

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FORCE (IRF) SOLDIER OFFLOAD

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Airborne Soldiers are exiting aircraft at weights up to 400 lbs due to required combat equipment and supplies that must be carried to support Immediate Response Force (IRF) missions upon landing. Increased exit weights are a contributing factor to poor aircraft exits (which may cause parachute opening malfunctions), and can lead to injuries during landing. This project will integrate out of service T-11 personnel parachutes with the Caster Assisted Aerial Delivery System (CAADS) as a method to offload weight from Airborne Soldiers, increasing safety and reducing injuries.

BENEFITS

Aircraft exit and ground impact injury susceptibility will be reduced by offloading up to 3,000 lbs from a single aircraft of jumpers to T-11 CAADS door bundles (500 lbs per T-11 CAADS bundle, 6x T-11 CAADS bundles per aircraft), resulting in a savings of up to 46 lbs per jumper per C-130 aircraft. Additionally, this will result in a savings to the Government and reduction of waste by converting expired personnel parachutes to cargo use which would have otherwise been disposed of.

PATH FORWARD

Testing will be completed at Yuma Proving Ground to validate performance of T-11 CAADS bundles in support a Safety Confirmation for field use. Once completed, the project will be transitioned to PM Force Sustainment Systems for further development and sustainment.



T-11 CAADS Door Bundles during testing at Westover AFB



T-11 CAADS Door Bundle (L); Preparing to release CAADS (R)

DoD Executive Agent

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

National Defense Center for Energy and Environment
<http://www.denix.osd.mil/ndcee/home>

U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center, Soldier Sustainment Directorate

<https://ccdcsoldiercenter.army.mil/whatwedo#sustainment>