

Lanier County News

Covering Lanier & Northern Lowndes Counties

Volume 104 Number 11 — 1 Section 10 Pages

"Serving our community and protecting our freedoms according to His Word since 1913"

Thursday, March 14, 2024 Lakeland, GA

Moody AFB's Master Sergeant Rob Dieguez is one of a team who set a Skydiving Record



Parachute Dieguez used for skydiving



Tech Sargeant Jessica Smith McMahan, Carol Moore, Rob Dieguez and Ben Williams



Guinness World Record Certificate

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Georgia – “You’ve got to have a purpose,” said Master Sergeant Rob Dieguez when this writer interviewed him recently at Moody Air Force Base (AFB). “You’ve got to have a purpose!”

Throughout the interview, this writer had a hard time wrapping my mind around someone who has jumped with a group from the largest hot air balloon in the world and set a world skydiving record for the highest HALO jump ever! It’s hard to imagine free falling from a point about 38,000 feet above the solid ground of earth with a group of people, who are “holding hands”, and falling at a speed of at least 120 Miles Per Hour. What do you say to someone who’s accomplished that feat.

The short description of this skydiving team’s accomplishment is: “A team of skydivers led by a 73-year-old private astronaut set a record by jumping from a balloon 38,000 feet in the air and successfully executing a dangerous military dive.”

Known as Alpha 5, “the team” was made up of Brandon Daugherty; Rob Dieguez; Chris Lais and Jimmy Petrolia, who have trained as U.S. Air Force Special Warfare pararescue specialists, and Astronaut Larry Connor. The team rose to a level well above the level of breathable oxygen, by the way. Oxygen isn’t readily available above 26,000 feet and it begins to thin out at lower levels. As a result, the team had to provide their own oxygen via oxygen bottles to be able to breathe at the higher altitude, until each member dropped to a level in which oxygen was available! There were other considerations as well – temperature, weather, decompression (much like a deep ocean diver), etc.

Sergeant Dieguez has jumped thousands of times (military and civilian), but this accomplishment was even a challenge for him! He began his quest to become a highly skilled skydiver because he always “wanted to be in Special Operations”. His desire to be in Special Operations led him into training to train as an Air Force Special Tactics pararescueman or PJ’s! This particular branch means that Dieguez has specifically trained and is equipped to conduct conventional or unconventional rescue operations. This type of highly trained and skilled airmen prepares to do personnel recovery and combat search and rescue. Dieguez continued working and training to be a vital part of Special Tactics teams.

Dieguez’ purpose was to be on a record setting team who were interested in raising money for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Did they raise money? YES! They exceeded their goal and raised over \$1,000,000! In the process of meeting their primary goal, the team also met their secondary goal of raising awareness of the work

that is performed through Special Operations.

It took a lot of practice and coordination for the team, made up of both military and non-military trained persons, to meet to practice. The biggest issue was getting together mostly in New Mexico and Florida, when team members lived all over the United States. Team members spent one year training for this historic world record setting jump. Since this was a jump by persons who volunteered to participate and wasn’t sponsored by any agency or company they worked in professionally, team members took off a good 20 days of leave time to prepare and actually make the jump.

While there were five (5) jumpers, one (1) videographer, one (1) physiologist, and one (1) pilot, many others helped the team in one capacity or another throughout the year of preparation.

Not only do skydivers prepare for their fall, but they also condition to make a fast rise to their jumping altitude which is easily 1,000 feet per minute going straight up!

Please understand that this special skydiving team was also using an experimental balloon that was about fifteen (15) stories tall and the largest balloon ever made. It was equipped with both a rail and a ramp to make exiting the balloon quickly by all team members in order to help team members coordinate to make their HALO as they dropped!

The logistics of both preparing for this jump as well as executing it, boggled my mind. This writer appreciates being able to be curious and to ask intelligent questions, but once my jaw ‘hit the proverbial floor’, this writer’s ability to use much intellect was gone! Anyone who likes to challenge his or her self and has accomplished, would have difficulty having any context for the challenge the Alpha 5 Skydiving Team set for itself as they met their goal!

In the process of setting this goal and achieving it, what struck this writer was the fact that the Alpha 5 Team members have prepared for something for which there is an uncertain expectation of how it might be used on a practical level in the future. Regardless, these men achieved, excelled and have infinitely raised the bar for what humans can and do achieve! It was an honor to meet and speak to Master Sergeant Rob Dieguez. It is clear that each human being is limited only by his or her own mindset. It was an honor and a privilege to speak, even briefly, to someone that is creative enough to conceive such an accomplishment, skilled enough in all that the feat requires to successfully complete it, and have it documented in the Guinness Book of World Records!

South Georgia Fugitive David Young Captured: Tips from America’s Most Wanted TV Show Helped

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

BRUNSWICK, Georgia – Saturday, March 9th, Brunswick fugitive David D. “Khaos” Young was arrested in Mexico over the weekend. Young is accused of drug trafficking conspiracy, and tips received after the show America’s Most Wanted was aired lead them to Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, where Young was found. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Young has been brought back to the United States. Young was the final suspect wanted in “Operation Ghost Busted.” The OGB focused on the Ghost Face Gangsters gang.

Information from FBI Atlanta special agents, their agency worked with FBI Phoenix special agents and law enforcement partners in Mexico. The continued joint partnership was able to capture David D. Young.

Young was the last fugitive of 76 people indicted in Operation Ghost Busted in January 2023 for allegedly distributing methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and alprazolam in southern Georgia and northern Florida.

David D. ‘Khaos’ Young was featured in an episode of America’s Most Wanted (AMW) on Fox Network television in late February. The AMW Fox Network program centered on Operation Ghost Busted (OGB) and David ‘Khaos’ Young. Officials indicate that OGB was one of the largest and most widespread joint law enforcement operations in recent Georgia history. The OGB joint investigators included the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Glynn County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO), and other agencies. Their sole purpose was to end a “massive, gang-related drug trafficking conspiracy that led to multiple convictions.”

The story of the OGB came into the public’s purview on December 8, 2022. According to the FBI, on that date a federal arrest warrant was issued for Young in the United States District Court, Southern District of Georgia, after being charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute a controlled substance.

The FBI has stated that Operation Ghost Busted (OGB) took place on January 11, 2023. There were 76 arrest warrants which were served across Southeast Georgia. Until a few days ago, David D. ‘Khaos’ Young had remained at large. He was arrested in Mexico. Young was the last of the 76 people indicted to be arrested.

Authorities have stated that almost immediately following the arrests, drug overdose deaths were reduced by 50%.

One of Young’s associates was James D. NeSmith. The Glynn County Sheriff’s Office have revealed that NeSmith’s collaborators were known as the “Ghost



WANTED BY THE FBI

DAVID D. YOUNG

Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and to Distribute a Controlled Substance



Captured

DESCRIPTION

Aliases: "Khaos", David DeWayne Young, DeWayne Young	
Date(s) of Birth Used: December 21, 1980	Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown	Height: 6'0"
Weight: 168 pounds	Sex: Male
Race: White	

REMARKS

Young is believed to have fled to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico, also known as "Rocky Point".

CAUTION

David D. Young remains at large after Operation Ghost Busted took place on January 11, 2023, across Southeast Georgia. Young is charged with drug trafficking conspiracy tied to the Ghost Face Gangsters criminal street gang.

On December 8, 2022, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Young in the United States District Court, Southern District of Georgia, Savannah, Georgia, after being charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute a controlled substance.

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact the FBI's Atlanta Field Office at (770) 216-3000. You may also contact your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov.

Field Office: Atlanta

Face Gangsters.” They worked with other criminal and white supremacist street gangs around Georgia. ‘Khaos’ Young is accused of being one of James NeSmith’s collaborators.

Since NeSmith’s arrest, he has been convicted of murder and multiple drug-related crimes and is now serving life in prison.