



Women in Blue take the plunge

A batch of 44 Airmen, Airwomen and Navy personnel who completed the No. 04 Basic Free fall course and the No. 15 Basic Airborne Course at the Sri Lanka Air Force Parachute Training School held their passing out parade at the Katunayake Air Force Base on Monday. Parachuting is a highly refined skill which builds self-confidence and gallantry among those who master the art.

The first stage of the No. 04 basic free fall course involves parachuting from a position on land while the second stage involves parachuting from a high altitude plane flying over at least 12,500 feet. The parachutist opens the parachute at an altitude of 5,000 ft and executes the landing within 48 seconds at a speed of over 130 mph.

The first stage of the No. 15 Basic Airborne course involves land based training while the second stage involves parachuting from a high altitude plane. Those who have passed this course have completed seven parachute jumps from Y-12 planes and MI 17 helicopters.

Pictures by *Sulochana Gamage*

The list of Airmen, Airwomen & Navy personnel is as follows:

Nominal Roll
No. 04 Basic Free Fall Course

- SL Navy**
Lt WACP Weerasekera,
Lt CSB Weerathunga,
MCPO R/P G Lalkshman,
CPO MSJ Sirilal
- SL Air Force**
Ft Lt KMPS Kulethunga,
LAC Gunathilleke ROUN,
LAC Samarasinghe HMCP
- Air Women**
LAC Hewagamage TND,
LAC Pathirana MPA,
LAC Kumarasena SKWMDN, AC
Anurada MSC,
AC Ranasinghe KHIN,
AC Rajapaksha RMD

Nominal Roll - No. 15
Basic Airborne Course

- SL Air Force**
Ft Lt HRMLR Dissanayake, Cpl Sampath MPC,
Cpl Kumara GDS, Cpl Lakmal TLC (Best Para Trooper), Cpl Madura AMS,
Cpl Amarasekara KMSS, Cpl Herath HMR,
Lac Pushpa Kumara KA, Lac Thushara ADL,
Lac Shanitha MSA, Lac Pathmalal TA,
Lac Karunajeewa WDA, Lac Edirisinghe CK,
Lac Samarawickrama LSD, Lac Lamal LHDN,
Lac Kumara WDRC, Lac Gunawardana DD,
Lac Priyadarsana MHT, Lac Dissanayake DMPP,
Lac Sudarshana MPN, Lac Lakmal JDS,
Lac Kumara WMSS, Lac Adipaththu WAMSC
- Air Women**
Cpl Peruka TMS, Cpl Ruwan pathirana S,
Cpl Abeywickrama KALRK, AC Perera OAM,
AC Thalshala KR, AC Amarasena DSNK,
AC Therangameela GGS, AC Wickramasinghe KN.



A parachutist moments after jumping off the chopper



An airwoman opens her parachute

