



Freedrop Packaging Concept Project (FPCP)

Freedrop Delivery System (FDS) OT at ATC



DESCRIPTION

The FPCP is a proof-of-concept effort to demonstrate through a series of test activities and events that the unique capabilities of the freedrop packaging concept and system can be exploited to provide sustainment support in the difficult and challenging operational environments of the 21st century. The FPCP is one facet of LCLA aerial resupply. Freedrop (no parachutes) requires an innovative packaging system whereby supplies can be dropped at very low altitudes and, because of the structural attributes and characteristics of the package itself, land with no damage and in a condition that facilitates quick and easy recovery (no MHE) and distribution. Once completed and transitioned, the FPCP FDS will improve support by enabling rapid and precise aerial delivery of small, tailored support packages to units operating in austere, remote and hard-to-reach locations.

Stakeholders: LOGSA PSCC, Aberdeen Test Center (ATC), Rutgers, ATEC, Airborne and Special Opns Test Directorate (OTC ABNSOTD), CASCOM, G-44(D), DLA, REF, USASOC, Quartermaster Center & School, 82nd Sustainment Brigade (SB) and other operational units
Transition Partners: PM FSS, CASCOM, DLA and possibly others

MILESTONES

- ✓ Conducted Events 2-16 (DT/OT) Apr 08–May 11
- ✓ Attained ATEC Safety Release for FDS 1 31 Mar 09
- ✓ Conducted OT at ATC with XVIIIth ABC/ABNSOTD 13 Oct 09
- ✓ Conducted New Equipment Training (NET) w/ 82nd SB 5 May 10
- ✓ Shipped 40 FDS 1 to 82nd SB in Afghanistan 19 Aug 10
- ✓ Conducted FDS 2 DT at LOGSA PSCC and ATC Oct 10–Feb 11
- ✓ Conducted NET with the 197th STC and others Feb 11
- ✓ Provided 72 FDS to Support Atlas Drop 11 in Uganda Mar 11
- ✓ Tested the FDS at higher airspeeds (up to 120 knots) May 11
- Test the FDS from fixed-wing aircraft Jun-Jul 11
- Publish Draft of Business Case Analysis (BCA) Oct 11
- Coordinate Transition of Project Deliverables Aug-Oct 11

PROJECT STATUS

- Key Success to Date:
 - Designed and successfully tested the FDS to freedrop a variety of key supplies, to include 5.56 mm, 7.62 mm and .50 cal ammo, selected repair parts, medical supplies, MREs, batteries and bottled water.
- Current Efforts:
 - Support USARAF in Atlas Accord 12 Exercise.
 - Build Operational Partnership with USASOC.
 - Test the FDS at airspeeds with fixed-wing aircraft.
 - Explore options for producing the chevron material.
 - Certify the FDS 1 for ammo airdrop.
 - Create an NSN for an FDS kit.
 - Complete draft of BCA and other transition reports.
- Next Action/Date: Conduct FPCP Event 17 at the ATC: Jun-Jul 11.