

## 15 Key Points of Military Parachute Training – for Pilots

1. **Unpowered wing** — a parachute is an un-powered wing — much like your aircraft with the power off.
2. **Many jumps start at 12,000'** — but that varies up and down.
3. **Many jumps open at 5,000'** — and descend at about 500' per minute — but that varies up and down.
4. **But altitude, opening, and descent rate** — depend on mission profile.
5. **Jumpers are difficult to spot** — free-fall, and under canopy.
6. **Land like a plane** — downwind, base, final.
7. **Land on a designated spot** — like a plane.
8. **Comms are always live during jump ops** — both ground and air, with CTAF active.
9. **Fly downwind of Drop Zone** — the safest place to fly.
10. **Monitor both Marana and Pinal Airpark** — jump operations are ongoing at both — but are separate entities, so different frequencies.
11. **Spec Ops Jumpers have trained in AZ** — for over 50 years.
12. **Training operational pace is coordinated and fast** — almost like a ballet-in-the-air, for sharp-edged warriors.
13. **Training occurs 24/7/365** — for mission flexibility and training in all conditions.
14. **Each jump is thoroughly planned and executed** — based on mission profile, operational needs, and training objectives — much like a complex cross-country IFR flight. Advanced HALO (high altitude, low opening) and HAHO (high altitude, high opening) are typically performed between FL130 and FL200, occasionally above FL200.
15. **Controlling ARTCC will always be in control of the jump aircraft** — so, get flight following when transitioning through PJE/PJA — tell them you want transition help.