

# Way

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situations that we've explained to them."

Altman said that teaching them the basics and letting them progress at their own pace has paid off. Even the candidates say they have seen great improvements in their own skills.

"We're now finishing up our third week (of the tryouts)," said Sgt. 1st Class Khalida Hendricks, Golden Knights candidate. "The first week was very hectic because a lot of this is a new experience for us, even for those of us who have skydiving experience. But, doing demonstrations is very different and although we're starting to figure a lot of stuff out, we're also getting pretty tired because it's been grueling," she added.

Hendricks said despite the hard training she is determined to give it her all to become a member of the team.

"The most challenging thing for me was accuracy," she said. "Because the targets are different, these are accuracy rigs and I kept trying to fix all my little problems until I got it. I can hit the targets a little closer now."

Sgt. 1st Class Will Fleming agreed and noticed a change in the way he jumps also.

"I'm not only having a good time, I'm learning a lot too," Fleming said about the training he is receiving during his tryout. "Of course this (program) is designed to be very challenging, but it actually helped me out in cleaning up some of the bad habits (of freefalling that) I've had while learning the finer points of being a Golden Knight."

As the time gets closer to finding the one who will help paint the skies black and gold, and the one who can bring America closer to America's Army, the tryout candidates continue working hard to prove they have what it takes to become the next member of the Golden Knights.



photos by Lucille Anne Newman/Paraglide

**Top: Candidates** trying out for the Golden Knights work quickly as a team to repack their parachutes Sept. 29 before their next jump.

**Left: Sgt. Brandon Valle**, Golden Knights candidate, shakes the air from his parachute Sept. 29 before he repacks it for his next jump.



## MILITARY TRIVIA

### This week's trivia: The Kosciuszko Squadron

by Maj. James Crabtree

XVIII Airborne Corps PAO

Following the October Revolution that brought the Bolsheviks to power and the defeat of the Central Powers, an independent Poland was once again on the map of Europe.

However, the Bolsheviks had decided that a communist Poland would be much more to their liking and proceeded to invade the country in 1919.

Europe was in the middle of a humanitarian crisis as

civil war raged in Russia, newly-established countries fought for independence, the great influenza epidemic was raging, economic collapse was imminent, famine was rife and leftists were trying to take power in Bavaria and Hungary. In the midst of this was an American pilot who had volunteered for relief work after the war. Impressed by the heroic struggle the Poles were putting forth in defense of their new country, Merian C. Cooper decided to create an American volunteer squadron

similar to the Lafayette Escadrille. Like the Lafayette unit, the Kosciuszko Squadron was named after a European who volunteered to help America win its independence. Seventeen Americans answered the call and flew against the Bolsheviks. The new Polish republic had difficulty equipping, paying, or even feeding these volunteers, but the Kosciuszko Squadron endured and fought with whatever aircraft Poland could scrounge, even if some were from former enemies.

Indeed, the first airplanes flown by the volunteers were Albatross fighters, which once served the Kaiser's air service but were now sporting the Polish red-and-white checkerboard emblem. War against the Bolsheviks was hard. Trotsky, who was then commissar of war, sent General Budenny with his Cossack horsemen to subdue the Poles. But the Americans of the Kosciuszko Squadron put up a heroic resistance, strafing and bombing the enemy ground troops and occasionally engaging in air-

to-air combat with Red pilots. And that's how a tail rudder with the big red star ended up in the U.S. Air Force Museum.

The stalling of the Red offensive was a major setback for the Bolshevik government, and the decision was made to turn the attention of their army against the Ukrainians and free Russian volunteers then fighting against them in the south.

By the time the Bolsheviks gave up their efforts to export revolution to Poland in May 1921, the Americans had earned the love and respect of

the Polish people. Several members were awarded the Virtuti Militari, Poland's highest award for gallantry in the field. And although many Americans have today forgotten these heroes, a free Poland is today rediscovering what was considered its "politically incorrect" past just a few years ago.

#### Next Week:

What was France's big secret weapon in the Franco-Prussian War?

## RANGE SCHEDULE

From Monday through Oct. 22, units on Fort Bragg will be conducting small arms and high explosives firing in the Fort Bragg range area. All personnel are warned against entering any danger or impact area without specific approval from the installation range officer. The Fort Bragg range area is not considered an open range. Entry into or use of fixed ranges, observation posts, training facilities, or areas other than designated recreational areas on Manchester, Plank or King roads, must be approved by the installation range officer. The schedule below is subject to change without notice to the public. Additions and/or deletions occur frequently. Commanders with a few individuals who need to fire may coordinate with the using unit to add firers to that unit's range. The following is the weekly range schedule that indicates the units that will be using the ranges.

<b>PISTOL 38/45/9MM</b> <b>Tuesday</b> Range 66C/2: 330MCB Range 66C/3: 56MED <b>Wednesday</b> Range 66C/2: 56MED Range 66C/3: 97CA <b>Thursday</b> Range 66C/2: 139REGT Range 66C/3: 261ASMB <b>Friday</b> Range 29: 1/507 Range 66C/2: 139REGT Range 66C/3: 44MED <b>Saturday</b> Range 66C/2: 139REGT	<b>Range 50: 4BCT</b> <b>Tuesday</b> Range 28: DISCOM Range 35: 2/325 Range 41: 2/325 Range 50: 4BCT Range 52: 2BSTB Range 58: 261ASMB Range 59: 519MI <b>Wednesday</b> Range 28: DISCOM Range 35: 330MCB Range 50: 4BCT Range 52: 2/319FA Range 58: 519MI Range 59: 519MI <b>Thursday</b> Range 35: 330MCB Range 50: 4BCT Range 52: 139REGT Range 58: 1/507 Range 59: 1/507 <b>Friday</b> Range 28: 2/7SFG Range 41: 2/325 Range 50: 4BCT	<b>Range 52: 139REGT</b> <b>Saturday</b> Range 52: 139REGT <b>Sunday</b> Range 59: MUIC  <b>M16 QUAL</b> <b>Monday</b> Range 43: 2/325 <b>Tuesday</b> Range 43: 2/325 Range 56: 519MI <b>Wednesday</b> Range 43: 330MCB Range 56: 519MI <b>Thursday</b> Range 43: 330MCB Range 56: 139REGT <b>Friday</b> Range 43: 2/325 Range 56: 139REGT <b>Saturday</b> Range 56: 139REGT <b>Sunday</b> Range 56: MUIC	<b>M60 SAW/ZERO</b> <b>Monday</b> Range 53: 503MP <b>Tuesday</b> Range 53: 503MP <b>Wednesday</b> Range 53: 1/507 <b>Thursday</b> Range 53: 330MCB <b>Friday</b> Range 53: 330MCB <b>Sunday</b> Range 53: MUIC  <b>M60 SAW/TRANSITION</b> <b>Monday</b> Range 54: 503MP <b>Tuesday</b> Range 54: 503MP <b>Thursday</b> Range 54: 330MCB <b>Friday</b> Range 54: 330MCB <b>Sunday</b> Range 54: MUIC
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## BUSTER'S BATTERY



by Maj. James Crabtree