -18's.
3. Each jumper will be timed from the time he hits the ground until he reaches the "dead center disc." All four jumpers' times will be totaled for a team time.
4. Each team will be required to spot for themselves.
5. Jumpers must arrive at the "dead center disc" with all equipment jumped, i.e., main chute, reserve chute etc.
6. Personnel will be disqualified if their parachutes touch while in the air or if capwell covers are opened.
7. Civilian clothing will not be worn for jumps, however, jumpsuits are acceptable.
8. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams and the top three individuals.
9. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES!**



JUMPFEST

Meet Director

Assistant Meet Director

Meet Coordinator
Chief Judge

Chief Rigger/Manifestor

Facilities Manager

Safety Officer

Narrator

Chief Scorer

Administration

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PROPOSED SCHEDULE

23 April -	0800	Start Registration
	1200-1600	Practice Jumps
24 April -	0630	End Registration
	0645	Brief by Meet Director
	0700	Brief by Chief Judge
		Explanation of all Rules and Regulations. Points of interest and safety are pointed out to the jumpers (i.e.) obstacles & electrical lines.
	0730	Wind Drift Indicator
		A 20' ft. Length of Grape Paper weighted to fall at the same rate of speed as a jumper under canopy.
	0745	Start Static Line Competition
		Explanation of Static Line and Free-Fall Competition. Explained on page 28.
	1000	Start Free-Fall Competition
	1900	End Competition for the day
25 April -	0645	Wind Streamer
	0700	Static Line Competition
	0900	Free-Fall Competition
	1700	End Competition
	1930	Banquet and Trophy Presentation (Hurlburt Officers Club)

***Subject to Change – Due to Weather**



COMMITTEE

Maj. David G. Larson

Capt. R. L. Wildermuth

SMSgt. Chesley Bowden

Skip "Cunny" Giles

TSgt. Henry A. Schaeffer

SSgt. Wayne C. Gardner

TSgt. Donald S. Hammond

1st Lt. Rufard G. Norris

Sgt. Daniel E. Blankenship

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Combat Control Team

The requirement for a definite method of assisting airlift aircraft in reaching specific combat objective areas was first realized during the airborne operations of World War II. During the summer of 1943, two battalions of airborne troops were dropped thirty miles from their drop zone (DZ), while another battalion was released 55 miles from the DZ. Their failure identified the need for effective control in guidance of aircraft into an objective area.

By the fall of 1943, the Army had trained a small parachute scout company of "Pathfinders" to provide visual guidance to incoming aircraft. The idea worked in Italy, Normandy, and again in Holland. After the United States Air Force was established as a separate service, tactical airlift and aerial port squadrons assumed the responsibility for support of the United States Army ground forces.

The Air Force studied and identified the deficiencies in tactics and equipment used to locate the mark DZs. The Air Force began designing radios and radar homing devices to work in conjunction with aircraft then under development. The Air Force was also tasked to recruit and train its own Pathfinder teams to work with the new equipment.

The first group of volunteers began training for the newly designated Air Force Pathfinder Teams (later redesignated as Combat Control Teams of CCTs) in January 1953. They would provide navigational aids for and aid traffic control of the growing airlift forces. These men would be highly trained as air traffic controllers, radio maintenance men, pathfinders, medics, weather observers, frogmen, forward air controllers, and rangers.

Where there is a need for airborne troops or tactical aircraft, you will find CCTs. They have served in places like the Congo, Lebanon, Panama, The Dominican Republic, Quemoy-Ma-Tsu, the Sino-Indian War, and, of course, the Vietnam conflict.

Natural disasters see controllers reestablishing communications with isolated regions, providing air traffic control at remote airstrips to conduct emergency evacuation efforts (such as in Peru in 1967). A CCT served at the International Airport, Managua, Nicaragua, after the 1972 Christmas earthquake. More recently, in Mali and Chad, Combat Controllers were sent in to survey drop zone and landing zone locations and to assist with the distribution of food and supplies in one of the worst droughts Africa has ever seen.

Often called on to train units of the National Guard, Reserves, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and foreign countries, Combat Controllers have earned a reputation the world over for their esprit de corps and professionalism. This willingness to do anything, anytime, anywhere has made the Combat Control Teams of the United States Air Force among the finest military units in the world.

M. (Bud) Gorzales