



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Science and Technology

DST
GROUP

Science and Technology for Safeguarding Australia

Fast Roping and Rappelling Device (FRRD)

Enabling rapid deployment of airborne personnel

Army personnel, especially those in Special Forces, have developed numerous strategies to enable rapid deployment, including insertion by air. By using rappelling or fast-roping techniques soldiers can be inserted into an objective area from a hovering helicopter.

Australian Army Black Hawk helicopters are fitted with a DST developed, Australian-manufactured, Fast Roping and Rappelling Device, or FRRD, (pronounced “Fred”) designed specifically for these types of missions.

Key Features

The DST developed FRRD allows up to ten soldiers to exit a hovering Black Hawk and be on the ground within seconds. This is done by up to five soldiers exiting from each side of the Black Hawk by either rappelling simultaneously (i.e. one rope per soldier), or one-after the other, on a single rope, in what is called “fast roping”.

Benefits

Although the Black Hawk is a versatile aircraft and can get into and out of many tight areas, some terrain or operational conditions may prevent the helicopter landing on site. In these situations, the FRRD gives Army the speed and mobility to insert personnel and begin ground operations.

Partnering Opportunities

The FRRD has been in service for many years with the Australian Army and is a proven capability.

DST Group is seeking new licensees with manufacturing and maintenance capacity and sales and marketing experience to continue supplying the FRRD to the ADF, and potentially expand to other markets.

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