

SPECIAL
OPS

Pararescuemen *in Action*



by
Michael Sandler

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by Michael Sandler

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U.S. SOF Adviser

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After the Hurricane

High up in the helicopter, Keith Berry stared down at the flooded city. Buildings, homes, and trees were underwater. Where were the **survivors**?

From a helicopter, Keith Berry looks down on the flooded streets of New Orleans in 2005.

Keith's eyes were tired. Like other **pararescuemen**, he'd been flying over New Orleans for hours. Suddenly, he saw something move. It was a group of people standing on a raised **median** in the flooded street. The **chopper** swung around. The crew dropped a rope out the side and Keith grabbed it. He slid down below.



Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans when it slammed into the city on August 29, 2005. To stay alive, people climbed onto roofs or other high places.

Air Force Pararescue

Keith Berry is a **pararescue jumper**, or a PJ. The PJs are part of the U.S. Air Force. They perform the world's toughest rescues.

Trained in medical, survival, and **combat** skills, PJs make rescues almost anywhere. They often **parachute** from planes or helicopters to get to survivors.

Only men can be PJs. It is one of only a few Air Force jobs that do not accept women.



Many of their **missions** happen during war. If a plane goes down, the PJs search for stranded **airmen**. They tend to the wounded. They may even have to fight the enemy.

PJs can parachute down 25,000 feet (7,620 m) from airplanes, jump into raging seas, and brave blizzards on the highest mountaintops.



During peacetime, PJs are always ready to help out. They often make rescues during natural disasters, such as hurricanes.

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About the Author

Michael Sandler has written many books for children and young adults. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with fellow writer Sunita Apte and their two children, Laszlo and Asha.

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Pararescuemen *in Action*

High up in a helicopter, Keith Berry stared down at the flooded city of New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina had left everything in its path underwater. Where were the survivors? Suddenly, Keith saw a group of people stuck on a median in the middle of a flooded street. The chopper swung around. The crew dropped a rope out the side. Keith grabbed it and slid down to make the rescue.

Keith is part of a special group in the U.S. Air Force—pararescuemen. Look inside to learn how these heroic men perform some of the world's toughest rescues.

Army Rangers
in Action

Green Berets
in Action

Navy SEALs
in Action

Delta Force
in Action

Marine Force Recon
in Action

Pararescuemen
in Action

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