



News Release

News Release No.

19 December 2008

For Information: Don Kennedy, 410-436-7118

ECBC Staff Contributes To Successful Holiday Food and Toy Drive

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. — Santa's sled arrived early this year at Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) leaving behind a bounty of bikes, dolls, games, books, food and a life-size sleigh overflowing with teddy bears during the closing ceremony of the 21st Annual Food, Toy and Gift Drive held Wednesday, Dec. 17.

ECBC employees joined staff from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) and Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) in donating 52 boxes of toys, 41 boxes of food during the one-month drive held Nov.10 through Dec.10. Inspired by the generosity of others, members of the American Society of Military Comptrollers made a special contribution of \$400 in gift cards.

"This is our community, our family and friends," ECBC Technical Director Rick Decker said of the Center's efforts to support needy families from Harford County and families sponsored by Army Community Services and Army 20th Support Command. "I take a great deal of pride in what was accomplished here today."

The donations, collected from 29 general locations across the Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), went to go to Mason Dixon Community Services, an organization based in Street, Md., that provides emergency food and energy assistance to low-income residents of Harford County.

The drive also provided support to 15 military families from Army Community Services, who were sponsored by individuals working at APG. After publishing information about the families and their wish lists on the employee Web sites for both ECBC and the Edgewood Area community, the personnel were able to adopt a family or an individual from a family.

"I'm in awe of your effort," Mason Dixon Community Service Coordinator, Theresa Perry told the crowd. "You all have done a marvelous job and all of your donations will go directly to the families of Harford County. I hope your heart feels all the goodness that you have done."

During the ceremony ECBC, RDECOM and CMA staff who served as volunteers during the drive were acknowledged and thanked for their tremendous efforts.

“The success of this drive is directly attributed to the generosity of ECBC, RDECOM and CMA,” said Leanne Argue, event organizer. “With numerous drop-off locations across the base, the assistance of our point of contacts and the generosity of the staff has helped us greatly increase our donations. We hope to continue to expand each year.”

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) 436-3610.

#