



JUMPSTART 09: A charity event at which civilian skydivers help raise money to sponsor teenagers from CanTeen and Project K (children at risk) who then have the opportunity to complete a tandem skydive. The RNZAF supports the event by providing C-130, Parachute Jump Instructor (PJI), administrative and logistical support along with the civilian tandem masters, camera flyers who also donate their time. This year the event will be hosted by PTSU at Whenuapai Airfield, RNZAF Base Auckland, on Saturday 14 March. Note: for privacy reasons we have not identified individual Jump Start participants.

ANOTHER JUMP START SUCCESS

TIM FASTNEDGE JUMP START COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

various sections of the RNZAF including: Parachute Training Support Unit (PTSU), Base Medical, No. 40 Squadron, and Ground Support Squadron.

PTSU play a major role with support from RNZAF parachutists. The primary role of PTSU is parachute instruction for members of the New Zealand Army and RNZAF, but PTSU CO SQNLDR Darryn Pritchard says 'it is great to also work with the local community and support such a worthwhile cause.'

'These kids have faced a number of challenges and it is great to give them the chance to do something out of the ordinary.'

'Before the jump there are a few nerves, but afterwards there are these wide smiles and the kids get such a confidence boost,' says SQNLDR Pritchard.

Jump Start is very unique in its organization, as it involves such a huge group of military and civilian skydivers all working together as a 'team'. Jump Start effectively provides the participants in the program with a sense of confidence and achievement un-paralleled by any other activity.

'In total we conducted 5 flights with 5 - 6 passes on each. We dropped 40-50 jumpers on each flight

ON 15 MARCH 2009, JUMP START WAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY MARKING ITS THIRD YEAR SINCE INCEPTION.

Bad weather saw the event postponed from Saturday 14 to Sunday 15 but this call proved 'spot on' as Sunday's weather was clear blue skies with light winds, allowing us to fully complete the event without a hitch.

Jump Start is a charity event that gives teenagers from CanTeen and Project K the chance to complete a tandem skydive from the ramp of the RNZAF C130 Hercules. The event was again hosted by RNZAF Base Auckland and fifty courageous teenagers from Project K and CanTeen took up the challenge.

Jump Start is fully support by the RNZAF who have been involved since the first event over the skies of Matamata in 2007. Such support involves



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AK 09-0136-066



PTSU CO Darryn Pritchard gets ready to help another Jump Start participant out the C-130's back door.

totaling approximately 200 jumps for the day – an outstanding achievement. The day for us started at 0800 and ended at approx 1900 with the last flight landing about 1830, says SQNLDR Pritchard.

This year Jump Start awarded its key working crews with the Anahera award. Key personnel were awarded the Jump Start Anahera Wings, and all earning high respect among their peers – Anahera (Maori meaning 'angel')

Special thanks to all of those involved at every level. Your support to this event is a fine example of how individuals can make a difference in the lives of others.

“JUMP START IS A CHARITY EVENT THAT GIVES TEENAGERS FROM CANTEEN AND PROJECT K THE CHANCE TO COMPLETE A TANDEM SKYDIVE ...”



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