



IN THE LINE OF FIRE

Sixteen containers, each holding 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) of water, are airdropped from a C-130 transport in the first operational test of a new delivery system to fight wildfires. Developed by Boeing's Phantom Works organization, the Precision Container Aerial Delivery System can be used by any aircraft with a rear cargo ramp, including the Boeing C-17. The containers are accurately delivered using GPS navigation information and can be dropped at night and from higher altitudes than current aerial firefighting

retardants. This test took place in April at the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona, and all of the containers, which are largely biodegradable, opened and delivered water on target, according to William Cleary, the program manager for Boeing. Although more testing is scheduled, Cleary said the system may be close to being certified for use in fighting wildfires. Employees can view a short video of the drop test at <http://videowm.boeing.com/autopost/misc/PCADSOptestRT.aspx> on the Boeing intranet. PHOTO: U.S. ARMY