

World Team '06

Udon Thani, Thailand over 400 of the world's best skydivers are undertaking a huge project: setting a new record by building a 400-way freefall formation.

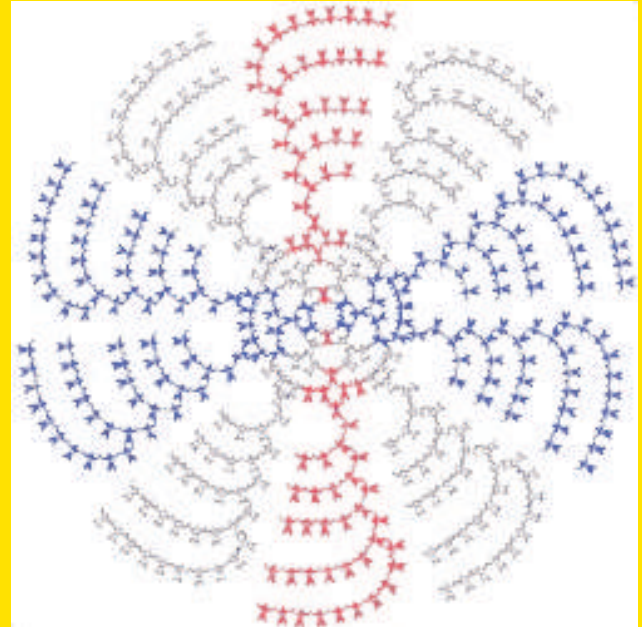
On Wednesday February 1st, during practice jumps, it was necessary for one of the five C130 Hercules, which are being provided by the Thai Airforce, to descend and land - possibly due to some jumper oxygen problems. During the descent, the aircraft was extremely pressurized, which resulted in a cabin pressure in excess of 1100 millibars - far more than what can happen in any normal environment on the earth. There were 24 skydivers with CYPRES 1, approximately 60 skydivers with CYPRES 2, and 4 skydivers with AADs of another brand on-board.

All 24 CYPRES 1 performed as designed: when such an unrealistic situation is detected, they go into "lock-out" mode, preventing further use until a complete factory check-up is performed. This feature prevents any possible incorrect judgment by the unit.

CYPRES 2, due to its advanced technology, is able to analyze and deal with this situation better. There was no reason to go into "lock-out" mode, as the unit was able to determine that there were no permanent adverse affects, and thus could be used on further jumps.*

Concerning the 4 other brand AADs, we are not obliged to comment what they did.

AAD situation



The first telephone call about what happened in Udon Thani was received at Airtec on Wednesday, about 16:00 hrs Thailand time. A quick decision was made, and Kai Koerner from Airtec flew from Frankfurt via Bangkok to Udon Thani, carrying 30 brand new CYPRES 2 with him. On Thursday, 18:00 hrs Thailand time, only 26 hours after the first call to Germany, a bunch of riggers were busy installing the replacements for the locked-out CYPRES 1.

They also installed 4 CYPRES 2 as replacements for the other brand AADs.

Next morning, all jumpers were back in the air.

* Always switch CYPRES off and on prior to the next jump after any overpressure situation (skydiving altimeter goes below "0")



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