



Technology & Development Status Report

Aviation Program

FY 2002



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PROJECT: **Helicopter Accessories** **CENTER:** **SDTDC**
Number: 1E11P83 **PROGRAM LEADER:** Carl Bambarger
SPONSOR: WO-F&AM **Project Leader:** Carl Bambarger
Proposer: Jon Rollens, WO-NIFC

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this project is to develop/integrate new equipment and techniques to enhance the effectiveness of Forest Service helicopter operations. Secondary goals are to provide engineering expertise and support to obtain Supplemental Type Certificates on helicopter equipment, as required, and to prepare standards and publications relating to the Forest Service helicopter mission.

This project supports the continued monitoring of helicopter accessories that have been previously implemented, follow-up field problems to ensure that related Forest Service standards are of maximum benefit to field managers, and amend and modify as needed. The project provides for investigation of improved foam and retardant delivery systems hardware for helicopters, and SDTDC participation in national and Regional workshops and training sessions. The project provides support to analyze, investigate and document field identified equipment or suggested improvements to procedures.

Changes to objectives:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Development of guidelines for the use of synthetic leadlines for use by contracted helicopter operators. The guidelines are included in the operator's contract requirements and include requirements on ultimate strength, inspection, and retirement.
- Developed a specification for a 6000 lb. cargo net.
- Began development of a 300 lb. cargo swivel. This swivel is to replace the use of the current 3000 lb. swivel when delivering small loads to firefighter at locations other than a helispot.
- Developed a source and process for retrofitting older 3000 lb cargo swivels which include the spring gate hook to the "Shur-Loc®" style hook. Information is being collected to determine the retrofit program for these older cargo swivels.
- Support the field with research and information on equipment questions and issues.
- Completed and published the Helicopter Safety Link Report. This report examined the development of a frangible link that would work autonomously from pilot input and release the slung load at a predetermined condition. The report documents that the concept is ill advised and violate FAA requirements.

Output:

Planned: As needed throughout the year.

Actual: