

# VIPER

Techno  
Gizmo



## Airborne comm provides vital link

### What is it?

The “Magic Makers” of the 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron make their mark with the first ever mobile Viper system. The squadron’s newest asset gives commanders the ability to communicate while airborne in high threat areas.

### Why is this so special?

The Viper package can provide four simultaneous modes of combined communications services: phone, secure phone, Internet, and secure Internet. This capability is a true force multiplier, especially in today’s high threat environment where connecting the right person at the right time and place is mission critical.

### How does it work?

Magically, of course ... the roll-on/roll-off capability of the Viper system is loaded onto the tactical military aircraft and connected to an external satellite antenna. The system then communicates through commercial satellite connections to a ground station and

then gets beamed back to the aircraft. It’s sort of like the way a wireless system talks to a wireless router at home. Only in this case, the message has a lot farther to travel.

### Can it be used on all aircraft?

The Viper is primarily designed for two main airframes: C-130s and C-17s. It only requires one pallet position, some power, the Viper system and some comm-warriors to provide this communications capability.

### What’s ahead?

Commanders who’ve used the system are impressed with the new capability and give it a “thumbs up.” Testing continues to go well in theater—the system was officially certified for C-17 airworthiness Sept. 20. The Viper team stands ready to provide a full spectrum of new communications capabilities to the CENCOM commander.

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