



photos by Lucille Anne Newman/Paraglide

**Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott**, center, Golden Knights cadre, rehearses a formation jump with candidates trying out for the team Oct. 5.



**Sgt. Mathew Acord**, Golden Knights candidate, moves off the landing area after landing in Laurinburg-Maxton Airport during his tryout session Sept. 29.



**Candidate Spc. Todd Beckel**, left, checks his equipment while other candidates stand in line to check their parachute gear before joining the others for freefall formation practice Oct. 5 at Laurinburg-Maxton Airport.

## Finding their way

by **Lucille Anne Newman**

Paraglide

**T**hree weeks ago, 16 military personnel walked through the doors of the Golden Knights Headquarters vying for a chance to become a member of the team.

Today only eight of those candidates are standing in the open fields of Laurinburg-

Maxton Airport, still determined to become the next member of the Army's premier parachuting team.

"We're starting to see the qualities we're looking for to be on the team," said Staff Sgt. Chris Altman, Golden Knights cadre. "The tryouts are definitely starting to apply the instructions (we've given to them) as well as experiencing the

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**Sgt. Andrew Starr**, center, waits for Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott, left, and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schafer, right, to give the signal to move to the door over Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Oct. 5 to practice their freefall formation during the Golden Knights tryout program.



**Spc. Todd Beckel**, Golden Knights candidate, prepares to exit the aircraft over Laurinburg-Maxton Airport with his group during freefall formation practice Oct. 5. Out of the 16 candidates who started the program three weeks ago, only eight now remain to finish the program to become the next member of the Golden Knights.