

CBARR NEWS

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

January 2013 | Volume 1 | Issue 1

*A worldwide leader
in CB solutions*

Welcome to the 2013 edition of the CBARR newsletter! You may have noticed a few changes to the design and layout, but rest assured these are not New Year's resolutions. Rather, they are based on the desire and need to provide a product illustrating CBARR's challenges and opportunities in a more creative framework.

Inside every issue, you'll find an array of new features including guest columns, employee profiles and safety tips, as well as an active leadership voice every quarter. With additional pages, in-depth feature stories will highlight the hard work and operational successes of CBARR's competitive edge, innovative technologies, professional workforce and endless pursuit of new business opportunities.

With the redesign of the publication, the newsletter is in need of a new name that reflects the foundation of the work we do every day, from laboratory analysis to onsite remediation efforts. The CBARR workforce capitalizes on its strong work ethic and proven business practices to meet the demands of clients around the world. Please feel free to submit a title that captures the spirit of the organization.

Here's to a great year ahead!

Contact us!

Let us know what you think of the new design and layout.
Contact **Angela Burke** at angela.l.burke12.civ@mail.mil.

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For more information about CBARR's mission, visit:
<http://www.ecbc.army.mil/cbarr>



APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE





In the News: Spring Valley — Washington, D.C.

4825 GLENBROOK ROAD N.W.

WWI AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
EXPERIMENT STATION

Formerly used defense site tested chemical agents, equipment and munitions

WUSA9.COM
4NBC WASHINGTON
WJLA ABC NEWS



THE NEW YORK TIMES
THE AU EAGLE
WNEW Radio

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- ["A HOUSE IN WASHINGTON MAY SOLVE A 1918 MYSTERY"](#)

Hundreds of munitions originally used by soldiers in 1918 to make and test chemical weapons were unearthed in the idyllic Washington, D.C. neighborhood of Spring Valley in 1993. And now, one of its finest homes has been torn down. For more than 12 years, CBARR has supported clean-up efforts led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), which most recently resulted in the decontamination and destruction of more than 100 items using the Army-owned Trans-Portable Detonation Chamber (TDC) T-30. In March 2011, Gen. Peter A. DeLuca, North Atlantic division commander for the COE, presented CBARR members with a certificate of appreciation for the professionalism and outstanding planning and execution of the conventional munitions destruction operation.

WEATHER AROUND THE WORLD

JANUARY forecasts



CBARR LOCATIONS	AVERAGE HIGH (F)	AVERAGE LOW (F)	AVERAGE PRECIP. (inches)
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.	41	26	3.16
Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.	51	32	3.80
Washington, D.C.	43	29	2.81
Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah	39	22	1.41
Umatilla, Ore.	41	30	1.08
Melbourne, Australia	78	59	1.90

**GUEST
COLUMN**
Andrew Bailey

Proficiency testing program identifies ricin toxin in milk

EBML offers analytic support for FERN initiative

During the week of September 24, 2012, the Environmental BioMonitoring Laboratory (EBML) participated in the Food Emergency Response Network's (FERN) proficiency test for the detection of ricin toxin in unpasteurized milk samples.

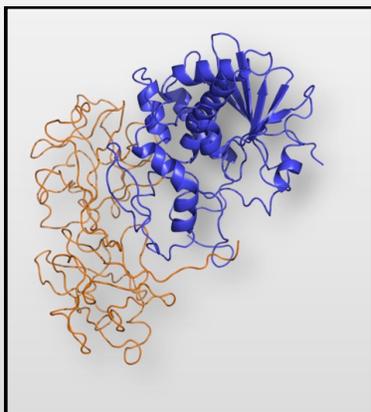
Ricin is a highly toxic protein naturally found in castor beans and if refined into a biological warfare agent, could be exposed to people through the air, food or water.

The laboratory received eight samples for testing

via two FERN standardized laboratory analysis techniques: Lateral Flow Device (Hand Held Assay or HHA) and Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA). ELISA is a test that uses antibodies and color change to identify a substance. Both the lateral flow device (LFD) and the ELISA kits were supplied to the laboratory by FERN.

In addition to these two standardized techniques, EBML also processed the proficiency samples using its preferred toxin analysis technique: electrochemiluminescence, or ECL. This protocol was performed on Mesoscale Defense's PR-2 Model 1800 instrument and is covered under CBARR's current scope of accreditation for ricin analysis in environmental samples. EBML has held this accreditation since 2009.

Per FERN instructions, the laboratory analyzed skim milk samples undiluted, and at a 1:10 dilution in PBS-Tween using ELISA and LFD. For the ECL assay, the laboratory analyzed the samples undiluted, 1:10 dilution in PBS-Tween and 1:10 dilution in PBS-Triton. The Tri-



ton dilution was analyzed to follow EBML's internal operating procedures of diluting all unknown liquid samples into a known liquid buffer.

Of the eight samples received by the laboratory, six were spiked with the ricin toxin at

three various concentrations. Using the ELISA and ECL protocols, the laboratory detected the toxin in all six spiked samples. Using the LFD protocol, the laboratory only detected the toxin in four of the six spiked samples. However, the two samples that were not detected were of the lowest spiked concentration of 100 parts per billion (ppb). This result was to be expected, as the LFD is not as sensitive an assay as either the ELISA or ECL assays.

Andrew Bailey is a biologist and acting Quality Manager for the EBML team. He has been working for ECBC for nearly 11 years and was born and raised in the greater Baltimore area.

Favorite thing about working for CBARR?
"The daily camaraderie with my coworkers."



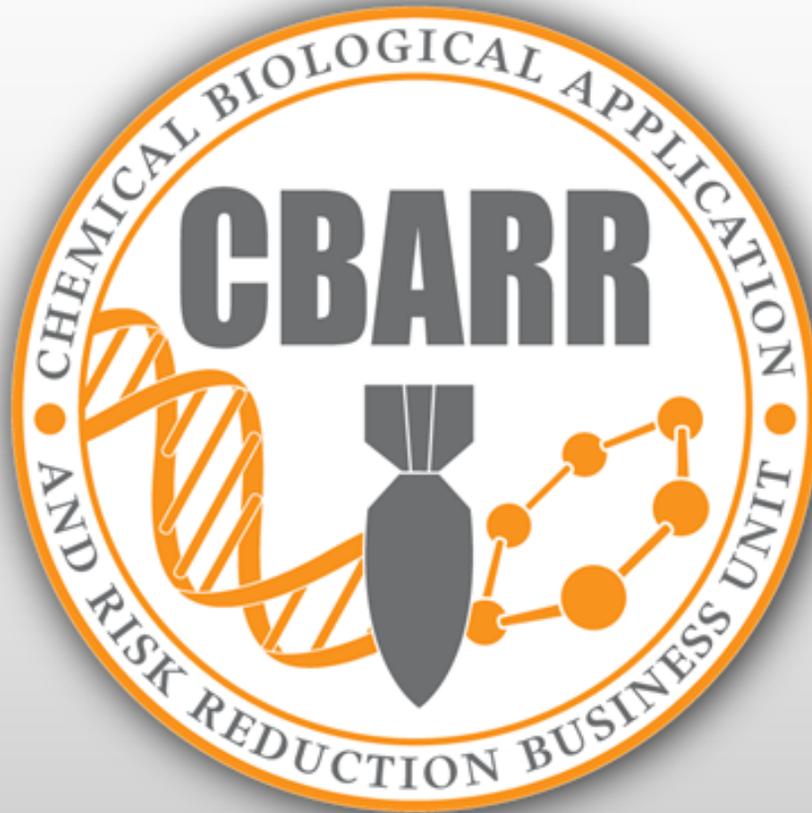
Food Emergency Response Network

FERN integrates the nation's food-testing laboratories at the local, state and federal levels into a network that is able to respond to emergencies involving biological, chemical or radiological contamination of food.



Reorganization creates cross-collaboration, cohesiveness among divisions

CBARR prepares for DoD uncertainty in 2013



Tim Blades,
DPI Deputy Director

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — A looming fiscal cliff, a deadlocked Congress and the threat of a 9.4 percent cut in military programs has the Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction (CBARR) Business Unit of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) determined to stay focused on the things they can control: internal operations.

“I’m still convinced that we have to concentrate on what we have control over,” said Tim Blades, deputy director for ECBC’s Directorate of Program Integration. “I don’t think we’re at a point where we need to be with our internal operating structure yet. I see some progress but I’m convinced

there is room for improvement.”

The CBARR Business Unit, located at the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., first began to address future uncertainty in October when Blades held a town hall meeting that encouraged employees to take ownership of everyday decisions that may impact the organization’s operations in the new fiscal year, which began the same month. The director urged the workforce to maintain a high level of professionalism that would help the business unit, which brought in \$62 million worth of business last fiscal year, make sound decisions in an ever-changing economic climate during the 2013 calendar year. As a 100 percent reimbursable organization, every decision matters, he said.

(CONTINUED P.5)

By the end of October, CBARR had officially implemented a new organizational structure, which created a more cohesive atmosphere for managers to utilize shared resources and personnel across divisions. Some of Blades' goals included: obtaining customer-funded projects, integrating laboratories at Edgewood and Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., and increasing a biological analysis focus within the organiza-

tion. "I think we're moving in the right direction and we did the right thing," Blades said.

"Certainly, there's been movement to consolidate laboratory operations and to use the Pine Bluff resources. There's also been more concentration on determining ways to incorporate everybody's strengths when it comes to best using the expertise that CBARR has."

Holding the workforce to a heightened standard of excellence in the new year not only demands personnel accountability but elevates CBARR operations to execute

creative problem solving strategies in order to adapt to tighter budgets, fiscal shortfalls and the uncertainty of a changing federal environment.

Since the reorganization, collaboration between Pine Bluff and Edgewood personnel within the Environmental Chemical Monitoring Laboratory have resulted in an increased number of customer-funded service projects from 15 percent to 50 percent.

Additionally, the Biological Operations Branch is working across the Research & Technology and Engineering Directorates

to expand the biological testing and evaluation capabilities at the center.

According to Blades, looking to the future is critical for CBARR's growth, even if it remains unknown. Employing a workforce that is able to expand the organization's network, engage customers and work more efficiently, regardless external influences, is crucial for CBARR's ability to pursue opportunities and generate news business for ECBC.

"When you start to draw the money down, you still have to be competitive. You have to be flexible, mobile and able to move into areas that you might not necessarily be comfortable with, but you have to be able to cooperate with each other, make commitments and get the job done," Blades said.



Field Operations and Deployment



ECBC CONNECTION

A friendly reminder...



With social media at everyone's fingers all the time, ECBC would like to remind you to please think before you post. Remember, your information could become public at any time due to hacking, configuration errors, social engineering or the business practice of selling or sharing user data. For more information on ECBC's social media policy, please visit CB Connect.

<https://cbconnect.apgea.army.mil/security/socialmedia>

New website rings in the new year

New Year's resolutions are meant to revamp your lifestyle, and ECBC is keeping the spirit alive with an all-new, redesigned website. Stop by for all the latest center-wide news at www.ecbc.army.mil or www.ecbc.army.mil/cbarr.

Donate Blood



January is
National Blood Donor Month

A SIMPLE THANKS
to our Warfighters and their families



militaryblood.dod.mil

Date: 31 January 2013
Time: 0900-1300
Location: Stark Recreation Center, Bldg E4140
Austin Road—(South Side Grill Building)
To make an appointment, register at
www.militarydonor.com and enter sponsor
code: EDGMD
Walk-ins are always welcome!

Sponsored by: ECBC, MRICD and PHC



G-CYCLE, It's Easy.

G-CYCLE is a place to give away or obtain excess government purchased items including office and laboratory equipment, office furniture, chemicals, and other miscellaneous items.

Go to: <https://cbconnect.apgea.army.mil/g-cycle> to view instructions, item limitations and post or pick an item to reuse/repurpose.



Mask Issue praised for stellar customer service

CBARR Star JoAnn Weeks

JOANN WEEKS

Mask Fit Operator



“Nothing leaves here without being tested and we have a surefire, proven system. The organization under Denny Hall has had a very good track record for PPE not failing,” said Weeks. “I test masks, gloves, boots, aprons and hoods, but mask fitting is my favorite part of the job. All of the PPE that goes out of here has to be inspected and I’m certified to do all of that. There have been projects all around the world and all of the PPE is tested at this facility before it is shipped directly to that site.”

“Part of enjoying what I do here is making sure the customers have masks that are fitted and tested in a timely manner.”

The Mask Issue facility serves all on-post chemical workers who are required to have two M40A1 masks properly fitted and cleared for use at any given time; one for operational use and one in case of an emergency. CBARR personnel, however, tend to use their masks daily, whether it is on location for a remediation project halfway around the globe in Australia or just down the I-95 corridor to the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

In nine years of service, JoAnn Weeks, a mask fit operator for CBARR, has never worried that a tested piece of equipment would fail while being used by personnel during an operation.



Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The M40A1 mask is required to be fit tested every six months and personnel may bring in multiple masks at one time, but require a special appointment. The assessment includes 8, one-minute exercises that are designed to stress the mask’s ability to seal to the subject’s face. These exercises include, but are not limited to, actions such as normal breathing, deep breathing, reaching for the floor and ceiling, facial expressions, moving the head in different directions and reciting the “Rainbow Passage”. This type of fit test procedure has remained the same for years, Weeks said, but a change in policy and an upgraded facility that has made all the difference for customers.

According to Weeks, two years ago a change

in policy required mask fit operators to swap out entire masks after one year when the air canister expired, rather than just replacing the canister. A brand new mask improves sanitation and reduces health hazards, while ensuring that personnel were receiving top-of-the-line quality masks every year. It also resulted in Mask Issue stocking additional masks on the shelves to meet the needs of customers, who have also seen a reduction in waiting time for mask fit testing.



Weeks helps a customer during a fit test at Mask Issue on Jan. 2.

“I’m a people person and I don’t like to see people wait. Part of enjoying what I do here is making sure the customers have masks that are fitted and tested in a timely manner. It’s rewarding to see them pass that test, to give them their final instructions and know that their equipment will keep them safe for the next six months,” Weeks said.

“We have had a lot of positive feedback from our customers across the board in the last few years since we made changes here. The facilities make a big difference, as well as the employees.”

Letter to the Editor : I remember a time when it was pure torture to spend a day at Mask Issue.

It didn’t matter how early in the morning we showed up for the inspection, we still had to wait endless hours to be serviced. **TODAY** it is a pleasure to walk in, talk to the personnel and do the fit test with your technicians. The training personnel are very knowledgeable of the subject matter and the new training room is a great improvement. Ms. Weeks is extremely *professional*, knowledgeable and thorough in her work. I walked in at 10:30 a.m., was greeted with a smile and taken care of immediately. I want to **THANK YOU** for all the improvements to Mask Issue, and for making our mask inspection requirements much easier to fulfill. I find your organization is the best yet in **customer service**. It is truly a pleasure to work with your group!

-CARMEN ANDROVER
U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity



On this day in CBARR History...



January 28, 2001 is remembered by most people as the day the Baltimore Ravens won their first Super Bowl. However, a team of CBARR operators, technicians and chemists remember this day as part of an historic deployment. During January and February of 2001, the prototype system of the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) was deployed, set up and safely used to destroy recovered GB bomblets at Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The GB bomblets had been recovered from a scrap pile in a former parking lot and based on their fuze design, were considered to be unsafe for transport to a storage area. The EDS, developed and owned by the Chemical Materials Activity (CMA), had been in operational testing in the United Kingdom when the call came to pack up and deploy immediately to Colorado. Since this time, CMA has developed five more units, and the partnership between CMA and CBARR has resulted in more than a dozen EDS deployments and operations.

Located approximately 10 miles northeast of Denver in Commerce City, Colo., the Rocky Mountain Arsenal was used at the height of World War II when the U.S. Army purchased 17,000 acres of land to manufacture chemical weapons. It has since become one of the largest clean-up sites in the country as the former chemical weapons plant transitions into an urban wildlife refuge that supports more than 330 species of mammals, birds, reptiles amphibians and fish.



(CONTINUED FROM P. 7) Recent remodeling efforts included painted walls that give the space a fresh feel and increased floor space now enables multiple fit testing to occur at the same time. According to Weeks, between 10 and 15 masks are tested in a typical day. Additionally, an enclosed classroom with new desks and equipment can accommodate up to 16 trainees; something not possible four years ago. During this training, employees like Weeks instruct participants on how to properly inspect and don the mask.

“A lot of people want to grab a hold of their mask, pull the straps tighter than what it needs to be and the mask rides up and the harness is higher than its supposed to be,” explained Weeks. “But you have to let them do it themselves because when they leave, the four properly adjusted straps should not be touched.”



Mask fit testing occurs Tues.– Thurs. from 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

The educational approach to fit testing helps the ECBC workforce better understand how to properly don a mask and adjust it in case of an emergency, ensuring safety remains CBARR’s foremost priority to personnel and customers alike.

“It has improved operations and the morale of workers and customers. Before we got this new facelift, people would tell me how depressing it was to walk in here because of the atmosphere. Once we got the money approved for the remodeling, the facility has become much warmer and some people even look forward to coming over here because it’s more cheerful,” Weeks said.

So what is the art of customer service?

JoAnn Weeks believes it all starts and ends with a smile.