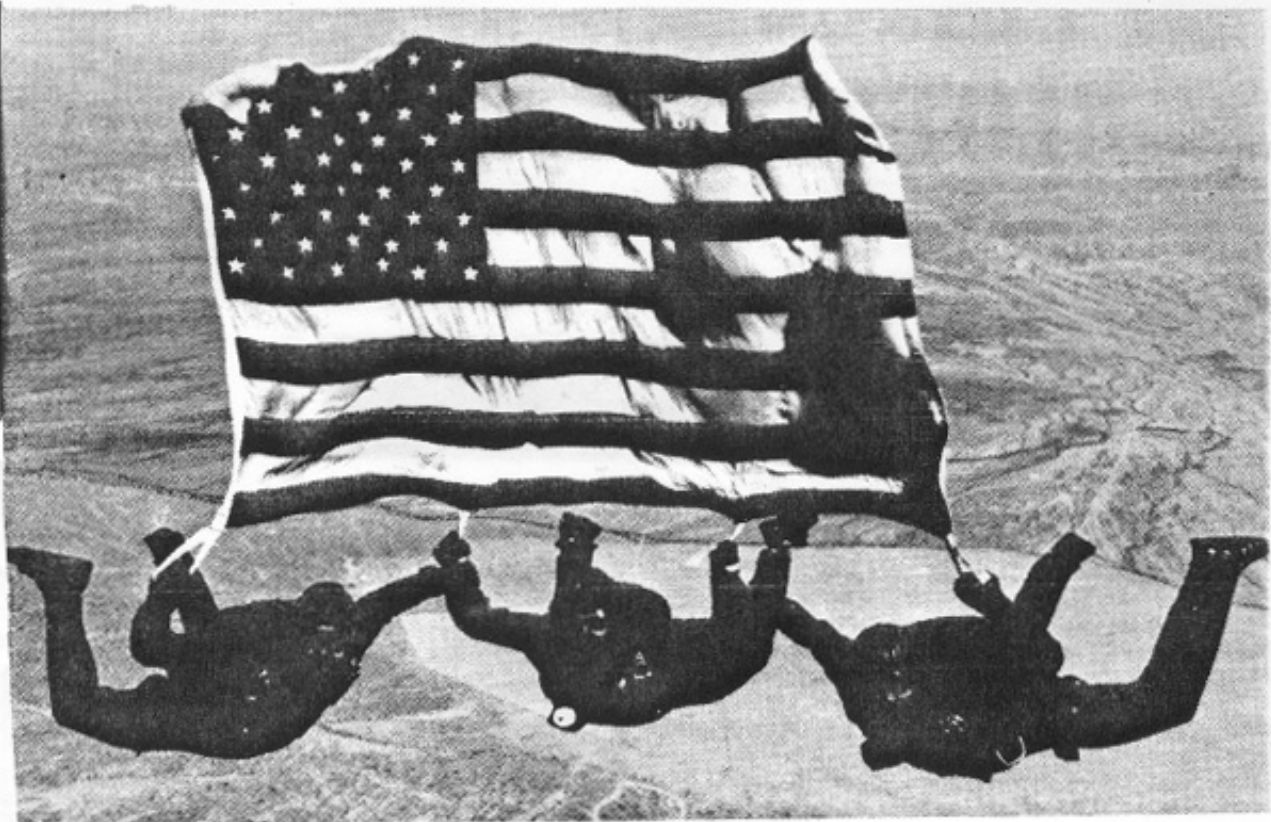


Brooklyn "Knight" Drops In on Hometown



The Army's Golden Knights proudly fly the Stars and Stripes.

By Craig McGuire

What would possess a sane, intelligent man to launch himself from a perfectly sound airplane and hurtle towards the earth at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour, day in and day out?

"I had to try it, and once I did I was hooked," said Brooklyn's own Staff Sergeant John Dennis, who's being all he can be as a member of the United States Army Parachute Team, the "Golden Knights."

Recently, J.D., as his teammates call him, came home to the metropolitan area for a short visit, just long enough to do what he does best before a sold-out crowd at Giants stadium. Dennis and the other 12 fearless flyers of the Knights' Gold Demonstra-

tion Team descended into the stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey just prior to the opening kick-off of the annual Army-Navy football game.

Dennis admits that he's not a big sports fan. "About the only time I get to see a game is when I jump out over it," said Dennis, moments before he accompanied this reporter onto a flight for a practice run.

Dennis had to learn to walk before he could fly, a process that took place during his formative years in Harlem until J.D. turned 12 years old.

In 1969, the Dennis family relocated to Brooklyn, taking up residence on Ocean Avenue and Avenue J.

Growing up in Brooklyn, with parachutes and airplanes still well ahead of

Golden Knights



Staff Sergeant John Dennis of Brooklyn is a member of the Army's elite Golden Knights parachute team.

him. Dennis often turned his attention to the most famous Brooklyn pastime, stickball.

Dennis recalls countless

training in the field of computers. These skills would always take a back seat to skydiving from the moment Dennis entered basic training.

