



**Belgium, 21 May 2026**

**SUBJECT: Invitation - First Heavy Marine Air Delivery (HMAD) drop campaign.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Trainingcentre for Paratroopers – Parachuting Test Office in close cooperation with 15W and DG MR Sys organizes a HMAD (Heavy Marine Air Delivery) campaign from **8 to 18 June 2026** over the North Sea. This event is supported by multiple units and is truly a joint effort.

## **THEME**

This drop campaign forms part of Belgian Defence's capability development efforts related to **DRHIBS** (Droppable Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats) and is in a military prospecting phase.

The activity will be conducted in close cooperation with **Capewell** and **Kraken**, with the primary objective of demonstrating a **proof of concept**.

## **HMAD CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES**

- a. Demonstrate the compatibility and performance of the **UMCADS drop platform (Capewell)** on the A400M (proof of concept).
- b. Test and evaluate Belgian military capabilities and the supporting logistical chain required for Heavy Marine Air Delivery operations
- c. Demonstrate the autonomous operation of the **K3 Scout Autonomous craft (Kraken)** following airdrop.
- d. Enhance military interoperability and facilitate information exchange with partner nations on aerial delivery capabilities.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES TO OBSERVE

Each drop event is intended to follow the same scenario. The objective is ambitious from the start with no progressive built-up planned.

- **Aerial delivery** of the K3 Scout craft from the A400M.
- **Landing of the K3 Scout Craft** under TWO cargo parachutes and **separation** from the main canopies.
- **Autonomous operation** of the K3 Scout craft (prior to piloting or towing).
- **Recovery** of the canopies (by boats) and the platform (by the CPV).

As this is an airdrop campaign dependent on multiple operational and meteorological factors, outcomes may vary.

## COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

The drop zone (DZ) is located in the North Sea, approximately 5.5 NM northwest of Lombardsijde (Nieuwpoort).

A **Coastal Patrol Vessel** (CPV POLLUX), supported by multiple vessels, will facilitate the event and provide observers with the opportunity to witness the drop.

Please note that capacity on board is limited; therefore, invitations are **strictly personal and non-transferable**.

### **Drops are scheduled during a two-week timeframe.**

- During the **first week Belgian Defence personnel** are invited to observe the drops. The drops are planned on June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup> with no alternate dates. A (Time on Target) TOT at 1600Hr is planned.
- During **the second week international partners** are invited to observe the drops. The drops are planned on June 15<sup>th</sup> (alt 16<sup>th</sup>) and June 17<sup>th</sup> (alt 18<sup>th</sup>). A TOT at 1800Hr is planned.

### **Anticipated programme for June 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>:**

- 1230Hr: Arrival at Zeebrugge Naval Base
- 1300Hr: Security brief on the CPV POLLUX
- 1330Hr: Departure  
Light Lunch and briefing during transit (TBC)
- 1600Hr: Drop Event - Time on Target
- 1630Hr: End of Event – Recovery operations  
Return transit (dinner TBC)

- 1900Hr: Disembarkation

Delays are possible and should be expected. Updated timings will be communicated prior to each drop day due to reliance on supporting assets and meteorological conditions. Participants will be informed of any changes or cancellations in a timely manner.

The participants will be welcomed at 1230Hr at Zeebrugge Naval Base, where they will be briefed prior to boarding the CPV.

Dress code: BDU / daily working uniform or civilian alternatives for civ employees.

## **REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Due to limited capacity aboard the CPV and catering arrangements, participants are requested to confirm their attendance no later than **1 June 2026** via:

- The registration button in INDICO
- Alternatively, via: [cepara-srt@mil.be](mailto:cepara-srt@mil.be)

Subject: HMAD drop campaign – 1<sup>st</sup> week.

**Please indicate your preferred date (10 or 12 June) or provide a prioritisation if available for both dates.**

Sincere regards,



Brecht De Witte

Lieutenant-Colonel (GS)

Commander

Trainingcentre for Paratroopers