

Folgore tests precision airdrops with the JPADS system in Portugal

Published on 10/11/2026

From **2 to 5 November**, in Portugal, Italian Army and Italian Air Force personnel took part in joint training activities focused on validating procedures for precision cargo airdrops.

The training involved the **Brigata paracadutisti Folgore** and the 46a Brigata Aerea di Pisa. The units continued developing the Joint Precision Airdrop System to improve its employment methods.

The activities also included joint airdrops with Portuguese personnel, placing the validation effort within an international, joint-service context.

JPADS autonomously guides the cargo

The **Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS)** is a precision airdrop system. It uses a ram-air parachute and autonomous GPS guidance to direct the cargo toward a predetermined landing point, compensating for wind effects.

The system makes it possible to release cargo from higher altitudes and at a distance from the landing area. The procedure is intended to protect the aircraft and crew while delivering materiel to the designated area with a **reduced margin of error**.

In addition to operational applications, JPADS can be used to deliver aid to areas affected by natural disasters or crisis situations, when ground routes are cut off or unsafe.

Procedures refined in a joint-service environment

According to the Italian Army, the activity enabled the Brigata paracadutisti Folgore and the **46a Brigata Aerea di Pisa** to enhance personnel's technical expertise.

The units also refined procedures for employing the system and preparing cargo loads. The training was aimed at improving interoperability and the Defense's deployability.

News link: https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/la-folgore-si-addestra-negli-aviolanci-di-carichi-di-precisione/215023.html