

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 offset 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 offset of eight kilometers from the intended point of impact, with an objective capability of 25 kilometers offset. This offset 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 minimizing exposure to ground forces.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

- **3QFY07-4QFY08:** Testing for 2,000-pound variant completed
- **1QFY08:** Milestone B (permission to enter system development and demonstration phase) received for 10,000-pound variant
- **2QFY08:** Testing began for 10,000-pound variant and currently in developmental testing
- **3QFY09:** Milestone C, Type Classification-Standard, and Full Materiel Release approved for the 2,000-pound variant, with production contract
- **4QFY09:** Fielding began for 2,000-pound variant and will continue through FY12
- **4QFY11:** Complete product improvements to provide increased capabilities for the 2,000-pound variant in accordance with joint urgent operations statement to include: accuracy improvements, adding terrain avoidance capability, and reducing the retrograde burden

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **1QFY12:** Complete testing of the 10,000-pound variant

- **3QFY12:** Milestone C (Full-Rate Production and fielding decision) for 10,000-pound variant with subsequent award production contract
- **1QFY13:** Fielding begins for 10,000-pound variant

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development

Engineering and Manufacturing Development

Production and Deployment

Operations and 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)

