



News Release

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ECBC lab defends against what's next, addresses bio threat with advanced technology *ECBC's Environmental Monitoring Laboratory excels in ricin sample analysis*

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The Internet Age has changed the way people access information, enabling them to share and exchange content in a new form of currency. While it has provided many benefits to society, it has also increased the mishandling of knowledge for ill-intended purposes, including chemical and biological threats.

Over the past few years, there have been an increased number of cases in which people have made ricin in their own homes, and the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) has utilized advanced technology to identify and detect a number of targets, such as ricin. ECBC's Environmental BioMonitoring Laboratory (EBML) uses robotics and high-speed analytical instrumentation to analyze up to 96 samples within an eight-hour time frame for seven targets across two different platforms: electrochemiluminescence (ECL) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

"The bio threat has become more widely known in the Internet Age because the instructions are out there," said Andrew Bailey, biologist for ECBC's Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction (CBARR) Business Unit. "One of the things we do at ECBC is lead the way in defending against what's next."

Biological threats have typically not been as well known as other agents, especially compared to the presence of chemical weapons in the world since World War I. But the new bio threat agents have been identified by careful research by the intelligence community, helping ECBC to constantly branch out and defend against an evolving bio threat.

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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