



# News Release

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## **U.S. Ambassador thanks CBARR for demilitarization effort in Albania** *ECBC provides international support, CB solutions to southeastern Europe*

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.** – The Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction (CBARR) Business Unit of the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) received a warm letter of gratitude from U.S. Ambassador to Albania Alexander A. Arvizu on Nov. 21. The note thanked the organization for a successful demilitarization operation that destroyed a recently discovered stockpile of chemical munitions in Tirana, Albania earlier this year.

“Thanks to your professionalism and expertise, these hazardous chemicals are no longer a potential danger to the Albanian or American people. I have received profuse thanks from the Ministry of Defense and other Albanian government officials, and wanted to pass on their appreciation as well. Once again, thank you for a job well done!” wrote Arvizu.

The collaborative effort between CBARR, the Central Laboratory, Logistics Brigade and the Albanian Armed Forces led to the successful destruction of 11 chemical agents during a two-week project in July. CBARR personnel implemented a proven, environmentally sound infrastructure in Tirana, setting up all of the analytical capabilities and engineering controls that ensure the safe destruction of chemical warfare agents.

“We were incredibly appreciative of the on-site rapport we developed with the Albanian laboratory staff,” said Ray Diberardo, CBARR project manager. “We were able to establish a good working relationship that enabled us to execute the operation safely.”

Prior to destruction, CBARR personnel assessed the conditions of the work site and designated locations for storage, detoxification and analysis of chemical agents. Once the site passed a pre-operations survey by team members that verified all supplies and safety protocols were in place, a chemical analysis was conducted on each of the agents to confirm chemical identity, quantify chemical concentrations and establish a baseline for which destruction goals could be measured.

“Sometimes the challenges of working in a foreign country are being able to communicate and work effectively with laboratory and support personnel, but it was a natural partnership with the Albanians,” said Diberardo. “We are happy to have had the

opportunity to provide support and lead international efforts.”

The operation in Albania demonstrates CBARR’s ability to provide chemical and biological solutions for customers worldwide as it leads ECBC’s mission to meet evolving CBRNE defense needs in a safe and secure manner.

***Photo caption: CBARR personnel with Captain Vide of the Albanian Armed Forces.***

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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