



News Release

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West Point Cadets work alongside chemical and biological experts at ECBC

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) welcomed cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point this summer to work on chemical and biological defense projects.

The cadets were taking part in the Academy's Advanced Individual Academic Development (AIAD) program which provides cadets with an opportunity to observe and implement concepts from their course work over several weeks during the summer months.

Ten Cadets selected to receive their additional training at ECBC. They cadets will be here during two- to three-week rotations. This is a volunteer program where the students forfeit their vacation to receive additional laboratory academic credits towards their education.

By coming to ECBC, the Cadets will be working with some of the most experienced subject matter experts in the field of chemical and biological defense in the nation. While the hands-on experience will be valuable to them, the ECBC mentors who will be hosting a student will also gain a valuable direct connection to the soldier, our end user.

"This program is a great opportunity for ECBC to mentor the future generation of Army leaders," Senior Research Scientist Augustus Fountain, Ph.D. said.

The cadets were able gain insight into the difference between a research laboratory versus an academic laboratory and learn about the Army's research, development, test and evaluation enterprise.

Cadet Benjamin Lacey, an incoming sophomore at the Academy, worked on proteomic mass spectrometry in the Point Detection Branch of the Research and Technology Directorate during his rotation at ECBC.

"Ben's enthusiasm and dedication to learning as much as he could during his time here at ECBC was inspiring" Lacey's mentor Mary Wade, Ph.D., chief of the Point Detection Branch said. "It makes me appreciate my work to help the warfighters and future

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warfighters, like Ben, even more.”

While this was not ECBC’s first year hosting cadets with the AIAD program, ECBC is working with West Point to expand opportunities for West Point students and faculty to do research here. A memorandum of understanding is currently being staffed between the two organizations that will provide cadets with more AIAD opportunities, support faculty research in support of chemical and biological defense needs, and provide a fellowship opportunity for ECBC researchers to periodically teach at the Academy.

As part of the Research, Development and Engineering Command, which has the mission to develop technology and engineering solutions for America’s soldiers, ECBC is the nation’s principal research and development resource for non-medical chemical and biological defense. As a critical national asset in the CB defense community, ECBC supports all phases of the acquisition life-cycle - from basic and applied research through technology development, engineering design, equipment evaluation, product support, sustainment, field operations and demilitarization - to address its customers’ unique requirements.

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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