

Exercice

From Army Ranger to Pararescueman - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnKtfhyaQBQ>

Lou Diamond: Now Wil, the fact that you **cross-trained** from the Army Rangers to the Air Force Pararescuemen, I mean, that sounds incredibly rare. Is it?

Wil Willis: Um, there's been a few other guys that have done it and, I mean, that's one of the things that inspired me to do it as well. I had heard rumors of these Rangers disappearing and reappearing in the Pararescue community. So I checked it out and found out that it was a viable option and when I left the Ranger battalion in 98, I had a short break in service and then I joined the Air Force to become a Pararescueman.

Lou Diamond: What are some of the... the major differences in some of the training?

Wil Willis: Wow. Um, mindset I would say is a huge difference. When you're in the Ranger battalion, there's a very direct action-focused mission going on. There's a lot of violence of action, um, you know, **cadences like** kill, kill, kill. And then when you get to Pararescue, your job is combat, search and rescue. Not that you're not direct action-capable but the mission statement is different. I mean, as a Pararescueman, you are a recovery expert, an expert of recovering anything: assets, personnel, materials, in any situation, in any terrain. As a Ranger, I was just expected to perform my infantry duties in the same type of capacity: any terrain, anywhere, being able to do that... It's two different mindsets.