

PJ leaves Hickam for officers school

Although 76th ARRS is scheduled to leave Hickam later this year, one pararescueman is saying goodbye early to Hawaii and heading to Lackland AFB, Tex., to attend Officers Training School.

TSgt. James A. Hunt was recently selected to attend OTS under the Airman's Education and Commissioning Program. Although his departure date is still unknown, Hunt's class begins June 6.

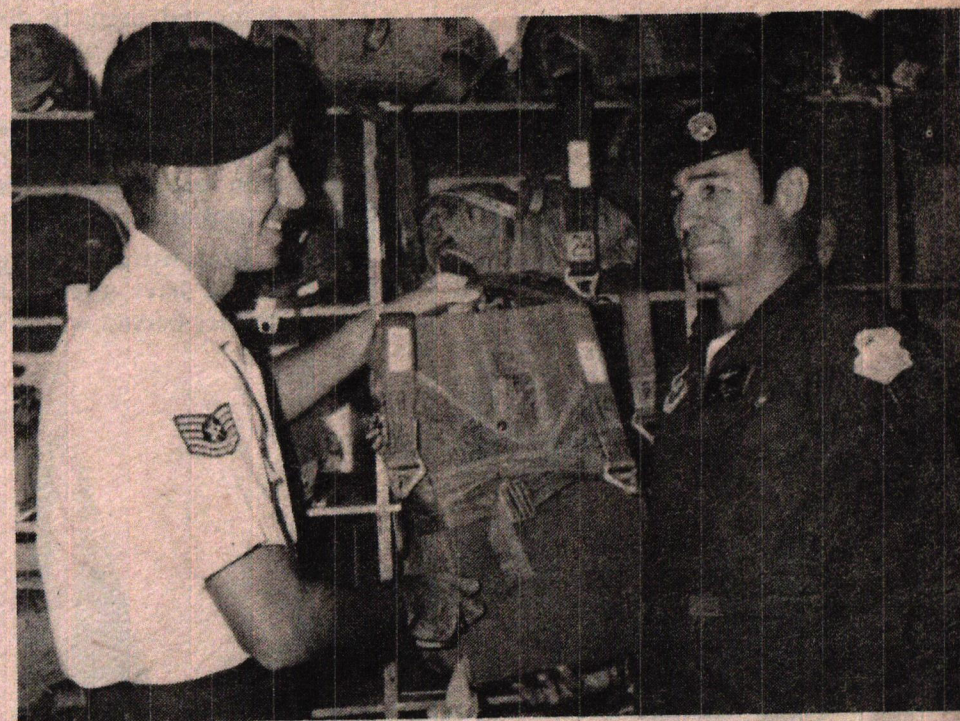
A pararescueman since June 1966, Hunt began attending night school at the University of Hawaii in August 1970. After several night courses and two three-month permissive TDYs to the University, Hunt finally graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics last August.

"As soon as I graduated, I applied through AECP for entrance to OTS," explained Hunt. "The board was supposed to meet in October but it was postponed and didn't meet until March."

In addition to his saying goodbye to the 76th, Hunt is saying goodbye to the pararescue field. "I put in for either a communications or computer commission," he explained. "I haven't received any word on either of these yet, though."

While serving with the 76th at Hickam, Hunt participated in several life saving rescues. Two of the most important were a jump in April 1972 to aid a sailor with a bleeding ulcer on a Greek vessel and a December jump when he aided a Spanish sailor who had internal injuries due to being hit by pieces of a broken emery wheel.

Entering the service in 1961, Hunt served two tours in Vietnam. "I was first in Vietnam between 1969 and '70. After I arrived at Hickam, I went back on a two-month TDY in 1972." Because of his rescue missions, Hunt has earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Meritorious Service Medal and six Air Meals.



Officer candidate

TSgt. James Hunt, left, checks out a parachute with another pararescueman. Hunt was recently accepted into the June 6 class of officer training school.