



News Release

Army Opens Advanced Chemistry Laboratory

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. – A facility where defense research with super-toxic chemical warfare agent opened today with a dedication ceremony at the US Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) located on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

State and local officials gathered to dedicate the Advanced Chemistry Laboratory (ACL) to Dr. Edward J. Poziomek, a former scientist at ECBC. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes presented the Poziomek family with a United States Flag that had been flown over the Capitol in commemoration of their father's legacy of published and patented chemical agent research that foreshadows the work that will occur in the ACL.

"Dr. Poziomek was a former ECBC chemist whose dedication to science and commitment to sharing expertise helped position the Center as a principal research and development organization," said Dr. Raymond Mackay, Director of Research and Technology at ECBC. "He was a mentor, friend, and inspiration to everyone."

"The dedication of the ACL marks a major milestone of a new era of cutting-edge science and technology development," said Jim Zarzycki, Technical Director of ECBC. "More now than ever, we are prepared to fulfill our mission of preparing our Warfighter and domestic emergency responders to counter the terrible threat of weapons of mass destruction."

"The cost of \$46M for the facility will benefit the nation by increasing the ability for ECBC to better counter the evolving threat of chemical warfare and the use of chemical agents by terrorists," stated Major General Roger Nadeau. "With our nation at war, up-tempo readiness is of our highest concern."

ECBC Chemist, Dr. Terrence D'Onofrio, remarked "I am excited about the new facility in that it will logistically allow us to work closer with scientists just down the hall in a variety of fields that contribute to my research." The ACL houses over 20 individual labs specializing in the research of physical properties, decontamination sciences, filtration, mid-spectrum agents, synthesis, and nuclear magnetic resonance. Dr. D'Onofrio is studying how chemical agent contamination affects various common surfaces, including asphalt, soil, and concrete, in order to develop more accurate detection, protection and decontamination technologies.

“The ACL is a completely unique facility designed for working with the world’s most super toxic compounds,” said Zarzycki. “The ACL moves U.S. defense capabilities a giant step forward. In addition to supporting ECBC’s warfighter mission, the ACL allows ECBC to continue to serve the homeland security community as well as all federal agencies including the intelligence community, FBI, Department of Justice, and the Department of State.”



ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs and industrial competitiveness, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our Web site at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil> or call (410) 436-3610.

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