

Friendship Airborne Plans Another Parachute Adventure Visit to China in 2007



In modern times, the United States and China enjoy joint country visits and training operations. However, so far this has not included joint parachute operations and the awarding of parachute wings.

Friendship Airborne paratrooper volunteers did visit China and jumped and earned official wings with the Peoples Liberation Army Airborne in 1993 and 2000. Friendship Airborne is planning to repeat those exciting adventures again in 2007. To volunteer for the 2007 manifest,



contact Friendship Airborne at:



After the parachuting and awarding of wings, the Friendship Airborne volunteer paratroopers enjoy an exciting tour of China which usually includes the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, the PLA War-Fighting Museum, the Air Power Museum (which includes an original WWII Flying Tiger P-40), a close-up visit to the magnificent ancient terra cotta clay ancient army. Each clay warrior has distinctive facial features each different from the other. There are 7,000 clay warriors. Some of the Friendship Airborne participants purchased reliable replicas of these six-foot, 350 pound terra cotta (clay) warriors. Doc Osanka has his 'General' in his den in his home in Wisconsin.

The Modern Peoples Liberation Army Airborne Forces (PLA SF)

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www.friendshipairborne.com (currently being updated)

The PLA Airborne troops are considered the best-trained ground troops the Chinese have. Paratrooper volunteers are recruited from infantry line units, and they must pass a special examination and enlist for a minimum of four years. Paratrooper officers must be graduates of the PLA Military Academy. The bulk of the paratroopers are in the PLA Airborne Corps, which is trained to deploy as a rapid-reaction force.

The Airborne Corps

The Airborne Corps are subordinate to the PLA Air Force rather than the Army. The Airborne Corps was founded in 1961 and today are known as the 15th Army, and has three Airborne Divisions containing nine thousand paratroopers. The PLA Chief of Staff strategic planners envision using the Airborne Corps in parachute operations, helicopter-borne operations, and air transportable operations.

Helicopter-borne operations are similar to what the U. S. Army has designated as air assault operations. That is, using helicopters to transport infantry to the designated area of attack.



The PLA war doctrine in limited-scale war calls for the Airborne Corps to protect the rear of the main PLA advancing force, seizure of routes of major crossings in advance of main group forces, sabotage missions against opposition support units and guidance equipment, disruption of enemy logistics, and the Airborne Corps also supports amphibious operations. Finally, the Airborne Corps is trained in both urban and jungle warfare, and therefore enjoy all-weather and all-terrain maneuverability.

The Peoples Liberation Special Forces

Special Operations forces are hand-picked from the Airborne Corps. The PLA SF has the tasks of conducting unconventional warfare, and they fall under a Special Operations Command headquarters. The PLA SF was begun in the 1990s and their missions include special reconnaissance, raids on enemy targets, covert penetrating of enemy territory, rescuing P.O.W.s, and capturing enemy personnel for interrogation.

The PLA SF paratroopers are lightly armed forces and designed for rapid deployment and reaction. They are issued superior infantry weapons and communications systems. It is estimated that the current PLA SF strength is 12,000 paratroopers. There is a larger portion of NCOs in the PLA SF than in any other PLA units.

Mongolian Army Airborne

At the time of this writing, Doc Osanka is checking into the possibility of adding on a side trip to the nearby country of Mongolia in order to jump and earn the wings of the Mongolian Army.

Friendship Airborne is open to all military parachute-qualified active-duty, Reserves, National Guard, veterans, or retirees from around the world. After the jumps, official wings, certificates, and manifest are signed by the senior officer of the Host Airborne unit. The awards are official and may be worn as part of the active-duty, Reserve, or National Guard uniform as authorized by each paratrooper's military organization.

Paratroopers from around the world have jumped in foreign countries as part of Friendship Airborne. In the past they have come from Canada, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Germany, France, England (U.K.), Bermuda, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, the Philippines, and the United States of America.

Slots on the China 2007 friendship jump manifest are limited, so contact us soonest to reserve your place!



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On the last page is a rare PLA Airborne Barracks poster which has become Collector's item and we hope you'll enjoy it!

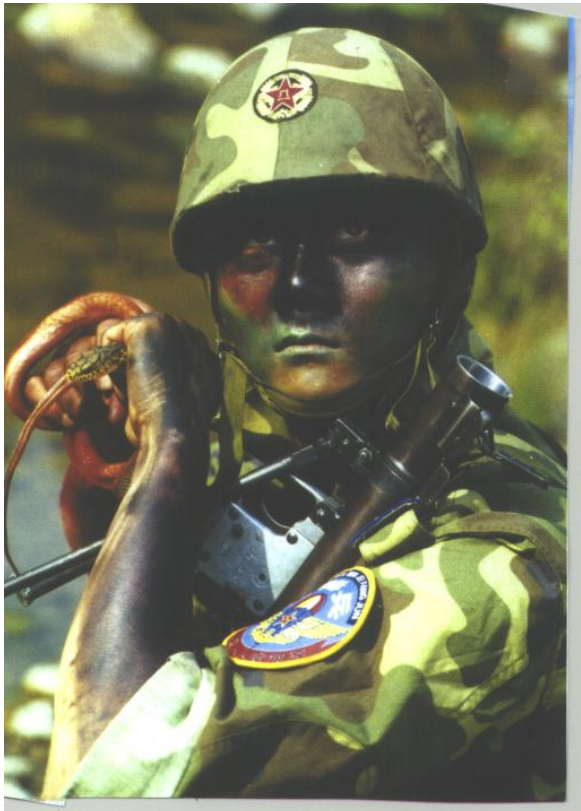




Picture above: Full-equipped PLA paratroopers standing by for the 'Get Ready' jump command.

Picture at left: PLA paratrooper examining a snake that he 'captured'.

Picture below: PLA Airborne Infantry practicing assault tactics.





Friendship Airborne 2007 China

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