

# Reusable Aerial Delivery Equipment Replacing Cardboard EDM & Plywood skid boards

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# Current Status

## **Current Status** (continued -6)

# **Number of Reusable Products in use by the Air Force**

## Current Status

### Reusable Equipment Purchased (Q4-2024n to Q4-2022)

Entire CDS line is Reusable Equipment.

| Base         | Base Description                                       | CDS       | Skid Board RUSB | REAL Modules | Type of Modules |           |            | Belt      |
|--------------|--|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|              |  |           |                 |              | 06M12           | 04M06     | 23M126     |           |
| 1            | Little Rock, AR  | 8         | 8               | 128          | 72              | 8         | 48         | 8         |
| 2            | Hurlburt Field, FL                                     | 10        | 10              | 160          | 90              | 10        | 60         | 10        |
| 3            | AFB Ramstein-Mie, Germany                              | 10        | 10              | 160          | 90              | 10        | 60         | 10        |
| 4            | 109th Airlift Squadron, MN                             | 6         | 6               | 96           | 54              | 6         | 36         | 6         |
| 5            | 109th AW Base, Scotia, NY                              | 4         | 4               | 0            | 0               | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| 6            | 374 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Yokota, Japan        | 3         | 3               | 48           | 27              | 3         | 18         | 3         |
| 7            | 773 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK                | 10        | 10              | 160          | 90              | 10        | 60         | 10        |
| 8            | 97 <sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Sq, Altus AFB, OK | 8         | 8               | 128          | 72              | 8         | 48         | 8         |
| 9            | 193 <sup>rd</sup> Special Ops Squadron, Middletown, PA | 12        | 12              | 192          | 108             | 12        | 72         | 12        |
| 10           | 27 <sup>th</sup> SOLRS / LGRDAS, Cannon AFB, NM        | 1         | 1               | 16           | 9               | 1         | 6          | 1         |
| 11           | 347 OSS/OSK ADSB, Moody AFB, GA                        | 15        | 15              | 240          | 135             | 15        | 90         | 15        |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>87</b> | <b>87</b>       | <b>1328</b>  | <b>747</b>      | <b>83</b> | <b>498</b> | <b>83</b> |

## **Current Status** (continued -6)

# **Total Number of Airdrops by Current End-users at Air Force Bases**

# Current Status

## Total Number of Airdrops (Oct 24 – Mar 26)

| No                                      | Air Force Base  | No of CDS | Airdrops for all CDSs | Average Drop per CDS |
|---|---|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1                                       | Little Rock, AR (June 2025)                                       | 8         | 62                    | 8                    |
| 2                                       | Hurlburt Field, FL (Feb 2026)                                     | 10        | 387                   | 39                   |
| 3                                       | AFB Ramstein-Mie, Germany (Mar 2026)                              | 10        | 60                    | 6                    |
| 4                                       | 109th Airlift Squadron, MN (Mar 2026)                             | 6         | 90                    | 15                   |
| 5                                       | 109th AW Base, Scotia, NY (black top DZ) (Feb 2026)               | 4         | 77                    | 19                   |
| 6                                       | 374 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Yokota, Japan (Mar 2026)        | 3         | 156                   | 52                   |
| 7                                       | 773 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK (Mar 2026)                | 10        | 582                   | 58                   |
| 8                                       | 97 <sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Sq, Altus AFB, OK (Nov 2025) | 8         | 34                    | 4                    |
| 9                                       | 193 <sup>rd</sup> Special Ops Squadron, Middletown, PA (Mar 2026) | 12        | 57                    | 5                    |
| 10                                      | 27 <sup>th</sup> SOLRS / LGRDAS, Cannon AFB, NM (Oct 2025)        | 1         | 2                     | 2                    |
| 11                                      | 347 OSS/OSK ADSB, Moody AFB, GA (Dec 2025)                        | 15        | 40                    | 2.7                  |
| 12                                      | Training Center for Paratroopers, SOR, Belgium AFB (NATO)         | REAL      | No report yet         | N/A                  |
| <b>Total CDSs, Drops, and Drops/CDS</b> |   | <b>87</b> | <b>1547</b>           | <b>18</b>            |

**Exceeded**

**35**

**Airdrops**

**Entire CDS line is Reusable Equipment**

**Average drops for CDSs in the field**

**RUSB and REAL CDSs have been airdropped over 1547 times.**

## Summary - Why Using REAL & RUSB (Reusables)?

- **Financially**: Save cost of ownership
- RUSB and REAL have been successfully airdropped by Air Force Bases more than **1547** times.
- **At two AFBs the Entire CDS lines are Reusable Equipment**  
**347<sup>th</sup> ADSB, Moody AFB, GA**  
**193<sup>rd</sup> SOS, Middletown, PA**
- We had **5** **reported incomplete parachute opening** -  
No damage to RUSB or payload on CDS platform.
- **Sustainability**: REAL & RUSB are sustainable.
- **Readiness**: Improving Arm Forces readiness.
- **Weatherproof**: Resistance to moisture/rain/temperature.

# Summary - Why Using REAL & RUSB (Reusables)?

- **Three AFB exceeded 35 Airdrops.**

**Hurlburt field AFB, FL (39)**

**374 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Yokota AFB (52)**

**773 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK (58)**

## Summary - Why Using REAL & RUSB (Reusables)?

- No of CDS drops exceeded **35** at three AFBs.

Hurlburt field AFB, FL **(39)**

374 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Yokota AFB **(44)**

773 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK **(58)**

**Cost Saving for Aerial Delivery**  
**Savings: \$238 per CDS airdrop**

**Payback is less than 50 airdrops**  
**(often less than 1 year)**

# Airdrops with Parachute Not properly opened REAL/RUSB CDS Airdrops

- \* **Airdrop at AFB Ramstein-Mie, Germany – October 2024**  
Mass of 4 CDS airdrops was captured.  
REAL/RUSB CDS were not damage.  
No Damage to Barrels.
- \* **Airdrop at AFB Ramstein-Mie, Germany – June 2025**  
2 CDS bundles get caught up with each other &  
totally snagged for the first half of the drop.  
Resulted in parachute damage.  
RUSB bundle was fine (no damage).

# No Damage to RUSB or Barrel when Parachute did not open



**Airdrop at AFB  
Ramstein-Mie, Germany  
October 2024  
No damage to RUSB or  
barrels even when  
parachute did not open**



# Airdrops with Parachute Not properly opened REAL/RUSB CDS Airdrops

## \* 773 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska AFB (May 2025)

First Mass of 4 was dropped with all parachute properly opened.  
Second Mass of 4 had 2 incomplete parachute openings.  
RUSB bundle was fine (no damage), see following images.

## \* 97<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, Altus AFB, OK, USA

First Mass of 4 was dropped with all parachute properly opened.  
Second Mass of 4 had 2 incomplete parachute openings.  
RUSB bundle was fine (no damage), see following images.

## \* 193 Special Operations Squadron, Palatine, PA, USA

First Mass of 4 was dropped with all parachute properly opened.  
Second Mass of 3 had 1 incomplete parachute openings.  
RUSB bundle was fine (no damage), see following images.

# No Damage to RUSB or Barrel when Parachute did not open 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass of 4 with incomplete parachute openings, AK



# No Damage to RUSB or Barrel when Parachute did not open

Conditions on ground, Altus AFB, OK, July 17, 2025:



**Parachute not open properly, it was torn.**

# No Damage to RUSB or Barrel when Parachute did not open

## 193 Special Operations Squadron, Palatine, PA, USA

Second airdrop: mass of 3 CDSs



CDS are in very good conditions after impacting the ground in PA DZ.

# Summary of Pull and Bent Tests

**Improvements:  
29% - 194%**

## Current Status (continued - 5)

### Quotes have been sent:

- 1) 920<sup>th</sup> LRS, Aerial Delivery, Patrick SFB, FL, USA
- 2) 68<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron-AFB, AZ, USA
- 3) 106<sup>th</sup> ATF LRS/LGR, Westhampton Beach, NY, USA
- 4) 165<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Savannah ANGB, GA, USA
- 5) 166<sup>th</sup> LRS/ATF DEX, New Castle, DE, USA
- 6) Joint Base Charleston, SC, USA
- 7) 41<sup>st</sup> Aerial Port Sq, Keesler AFB, MS, USA
- 8) 76 APS/Aerial Delivery, 910<sup>th</sup> AFRB, Youngstown, OH, USA
- 9) 647<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Sq., Joint Base Pearl Har, HI, USA
- 10) Edwards Air Force Base, CA, USA
- 11) Kadena AFB, Okinawa, Japan
- 12) Yokota AFB, Tokyo, Japan
- 13) Training Center for Paratroopers, SOR, Belgium AFB (NATO)

**NATO**

## Current Status (continued - 5)

### Interested Parties at Army:

- 1) **Chief Joshua D Gaither - WO1 USARMY 11 ABN DIV 2 BCT, Army Base in Alaska**
- 2) **Joshua Hollar, USASOC Parachute Rigger, Fort Bragg, NC**
- 3) **Jonathan C Dawson, SOCOM, Special Ops, Army**
- 4) **2LT Judson Harmon, Army Base in Ramstain, Germany  
Joshua Martinez, Army Base in Ramstain, Germany  
Elijah Melendez-Eyster, Army Base in Ramstain, Germany  
CW5 Anthony J Haiduk, Army Base (21 TSC) in Ramstain, Germany**

# **Summary of Customers and Interested Bases**

- ❖ **Air Force End Users / Customers in USA & Overseas**
- ❖ **12 Air Force End Users have requested quotes**
- ❖ **4 Army bases have expressed strong interest**
- ❖ **By the end of 2026, it is projected REAL and RUSB will be used in 10 additional AF bases**

## **Feedback**

# **Feedback from Air Force Bases**

## Feedback

### ✓ Little Rock, Arkansas, USA

**“Looks like we are at 14 drops with REAL/RUSB, it looks great still.”**

**“21 drops total, some minor scratches on the skid board, but everything is holding up very well.”**

**“23 and ready to go out again, no damage... all still looks good.”**

[September 27, 2024](#)

### ✓ Hurlburt Field, Florida, USA

**“We are at 12 drops and no further issues. We love it and I’m working the \$ to hopefully get the rest of ours converted.”**

[September 12, 2024](#)

## Feedback

### ✓ AFB Ramstein-Mie, Germany

**During mass airdrop (4 CDS), the Parachute of the last CDS did not open, and still worked. This was a real-world test.**

[April 29, 2025](#)

### ✓ 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Minneapolis, MN, USA

**“Fantastic product, satisfied after 3/4 of a year of use. No deterioration in products besides normal wear/tear.**

**Only notes: Loading by ATF post drop has to be done more carefully than with disposable items. The forklift tines are more likely to do damage than anything else. And that reusable honeycomb should be tied together to prevent slippage.”**

[April 29, 2025](#)

## Feedback

✓ **109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

**Question:** How has your airdrops been? How is performance? How many drops?

**Answer:** “They have been great! I’ll have to get the numbers when I get back to work next week but no problems so far!”

June 19, 2025

**Question:** Do you have an update as of June 24?

**Answer:** “We have dropped every bindle about 10 times (range 8, 9, 9, 10, 11) with no incident. One chute opened very late, bundle hit hard, no damage.”

June 24, 2025

## Feedback

### ✓ Kadena AFB, Japan

**“We took the REAL out for exercise Balikatan and it has been a big help not worrying about brining a bunch of honeycomb and taking up space. Also, not having to worry about breaking down the CDS to keep replacing it and saving a lot of time.”**

[April 30, 2025](#)

## Feedback

### ✓ 374 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Yokota AFB, Japan

**“Build 3 CDS with RUSB/REAL cost saving \$116k a year, no need to replace cardboard honeycomb or wooden skid board over 100 drops.”**

[March 24, 2025](#)

**“The new procedures of securing the REAL to the RUSB has work better and easier to reinspect once we reattach a parachute. Before the REAL would move a lot more and when the CDS landed on their side, the REAL would start to fall out without the weight of the cans on it’s.”**

[April 29, 2025](#)

**“Performing vert well, no issues.”**

[June 9, 2025](#)

# USAF Times Article on REAL & RUSB



## 36 AS, 374 LRS innovates airdrop process

Published May 15, 2025

By Airman Kayla Karelas

374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan** -- The 36th Airlift Squadron and 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron implemented a new, reusable system that increases efficiency and cuts overall cost for building container delivery system bundles at Yokota Air Base, Japan, April 10.

The 36 AS routinely conducts airdrop training with CDS bundles crafted by the 374 LRS to maintain readiness and the ability to swiftly deliver supplies across the Indo-Pacific region.

"CDS bundles are one of the most versatile tools in our air supply kit," said Master Sgt. Keith Dengel, 36 AS instructor loadmaster. "CDS drops can deliver a lot of material and equipment in a short period of time to keep the troops on the ground as effective as possible."

Previously, the 374 LRS crafted bundles using plywood and cardboard honeycomb as disposable platforms for airdrops. The new system replaces the disposable platforms with a reusable energy-absorbing layer and reusable, universal skid board - saving approximately \$116,000 per year.

"With the previous process, we have to recut the cardboard and rebuild from the ground up," said Tech. Sgt. Abel Moreno, 374 LRS combat mobility flight section chief. "The new system helps alleviate a lot of manpower and resource waste."

Additionally, bundles prepared with the new system were built in an average time of 20 minutes, saving Airmen over an hour of time per bundle the previous process.

Yokota is currently one of six aircrew training bases in the Air Force to use this system.

"We are ready for anything because we practice these skills on a daily basis," said Dengel. "Nothing happens without the time, effort and support of Team Yokota."

By reducing costs, conserving resources and streamlining manpower, the new platform allows the unit to allocate support to other mission-critical operations. As the Department of Defense logistics hub for the Indo-Pacific region, this collaboration between the 36 AS and 374 LRS highlights a commitment to excellence to the installation mission: sustaining and maneuvering forces at the speed of need.

Yokota AFB  
Conducted  
their own  
savings  
calculations  
in  
May 2025

# USAF Times Article on REAL & RUSB

## ✓ 374 Logistics Readiness Squadron, Yokota AFB, Japan

May  
15  
2025

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## ✓ Weekly CDS Airdrops: 10, 49 weeks/year

- Average Savings per Airdrop: \$237
- Our projected Savings per Airdrop: \$238

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## Feedback

### Ten (10) CDS airdrops at Alaska AFB (JBER):

**Slide easier on shop and aircraft rollers**

**Save lots of money & labor**

**They came out of plane very well and easy**

**The process of rebuilding is faster**

May 20, 2025

**So far all is good on the performance end.**

June 11, 2025

## Feedback

✓ **97<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, Altus AFB, OK**

**“We have used the product once so far with excellent results.”**

**“The product was very easy to reconstitute and simple to train other personnel on.”**

**“I believe other bases would also benefit from this product.”**

**“A top board would be a valuable addition to our setup.”**

[July 29, 2025](#)

## Feedback

✓ **97<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, Altus AFB, OK**

**“....each one has dropped 32 times since you were here. So far, no problems. We are fast approaching the 35 drops per bundle. Hoping the extreme cold weather coming this winter will not affect the bottom boards.”**

[Sept 2, 2025](#)