How a static-line parachute jump is done

Last month, a full-time national serviceman suffered a cervical spine injury while undergoing parachute training in Taiwan. It was revealed on Monday that a cord connecting Private Joshua Quek's parachute to the aircraft was not pulled taut as required, which affected his jump and caused his neck injury. The Straits Times details how such jumps are done.

1 Preparing for the jump

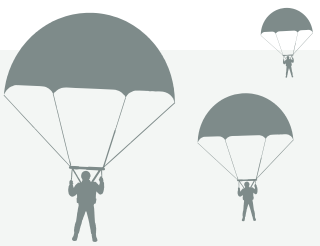
- Some 1,000ft in the air, trainees line up in a row in an aircraft, such as a C-130 transport plane or a Chinook helicopter.
- Attached to each of their parachutes is a cord called the static line (in yellow), which is hooked up to the aircraft jump cable.
- Trainees are taught to hold the static line properly, including making sure it is taut.

2 Exiting the aircraft

- Jump masters stationed near the aircraft's exit will dispatch each trainee at intervals.
- Jumps can be delayed if the wind speed is higher than the safety limit.
- There is a short window of time between the trainee letting go of the static line and jumping out of the aircraft.

3 Falling and landing

- About three to five seconds after jumping out of the aircraft, the trainees' parachutes will automatically deploy.
- Trainees are drilled on how to control their parachutes, as well as the right way to fall and land on the ground.



The SAF conducts about

6,000

static-line parachute jumps

every year.

Since its inception in 1974, the SAF has graduated approximately

27,000

Basic Airborne Course trainees.

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