



Cuts to “jump pay”: The US Army reorganizes 22,000 airborne positions

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The United States Army has announced a profound reorganization of its airborne forces, which will result in the end of the **jump pay** for about 22,000 paratrooper soldiers starting from the fiscal year 2026. The decision, communicated to the units on July 30, 2025, aims to redesign the airborne structure, ensuring the allowance only to those operating on the front line.

According to reports, the affected positions will be recoded: parachutist experience will remain a requirement, but the additional payment of 150 dollars per month will no longer be authorized. Soldiers will still be able to attend parachute school, but without the obligation to maintain active qualifications or to regularly participate in jump operations.

A choice dictated by resource shortages

Lieutenant General **Gregory Anderson**, commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, explained that the decision arises from specific logistical difficulties. In an interview given in April to the

podcast *From the Green Notebook*, the general highlighted the limitations due to the scarcity of available aircraft and issues related to personnel, particularly riggers and jumpmasters.

"We are trying to support a structure of 56,000 units with resources that are decreasing. By doing so, we are dispersing them and risking undermining our own operational readiness goals," Anderson stated.

The Army has increased its airborne forces by over 13,000 units since 2002, reaching the reactivation of the **11th Airborne Division**, with a focus on the Arctic, in 2022. But the growth of the airborne force has not been accompanied by proportional resources.

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Targeted cuts and incentives for key roles

The majority of positions that will lose the allowance are in support units and commands, while benefits for soldiers assigned to direct combat will be safeguarded.

"It's not about money in the strict sense," Anderson clarified. "It's a matter of priorities: those who have to jump into a contested drop zone and fight immediately must have the highest level of readiness."

The measure, while reducing the number of beneficiaries, **increases the allowances for actual paratroopers**. As announced by Secretary of Defense **Pete Hegseth** last May, the jump pay will increase from 150 to 200 dollars per month. Additionally, jumpmasters will receive an additional bonus of 150 dollars, bringing the total allowance to 350 dollars per month.

Prospects and consequences

According to initial estimates reported in April by Army Times, the affected positions were expected to be less than 20,000, but updated figures now speak of about 22,000 reclassified positions. The Army has not provided further clarification on the numbers but has invited affected soldiers to contact their chain of command for information on their status.

The measure reflects a compromise: reducing costs and concentrating resources where parachutist training remains essential for the mission, without dispersing resources in staff and

support assignments. In a context of reduced available means, the US Army thus aims to ensure the highest level of readiness for those who will truly be called to fight immediately in complex operational scenarios.

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