



News Release

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ECBC Lab Evaluates Decontaminability of Universal Munition Storage Container *ECBC conducts study to improve munition handling safety*

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A team of scientists at the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) designed a study to evaluate the decontaminability of prototype packaging material used to wrap munitions that have undergone extensive degradation and are suspect of leaking.

The team investigated if the high density polyethylene (HDPE) absorbs chemical agent and if it can be successfully decontaminated in the Explosive Destruction System (EDS), a WMD-elimination technology of the Chemical Materials Activity (CMA).

“This study was meant to evaluate if chemical munitions stored in the Universal Munition Storage Container (UMSC) can be destroyed directly in the EDS without unpacking the item,” said Brandon Dusick, a chemist with ECBC’s Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction (CBARR) Business Unit.

Currently, leaking munitions are stored in metal overpacks. The most dangerous part of an EDS operation is when technicians open the overpacks to prepare the munition for insertion into the EDS. The UMSC packaging would eliminate hazards associated with operator handling and eliminate risks of leaker munitions in storage.

As a result of the decontaminability study, ECBC demonstrated that chemical agent was not greatly absorbed by the UMSC material. The design of the study was paramount in collecting data that contributed to how leaker munitions can be safely packed, handled and transported during EDS operations.

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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