



News Release

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Local Scientist Honored with Army's Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD — The Secretary of the Army recently honored Joppa resident Monica Heyl with the prestigious Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Heyl serves as the acting team leader of the Mobile Laboratory and Kits Team within the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC). This award, the second-highest Department of the Army honorary award, is given in recognition of outstanding performance and significant contributions to the Department of Defense.

While serving as a physical scientist at ECBC, Heyl established herself as a recognized national and international leader in mobile chemical and biological laboratory design and development. Her exceptional technical and managerial skills have been sought repeatedly by various government agencies requiring the design and construction of a variety of mobile analytical labs.

Heyl's most recent success is the development of chemical biological laboratory systems for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Through an Interagency Agreement, ECBC developed two mobile laboratory systems for the FDA. These mobile labs can be placed at ports of entry where food is brought into the United States. While most food samples are sent to remote laboratories for analysis—creating a significant delay before results are available—the mobile labs allow scientists to analyze suspect food samples on site within hours, thus saving time and shortening the chain of custody for samples.

The mobile labs are capable of detecting deadly agents such as botulinum and salmonella. Additionally, the labs can detect many chemical agents that may be added to foods. With global terrorism now a constant threat, these mobile labs are an important weapon in combating terror's deadly force.

During a recent ceremony, Mr. Jim Zarzycki, technical director of ECBC, presented the award to Heyl. Her achievements reflect great credit upon herself, the US Army Materiel Command, and the Department of the Army.

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.



Ms. Monica Heyl is presented with the prestigious Meritorious Civilian Service Award by Mr. Jim Zarzycki. Photo by Conrad Johnson

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