

Annex A – AERIAL RELEASE PROCESSES BY AIRCRAFT TYPE

This table briefly compares methods by aircraft type for the five basic elements of the air release process (ballistics, winds, computations, steering, and release).

Table A1: Airdrop Elements of the Air Release Process

Aircraft Type	Ballistics	Winds	Computations	Steering	Release
C-17	--Computer Database --Data entered manually or automatically updated from sensors	--Inertially Sensed --Automatic update to computations, or --Manually entered right up to release	--Computer calculates release point location	--Multi-Function Displays, and --Heads Up Displays provide steering info for pilots	--Automatic Mission-Computer Controlled, or --Manually accomplished by Loadmaster --Control Panel in cockpit for auto/manual selection
“Green” C-130 (a.k.a “Slicks”)	--Paper/Pencil computed and maintained by Navigator	--Paper/Pencil --Inertially sensed via Self-Contained Navigation System (SCNS) --No automatic update to release point computations	--Paper/Pencil computations by Navigator	--Navigator Steering Commands to Pilots	--Manually accomplished by Loadmaster
C-130J (no combination personnel / equipment elements like C-17)	--Computer Database --Data entered manually or automatically updated from sensors	--Inertially Sensed --Automatic update to computations, and/or --Manually entered right up to release	--Computer calculates release point location	--Multi-Function Displays, and --Heads Up Displays provide steering info for pilots --Radar enables position updates	--Automatic Mission-Computer Controlled or --Manually accomplished by Loadmaster --Control Panel in cockpit for auto/manual selection
MC-130H (Special Operations Aircraft)	--Computer Database --Data entered manually or automatically updated from sensors	--Inertially Sensed --Automatic update to computations, and/or --Manually entered right up to release	--Computer calculates release point location	--Multi-Function Displays --Radar and Infrared Sensor enable position updates prior to release	--Automatic mission-computer-controlled Green Light, but --Release manually accomplished by Loadmaster

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