

## Chapter 4 – CONCLUSIONS

Precision airdrop has rapidly matured since 2001 and will likely become more common in military operations for the foreseeable future. Precision airdrop is a high-priority, short-term requirement for DAT and a Long Term Capability Requirement (LTCR) within NATO. Many NATO Nations' investments in these systems/technologies are growing. The need for precision airdrop is clear: we must protect our aircrews and transport aircraft by providing them the ability to avoid ground threats while concurrently providing pin-point-accurate delivery of supplies, equipment, and personnel over a widely dispersed and rapidly changing battle field.

Improved aircraft navigation using GPS has increased airdrop accuracy and weather forecasting and in-situ measurement technologies are providing significantly more accurate and higher fidelity weather information to aircrews and mission planning systems. The future of precision airdrop will focus on controllable, high-altitude-deployable, GPS-guided, high-performance airdrop systems that utilize advanced mission planning capabilities and provide focused logistics to the warfighter at an affordable cost. The ability to provide resupply and equipment anywhere, anytime and in nearly all weather conditions will become a reality for NATO in the very near future. Some of COTS and rapidly maturing national systems like, and including, those described in this report, are being utilized operationally in small quantities now. Further enhancements, refinements, and improvements can be expected over the coming years as the importance of getting materials where and when they are needed is critical in all military operations.

## CONCLUSIONS

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