

Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance

MISSION

Provides the warfighter with precision airdrop capability, ensuring an accurate delivery of supplies to forward-operating forces, reducing vehicular convoys, and allowing aircraft to drop cargo at safer altitudes and off-set distances.

DESCRIPTION

The Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS) is a precision-guided airdrop system that provides rapid, precise, high-altitude delivery capabilities that do not rely on ground transportation. The system ensures accurate and timely delivery in support of operational missions, while providing aircraft with increased survivability. JPADS integrates a parachute decelerator, an autonomous guidance unit, and a load container or pallet to create a system that can accurately deliver critical supplies with great precision along a predetermined glide and flight path. The system is being developed in two weight classes: 2,000 pounds and 10,000 pounds. The guidance system uses military global positioning satellite data for precise

navigation and interfaces with a wirelessly updatable mission planning module on board the aircraft to receive real-time weather data and compute multiple aerial release points. JPADS is being designed for aircraft to drop cargo from altitudes of up to 24,500 feet mean sea level. It will release cargo from a minimum off-set of eight kilometers from the intended point of impact, with an objective capability of 25 kilometers off-set. This off-set allows aircraft to stay out of range of many anti-aircraft systems. It also enables aircraft to drop systems from a single aerial release point and deliver them to multiple or single locations, thus reducing aircraft exposure time. Once on the ground, the precise placement of the loads greatly reduces the time needed to recover the load as well as minimizes exposure to ground forces.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

- **1QFY12:** Completed and fielded product improvements to provide increased capabilities for the 2,000-pound variant in accordance with Joint Urgent Operational Needs Statement to include: accuracy improvements, adding terrain avoidance capability, and reducing the retrograde burden
- **1QFY12:** Completed Initial Operational Test & Evaluation of the 10,000-pound JPADS variant
- **3QFY12:** Completed high altitude follow-on tests of JPADS 10K for standard extraction from C-17 and C-130 aircraft
- **4QFY12:** Milestone C (Full-rate production and fielding decision) for 10,000-pound variant with subsequent award of remaining production contract option

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **3QFY13:** Fielding begins for 10,000-pound variant

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development

Engineering & Manufacturing Development

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support



Airborne Guidance Unit (AGU)



Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS)

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
None

CONTRACTORS
Airborne Systems North America
(Pennsauken, NJ)
Draper Laboratories (Cambridge, MA)

