



High Altitude-Low Opening/ High Altitude-High Opening (HALO/HAHO) Navigation Aid

Program:

In partnership with SOCOM, Natick Soldier Center (NSC) is advancing/investigating technologies to provide the Navaid capability. Currently evaluating foreign systems and plan to test and evaluate over the next 4 years, with fielding in 4Q07.

Description:

The High Altitude-Low Opening/High Altitude-High Opening (HALO/HAHO) Navigation Aid will allow the Special Operations Forces (SOF) infiltration capabilities in all environmental situations. Currently teams have little ability to navigate to a target unless it is seen at exit. This system will make it possible to land precisely during adverse weather conditions i.e. clouds, rain, and snow, which greatly reduces the possibility of detection.

Why It's Needed:

The techniques for mission planning of Military Free Fall (MFF) operations are extremely complicated, and the parachutist is burdened with a vast amount of details that are accumulated from several inputs.

How It Works:

The system is a HALO/HAHO helmet system that includes a heads up display Navigation Aid and integrated oxygen system. The system also includes a laptop-based mission planning system, map overlay, alternative target designation features, and predicted release cones based on user wind estimates that are manually input in advance.

Benefits:

This program will give the SOF community the capability and the confidence to accomplish the infiltration portion of their mission safely, accurately, and undetected in a wider range of environmental conditions.

- Provide better situational awareness for Special Operations military free fall units
- Improved combat effectiveness (all weather capability)
- Improved safety/reliability

Point of Contact:

Airdrop/Aerial Delivery Liaison

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