



LOW COST LOW ALTITUDE (LCLA) AERIAL RESUPPLY | ADES

OVERVIEW:

Anecdotal feedback from the Afghanistan AOR indicated challenges in airdropping low weight payloads at low altitudes. In order to investigate the problem fully, and rapidly evaluate and determine the value of possible solutions, the US Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) partnered with the Logistics Innovation Agency (LIA) who agreed to fund the project and the 82nd Airborne Division as a representative of the user community. NSRDEC initiated an in-house investigation of alternatives, conducted a series of technical experiments and ultimately developed five candidates that met the key requirements established for the project by the user community.

DESCRIPTION:

The LCLA family of parachute systems for aerial resupply consists of five aerodynamic decelerator configurations capable of handling payloads weighing 30 – 500 lbs, delivering payloads from 100 – 2000 ft of altitude, and costing no more than \$375. Innovations in parachute design, material selection, and manufacturing techniques yielded highly reliable, fast opening parachutes that exceeded performance and cost parameters.

The system is flexible and simple enough to be quickly rigged with no specialized rigger or loadmaster training; can be airdropped from commercial or military fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters or unmanned aerial vehicles.

It is used in support of forces that are operating:

- Substantial distances from forward operating bases (FOBs)
- In remote, austere and hard-to-reach locations by surface means or ground transportation
- With limited or no materiel handling equipment (MHE) to conduct recovery or retrograde operations
- In locations with no useable or viable airfields or airstrips to conduct Airland operations

STATUS:

LCLA transitioned to Product Manager Force Sustainment Systems in May 07. Over 10,000 systems have been delivered to OEF with another 2,000 delivered to units in CONUS and OIF.

POINT OF CONTACT:

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“We are at the point where we can reduce the number of ground combat logistics patrols...resulting in generating combat power, preserving lives. We are able to reduce the amount of exposure time to our troopers both via CDS recovery time and ground convoys”

– TF Fury CDR May 07

