



Automatic Ripcord Release (AR2)

What It Is:

As paratroopers fall toward the ground, their survival depends on the sure operation of their parachutes. The Automatic Ripcord Release is a new device that automatically actuates the ripcord on either the main parachute or the reserve parachute.

Why It's Needed:

If the free-fall parachutist becomes incapacitated — or if the main parachute malfunctions and the parachutist can't carry out emergency procedures — the automatic ripcord release serves as an invaluable extra safety feature.

How It Works:

Operation of the ripcord release depends on the barometric pressure. The soldier sets the device to "fire" at a specific altitude-somewhere between 2,000 and 25,000 feet above mean sea level, as dictated by the mission. Some special features of the ripcord release:

- An automatic opening device;
- Two control mechanisms for altitude and rate-of-descent.

Benefits:

Dependable Performance...A test chamber on the device keeps it operating within acceptable tolerances.

Commercial Cooperation...Development of the ripcord release underlines the close interaction between private industry and engineers at the U.S. Army Soldier Center of Excellence.

Point of Contact:

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