

Problem:

Towplate that controls the release of the Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System (LAPES) is unreliable, numerous premature releases. Majority of Extraction Link inventory is built out of tolerance from design specifications, at least 3 separate Air Force and Army specifications used to manufacture links

Solution:

Combat Talon redesigned towplate components prevent premature and delayed releases and accounts for out of tolerance Extraction Links. Redesigned towplate consists of new release mechanism to provide a positive lock, stronger solenoid to provide sufficient force to overcome the positive lock, 10 gauge solenoid wire to provide adequate current, and wire cover. Redesigned proved reliable after 47 drogue parachute releases, NO Failures! Towplate redesigned system is now 95% reliable with a 90% confidence level.

Return on Investment:

\$200K Sustainment Engineering (583) investment regained airdrop capability, towplate redesign drops cargo on the money.

Plus, 6000 Extraction Links salvaged at \$256 each. US Army War Reserve Airdrops Kits are useful again. Reduced aircrew safety issues.





