

Date of Incident .....9/22/02

Pilot.....Frank Murdock

Location of Incident....Lagrange, Georgia

Aircraft.....Challenger II

Registration.....Experimental

BRS Model.....VLS

Reason for deployment:       Engine Out Over Unlandable Terrain

Pilot ran out of fuel while flying over a densely wooded terrain at an altitude of 200 feet with no visible landing site. Facing the choice of flying into tall trees or deploying the BRS parachute and floating into them, the pilot elected the latter option. The parachute opened and in the pilots words, descended "real slow and soft".

The aircraft descended through the trees, damaging the wings, but the fuselage, and pilot were fine. The most difficult part was removing the aircraft from the dense woods, which required cutting brush for an egress path. The Challenger has been rebuilt and the parachute is in for inspection and repacking.