



WHEELUS AB, LIBYA, Mid-April 1962: SSgt Eddie Moak and (new) SSgt Bob Zontini prepare for a C-130 orientation jump to prepare for project Mercury support. It had been decided at HQ that our sqd. SC-54s did not have sufficient range to deploy to the Indian Ocean contingency recovery area and so four (4) C-130s from the 322nd Air Division in France were tasked for the upcoming mission. Each PJ had to make three quals at Wheelus prior to the mission. I use the word (New) because on April 1, 1962, myself and A/IC Charlie Hoell had become the first two E-5s promoted in pararescue in over 6 years. My DOR as E-4 was 1 January 1956. Bob Zontini