

An Analysis of the U.S. Army's T-11 Advanced Troop Parachute System and Potential Path Forward



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Abstract

The T-11 ATPS is a the Army's newest, most advanced, non-steerable parachute; beginning fielding in 2009 and reaching Full Operational Capability in 2014. Since its fielding in 2009, nine deaths have occurred to paratroopers using this parachute and its reserve. This report reviews the airborne community's request to assess, modify, or develop a new parachute against potential acquisition approaches for the T-11 ATPS program path forward.



T-11 ATPS (Source: PdM SCIE, 2014)



T-11 Mass Tactical airborne jump (Source: Duncan, 2016)

Methods

The advantages and disadvantages of four acquisition approaches are identified from the stakeholders' perspectives and the DOD Decision Support System lens of cost, schedule, performance and risk. Criteria assigned to each category, measured the approach's ability to address the T-11 ATPS issues identified by testing, the XVIII Airborne Corps Commander's memorandum, and the Army Airborne Board's Joint Working Group.

Results

The overall scoring of the four different approaches suggests that the non-materiel approach addresses the most number of issues, in the shortest amount of time, and with the lowest cost. Qualitative information obtained through this report differs from the quantitative results, pointing to a combination of the approaches as potentially the most appropriate.

	Incremental	New Design	Non-Materiel
Performance	2	4	3
Cost	3	1	4
Schedule	3	1	4
Risk	2	2	2
Overall Score	10	8	13

Recommendations

- A combination of all three approaches is recommended to address all of the issues using a near, mid, and long-term acquisition strategy.
- A near-term strategy addresses issues immediately through doctrine, training, education and leadership.
- Implementing solutions that have been tested for higher risk issues with continued monitoring as a mid-term strategy.
- A long-term strategy consists of requirements development, Analysis of Alternatives, and research and development of parachute materials.