



# News Release

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## APG South celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Food, Toy and Gift Drive Anniversary

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.** – For the twenty-fifth consecutive year, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) hosted the closing ceremony of Aberdeen Proving Ground South's Food, Toy and Gift Drive at Berger Auditorium on Dec. 13.

Focusing on the needs of less fortunate military and civilian community members during the holiday season, ECBC and partnering organizations held their annual Food, Toy and Gift Drive from Oct.31 to Dec.7. Employees across Edgewood contributed to this year's drive with exuberant generosity, filling 55 boxes with food items and 45 boxes with toys. As in previous years, the drive culminated in a closing ceremony, where ECBC and partnering APG South organizations turned collected items over to designated local charity representatives.

Mason Dixon Community Services, an organization that provides emergency food and energy assistance to low-income residents in Harford County, received APG South's food donations. The toy donations were handed over to the Edgewood Sharing Table, a non-profit coalition of churches that reaches out to fellow citizens in need, and Extreme Family Outreach, an organization that provides after school and summer programs for elementary- and middle school-aged youth in Edgewood, Joppatowne, and Havre de Grace.

In an effort to fill even more hearts with joy and happiness throughout the holiday season, Edgewood workforce members sponsored children's wish lists submitted by 19 military families from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (USAMRICD) and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chemical Battalion, the 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command through Army Community Services.

"The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Food, Toy and Gift Drive marks a special milestone for the Edgewood Area and its local community," said Mary Doak, ECBC Community and Educational Outreach Program Manager. "We are honored that the director of Harford County's Office of Economic Development Jim Richardson joined us in proclaiming this charitable and historical event."

ECBC Technical Director Joseph Wienand shared welcome remarks and thanked senior leaders for their participation and support during the ceremony.

"Especially during this the time of the year, it is important that we stop and take the time out of

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our busy schedules to help people who are less fortunate than ourselves and to show our appreciation to our service members who bravely protect our nation's freedom," he said. "And, I'm delighted to see that — thanks to employees and senior leaders across the Edgewood Area — this drive continues to expand and succeed after twenty-five years."

MG Leslie Smith from the 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command, who gave the keynote speech during the event, cited the Army Civilian Creed and commended Edgewood employees for the extraordinary time and efforts they dedicated towards this initiative.

Participating organizations included the ECBC; local members of the Department of Emergency Services; the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense; the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives; the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity; and the USAMRICD.

For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/>.

*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 U.S. 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 website at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil> or call (410) 436-7118.*

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