

FOURTH ANNUAL MILITARY JUMPFEST '73

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What is a Combat Controller?

He's a combination commando, ranger, forward air controller, medic, pathfinder, paratrooper, frogman, weather observer, radio maintenance man and air traffic controller.

The Combat Controller receives more training than most airmen receive in an entire career. He starts out with air traffic control or radio maintenance school and then attends Army Airborne School. He's then assigned to a Combat Control Team unit where he starts his special training. He attends a rugged Combat Control School where he learns the basic tactics of Combat Control. From there it's on to basic survival school, water survival, jungle survival, and arctic survival schools. Specially selected members attend Pararescue Medical School, Self-Contained Under Water Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) School and High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) School. In Pararescue Medical School he learns to perform everything from emergency tracheotomy to setting broken bones. The SCUBA school trains him to infiltrate under water to a desired objective. The HALO school trains him to parachute behind enemy lines by jumping from altitudes as high as 43,500 feet free falling down to 2,500 feet parachute opening altitude, and then guiding the parachute to an exact point on the ground.

Why does a Combat Controller receive so much training? When Army airborne troops parachute behind enemy lines, the Combat Controller is already there. He has utilized one of the many methods of infiltration he has been trained in. He has scouted the area, set up radar beacons, marked the drop zone and controlled the airdrop aircraft to the exact location.

The Combat Controller performs his mission any time there's a need for airborne troops or tactical airlift. He's been called on during many crises the world over: The Congo, Lebanon, Panama, Dominican Republic and, of course Vietnam. The first team arrived in December 1964 and from that time until the U. S. withdrawal they supported every operation that required airlift of supplies or troops. Combat Controllers were the key to the successful resupply of Marines during the 78 day siege of Khe Sanh. They controlled all the aircraft and the air

Continued on page 6



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What is a Combat Controller? Continued

dropping of supplies so necessary for survival of the base. They set up radar beacons and guided the aircraft to the drop zone. The Combat Controllers were often under heavy fire, with as many as 1000 rounds of artillery dropping in on the base a day. Eight Combat Controllers received Purple Hearts during the siege.

Not all guts and glory! The Combat Controller must spend many hours in the class room learning new techniques and reviewing the tactics and procedures that he must know to complete the mission. He also must repair and constantly check radios and other equipment to make sure it's in top condition, so that if the word comes to deploy, he is ready. Why do men volunteer for such hazardous, often very demanding duty? It can be summed up by the words of a young Combat Control sergeant who stated "I volunteered for Combat Control duty not because I like the hard work and training, but because I like the kind of people who are in the outfit." □



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A Little Bit About **PARACHUTING** by a Guy who does a lot of it!

Bill Frankenberger
D-1098, USPA I/E

Watching a parachute meet such as the Military Jumpfest can be more enjoyable if you have just a little knowledge of this terrific activity called sport parachuting. So, if you will, let your imagination fly and picture joining hands with nine of your best friends, ten thousand feet above the earth's green surface while falling at 127 miles per hour. Imagine twisting your body through a style series of turns and backloops, trying to beat the judges eye and the stopwatch. Performing every aerobatic maneuver an aircraft is capable of, except, going back up. Have you ever rode the breeze? Sport Parachutists do, and they land with amazing accuracy on a small target only ten centimeters in diameter.

These then are the three major elements, relative work, style and accuracy, they make up the phenomenal sport of parachuting. Of course, there are those who simply jump for the pure joy of it. They are the fun jumpers of the world.

Who are these people who leap from perfectly good airplanes. Are they stunt men or daredevils who scorn life and taunt death as the ultimate challenge? The answer is a most emphatic no! On the contrary, they are serious participants of a sport they trust and enjoy to the utmost. Parachutists come from nearly every walk of life. They are laborers, doctors, educators, military men and house-wives. They are well trained and are provided with the best possible equipment. No, he isn't fool-hardy or reckless, through knowledge and constant training they have learned the art of free fall and turned the space above the earth into a playground where they and their friends romp confident in their skill and equipment.

Military sport parachutists have traditionally led the country in competition. The first U. S. World Champion was Sergeant James Arender of the U. S. Army Golden Knights. He was followed in 1964 by Sergeant Richard Fortenberry, again a Golden Knight. In fact the 1973 National Championships saw the military take the lead in competitive parachuting with Air Force Captain John Wolfe as a new world record holder accumulating only six centimeters for a total of ten jumps. Sergeants' Benion, Collingwood, and Hall of the Golden Knights captured three of the five United States Parachute Team Slots, with the fourth going to former team mate ex-Sergeant Stan Hlicks. Third place style went to Air Force Academy Cadet Hayhurst. So this year as in years past, military men, now too numerous to mention have proven themselves in this sport.

The sport parachutists may be sixteen or sixty, man or woman, military or civilian but what ever his age, gender, or occupation he is always a person who accepts challenge as a part of his daily life. □

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HISTORY of the 1st SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING MILITARY JUMPFEST

It all started back in January 1970 with several members of the Combat Control Team discussing the idea of having a Jumpfest dedicated to the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia. The team formulated a basic plan and presented it to the Wing Commander. He bought the idea and the wheels were set in motion. The entire Combat Control Team began working on the project spending long, off duty hours in preparation for the first Jumpfest. It was held in October 1970 at the Army Ranger Camp with competition in free-fall accuracy and four man demonstration teams judged by the POW/MIA wives. More than 150 jumpers showed up and after three days of tough competition, the U. S. Air Force Academy walked away with top honors in both events.

Plans were immediately made for a bigger and better Jumpfest in 1971. Since there was a large number of jumpers not free-fall qualified, it was decided to add a static line competition. The 2nd Annual Jumpfest brought 200 jumpers and 8,000 spectators.

The 1972 competition was the biggest yet with 300 jumpers, 150 free-fall and 150 static line competitors and an estimated 10,000 spectators.

The 4th Annual Jumpfest should be the best so far. We have moved to Hurlburt Field which will make it a lot more convenient for jumpers and spectators alike. The jumpfest has gone international by having members of the Royal Canadian Air Force competing. In addition to the Canadians, there are teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Reserves of all branches of the Armed Forces. The teams come from as far away as Europe, Panama, Alaska, and every section of the United States. We are expecting well over 300 competitors and many thousands of spectators.

Like all good things, the annual Jumpfest keeps growing larger and better. We hope to keep improving it and by doing so, bring back all the competitors and spectators for years to come. □



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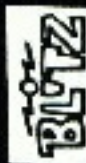
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HISTORY OF COMBAT CONTROLL

Combat Control first came into being early in 1953 after a detailed study had been made on troop carrier aircraft and other phases of airborne operations. The study went back to WW II and the island of Sicily, when, with no ground party to guide the aircraft into any particular drop zones, the 82nd Airborne was scattered over such a large area that they couldn't assemble in a force sizable enough to carry out the invasion as planned. The larger German units isolated and inflicted heavy casualties on these smaller American groups. The Army Pathfinders were then organized, trained, and utilized with a great degree of success in the subsequent invasion of France and, later, in Korea. However, equipment and navigational aids limitations prevented complete success. The Air Force study identified many of the deficiencies in the tactics and equipment used to locate and mark drop zones.

The Air Force began designing radios and radar homing devices to work in conjunction with the new aircraft under development. The Air Force was also tasked to recruit and train their own Pathfinder teams to work with this new equipment. Lawson Army Airfield, in July 1953, saw the first group of volunteers begin training for the newly designated Combat Control Team.

Today, these Combat Control Teams (CCTs) are a highly trained, elite group of men who work and train with all branches of the service. The basic team consists of two officers and twenty-two enlisted men. The training necessary for one of these individuals to qualify for combat ready status normally takes from one to one and a half years. The men are trained in all areas of infiltration, exfiltration, and evasion. Deployment methods, such as, static line and HALO parachuting, helicopter assault, amphibious assault, SCUBA infiltration, rappelling, or on foot, are as important in their training as weapons, hand-to-hand combat, and basic medicine. When a team goes into an area, they carry all equipment necessary to perform the mission. Radios, radar transponder devices, night lighting equipment, etc., are divided among the members so, even if casualties are sustained, the mission can be carried out.

Continued on page 11

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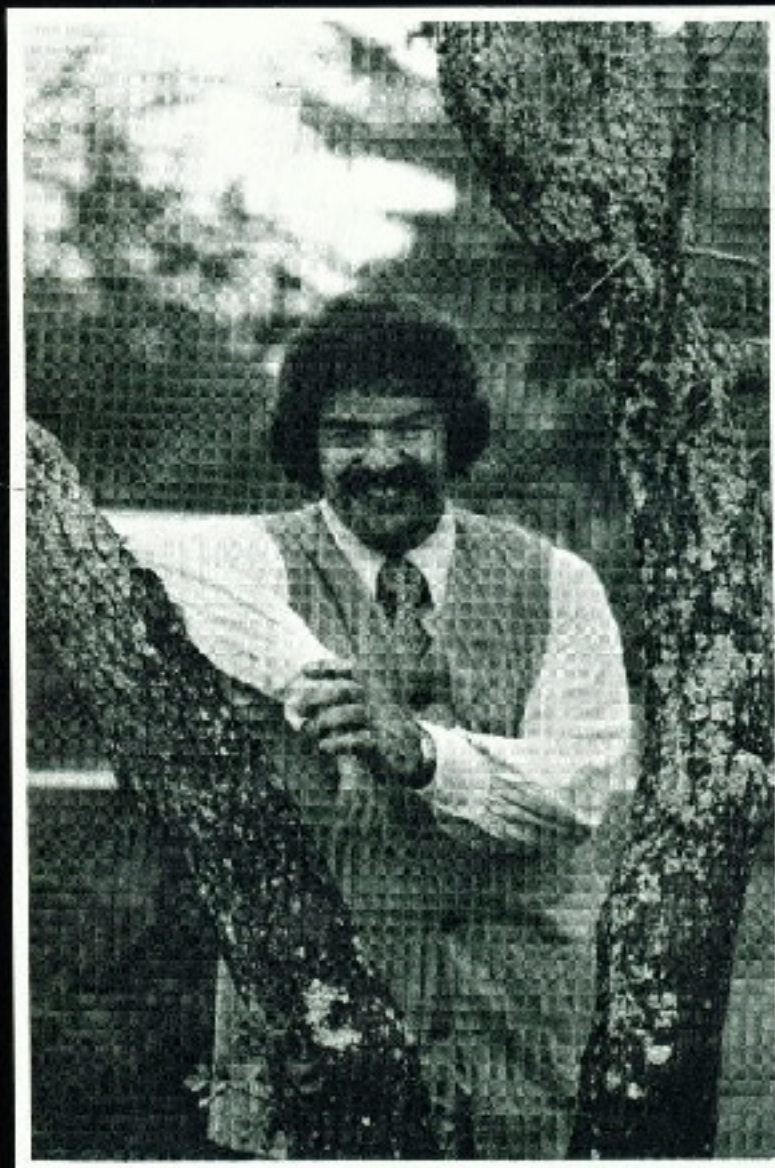
This reanover
is known as
the Combat Control
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One example of how CCTs are utilized would be in a large scale airborne assault to establish an airhead. In this type operation, one aircraft would precede the main force by 30 to 60 minutes. This aircraft would carry the CCT and an Army Assault Team whose mission is to provide fire support for the CCT while they are establishing the drop zone. When the main force arrives, the CCT would control all airdrops and medical evacuations, coordinate with artillery and air support, and maintain long range communications until the main assault force is assembled on the ground.

Combat Controllers played an active role in the Vietnam conflict. Khan Duc, Khe San, and the A Shau Valley are a few of the areas familiar to CCT veterans of the conflict. Few pilots have flown over Vietnam without hearing "TOLLHOUSE" or "TAILPIPE", callsigns assigned to the team's operating in Southeast Asia.

Continued on page 14



DAVID SHEA

PHOTOGRAPHER



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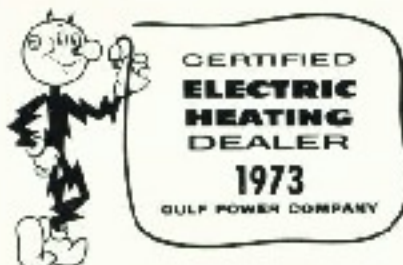
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History of Combat Control Continued

Response to airlift operations has not been restricted to Vietnam alone. Quemoy-MaTsu, Lebanon, and the Congo Crisis had Combat Controllers in action again. The first critical days of the Dominican Crisis saw Combat Controllers providing vital, round-the-clock air traffic control information. During the Sino-Indian war, CCTs worked at altitudes exceeding 10,000 feet to establish drop and landing zones and to provide weather information and communications for the airlift forces staging out of New Delhi.

Combat Controllers have aided people plagued by natural disasters. After the 1967 Peruvian earthquake, Combat Controllers were among the first to be on the scene to aid in humanitarian relief efforts for the earthquake's victims. They re-established communications with isolated areas and, under austere conditions, provided air traffic control at a remote airstrip to conduct emergency evacuation efforts. 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.

Because of the expertise and proficiency demonstrated by these men, they are often called on to train other units, including those from the National Guard, Reserves, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and foreign countries.

Combat Controllers have a reputation the world over for their esprit de corps and professionalism. They have always lived up to their motto, "First In, Last Out." 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. □



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Col. Joseph W. Kittinger, a recently returned Prisoner of War, will long be remembered as the man who made the worlds longest free fall jumps.

As part of an Air Force experiment called Project Excelsior, Colonel, then Captain, Kittinger made three record breaking jumps. The first and second from 76,000 feet and the third from 102,800 feet. On the first jump Col. Kittinger left the gondola of his balloon and, upon reaching a terminal velocity of 423 miles per hour, went into a flat spin and, had it not been for a special designed chute, he would not have made it. On the second jump everything went perfectly and he was ready for the third and final leap.

When Col. Kittinger stepped out of the Gondola at 102,800 feet he had no sensation of falling, no wind hissing in his ears or billowing his clothing, even when he had reached 90,000 feet and a speed of 702 miles per hour he had only an exhilarating feeling of just hanging in space.

After four minutes, thirty seven seconds in free fall his main chute opened at 18,000 feet.

To Col. Kittinger we all say thank you for your contributions to parachuting and welcome home. □



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1st Special Operations Wing

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1st Special Operations Wing History

From the "Burma Bridge-Busters" of World War II to the veterans of Vietnam, the 1st Special Operations Wing (TAC) at Hurlburt Field, Fla., has written a page in the history of special air operations.

As the 1st Air Commando Group in WW II, the unit won the Presidential Unit Citation for flying fighter-cover, airstrikes and airlift missions for American Special Forces fighting behind enemy lines in Burma. Since reactivation in 1962, the 1st Special Operations Wing has won the United States Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The wing's modern history began with the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron organized at Hurlburt Field in 1961. Nicknamed "Jungle Jira," this nucleus anticipated President John F. Kennedy's order to strengthen America's ability to fight guerilla warfare. By 1962, the 4400th CCTS had evolved into the 1st Air Commando Group. In 1968, the name was changed to 1st Special Operations Wing.

The 1st SOWg has the largest variety of aircraft in any United States operational wing, maintaining over 175 aircraft of 12 different types and 18 different models. The wing's fighters, transports, forward air control and training aircraft - many developed during World War II - are currently the backbone of Special Operations of the United States and allied forces in Southeast Asia.



Personnel of the 1st Special Operations Wing are prepared for rapid reaction to global counterinsurgency. The wing trains air and ground crews to instruct and assist allied forces in all phases of special air operations. For example, the wing has established a training program for Vietnamese in the A-1 and during 1970 graduated its first class of Thai pilots in the OV-10. Training includes air support, search and recovery escort, forward air control, reconnaissance, aerial resupply, tactical airlift and psychological operations.

The 1st Special Operations Wing has units at four other locations: Holley Field, Fla., nearby Eglin Air Force Base Auxiliary Field Three; Otis AFB, Mass.; and Pope AFB, N.C. □

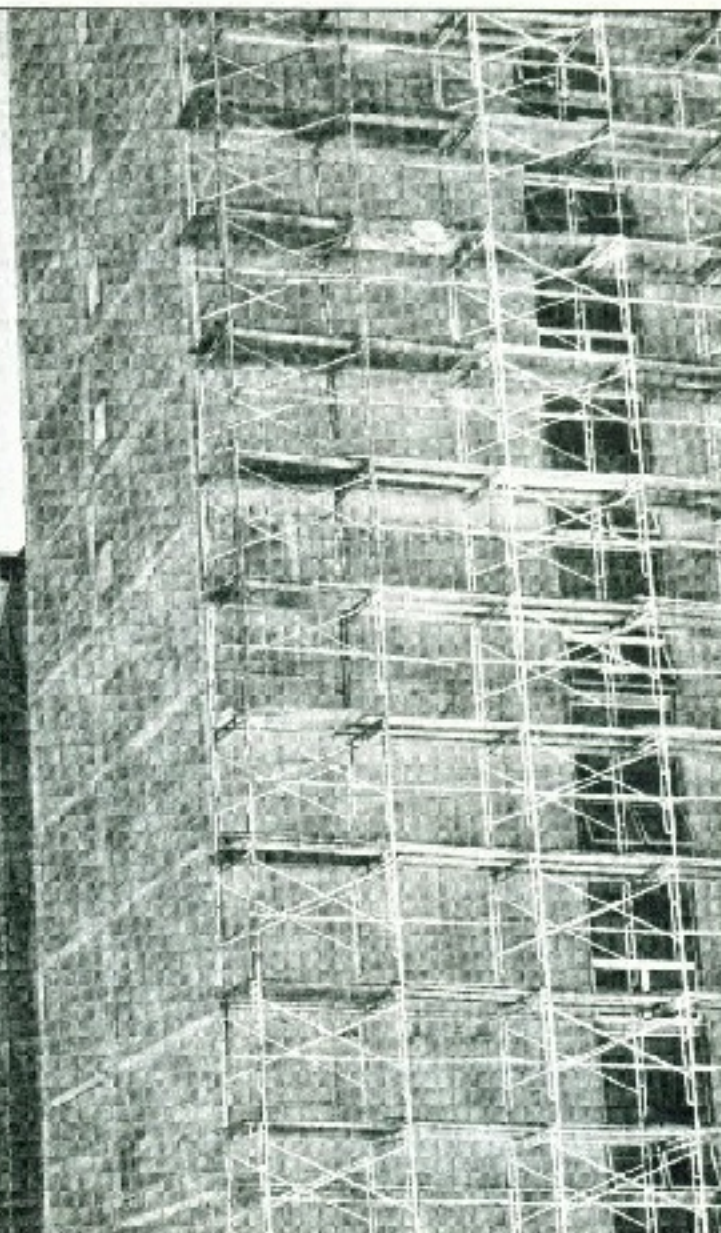


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SOF IS KEY ELEMENT FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY

Counterinsurgency

This single word describes the mission of the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Force (SOF), headquartered at Eglin AFB, Fla., and its various units. This special facet of Tactical Air Command's (TAC) complex organization is relatively recent in TAC's short history.

A descendant of the first Air Commando force which operated in the Pacific Theater during World War II, SOF was activated April 27, 1962, as the Special Air Warfare Center. The present name was adopted in July 1968.

Emphasis in the Special Operations Force program is placed on solving social and economic problems through civic action programs. The Force's internal defense concept promotes joint action in coordination with other military services and the United States national agencies in assisting friendly governments in preventing insurgency and maintaining or restoring internal security.

Because of specialized air missions that often require the use of unimproved landing and operational areas, the Special Operations Force uses a wide range of propeller-driven, light jet and helicopter aircraft. These include the C-47 Skytrain, C-123 Provider, AC-119 and AC-130 Gunships, A-1 Skyraider, A-37 Dragonfly jet attack aircraft, O-1E Bird Dog, O-2 Super Skymaster, U-10, OV-10 Bronco and UH-1 helicopter.

One of the most effective weapons ever developed for guerrilla warfare is the side-firing gunship of the Special Operations Force. Three different aircraft make up the gunship armada - the AC-47, AC-119 and AC-130. The AC-130 is equipped with four Gatling guns and four 20mm cannons. The AC-119 gunship is equipped with two auxiliary jet engines and 20mm as well as 7.62mm cannons. The AC-47, the original gunship, has three 7.62mm miniguns.

The newer AC-119 and AC-130 gunships have incorporated sophisticated low-light and night sensing devices into their aiming systems, thus enabling them to locate and destroy enemy targets at night without the aid of flares or other lights. □



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The Special Operations School, located at Hurlburt Field, Fla., is the academic element of SOF. They train selected U.S. and allied personnel in the geopolitical, psychological and sociological implications of insurgency.

The 1st Special Operations Wing is a mobile operational force that supports overseas theater commanders, the U.S. Army Special Forces and the U.S. Strike Command in contingency operations. It provides the special operations and counterinsurgency teams, more commonly called Military Training Teams, in response to allied nations' request for training and assistance in all phases of special operations. The civic action program provides training in preventive medicine, education, disaster relief, sanitation, pollution control, airport management and development of airlines as a means of communications in commerce.

Considered by some as the most important man in Southeast Asia, the forward Air Controller (FAC) gets his start with the 1st Special Operations Wing. The FAC trainee is a rated pilot when he arrives for training. His training courses begin with a ground school to acquaint the pilot with the aircraft systems and FAC techniques. Then, under a combat veteran instructor pilot, he practices directing fighter aircraft against targets. After training, the FAC normally was assigned to a unit in Southeast Asia to direct tactical fighters in actual combat situations.

The Special Operations Force continues to be a key element with a major role in the counterinsurgency program and training American and allied personnel for worldwide special operations. □



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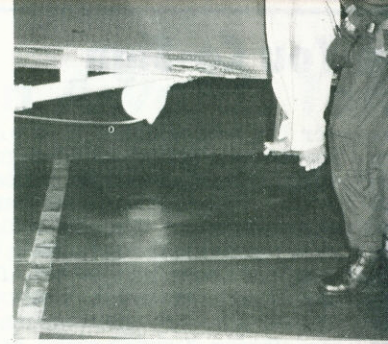
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A Tactical Air Command Base Newspaper

Vol. 12, No. 38

HURLBURT FIELD, FLA.

September 21, 1973



BACK TO DRY LAND -- Benedict Petersburg, Fla. resident, steps from his boat at Hurlburt Field following his rescue when his boat capsized. (U.S. Air Force)

September 29-30

Jumpfest '73 Features Hurlburt's Howell

Scheduled for September 29 and 30, more than 300 jumpers have been invited to be a part of the approximately 40 static line and 35 free-fall teams who will jump for points on an individual and team basis, during Hurlburt's 4th Annual Military Jumpfest.

Such an event requires much work behind the scenes by those concerned with its planning. The almost endless arrangements to be made and the details to be worked out are being tackled by men like CMSgt. James A. Howell, the NCOIC of the 1st Special Operations Wing Combat Control Team.

It is fitting that Chief Howell be such a large part of the Jumpfest: he's been involved with parachuting since joining the Army in September, 1946, as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. He was discharged from the Army in August, 1949, and attended school until deciding to join the Air Force Reserve in May, 1950.

As a member of the 434th Troop Carrier Wing, Attebury, Indiana, he served with the Air Rescue Service during the Korean conflict. In 1952 he joined the Air Force Pathfinder team, the forerunner of the modern Combat Control Team, as it began to take over the responsibilities of forward air control from the Army Pathfinders. They acted as air traffic controllers for friendly aircraft in or near a combat zone.

Chief Howell became involved with parachute testing as a member of the 6511th Test Group at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California, in 1958-59. He made more than 300 jumps from high altitudes before joining the High Altitude, Low Opening (HALO) project in 1959, evaluating the parachute used in the project for the Army. The concept used here is just as its name implies: even though the jumper is released at high altitude, his main chute wouldn't open until he had reached a predetermined low altitude.

Following completion of the HALO project, he became the

first Air Force member to test the Rocket Rotational Escape System on the F-106 Delta Dart. This system employs a small rocket underneath the pilot's seat to allow him to eject rapidly from a stricken aircraft, and was the first application of this type of ejection to be tested.

He made three tests of the system in June, 1961, over White Sands, New Mexico, ejecting while the aircraft was traveling at approximately 550 knots per hour. He reported that a few minor problems developed, but that he wasn't nervous at the time. He did, however, cross his fingers a lot. For his efforts, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and was installed as a member of the American Rocket Society.

Not content with being shot out of an aircraft, he and four other parachutists established the world record for the highest jump ever recorded. Lieutenant

Colonels John J. Gerrity and Charles Corey, MSgt. Vernon Morgan and TSgt. George McLean jumped with Chief Howell from 43,500 feet in December, 1963, a feat which Russian parachutists tried to match but couldn't.

Chief Howell was sent to Thailand in December, 1966, where he directed air strikes during the Vietnam conflict. He flew 195 missions there, including one in which enemy fire ripped the cockpit off of the O-1 Bird Dog he was flying in. Although damaged, the aircraft was nursed back to base.

Other assignments to McChord AFB, Washington, England AFB, Louisiana and Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, followed his Southeast Asia stint. He came to Hurlburt Field in July, 1971, as the NCOIC of the CCT.

Since October, 1946, when he made his first jump at the age of 17 from a C-46, Chief Howell estimates he has made 3,000

jumps. Every one was different, but one in particular he recalls vividly.

Due to a mistake in wind headings given to Chief Howell just before he jumped, he landed 700 meters off target in the middle of a swamp. Fighting to keep his head above the slime, he managed to anger a nearby snake during the five hours it took him to climb out, causing him to be treated for snakebite after walking back to the base.

But that's in the past. In the future is Jumpfest, which Chief Howell feels could be the best ever.

Aside from the spectacle of several hundred jumpers falling out of the sky, Jumpfest serves several useful purposes, such as offering training for participants, a free exchange of ideas and new techniques between participants and acting as excellent community relations between Hurlburt and the surrounding civilian communities.



FLYING HIGH - CMSgt James A. Howell, NCOIC of the 1st Special Operations Wing Combat Control Team will be one of the featured jumpers during Hurlburt Field's Jumpfest '73. The 4th Annual Jumpfest will

be held on September 29 and 30 with more than 300 jumpers taking part. Jumpers will participate in both the static line and free-fall competition during the two day event.