



Product Advisory – Butler TTB Barrel-Rev-0

To: All SOV3-TS Users of the Butler Training Barrel

Date: 11 May 2016

From: T.K. DONLE – Technical Director - CPS

Subject: Butler TTB Barrel Product Advisory

Equipment: Butler Training Barrels used in MTTB Operations

PRODUCT ADVISORY

Background

CPS has been monitoring reports of damage to TP-400 and TP-460 main canopies used during MTTB operations with the **Butler Training Barrel** and the **SOV3-TS Parachute System**. Line burning (A & B) and top-skin fabric damage were reported by several groups using this combination of equipment. Initial findings indicate the Butler Barrel falls faster than the traditional Sonotube bundle.

Analysis

The CPS technical department and the engineering groups from PD and UPT have been assessing the differences between the Butler Barrel and the Sonotubes used with the traditional fully-encompassing harness system produced by Butler and Strong Enterprises. We believe there are two primary areas that may be contributing to the cause of this canopy damage:

1. Increase in drogue-fall speed and the resultant higher canopy opening speeds
2. A difference in the shock attenuation levels between the jumper and the bundle

Higher opening speeds can sometimes be associated with canopy damage, however we believe the more significant factor is the difference in shock absorption of the fully encompassing harness system used with the traditional Sonotube compared to the direct-to-barrel connection points found on the Butler Barrel. Nylon webbing absorbs a tremendous amount of energy during the parachute opening. The direct connection of the tether to the Butler Bundle may be the factor that is causing this new damage profile. Further testing is necessary to collect sufficient load-cell data in various configurations of use to confirm these initial assessments.

Action

At this time, **CPS is withdrawing approval of use of the Butler Training Barrel with the SOV3-TS Tandem System. Cease all MTTB jumps with the Butler Training Barrel until further notice.**

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to the CPS Technical Department or your CPS Account Executive.

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