



**To:** Strong MTTB Owners & Users  
**Subject:** Strong MTTB Product Service Bulletin  
**Date:** October 22, 2008

To Our Valued Customers,

CPS received the attached **Product Safety Bulletin #30** from Strong Enterprises. Please read it carefully.

Your Strong MTTB systems should be returned to CPS prior to their next use so we can insure that your systems are properly upgraded. We will do our utmost to expedite their return to you to minimize their down-time.

Here is a list for you to follow to simplify the process.

1. Please contact Vladi Pesa in our sales department to receive a special RMA number and a PDF form to accompany your equipment shipment to CPS.  
**Email:** [vladi@cpsworld.com](mailto:vladi@cpsworld.com) **Phone:** 386-736-4951 x29
2. Information we need from you:
  - a) Your Unit designation and POC (email, phone & address)
  - b) Number of MTTBs to be returned
  - c) Serial Numbers of MTTBs, canopies & AADs
  - d) List of components you are returning (packed or unpacked)
3. Equipment to be Returned:
  - a) Complete MTTB assembly less the cargo harness. **or...**
  - b) MTTB container and tether system only - less the canopy, AAD, and cargo harness.

**Note:** Please write the RMA # on the outside of your shipping parcel(s).

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Vladi Pesa and we will gladly assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TK Donle".

T.K. DONLE  
Technical Director  
Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc.



## Product Service Bulletin #30

**Issue Date:** October 3, 2008

**Subject:** Military Tandem Tether Bundle System, (MTTB)

**Status:** An accident in February 2008 exposed a number of issues regarding the use, care and performance of major components of the parachute system and MTTB as used on MTTB payload jumps. Jumping the MTTB system was placed on hold by the U.S. Military until evaluation, redesign and testing of the system could verify that the operational requirements of jumping the MTTB system met more specific performance criteria.

Strong Enterprises independently performed several MTTB drops to verify the need for improvement in all aspects of the equipment used for MTTB payload drops.

This Service Bulletin focuses only on the MTTB system, the redesign and subsequent testing of the much-improved MTTB/LARS Gen5 (*Patent Pending*) system.

**Background:** During normal MTTB jumps, the MTTB system can be delivered or landed three different ways:

1. Static lined from the jumper under a full open canopy, to land independently under the 30-foot round canopy.
2. Released into free-fall to open at a predetermined altitude by AAD and land independently from the jumper.
3. Retained by the jumper allowing them to land with the MTTB attached.

A fourth performance capability is to drop the MTTB system from the aircraft independently from the jumper, allowing it to free-fall, activate the recovery parachute by AAD and land the payload.

Normally the release of the MTTB system presents no problems to the jumper. On occasion the release can be difficult to impossible. This can present a significant problem to the jumper in the case of a malfunction or emergency situation.

On previous systems, the release handle releases four sets of 3-ring releases and a safety cable. Because of the many issues involved – including care and maintenance, housing tolerances, worn cables, and normal wear and tear on the system over use – hard pulls on release handle can and have been experienced.

**Redesign and Testing:** Because of these many variable factors, Strong Enterprises has redesigned the release mechanism to allow the payload to assist in releasing the cables, and thereby releasing the payload. This method is called the Load Assisted Release System or LARS (*Patent Pending*). The release handle has a single cable going to a single heavy duty 3-ring release which when released, allows the payload to drop 10 inches on the tether, which in turn extracts the four cables from the 3-Ring attachment points (two top, two side) and releases the system from the jumper.

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Static testing has shown this method to have a consistent low pull force and be extremely reliable and effective in a wide range of payload weights. Several other modifications also have been incorporated that enhance service life and usefulness of the MTTB/LARS Gen5 (*Patent Pending*) system.

**Live Testing:** Live MTTB/LARS Gen5 (*Patent Pending*) testing has been performed in a variety of different jumping environments: free-fall with no drogue, free-fall with only the drogue deployed, under full canopy in normal flight and with the main canopy in spinning turns and release after an open main to reserve canopy transfer (performed with Mil-DHT). All modes proved very successful with a minimal amount of effort needed to release the MTTB/LARS Gen5 (*Patent Pending*) and jettisoned the payload.

**Service Bulletin:** Strong Enterprises is requesting all users and owners of the current MTTB configuration to contact Strong Enterprises and make arrangements to have these systems returned to the manufacturer for conversion to MTTB/LARS Gen 5 (*Patent Pending*) activation system.

Strong Enterprises' time to receive, inspect, evaluate and reconfigure older versions of the MTTB system to the MTTB/LARS Gen 5 (*Patent Pending*) configuration will take five working days. MTTB/LARS Gen 5 (*Patent Pending*) systems will be returned via the same method as received. Updated manuals, which include assembly, use, and maintenance instructions, will be included with each system serviced and returned. There will be a nominal charge for this based on the modifications required. Price is TBD

**Compliance Date:** Before next MTTB jump.

**Identification:** Military Tandem Tether Bundle System, SE P/N 150305.

**Authority:** Strong Enterprises, 11236 Satellite Blvd. Orlando, FL 32837 USA  
Phone 407- 859-9317, Fax 407-850-6978.  
email: sales@strongparachutes.com

**Further Information:** For additional information, copies of live MTTB/LARS Gen5 (*Patent Pending*) testing, Manual, and conversion scheduling, please contact sales@strongparachutes.com

**Distribution:** All owners and users on record; www.strongparachutes.com