

# Message from the Director

As the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) 2005 Annual Report goes to press in early 2006, the Defense Department's commitment to "Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)" continues to deepen. This is evidenced in the recently published Quadrennial Defense Review that states: "The Department will develop new defense capabilities in anticipation of the continued evolution of WMD threats." In 2005, ECBC extended its history of important contributions to address this major national security issue and is poised to do even more in 2006.

This report highlights 2005 technical achievements. You will see that those achievements span the entire materiel life cycle from research to demilitarization. While efforts to ensure our warfighters have the equipment to fight, survive and win on a CB battlefield dominated 2005 activities, ECBC also made important contributions in support of non-proliferation (demilitarization) counter proliferation (support to the intelligence community) and consequence management (support to domestic agencies).

The accomplishments of ECBC employees and on-site contractor personnel in support of a very broad spectrum of national needs are commendable. This Annual Report can only highlight a few accomplishments by a few performers, but our overall success in 2005 must be attributed to the dedication of the entire 1500-person workforce. I hope you take the time to examine the team accomplishments in the Report on Resources section of this document. The breadth of ECBC activities across the entire materiel life cycle is in evidence there.

This report also describes important additions to ECBC infrastructure and ECBC's human resources management activities. In 2005, we dedicated our new Advanced Chemistry Laboratory and began site preparation for the Sample Receipt Facility. In addition, we made several important non-major construction facility upgrades and additions. Also in 2005, ECBC completed its seventh consecutive year of robust hiring activity – again seeing the "hiring exceeding retiring."

In 2006, while our concerns for emerging threats and traditional vulnerabilities are not diminished, our intellectual capacity for addressing these problems has never been greater. The acquisition sophistication and technical understanding of those hundreds of ECBC engineers and scientists supporting the programs of the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense, the TACOM Integrated Logistics Support Center and the Chemical Materials Agency is superb. Competence in our five critical chemical and biological sciences capability areas (inhalation toxicology aerosol science, filtration, threat agent chemistry and biology, and agent spectroscopy/detection algorithm development) is excellent, as evidenced by our research achievements and technology transitions. The skills of the ECBC employees engaged in field operations and consequences management activities have become relied upon by the Chemical Materials Agency, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command and numerous domestic agencies.

To the people of ECBC, I commend you for your competence and dedication. ECBC stakeholders, partners and customers, I thank you for the opportunity you have provided the people of ECBC to address our country's national security needs.

Sincerely,



J.H. Zarzycki  
Director, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

