JOINT PRECISION AIRDROP SYSTEM - MEDIUM (JPADS-M) | ADES

OVERVIEW:

High altitude, precision airdrop is expected to be a key enabling technology for the Future Force. It will facilitate rapid strategic and tactical deployment of the Future Force and just-in-time resupply to most locations throughout the world.

Current airdrop resources are complex systems that are tied to known high threat choke points, such as: Aerial Ports of Debarkation (APOD), Seaports of Debarkation (SPODs), Drop Zones (DZs) and Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC). Airdrop deliveries can reach supply points in days or weeks making it almost incapable of responding to a dynamic operational and tactical environment.

Based on the fact that Soldiers are a projection-based force, they must have the capability to sustain combat power from strategic distances into a very dynamic and dispersed battlespace that effectively and efficiently enables them to have decisive operational superiority.

DESCRIPTION:

JPADS is a family of systems that have different payload weight ranges that will allow conventional military aircraft to accurately drop sensors, munitions, and a huge range of supplies onto the battlefield while minimizing risk to the aircraft and also the possibility of enemy detection of aircraft drop zones. The systems will use gliding parachute decelerators, GPS-based guidance, navigation and control, weather data assimulation and an airdrop mission planning tool to deliver cargo with near pinpoint accuracy.

The JPADS-M program will develop precision airdrop technologies for medium payload weights (30K lb. rigged weight), a capability that the Army currently does not have. It will significantly expand upon the JPADS ACTD weight capability of 10,000 lb. and will provide high volume re-supply of fuel and ammunition. JPADS-M will also enhance the potential strategic deployment airdrop capability to overcome the maximum-on-ground (MOG) limitations, such as high volume supplies and combat equipment.

The payload weight aligns with the medium block in the draft CASCOM Capabilities Development Document (CDD) for the Joint Precision Airdrop System and the corresponding payload capacity of the Palletized Load System and Load Handling System (PLS/LHS), as well as the related, emerging technology program Smart Distribution–Modular Intermodal Platform (MIP). A medium weight precision offset airdrop capability will provide the required "never-too-late" supply and distribution capability that the widely dispersed combat teams of the Future Force will require in the first days of a conflict, enabling them to increase their operational agility. In addition, it will increase strategic deployability, while decreasing detectability and vulnerability of the delivery aircraft and Troops.

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