



AERIAL DELIVERY DIRECTORATE (ADD)

OVERVIEW:

The Aerial Delivery Directorate (ADD) mission is to conduct research and engineering in military parachuting and airdrop systems to increase aircraft/airborne force survivability; improve airdrop accuracy and functional reliability; reduce personnel injuries/casualties; and lower the cost to develop, produce and maintain these complex systems. The ADD consists of the Airdrop Technology Team, Aerial Delivery Engineering Support Team and the Aerial Delivery Design and Fabrication Team. The teams work hand-in-hand with the Product Manager Force Sustainment Systems (PM-FSS), Product Manager Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment (PM-SCIE), the Integrated Logistics Support Center (ILSC) and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) for the development, fielding and support of aerial delivery equipment & systems. Further support is provided by an Army Senior Warrant Officer Parachute Rigger, a small Army Rigger Detachment and an Air Force Senior NCO Loadmaster Liaison who collectively provide the field perspective for all aerial delivery programs and investigations.

AIRDROP TECHNOLOGY:

The primary focus of the Airdrop Technology Team is to provide increased mobility and logistic capabilities to the Soldier by identifying and maturing technologies that show promise towards advancing the state-of-the-art in aerial delivery of equipment, supplies and personnel. The major Science and Technology thrust areas are reducing the potential for airborne personnel injury/casualties through improved system reliability while reducing ground impact velocity, oscillation and exposure time to threats; accelerating and lowering the cost of parachute development, production and maintenance through novel new parachute designs using computational analytical methods to reduce manufacturing and testing requirements; improving airdrop survivability of fragile payloads and enhancing battlefield effectiveness by decreasing high opening forces for parachute systems deployed at high altitudes; increasing aircraft/airborne force survivability; and expanding the airdrop operational envelope through the introduction of standoff precision guided aerial delivery platforms and low-level airdrop systems.

AERIAL DELIVERY & ENGINEERING SUPPORT:

The Aerial Delivery Engineering Support Team provides technical and engineering services for the development, acquisition, sustainment or use of products and processes that afford aerial delivery of personnel and equipment by parachute, aircraft and helicopter.

- **Airdrop Certification:** Planning, coordinating, conducting and documenting all activities required to certify the acceptability of an item for airdrop.
- **Helicopter Sling Load Certification:** Planning, coordinating, conducting and documenting all activities required to certify the acceptability of an item for helicopter slingloading.
- **Engineering Support for Army Airdrop Equipment Procurement & Sustainment:** Providing management and technical support to the field, ILSC, DLA, and Airdrop Lifecycle Coordination Team.

AERIAL DELIVERY DESIGN & FABRICATION:

The Aerial Delivery Design & Fabrication Team fabricates prototype parachutes, harnesses and accessories, make modifications (such as upgrading or repairing existing fielded equipment), and provides quick response production capabilities. The Design and Fabrication Team provides technical support, as required, for airdrop items, Quality Deficiency Reports (QDR) and Engineering Change Proposals (ECP).

POINT OF CONTACT:

Aerial Delivery Directorate Liaison

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TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.