

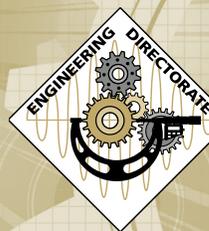
SPECIAL ECBC ROCK ISLAND ISSUE



Volume 2, Issue #11
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THE ENGINEERING EDGE

EDGEWOOD CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL CENTER



ECBC ENGINEERING
Design→Build→Test→Support

Inside This Month's Special Issue:

ECBC-RI ISO Certification	2
I&TST Explores and Expands	2
ECBC-RI Engineering Leadership	4
Meet the ECBC-RI Industrial Base Team	6
ECBC Engineering Supports CIT/DLA	7
ECBC East-West	7
Safety Tip of the Month	8
Save the Date: SMM	8
HR Tip of the Month	8

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For article suggestions, questions or comments please contact Ed Bowen at ed.bowen@us.army.mil



ECBC-RI supports BRAC Consumable Items Transfer to DLA

Not a week goes by that Nancy Lyford, ECBC Rock Island Team Leader, VE/RTOC/NATIBO, isn't talking to someone from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). As the engineering support organization for the transfer of most consumable items (CIT) to the DLA, ECBC Rock Island (ECBC-RI) has led the efforts to establish consistent dialogue between the organizations.

Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), in addition to a decreed closing or merging of various military installations across the country, the transfer of most CITs to the DLA was required. The purpose of the transfer was to achieve economies and efficiencies that would enhance the effectiveness of logistics support to operational joint and expeditionary forces.

Since the DLA performs the item management and procurement of the consumable items, communication lines had to be opened between DLA and ECBC, as the engineering support organization for the items.

"Dialogue with DLA did not start easily," Nan Ramsey, Engineering Associate Director and ECBC-RI Site Manager, said. "When ECBC-RI first began working with DLA, we discovered there was very little **(Cont. on page 7)**"

ECBC Edgewood-Rock Island Engineering Collaboration Sets Trend for 'New Way of Business'

In an effort to adapt to their customer's needs, ECBC's Rock Island Design Engineering and Test Facility and Edgewood Advanced Design and Manufacturing Division (ADM) are collaborating on a series of programs, establishing what could be a new way of doing business.

It's being called "ECBC East & West Collaborating" and according to Bill Meyer, Chief of ECBC Design Engineering and Test Facility, if all goes according to plan, the collaboration could potentially set a new business benchmark for both the customer and ECBC.

The collaborative work is currently aligned to the Program Manager for Sets, Kits, Outfits and Tools (PM-SKOT), servicing TACOM. The programs include Metal Working Machine Shop Sets (MWMSS) and **(Cont. on page 7)**

Where in the U.S. is Rock Island Arsenal?

U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal

Rock Island Arsenal is an active U.S. Army facility located on a 946-acre island in the Mississippi River. In 1969, the Arsenal was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1989, the original Arsenal buildings were designated a National Historic Landmark.

Today, Rock Island Arsenal is our nation's largest government owned and operated arsenal.

ECBC Rock Island is one of over 50 units/tenants represented on the island, working to carry out the Arsenal's core values and dedication to achieve customer satisfaction through strategic alliances, partnerships and open communication.



To access the electronic version of this newsletter visit:
https://cbnet.apgpea.army.mil/engineering/eng_news.html



ISO Certification Bolsters ECBC-RI's Support to the Warfighter

At ECBC Rock Island (ECBC-RI), the organization's International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Certification is more than a set of static business standards.

"We believe in the system. ISO has served as a great communication tool for ECBC-RI by allowing the entire workforce to be included in the process. We gather customer feedback and then act on that information," Diane Freeman, ECBC-RI's Chief, Product Quality Management Office, said.

ISO's main purpose is to help organizations in both the public and private sectors establish standards to ensure quality. Wanting to improve the organization and support to the Warfighter, ECBC-RI initiated efforts in the Spring of 2004 to become certified to ISO 9001-2000 standards. The leadership at ECBC-RI felt that the organization would benefit from establishing a system to help ensure quality services were being provided to their customers on a consistent basis.

"The benefits of the ISO Certification are too many to count," Freeman says. "The system gives leadership and the workforce a common set of business processes that documents what we do and requires that we follow the documentation."

The first step in ECBC-RI's certification was to name and create a system. Thus, the Quality Management System (QMS) was developed in an effort to obtain ISO 9001-2000 certification. The QMS documents and organizes procedures and knowledge management documents. This documentation, along with periodic internal audits, allows employees an opportunity to analyze procedures and pinpoint areas in need of improvement. Documentation of procedures also encourages repeatability, which means that when a process is working it will continue to benefit the organization.

"The metrics developed as an integral part of the system and helps to guarantee our services fulfill customer requirements, since they are based on customer feedback," Freeman said.

Citing a "Before and After ISO" example, Freeman mentioned that at the time when ECBC-RI first began exploring the **(Cont. on page 3)**

"We believe in the system. ISO has served as a great communication tool for ECBC-RI by allowing the entire workforce to be included in the process. We gather customer feedback and then act on that information."

- Diane Freeman, ECBC-RI's Chief, Product Quality Management Office

ECBC-RI's Solutions Engineering Team 'Explores and Expands'

The ECBC Information and Technology Solutions Team (I&TST) wasn't always the robust software and automation solutions factory that it is today. When Len Guldenpfennig, ECBC Rock Island Chief, Information & Technology Solutions, was charged to "explore and expand" in 2004 he rose to the occasion, building an ECBC information solutions engineering team from scratch.

"I was a one-man show at that time. The previous Rock Island Site Manager, Larry Light, noticed our Information Technology [IT] capabilities as well as several IT project solutions opportunities within the Chemical Biological defense community," Guldenpfennig said. "Larry gave me the goal of meeting customer software needs and finding additional agencies to fund us to do work, and then to develop a team capable of doing that work."

At the time, previous ECBC Technical Director, Rick Decker, was the Deputy Joint Program Executive Officer for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) and his agency had a need for various software solutions. In order to determine the feasibility of ECBC fulfilling those requirements, Decker gave a call to Light, who in turn called Guldenpfennig.

"Larry [Light] asked me, 'So if we get funding on this, can we do it?' And my response was, 'Yes!'" Guldenpfennig said.

Since that initial project in 2004, Guldenpfennig's "one-man show" has become the ECBC I&TST, a 26 person team servicing both external Federal Government Agencies and internal ECBC project requests.

"Think of our team as a software factory and hosting service. If you imagine a production line that manufactures cars or widgets, we have a similar process to provide software, business applications and information management systems," Guldenpfennig said.

I&TST's comprehensive Lifecycle Development Solutions allow the team to integrate with various commands and federal agencies that require I&TST's innovative services model.

"Software development is not an easy accomplishment for many of these agencies. Often time in the Department of Defense [DoD] a lot of money is spent to develop needed business applications and information systems but there's not a lot of success," Guldenpfennig said.

Product delays, cost overruns, price fluctuations, and schedule slips are many times the result of deviations from the original project blueprint or from a lack of clarity at the outset of a project. These pitfalls can be avoided though, Guldenpfennig says, and I&TST has established several best practices to keep the team's solutions/offers in line with client requirements.

"We push our clients for very clear blueprints up front. If we realize that the customer won't get there or we encounter bumps along the way, we discuss the issues with them," Guldenpfennig said. "We come into each project with a partnering approach - we'll partner with you and work with you to figure out what you want and then build it and host it for you as necessary."

I&TST's partnership with the JPEO-CBD and Joint Project Managers (JPMs) resulted in a widely used reporting system known as the Program Acquisition Status

(Cont. on page 3)

“Once we started ISO, we were able to apply management focus to our efforts and monitor our progress fixing problems in a timelier manner. The processing time on PQDRs went down dramatically... we have been able to reduce the cycle time by more than fifty percent.”

- Diane Freeman, ECBC-RI's Chief, Product Quality Management Office

ECBC-RI ISO Certification

(Cont. from page 2) possibility of becoming ISO certified, they were responsible for managing Product Quality Deficiency Reports (PQDR) on items within the Army's systems. In some instances, products placed on the deficiency reports would not be finalized and closed out for over a year.

“Once we started ISO, we were able to apply management focus to our efforts and monitor our progress to fix problems in a timelier manner. The processing time on PQDRs went down dramatically. In fact, as part of the ISO continuous improvement, we have been able to reduce the cycle time by more than fifty percent,” Freeman said.

Obtaining the ISO certification was not easy. Employees made extensive efforts to document all procedures. By 2005, it became clear that the process to become ISO certified was a larger undertaking than originally anticipated, and it required additional emphasis and resources to complete. In the Spring of 2005, ISO training was instituted to continue to enhance our implementation efforts.

“Each area of ECBC-RI was asked to develop their own ‘Product Realization’ procedures or work instructions,” Freeman said.

By November 2005, the Office was ready for the initial certification audit. Following a Management Review, an External Auditor visited ECBC-RI, conducted a thorough evaluation, and provided requirements to fix a handful of reported Opportunity for Improvements (non-conformances). Once the Quality Branch team had applied the needed fixes, the auditor returned giving the stamp of approval for ECBC-RI's official ISO 9001-2000 Certification dated December 9, 2005.

From the time of their initial External Audit in November 2005 until the present, ECBC-RI has had several Management Reviews and Quality System Reviews to ensure that the metrics and the QMS are still in accordance with ISO standards. As of September 21, 2010, they have received the latest ISO registration to the newest ISO standard, ISO 9001-2008. ⚙️

ECBC-RI I&TST

(Cont. from page 2) Report (ASR) System. Essentially, ASR allows General BG Jess Scarbrough, JPEO-CBD, to better monitor his programs for cost, schedule and acquisition issues, as well as feed required monthly reports into the DoD's Defense Acquisition Management Reporting system.

JPMs are required to report to the General each month on finances, project status updates, and the expected timeline for fielding equipment to the Warfighter. The General then reviews those reports and submits them at the Defense level.

“There's been an active effort within the DoD to research more efficient ways for feeding the JPEO's reports into the Department of Defense reporting system. The efficiency of the process is critical due to the effects the reports have on the capabilities timeline for getting equipment out to the Warfighter,” Guldenpfennig said.

According to Guldenpfennig, at a recent knowledge management symposium in Washington, D.C., I&TST's ASR System was a frontrunner to become the standard reporting system across the JPEOs.

“This project is very high profile and has provided great visibility for I&TST,” Guldenpfennig said. “It's been very rewarding to be a part of this, helping disseminate valuable information that ultimately benefits the Warfighter. I sleep very well at night.”

Internally, I&TST's capabilities equated to value for ECBC that resulted in the current Time Management System (TMS), a business application utilized by many of ECBC's Engineering teams in the Rock Island and Edgewood locations. The team started on the project in 2005, and currently I&TST is working on version 2.0 of the system.

“In 2005 as a new team leader, I was frustrated as an information systems guy regarding the poor process in place for requesting and approving leave, tracking human resources and reporting leave charges, so we built a website that would help automate and track the leave request process,” Guldenpfennig said.

In addition to ECBC-RI's use of the system, the product has recently been pursued by other commands.

Today, Guldenpfennig views himself as a leader and coach for I&TST, instilling in his team members the same positive, can-do attitude that he first approached his work with in 2004.

“To me, the success of I&TST is a direct result of the people that make up the team. I'm fortunate to have a great group of people to work with, and I make an effort to coach them in that same ‘expand and explore’ type of attitude that I was able to approach this work with.” ⚙️



“To me the success of I&TST is the direct result of the people that make up the team.” **Len Guldenpfennig, Chief, Information & Technology Solutions**
(I&TST pictured above)

NAN RAMSEY
Associate Director & ECBC-RI
Site Manager



Years of government service: 25
Years in ECBC: 3
Hometown: Davenport, IA
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics, and an MBA.
When you're not hard at work, how do you like to spend your time? Running or with my mom who at 83, still has a spectacular sense of humor.

What is one thing the ECBC Engineering Directorate wouldn't know about you? Someday I would like to write an action/adventure book. I wrote a couple chapters years ago when I broke my neck doing a flip on a trampoline but once I got back to work, there was no time to write.

KEVIN LEE
Deputy for Sustainment Management



Years of government service: 21
Years in ECBC: 10
Hometown: Platteville, WI
Education: Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville. Masters of Business Administration at St. Ambrose University.
When you're not hard at work, how do you like to spend your time? I enjoy spending time with my three sons - coaching them or watching them play sports, and helping them complete Boy Scout activities; also, home improvement projects, and exercising with my wife.

What is one thing the ECBC Engineering Directorate wouldn't know about you? In my younger days, I did several sky diving jumps.

JOHN KERCH
Deputy for Commodity Management



Years of government service: 27
Years in ECBC: 25
Hometown: Milwaukee, WI
Education: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Bradley University. Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Wisconsin.

When you're not hard at work, how do you like to spend your time? I enjoy participating in a number of sports, primarily running and basketball (and then healing up from both). I also enjoy spending time with my family.

What is one thing the ECBC Engineering Directorate wouldn't know about you? My first Design Engineering job was working for a company that made beer filling machines.

JOHN WHEELER
Product Engineering Division Chief



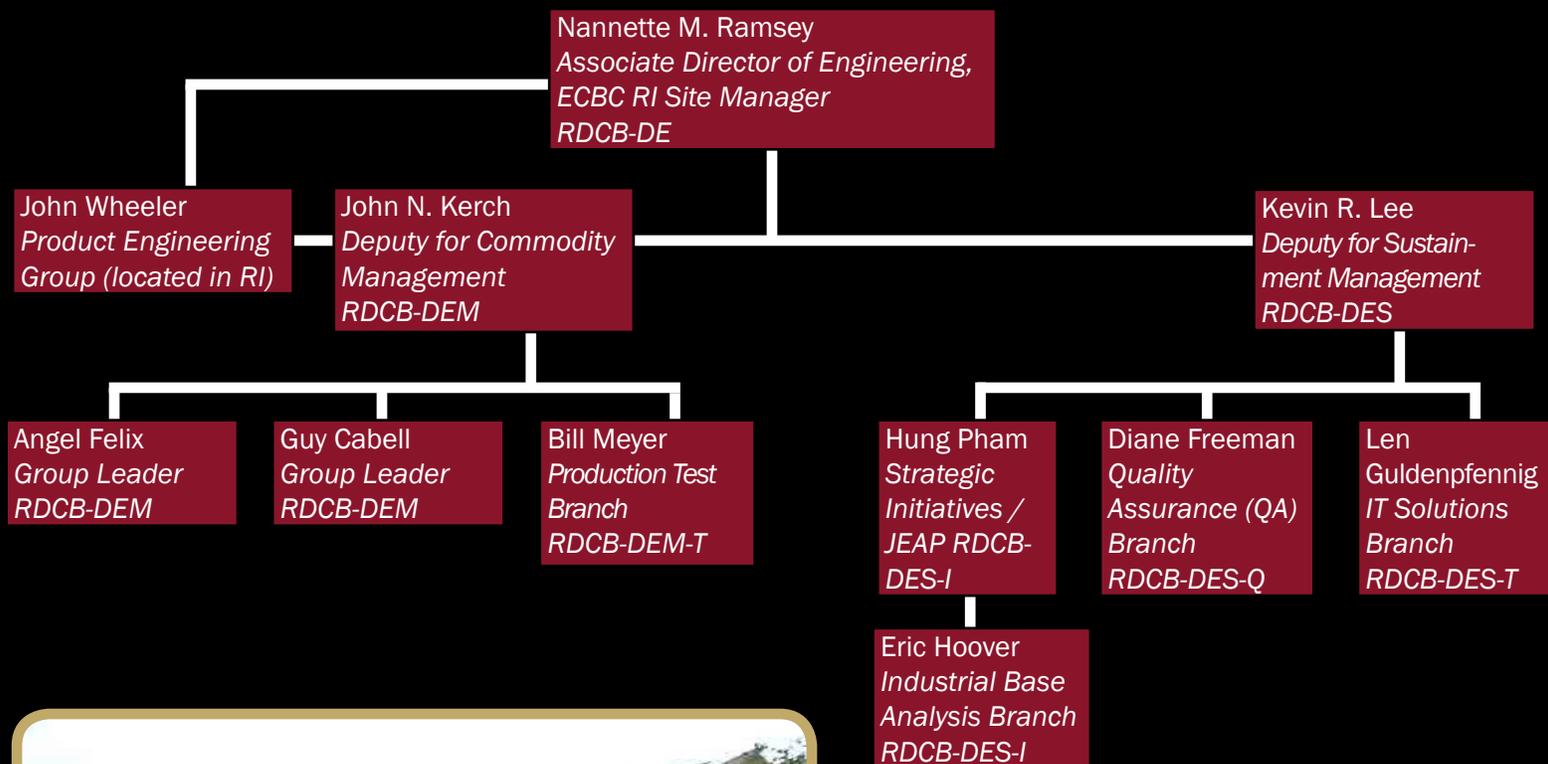
Years of government service: 32
Years in ECBC: 3
Hometown: Spencer, VA
Education: Bachelor of Science in Electrical/Electronic Engineering at the University of Iowa. Master of Science in Computer Science at Nova Southeastern University.

When you're not hard at work, how do you like to spend your time? I enjoy spending time with my wife and trying to keep up with the events in the lives of our children and grandchildren.

What is one thing the ECBC Engineering Directorate wouldn't know about you? I collect books, usually on my 'subject of the month', which varies wildly. Topics I've gathered books on range from Buddhism, to making wine, to building boats, to survival in the wild, and beyond.

ECBC-RI ENGINEERING

ECBC Rock Island Leadership Organizational Chart



Rock Island Arsenal is famous for these historic limestone buildings.



The island in the Mississippi River known as the Rock Island Arsenal is a great mass of Hamilton limestone, chiseled into shape by the water. In 1989, the original Arsenal buildings - many of which were made of the limestone in the 1800s - were designated a national historic landmark.

LEADERSHIP

MEET THE INDUSTRIAL BASE TEAM ...

MISSION: Provide analytical and information technology services in assessing and mitigating risk in the Defense Industrial Base.

For over 30 years, the Industrial Base (IB) group at Rock Island has supported the Warfighter through assessment and resolution of IB issues affecting Army systems. The Engineering Edge conducted interviews with Steve Beck and Eric Hoover, members of teams involved in the Army's Industrial Base mission, to learn about the role of their teams, their customers, and their impact.

STEVE BECK

Team Leader, Industrial Base Information Technology Team

Engineering Edge: What are the high-level capability offerings of the Industrial Base Information Technology (IBIT) team at ECBC-RI?

Steve Beck: The IBIT Team has a long history of supporting the Army Industrial Base mission through automation of information. We currently develop web-based information systems and data products primarily for the Army Materiel Command and the IB offices at the Life Cycle Management Commands. Our systems provide analytical tools for assessing risk with materiel items and suppliers, as well as, perform program management and process automation functions. Our data products respond to a wide range of inquiries from quick-hitting responses on "hot" issues, to large data sets assisting detailed studies. The IBIT Team also supports the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Joint Logistic Advisory Council Industrial Base Working Group through development of the Industrial Base Assessment System (IBAS). A key capability of the IBIT Team is translating customer needs into effective information systems, employing rapid prototyping and spiral process models in soliciting early customer feedback. This approach has led to the creation of many useful web applications that also reduce time and effort.

EE: What projects have you recently completed or are working on now?

SB: One recently developed system is the Industrial Base Assessment System (IBAS). IBAS is a focal point for monitoring Chem-Bio IB issues and risk. Through its dashboard, users can quickly identify problem areas and track activities to resolve them. IBAS also provides a repository of item and supplier assessments (performed by the IB Analysis Team at ECBC-RI) which serve as the basis for the risk ratings displayed in the dashboard. IBAS was developed in partnership with the Program Analysis and Integration Office with the long-range goal of institutionalizing the Chem-Bio IB assessment process.

EE: What are some of the challenges you face in your work?

SB: Keeping up with new web technology and staying current with

IT security requirements are continuing challenges. Personnel resources are a challenge as well, but in spite of the small size, our agile team has been able to produce more than a dozen web applications in the last three years. We've learned to do more with the resources we have. Outsourcing of our server administration has saved significant dollars and has allowed us to focus more on our real strength - developing information systems supporting the Army's IB mission.

The other members of the IBIT team are Chris Rentz, Zack Corelis, and Kevin Sandos. 

We've learned to do more with the resources we have. Outsourcing of our server administration has saved significant dollars and has allowed us to focus more on our real strength - developing information systems supporting the Army's IB mission.

- Steve Beck, Team Leader

ERIC HOOVER

Team Leader, Industrial Base Team

Engineering Edge: What are the high-level capability offerings of the Industrial Base Analytical team at ECBC-RI?

Eric Hoover: The industrial base (IB) mission provides analytical support to the entire product lifecycle process of items utilized by our Warfighters. The integral mechanisms of this process include market research for new and existing procurements, evaluations of existing and potential item manufacturers, and the resolution of obsolescence issues with fielded systems. The IB Team performs a dual-hatted mission - IB analyses for chemical/biological equipment and support to the Army Materiel Command's (AMC) Industrial Base Directorate located in Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL. The parallel analytical roles are greatly interlaced, therefore giving the Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM)/

The industrial base mission provides support to the entire product lifecycle process.

- Eric Hoover, Team Leader

ECBC Industrial Base Team unique capabilities within AMC. The team's recent Joint Program Executive Office-Chemical Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) Industrial Base Working Group not only involved United States Army organizations, but also integrated the Defense Contract

Management Agency-Industrial Analysis Center and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) organizations to increase the depth of the assessment.

EE: What are some recent accomplishments of your specific team?

EH: The team has led or supported several studies to include the Program, Analysis and Integration Office's (PAIO) Annual Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Assessment and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Hard Body Armor Assessment (HBA). The end state of the HBA assessment was the development of a HBA Risk Mitigation Plan and a future procurement plan to ensure this critical manufacturing asset was sustained in the Department of Defense (DoD) industrial base. The PAIO Assessment provided the JPEO-CBD's Industrial Base Working Group enhanced visibility within the limited CBRN Industrial Base.

EE: How was your work changed as a result of the ongoing war efforts?

EH: The DoD Industrial Base has and will continue to experience mergers, departures, and reductions in capabilities due to periods of surge and drawdown, or loss of program requirements. This cyclic environment creates fluctuations in the ability of manufacturers to maintain production capabilities and capacities. Our Team's continuing integration of data sources, such as the analysis of Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States mergers, constantly improves the visibility of critical manufacturers and technologies which serve as an enabling tool for DoD Leaders to proactively identify future issues and develop recommendations to mitigate the risk to our Warfighter.

The other members of RDECOM/ECBC Industrial Base Team are Ellen Sitz, Shay Macias, Marsha Davenport, Gloria Cypret, Kelly Jackson, Samir Karadsheh, and Byron Eichmeier. 

ECBC-RI supports CIT/DLA (Cont. from page 1)

understanding of Army engineering elements within the DLA's processes.”

According to Ramsey, the DLA uses a different approach for procurement than that traditionally used by the Army. The Army typically uses an Integrated Product Team (IPT) for the acquisition of an item. One example of this approach is the integration of ECBC employees serving as members of the TACOM IPTs, providing advice on market research and company capabilities, advice on needed testing and inspection, and other technical areas.

“When we started talking to DLA, we expected to continue to participate on procurement IPTs. What we found was that they did not use the same IPT approach for acquisition as that used by the Army. They use automated processes where item coding triggered certain actions, allowing them to procure as many as 200,000 items per month,” Ramsey said. “We soon realized it was not going to be business as usual – we had a lot to learn,” Ramsey said.

Ramsey knew ECBC-RI needed a starting point to begin work with DLA. Even after a conversation with a referred point of contact at DLA Headquarters (HQ DLA), ECBC-RI was faced with questions and uncertainty regarding current transfer processes and seemingly ongoing problems. It soon became apparent that ECBC-RI was not the only engineering organization attempting to sort through the existing issues.

“Ramsey asked around at the other RDECs about issues and concerns they were having. She also contacted the other Armed Services’ Engineering Support Activities (ESAs) and found that the other 21 ESAs across the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard had similar concerns,” Lyford said.

As a result, Ramsey contacted all of the Armed Services to see if they would be willing to meet with the Army Engineering Support organizations to discuss the processes and concerns. All agreed, and ECBC-RI organized a meeting in Crystal City, Virginia in late 2008, allowing the Army to learn from the other Services who had transferred many of their consumable items in previous years.

“The next step then was to meet with DLA and discuss our concerns,” Ramsey said. “Getting all the Services together with DLA was instrumental to understand the processes and resolve our concerns.”

Key issues included ensuring the proper level of engineering support was obtained, with appropriate quality provisions as defined by the engineering authority. This would allow ECBC-RI the ability to better plan for their workforce, by getting funding commitments from DLA in advance.

Fast forward to 2010, and hundreds of meetings and three years later, with the continued perseverance and extensive coordination of Ramsey, Lyford, the Army and other Service ESAs, including help from Army Materiel Command Headquarters, a signed agreement on the funding is in hand. Additionally, a new Joint Engineering Support Instruction is in coordination, which has already been signed at the three star-level in the Army.

“These efforts were essential since we have just completed the support to TACOM in the transfer of almost 700 Chemical Biological items to DLA for management,” Ramsey said.

Lyford admits, they are still working some of the kinks out in the processes, but she says ECBC-RI and the DLA have come a long way in the last three years.

“Largely due to Nan’s persistent efforts, we’ve been able to bring everyone together in one room to talk about similar problems within the transfer and work to resolve many of them,” Lyford said. “The older I get, I learn communication is key to everything.” 

ECBC East-West Collaboration (Cont. from page 1)

Next Generation Sets Equipment Contact Maintenance (SECM).

ECBC has been providing engineering support to PM-SKOT since 2007; however, the Rock Island-Edgewood partnership on MWMSS and SECM began recently, at the beginning of this year.

“As our relationship developed with PM-SKOT, they became more interested in doing prototyping. I was familiar with what Mark Schlein was able to do under the Advanced Design and Manufacturing (ADM) Division in Edgewood. After reaching out to him, it was clear we had a mutual interest in collaborating to do the work for PM-SKOT,” Meyer said. “This effort was fully supported and encouraged at all levels of ECBC senior management.”

For both the MWMSS and SECM projects, the Edgewood and Rock Island Engineering teams have crafted a seamless workflow, fitting together the various project requirements like pieces of a puzzle. Rock Island’s Design Engineering and Test Facility manages the MWMSS and SECM programs, in addition to contributing to the conceptual design phase. Edgewood’s ADM Division provides design concepts as well as prototype modeling, creating prototypes of full-size MWMSS and SECM units.

“The design concepts are a joint effort. Then, for example, with the MWMSS, Edgewood is doing the prototyping, laying out the shelters. Once that’s approved by the customer – the soldier – Edgewood’s ADM Division will build one full-size prototype unit,” Meyer said. “You can see how the pieces fit together for the design, prototyping and testing.”

Prior to the ECBC East-West collaboration, there was no one-stop-shop for the PM-SKOT’s Programs. In order to complete the design and prototyping phases of the programs, the PM would have to go to several different government organizations as well as outside contractors for the work to be completed.

“Our ECBC Prototype Integration Facility (PIF), known locally here at Edgewood as ADM, has complementary capabilities to the ECBC-RI teams. Being able to effectively partner with our ECBC-RI colleagues, supporting new customers including PM-SKOT, is exciting,” Mark Schlein, Division Chief, ADM, said. “Implementation of activities such as high fidelity conceptual modeling is rewarding as the RI customers have not previously had access to these processes and are wowed.”

Although the mechanical work is tangential from ECBC’s traditional focus on Chemical Biological (CB) defense, Meyer says the ability to offer this kind of cradle-to-grave customer service is the emerging business trend in both the government and private sectors. Rather than jumping through “contracting hoops,” the process is expedited when work is consolidated to one organization.

“Here at Edgewood, we’ve been able to foster our relationship with Rock Island as they build their relationship with the customer, PM-SKOT,” Kevin Wallace, Branch Chief, Technology and Systems Integration, said. “It’s served as an excellent opportunity to let the customer know what kind of capabilities ECBC Engineering can provide, letting them know we can offer the full lifecycle process.” (Cont. on page 8)

ECBC East-West Collaboration (Cont. from page 7)

According to Meyer, PM-SKOT's decision to take their work to ECBC was initially due to dissatisfaction with the engineering support they were receiving from their original vendor, and the need for an organization with greater capabilities. Prior to their move to ECBC, PM-SKOT was conducting all testing offsite. Since ECBC Rock Island was already conducting transportability and package testing for other CB projects and offered the ability to host some of PM-SKOT's simpler testing, the PM's transition to ECBC was a natural move.

"The bottom line is, we had more capabilities," Meyer said.

Meyer admits that the collaborative work is still in a trial phase; time will tell whether or not this new approach will catch on with other clients. Should the situation present itself, however, Meyer says he would "entertain looking into it."

"These are the first two programs we're doing collaboratively as ECBC East-West. If it's successful, it could be a major benchmark for PM-SKOT and for ECBC in the future," Meyer said. 

ECBC Safety Tip of the Month: CARBON MONOXIDE

From the National Fire Protection Association

Although the popularity of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms has been growing in recent years, it cannot be assumed that everyone is familiar with the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home.

SAFETY TIPS

1. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards.
2. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
3. Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
4. Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
5. Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

SAVE THE DATE

ECBC Engineering Balanced Scorecard Strategic Management Meeting

Engineering Director, AJay Thornton invites you to the 2010 ECBC Engineering Balanced Scorecard Strategic Management Meeting.

Date: 18 November 2010 Time: 0830-1100

Place: Berger Auditorium

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Strategic Management Update and BSC News
- Strategic Objective Briefings
 - CC4 - Concept Through Sustainment Solutions
 - IP4 Update - Provide Responsive Customer Service
 - * Engineering Survey & Path Forward
 - * Rock Island Site Perspective
 - IP10 - Establish Knowledge Management Program
 - R3 - Maintain Fiscal Responsibility

National Veterans Awareness Week: November 8-12, 2010

This year, Congress has designated the week beginning Monday, Nov. 8 as National Veterans History Project Week.

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans History Project by Congress in order to collect and preserve the wartime stories of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Congress charged the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to undertake the Veterans History Project, engaging the public in the creation of a collection of oral histories in honor of veterans. These oral histories have created an abundant resource for scholars to gather first-hand accounts of veterans' experience in World War I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

The Senate calls on the people of the United States to interview at least one veteran in their families or communities according to guidelines provided by the Veterans History Project. Interview guidelines are available online at: www.loc.gov/vets/. 

ECBC Engineering Directorate HR Tip of the Month: Death of an Employee

When you are notified of the death of an employee under your supervision, you must notify your chain of command as well as Sabre Harper/Debbi Yonce. The Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) www.abc.army.mil has a data sheet that should be completed immediately with pertinent information. The completed form goes to Sabre or Debbi.

For more information about your HR policies, please contact Engineering Workforce Management Representative **Sabre Harper at ext. 5-2722**.

The Engineering Edge

The Engineering Edge is the ECBC Engineering Directorate's monthly newsletter. It is produced for ECBC Engineering staff as part of the Balanced Scorecard Initiative. Unless otherwise noted, all stories, photographs and graphics are produced by the Engineering Directorate's Strategic Planning and Business Operations Branch. 

Submissions: We need your stories, photographs, comments and suggestions. If interested, contact The Engineering Edge staff concerning ongoing and future products and submissions to The Engineering Edge Newsletter. Submit your stories or ideas via e-mail to ed.bowen@us.army.mil.