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HOOK UP! U.S. Paratroopers From The Vietnam War To The Cold War

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RESEÑAS

Una documentación exhaustiva sobre los paracaidistas estadounidenses que engloba de una forma ordenada y cronológica, su historia, entrenamiento, tácticas de combate, uniformes y equipo utilizados durante la guerra de Vietnam, haciendo especial mención a la operación "Junction City", a través de un completísimo texto y más de 700 fotografías, la mayoría de las cuales nunca había sido publicadas previamente, con documentación visual real de armas y uniformes.

PREMIOS Y DISTINCIIONES

PUBLICIDAD

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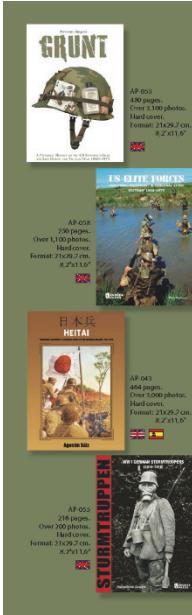
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Firma:

SR. PRESIDENTE DE LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA DE LA ASOCIACION AMESETE



The history, gear, uniforms, training and tactics used by the US Paratroopers at the time of the Vietnam War in detail through a comprehensive text and over 700 outstanding photographs most of them never published before.

AP 043
604 pages.
Over 700 photos.
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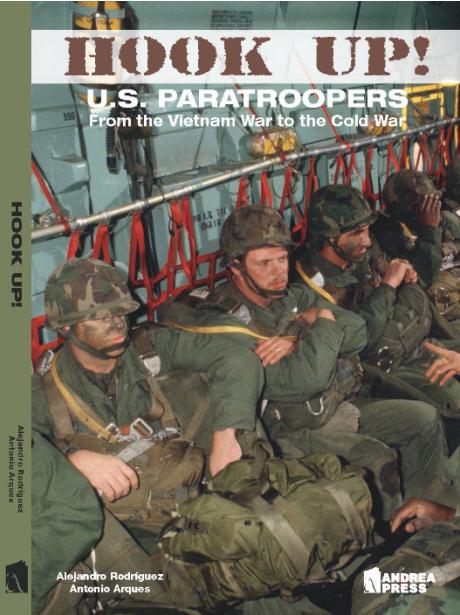
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Alejandro Rodriguez began collecting military items in his adolescent years, with a special interest in the Vietnam War and its airborne and paratrooper units. Over the years, he has accumulated an impressive collection of military objects, with a large part dedicated to US paratrooper's gear during the Cold War era.

In 1992 he joined the Army where he could apply his passion to his profession, as he progressed within several elite units, his first posting was in the 1st Tercio Parachute Battalion, then the Parachutist Brigade where he has spent the greater part of his military career, from 2001 until 2006 he was deployed in Lebanon in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2008-2009. In addition to being a fully qualified parachutist, he has completed several courses including Parachute Unit Course, Airborne Jumper and Parachute Instructor.

Antonio Arques has a PhD in Economics and a law degree at the University of Murcia (Spain). During his academic life, he acquired a degree in Economics and another in Law. He also holds a degree in Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations.

In addition, he is a regular contributor to documents that specialize in military history and is a respected expert in this field.

A renowned military collector, in the 1980s he began an impressive compilation of pieces on the Vietnam War. He is author of 'Grenade', an analysis of the life and the times of the men who fought in the Vietnam War.



The jumper puts his arms through the opening in the shoulder straps so that the backpack rests high on his back.

The soldier adjusts the saddle around his buttocks and the assembly is secured in position.



The two chest straps are attached to the quick-release assembly, and the safety clip is inserted.



The kit bag, folded and with the carrying handle at the top, is placed against the chest and the right-hand chest strap is passed through the handle. This ensures that it is at hand to recover the parachute assembly after landing.

5.4. Individual Combat Equipment



At the beginning of the Cold War, the US Army was using the same combat equipment and individual armament that had been manufactured massively during the Second World War. After the Korean War, in the mid-1950s, the need for a renewal of soldiers' equipment was recognized. The Quartermaster Research and Engineering Laboratories launched a testing program to define new Load Carrying Equipment (LCE). Similarly, the

foreseen adoption of a new rifle, the M14 with a magazine holding 20 rounds, as personal weapon was incompatible with the ammunition storage system of the M1923 and its updated version M1945, designed for use exclusively with Garand ammo clips.

The new LCE had to be capable of holding the 45-pound weights soldiers were expected to need in the field, of which 20 were combat equipment carried directly on the body and the rest in a backpack or extra loads. In addition, it had to carry ammunition for the M14 or other weapons in the US arsenal and correct the deficiencies of its predecessor, particularly those regarding the equipment fastening mechanisms, to prevent the items from swinging. The double hooks were replaced with vertical metal clips.



The usual position for the First Aid Pouch was on the left shoulder, out of the way of the soldier's rifle.



The Butt Pack provided limited carrying capacity.

T-10 Maneuverable Parachute Risers

In maneuverable parachutes the risers were not fixed to the male fitting but could slide through it allowing the trooper to alter the inclination of the canopy and command a degree of control over his direction during

descent. Each riser had a locking fork keeper into which was inserted the metal locking fork secured on each side of the harness, stopping the risers from sliding. In practice this procedure could prove difficult.



Locking fork keeper: unlocked and locked.



Pleiku, South Vietnam: Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Division conduct a personnel and supply parachute drop near this location during a road closing operation.

Harness Assembly

The harness was a structure of sturdy 1 3/4 inch nylon webbing that fitted around the soldier's body. The harness was one size only as the chest, leg and back straps had metal pieces to adjust to any parachutist's body. Its function was to keep the trooper suspended from the canopy during descent.

At the shoulders were the female canopy release assemblies, to which the risers were attached with a quick-release system. This allowed the jumper to rapidly disengage the canopy in the event of landing in a strong wind or in water, and prevent being dragged. If the canopy failed to open, or only partially in-

fated, the reserve parachute was activated but the main canopy was not jettisoned, and the trooper descended with both chutes. Only if the main canopy was in danger of hindering the correct deployment of the reserve chute were the risers released and the faulty canopy discarded.

Harness Assembly with Harness Quick-Release Assemblies

In the harness model featuring the quick-release assembly, the chest straps and leg straps were fitted with metal adjusting lugs connected to the harness quick release fastening system, which was a device on the center of the chest with a quick locking and unlocking mechanism.



Harness assembly.

35-foot diameter T-10 maneuverable modified troop back parachute assembly

With the T-10 Maneuverable Parachute Modified a greater capability for control during descent was achieved. This parachute had the capability to consistently put personnel into a small area and this accuracy could be highly advantageous for paracommando work, because it could put a small combat force, such as a special forces team, into a 50-meter square. This was not possible with the standard T-10 and extremely difficult with a maneuverable T-10.

It had an MC1 Maneuverable Modified Canopy, with an opening

across 11 panels in a T-U configuration. This allowed a speed of between 16 and 23 feet per second to be maintained, and its use was limited to aircraft traveling at speeds of between 50 and 130 mph.

The T-10 Maneuverable Parachute Modified had about two-and-a-half times more forward speed than the standard MC-1 canopy. That meant that a jumper could stand up to an 18-knot crosswind and still come down with his head pointing skyward, or make a long run over a drop zone to reach a distant target.

Another advantage was the chute's quick opening time which allowed drops from lower altitudes and, hence, more accuracy.

Further to the canopy, it differed from the earlier T-10 Maneuverable Parachute in its fixed risers, with no sliding action, featuring instead control lines to alter the inclination of the canopy. As in the preceding model, the direction of movement depended on the wind speed and the orientation of the canopy vent. Its maneuverability required that jumpers kept a separation of 50 feet during descent.





Most of the soldiers taking part in the combat jump during Operation Junction City were equipped only with a Tropical Rucksack, worn as per regulations.



A few yards from the ground, the parachutist releases his heavy equipment, which remains attached to the jumper by the lowering strap, to avoid the risk of injury on landing.



HOOK UP!



Lowering strap assembly.

The container also featured a lowering strap, similar to that on the M1950 weapon case, with a stretch of shock absorbing cord. The lowering strap was attached to the container by the handle on the top, and the other end of the strap was attached to the parachute harness, between the right main lift web and the right rear back strap loop. The slack in the lowering strap was folded and stowed in an exterior pocket on the container, as on the weapon case.



Detail of the shock absorbing cord.

On exiting from the aircraft, paratroopers undid the leg strap, removed the cords keeping the lowering line folded and removed the safety pin from the release knob. At 200 feet above the ground they pulled the red toggle on the release knob and allowed the container to drop, suspended on the lowering line. In some cases, it was advised either not to release the container or to jettison it, following the same criteria for landing scenarios applicable to the Adjustable Equipment Bag.



HOOK UP!



Metal Basic Parachutist Badge with pin back

Soldiers who kept up their parachutist activity achieved Senior Parachutist status after meeting a set of requirements that included 30 jumps and keeping their currency in an airborne unit for 24 months. After remaining for longer as a member of a parachute unit, the rank of Master Parachutist was attained after 65 jumps and 36 months' jump status.

A further recognition, that stemmed from combat operations during WWII, was the Combat Jump Device, awarded to those taking part in a parachute assault on a combat zone. This status is indicated by a bronze star above the parachute wings for each jump or a gold star for five combat jumps.



Metal Basic Parachutist Badge with clutch back attachment



Metal Senior Parachutist Badge



Presentation of the KREW Subdued Metal Senior Parachutist Badge in its packaging



Master Parachutist Badge

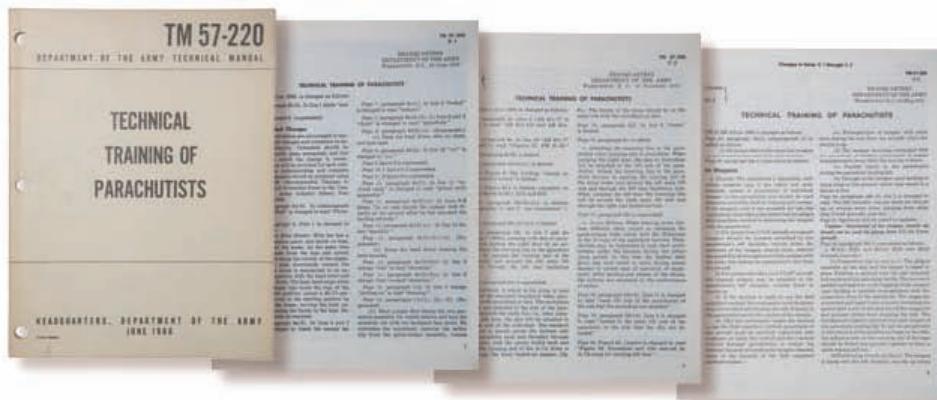


Embroidered Parachutist Badges, color and subdued versions on O.D. twill

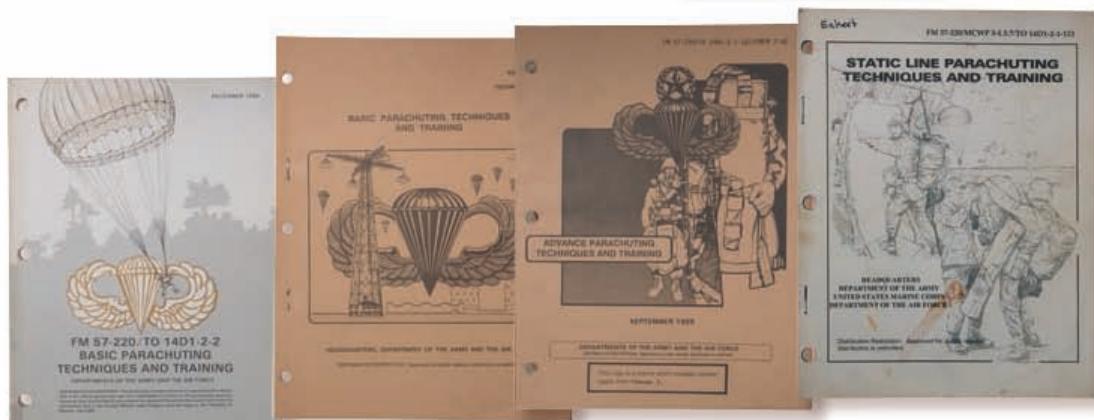
MANUALS, PAMPHLETS AND PAPER MISCELLANEA



Manuals such as this, "Technical Training of Parachutists", were superseded by new updated editions.



Until a new updated edition is released, changes were inserted in the form of supplements.



Several different manuals on parachuting techniques.