



United States Army Special Operations Command

goarmysof.com



USASOC
BLACK DAGGERS
PARACHUTE DEMONSTRATION TEAM



Table of Contents

I. General Information	2
A. Request Process	2
B. Contact Information	2
C. Mailing Address	2
D. Demonstration Information Packet (Appendix A)	2
E. Internet	2
II. Support Requirements	3
A. Scheduling the Black Daggers	3
B. Coordination Process	3
C. Aircraft	3
D. FAA	4
E. Advance Representative	4
F. On-site Coordination Meeting	4
G. Event Parking	4
H. Weather	4
I. Medical	5
J. Ground Support	5
K. Booth Space	5
III. Demonstration Jumps	6
A. Opening Ceremony (U.S. Flag)	6
B. Mass Exit	6
C. Canopy Relative Work (CRW)	7
D. Military Combat Equipment	7
E. Night Pyrotechnics	7
F. Narration	7
IV. Advertising and Public Affairs	8
A. Media, Advertising and Public Affairs	8
B. Appearances and Presentations	8
V. Conclusion	8
VI. Sponsor Checklist	9

I. General Information

A. Request Process

To request the USASOC Black Daggers:

Sponsor submits DD Form 2535 via email to blackdaggers@socom.mil or christopher.l.malone@socom.mil. Once the request has been approved, you will be contacted for further coordination.

B. Contact Information

1. USASOC BLACK DAGGERS

Phone: (910) 907-2370

C. Mailing Address

USASOC Black Daggers
BLDG 2929 Desert Storm Drive
Fort Bragg, NC 28310

D. Demonstration Information Packet (Appendix A)

1. The Demonstration Information Packet is a consolidated list of information for your event outlining the specifics of the show. Once a form 2535 is received, you will receive a complete support packet with this appendix. Please fill this document out with as much detail as possible using the support manual as your guide.

2. When filling out this information, please be sure to type or print legibly with correct spelling as the information in this packet may be used to highlight our appearance at your event.

E. Internet

2. Facebook – www.facebook.com/blackdaggers

II. Support Requirements

A. Scheduling the Black Daggers

To schedule a demonstration with the Black Daggers, a DD Form 2535 Request for Military Aerial Support must be submitted. Your request will be reviewed and submitted to our command for final approval. The approval process may take up to 60 days. During that time, our team coordinator will be working with you throughout the process. You will receive notification upon final approval.

The U.S. Government can incur no cost related to the team's demonstration. While the USASOC Parachute Demonstration Team does not have organic aircraft support readily available – and there is no guarantee that the team will be able to provide an organic aircraft, the overall responsibility to furnish the team with a suitable aircraft for the demonstration jump lies with the sponsor. Please refer to section C. *Aircraft* for further details.

B. Coordination Process

The Black Dagger show coordinator will contact you to confirm support for your request and may require additional information via a Q&A survey about your event to better assess your request. Once you receive notification of approval, the final coordination process will begin. Our event coordinator will be your point of contact for final phase of coordination of the demonstration jump.

C. Aircraft

As noted earlier, the USASOC Parachute Demonstration Team does not have organic aircraft support readily available – and there is no guarantee that the team will be able to provide an organic aircraft.

***Per Army Directive 2010-08 (Army Aircraft use for Public Affairs Missions) paragraph 2, Army aviation policy allows support by Army command parachute teams to public affairs events only when they use non-army aircraft as jump platforms.*

Therefore, the overall responsibility to furnish the team with a suitable aircraft for the demonstration jump lies with the sponsor. The type of aircraft required depends on the number of demonstrators. The smallest aircraft the team will operate from is a 2-seat Cessna-182. Keep in mind however, that small aircraft platforms such as the Cessna-182 severely limit the type of show we can perform for you. We may be able to assist you in locating an aircraft suitable to support your event – but coordination must begin as soon as possible. The preferred jump aircraft includes Air Force cargo planes, such as a C-130, C-141, and C-17; however, U.S. Coast Guard, or Navy UH-60, UH-1H, and CH-46/47 helicopters or similar aircraft will suffice. If you cannot locate an aircraft, please contact the team's event coordinator as soon as possible for advice on how to locate an aircraft through a civilian skydiving operation. If using U.S. Air Force aircraft, coordination may be arranged to pick the team up at Pope Field (formerly Pope Air Force Base), Fort Bragg, or within a reasonable distance of Fort Bragg (within 35 miles). In addition to transportation to and from the show site, with approval from the flight crew, the aircraft may also serve as the jump platform.

D. Federal Aviation Administration Waivers (If Applicable)

Our team has a member assigned to conduct coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He/she is responsible for filing the appropriate 7711-R paperwork and NOTAMs, alleviating the show sponsor of this responsibility. We will provide you with a copy of the waiver once we arrive at the show site. If your event is conducting its own FAA coordination, we will need a hard copy of the waiver once it is complete to ensure it meets all of our requirements.

If you plan to do the 7711 paperwork, please contact the team before submitting it for FAA approval so we can make sure all our requirements are addressed. Once approved, the team will need a copy of the 7711 for our records and to file the NOTAM for your event.

E. Advance Representative

One of our team members will arrive at your show location two days prior to the event. This representative is an integral part of the demonstration team. He/she will work to ensure your expectations are met and your show is successful. Upon arrival, we ask that he/she meet with your event point of contact (POC) assigned as the liaison between the parachute team and your staff. Your POC plays a key role in assisting us to ensure our demonstration meets your expectations. To facilitate the planning process, this POC should have decision-making authority or direct contact with someone who does. This POC should be dedicated to the team for the duration of the event.

F. On-site Coordination Meeting

Our advance representative is responsible for identifying potential on-site issues such as FAA clearances, a final review of the drop zone(s) and other requirements that might interfere with our participation in your event. We ask that a POC involved with the event be available to meet with the advance representative to work out any issues that may arise during the walkthrough.

G. Event Parking Passes/Accessibility

It is necessary for the team to have full access passes for the entire event. This will allow the team to conduct all the preparation prior to and during the event. If your event is in a stadium, the ground crew will need access to the highest point in the venue to gather wind data for the jump. We ask that the parking passes allow us to park as close to the landing area as possible. The ground crew will have a large amount of equipment and even more once the jumpers are on the ground.

H. Weather

We can control many things; unfortunately, the weather is not one of those things. We are required to operate within the FAA limits, requirements set forth by the U. S. Parachute Association, and other governmental organizations. Typical weather that can hinder our operations is clouds and wind. The team's minimum parachute opening altitude is 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Surface winds cannot exceed 20 MPH. Limitations to demonstration jumps may vary based upon ground hazards and turbulence. The team leader will make the determination if a demonstration may proceed or be cancelled, but we will make every effort possible to execute as planned. Please know that even if the weather is great at your event

location...it may not be where our aircraft will take off from. That would be subject to the pilot's expert judgment and ability to operate the aircraft under governing regulations.

I. Medical

Medical support must be available at the demonstration site. This includes an emergency response vehicle with an Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic (EMT-P) on site throughout the demonstration. Jumpers will not be allowed to exit the aircraft until this medical support is on location. The rescue vehicle must be equipped with a backboard, cervical collar, and oxygen. The advance representative would like to meet the medical staff once he/she arrives to ask/answer any questions and exchange contact information.

J. Ground Support

If there is a body of water within one mile of the drop zone, a rescue boat and two-person, crew must be located at the body of water for personnel recovery. In addition, a mobile firefighting, crash unit and ground-to-air communications equipment must be on the drop zone for the duration of the demonstration. Adequate crowd control measure will also be required on the drop zone to ensure the landing area is clear. The minimum size landing area we can accept is 100 x 100 feet and must be free of obstacles to include people. We also require a secondary DZ to be available in the event of an emergency or unforeseen issue during the parachutist execution of the jump. The alternate DZ should be no less than 100 x 100 feet and reachable by the parachutists in relation to the primary DZ. We require that the sponsor provide a vehicle and one person to recover any canopy that may be jettisoned during any of our performances. The cutaway recovery person will be required to retrieve the jettisoned main parachute, should one of the jumpers have an actual parachute malfunction during the show.

Please note - this coverage is only needed during the jumping portion of our show.

K. Booth Space

The Black Daggers require a 20 X 20 feet space to setup and pack equipment in addition to interacting with the airshow crowd. If we are driving to the event, we will have a requirement for a 30 X 30 feet space to drop our trailer. Please note – not every event we can drive to.

III. Demonstration Jumps

Our goal is to make your show as memorable and exciting as possible. To do this we have developed several demonstration options for you. Some of our capabilities are jumping flags, smoke, pyrotechnics, smoke-chain, and packing parachutes for the crowd, and narrating our demonstration. We can do a single jump or any combination of the jumps described below. Your options are many and we look forward to putting together the best demonstration possible for your audience. As always, please contact us if you have any questions on what we are capable of doing at your event. We are constantly developing new ways to “WOW” your crowd, so please ask if you have seen something that is not listed and we will do our best to accommodate your request. If we are doing multiple jumps for you on a given day, we ask that you give us a minimum of 90 minutes between the last jumper landing and the next take off time. If the team is going from a regular show to a combat equipment show, we will require an additional 30 minutes. This will allow us to first interact with your crowd and then prep our gear and conduct safety checks before executing the next show. This time may need to be adjusted depending on how close the airfield is from your event site.

A. Opening Ceremony (10 minutes)

A favorite at many events is our opening ceremony demonstration. This show is typically used as the starting point of an event. During this show we will exit two combat equipped jumpers that will split the target area simulating securing the drop zone. Once on the ground we will make a call to the aircraft telling them that the drop zone is secure and they can proceed with the precious cargo (U.S. Flag). Each jumper will exit the aircraft with red smoke so that your audience can see them throughout freefall and under canopy. Once they have reached their opening altitude, the first jumper will fly the American Flag and smoke chain while under canopy. This is done with the National Anthem playing in the background. We also have a POW/MIA flag that can be flown by another jumper. We are honored to jump the US Flag, but if you have the anthem being performed by another group such as a color guard or Boy Scouts we will be more than happy to jump our POW/MIA Flag as the opener.

B. Mass Exit (15 minutes)

During our Mass Exit demonstration, all jumpers exit the aircraft at the same time. The jumpers will be equipped with red smoke canisters so they can be seen falling from high in the sky. Based upon the exit altitude they may join together in one of many large formations during freefall. At a predetermined altitude, the jumpers will separate and track away from each other, creating a “bomb burst in the sky” and then deploy their parachutes. The jumpers will fly their canopies conducting various maneuvers such as spiraling down or following one behind the other until they land at a predetermined spot right in front of the crowd or, in some cases, spread out along the show line.

C. Canopy Relative Work (CRW)

The Canopy Relative Work show is always a crowd pleaser. It consists of two or more jumpers exiting an aircraft and opening their parachutes in close proximity. After opening they will link their canopies together to form many different types of canopy formations such as a Two-Stack, Three-Stack, Bi-Plane, Down-Plane, and the famous Tri-Bi-Side formation. In most cases, the jumpers will fly these formations all the way down and separate just feet from the ground and land safely on the target.

D. Military Combat Equipment (20 minutes)

As the USASOC parachute team, we are the only team to incorporate real world mission military free fall jumps into our performance. This is a sobering show and demonstrates one of the many ways that Special Operations Forces may be inserted into a hostile environment. The team will perform a High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) jump. All the demonstrators will simultaneously exit the aircraft wearing military uniforms, oxygen masks, rucksacks, and simulated M-4 rifles. They will then fall to a pre-determined altitude and open their main parachutes. The last jumpers will fly with a POW/MIA flag in honor of all our fallen comrades. The demonstrators will land in a predetermined location and simulate a tactical assembly. Once assembled, the jumpers are introduced by the narrator.

E. Night Pyrotechnics (20 minutes)

Having a nighttime event and want to amaze your audience with fireworks falling from the sky? If so, the Night Pyrotechnics show is for you! This demonstration starts with an aircraft flying through the sky seemingly on fire. The demonstrators then exit the aircraft with cold burning pyro. At a predetermined altitude, the jumpers deploy their parachutes and fly like comets through the air until landing right in front of the crowd. This show is a favorite and a sight to see for your audience. The Air Show coordinator will have to ensure that the drop zone is lighted.

F. Narration

We highly recommend that our shows be narrated. This can be accomplished in several different ways. If your show has a dedicated announcer or narrator then we will work with them and provide a script for use during our show. Each team members is trained in narrating each of our different shows and would be more than happy to stand in front of your crowd and tell them the story of what is happening in front of them. To make this happen, the sponsor must provide an adequate public address system capable of broadcasting to the entire audience. The system must also have the capability of connecting an iPod to allow the use of our background music. This is used to enhance our show and bring greater excitement to your event. A microphone must be in a location that provides the narrator with an unobstructed view of the entire drop zone and release point. A cordless microphone is preferred.

IV. Advertising and Public Affairs

A. Media, Advertising, and Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office has a PR kit that contains a pre-event press release and photos that you may use to announce the team appearance at your event, a fact sheet, a USASOC brochure, a team photograph and a poster. The packet can be found at <http://www.soc.mil/blackdaggers/mediakit.html>. You can reach the Public Affairs Office by calling (910) 432-6005, or email pao@socom.mil. The PR kit is a great way to promote your event ahead of time and encourages wider attendance at your event. At the end of each scheduled show, time permitting, the demonstrators will spend time with the spectators and give out information about the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

B. Appearances and Presentations

The Black Daggers are available to make presentations, sign autographs and interact with the crowd following their demonstration. If you would like to have the team available for social functions, or media, please contact the USASOC PAO and the team coordinator for further assistance.

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, thank you again for your interest in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Black Daggers; we look forward to working with you.

IV: Support Documents

SPONSOR CHECKLIST

1. Contact with USASOC Public Affairs Office _____.
2. Contact with USASOC Parachute Team _____.
3. FAA Coordination (will be completed by): The Black Daggers unless it is an airshow
4. Accommodations:
 - a. Flight line parking passes for vehicles _____.
 - b. Local maps provided _____.
 - c. Rental for Aircrew (if using USASOC Air and show dependent) _____.
6. Demonstration Coordination:
 - a. Location of jump site determined _____.
 - b. Type / types of Demonstrations determined _____.
 - c. Air shows schedule _____.
 - d. Take off and Wind Drift indicator included in the show itinerary _____.
 - e. Cutaway recovery person identified _____.
 - f. Medical coverage (Physician/physician assistant) _____.
 - g. Emergency response vehicle and crew _____.
 - h. Rescue boat and crew (if body of water within one mile of DZ) _____.
 - i. Mobile firefighting, crash unit _____.
 - j. Crowd control _____.
 - k. Canopy recovery vehicle and crew _____.
 - l. Bathrooms accessible and near Aircraft _____.
 - m. A designated POC for the team _____.
7. Social Engagements:
 - a. Date / Time / Location _____.
 - b. USASOC Parachute Team informed _____.
 - c. Appropriate attire determined _____.
 - d. Inform Advance representative _____.
8. Funding _____.
9. Arrival and pick up time of Advance Representative _____.
10. Arrival time of Team _____.



United States Army Special Operations Command

goarmysof.com