Humanitarian Airdrop over Populated Areas
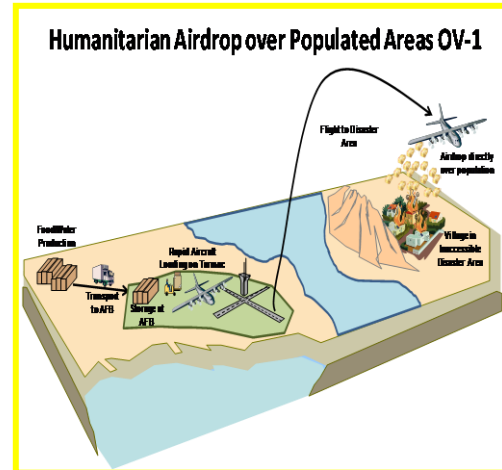
Project Summary: This program will develop, integrate and test a low cost, one time use airdrop system that is intended to provide assistance in the form of food and water directly to populated areas over the first few days or weeks of a humanitarian disaster. This project will develop new packaging methods for existing, Food and Drug Administration approved food items and a new airdroppable packaging system for water to allow for a safe descent onto

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populated areas. It will also develop the capability to deliver these packages from fixed wing aircraft such as the C-130 or C-17 for global response.

Return on Investment: Because this capability would deliver and disperse the food and/or water directly to the population in need in a safe manner, it eliminates the need for on-ground support in the disaster area. This technology will enhance the capability of first responder organizations such as US Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of State and responding military organizations such as US Air Force Air Mobility Command (AMC), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM).

Duration of project: FY12-FY14

Participants: US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM)

Project advocacy (funding or otherwise): USTRANSCOM J5, Medical Command, Combat Feeding Directorate, AMC

Transition: This technology would be transitioned by involving and assisting in the planning of transition to the USAID organization or other appropriate organization responsible for humanitarian aid. Transition planning includes developing a logistics plan for stocking and locating systems to allow for rapid response.

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