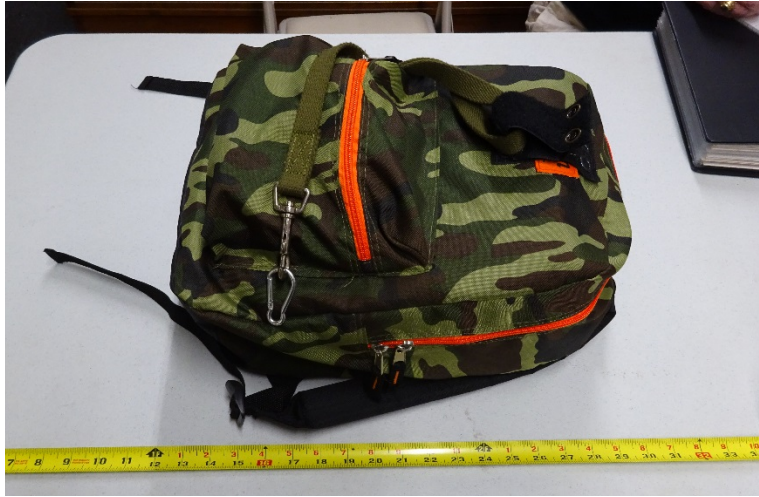


Houston Wing – Educational Hands on Exercises

Parachute Exercise

We have a Lockheed Loadstar (C-60) aircraft restored as a paratroop aircraft including the wooden benches for 18 with the static line and jump lights. We decided to design a hands on exercise to use when school groups and other groups of kids from 8-12 visit our hangar.

1. We purchased 10 camouflaged kid's back packs to simulate parachutes. (To fill the back packs out we have either an empty box or foam pad in them.)



2. We tried several methods of connecting the back packs to the aircraft static line and settled on using a 10 foot dog leash that easily snapped onto the static line, using a carabineer clip.



3. We then sewed a Velcro patch on the back of the back pack and a put a similar size Velcro patch through the handle end of the dog leash, thus connecting the two.



When the kids go through the parachute exercise we teach them about paratroopers and then they line up and put on their back packs before entering the aircraft.



Once seated in the aircraft when the jumpmaster says “**Stand UP**” they get up and check each other’s chutes making sure the leash is tucked into the backpack pocket. Then on the command “**Hook UP**” they connect their dog leashes to the static line. When the jump signal is given they jump out of the C-60 door and run about 6 feet when the leash tightens and the Velcro pulls loose simulating their chute opening. (This works well with the C-60 because the jump door is only about 2 feet above the ground.) After they jump they then repack the chute, connecting the Velcro and putting the leash back into the backpack pocket for the next class rotation.

