

Army Parachute Rigger's jump marks end of 40-year career

By Drew Brooks Military editor | [Posted: Sunday, January 18, 2015 12:00 am](#)



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joseph Jimenez, Aerial Delivery and Field Services Department command airdrop advisor, made the final jump of his 40-year career Nov. 6. He used a T-11 parachute because he was involved in the developmental and operational testing of the parachute. "To me it was only fitting I jump the parachute I was involved with during development and testing," Jimenez said.

The Army's top parachute rigger has retired and plans to move back to Fayetteville, where he has spent most of his 40-year career.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joseph Jimenez was honored at Fort Lee, Virginia, on Thursday.

Jimenez most recently served as command airdrop advisor for the Aerial Delivery and Field Services Department at Fort Lee.

He is part of the Parachute Rigger Warrant Officer Hall of Fame and previously served in the 82nd Airborne Division, 18th Airborne Corps and 1st Corps Support Command, now known as the 1st Theater Support Command.

Jimenez celebrated his career late last year when he made his final jump during a training exercise at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

For that jump, Jimenez used a parachute colored red, white and blue and featuring stars and stripes.

The parachute was the 10,000 T-11 produced for the Army and had previously been retired from service and donated to the Aerial Delivery and Field Services Department.

Jimenez was honored by Brig. Gen. Ronald Kirklin, the 53rd quartermaster general and commandant of the Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, and retired Maj. Gen. Scott West.

Officials said he was instrumental in the transformation of more than 100 Department of Defense airborne forces.

Jimenez's career began in his native California, where he joined the Army in April 1975.

After training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Fort Benning, Georgia, he attended the Parachute Rigger School at Fort Lee before being assigned to the 82nd Airborne in December 1975.

Jimenez became a warrant officer in 1987 and returned to Fort Bragg. He later spent a year in Korea before returning to serve as an airdrop operations officer in the 82nd Airborne.

In 1997, he returned to Korea to serve as the 8th Army's senior airdrop operations officer and later served as 82nd Airborne Division parachute officer and then the 18th Airborne Corps parachute officer.

He deployed to Iraq from 2004 to 2005 with the 1st Corps Support Command.

In 2009, Jimenez was selected to be the Department of Defense's airdrop officer.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, four Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service medal with Bronze Star, the Master Parachutist Badge and Rigger Badge.

At his final jump in November, Jimenez said there was no better way to say goodbye than to jump from a C-130 cargo plane 1,500 feet above the ground. He packed his own parachute for the exercise.

Jimenez saw many changes over his career, but he said the greatest was the transition to the T-11, which he helped develop.

That parachute can carry larger loads than the older T-10 model and was needed to carry today's heavier soldiers and equipment.

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