



News Release

News Release No. 08-01

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15 July 08

ECBC-PBA Launches Safety Excellence Program



Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD— Working in chemical and biological defense is all about making the world a safer place. And those who work in the profession must be ever vigilant while on the job. To that end, the leadership team at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center – Pine Bluff Arsenal (ECBC-PBA) had this in mind before launching the Center’s new Safety Excellence Program in May.

The new program, which embodies the first principle of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration’s Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) to manage commitment and employee involvement, includes best safety management system practices taken from organizations with world class safety performance.

“ECBC in Aberdeen (Md.) launched this program about 18 months ago and has already seen significant benefits from it,” said Paul Wynne, Manager of ECBC-PBA. “Our objectives with this program are to derive the same benefits in safety performance improvement, to strengthen our safety culture and to improve operating effectiveness and efficiency by having integrated systems with ECBC. All of this aimed at the goal of avoiding injuries and occupational illnesses.”

Engaging employees was an initial goal of the program’s implementation and a Process Improvement Team (PIT), comprised of first line employees and facilitated by Joe Green, an ECBC safety and occupational health specialist, was established and has already

made several recommendations to management.

An Executive Safety Committee chaired by Wynne and comprised of supervisors, workers and a safety professional was created to lead and provide overall direction to the safety effort. The committee, which meets monthly to monitor performance and implement improvement programs, gets worker recommendations directly from PIT Chairman Charlie Foster, who is a member of the group.

A series of seminars on management-level “Walkarounds” were provided to ECBC-PBA senior staff, during which managers and supervisors routinely patrol operating areas and engage workers in discussions about job safety and how to make it better. The management-level “Walkarounds” are one of the most powerful continuous improvement systems.

The ECBC-PBA, a tenant organization comprised of nearly 40 government personnel supporting a variety of project at PBA and various CONUS and OCONUS locations, works in concert with ECBC-Aberdeen providing chemical and biological operations solutions to customers such as the Army’s Chemical Materials Agency, U.S. Army Core of Engineers – Huntsville and Defense Threat Reduction Agency. ECBC also works closely with Cooperative Research and Development Agreement partners such as URS Corp., Bechtel and CH2M HILL.

“Our group of dedicated chemical operators will bring the ECBC Core Competencies of safe analyses, handling, disposal, demolition and transportation of CW/BW material to the Pine Bluff Arsenal for many years to come,” Wynne said.

ECBC is the Army’s principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for our national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is a US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command laboratory 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) 436-7118.