

Good ideas for engineers from the Washington, DC general meeting of AUSA

Aviators are asking their Engineers for more and more Mobi-Mat. Reportedly, three out of four helicopter accidents in Iraq and Afghanistan were caused by excessive dust and dirt thrown up by takeoffs and landings, or brownouts. Matting called “Mobi-mat” has reduced such brownouts, thus saving lives and aircraft. (See <http://www.special-operations-technology.com/article.cfm?DocID=536>) Dubbed “Triscuit pads,” Mobi-mat is a tri-dimensional polyester mesh that’s easy to install, relative to steel mats which required material handling equipment and which were too heavy in Bosnia. Mobi-mat comes in 13’ 11” x 33’ rolls, weighing 176 lbs. Three personnel can unload, unroll, connect and stake it down. Mobi-mat has enabled fast setup of helipads.

Mobi-mats use is spreading. Developed in France, Mobi-mat was evaluated for US use by AS&C’s Foreign Comparative Testing program in 2002. Initially, the Marines bought it. Since then, Mobi-mat has been used by the Army’s 101st Airborne Division. The 10th Mountain Division is using it near Kandahar, Afghanistan, and recently ordered more additional kits. It’s also being used for more than helipads. The Air Force and Air National Guard use Mobi-mat for aircraft recovery. Additionally, Marines use it to move vehicles across beaches. Mobi-mat is available on the GSA schedule. To date, DoD’s purchases total \$16 million. Mobi-mat is also commercially sold by New Jersey-based DMS, Inc. Contact alex.hamon@mobi-mat-dms.com for additional info on Mobi Mat or go to: <http://www.mobi-mat-dms.com> Here are few testimonials:

- “The Mobi-mats or "triscuit pads" as we called them were awesome in Iraq - for FARPS or even for landing pads at the hospitals... We appreciate the help and truthfully - the lives you probably saved by allowing the military to use those” -- Commander MEDEVAC Company
- “I personally landed on your matting many times out in the middle of the desert and they performed magnificently” -- Commander, 12th Aviation Brigade
- “The best and fastest method to meet the demand for helipads was to install Mobi-Mats pads” – *Victory Sappers: V Corps Engineers in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Part 1: The Attack to Baghdad and Beyond . . .*



Easy to install matting...



reduces this, saving lives



...and they say so