



News Release

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Under Secretary of the Army visits ECBC for Team CBRNE demo *CBARR collaborates with ADM, demonstrates field deployable solutions for elimination*

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – – The Under Secretary of the Army, Joseph W. Westphal, Ph.D., visited the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) on March 28 as part of a demonstration organized by the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD).

Tim Blades, director of operations for ECBC's Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction (CBARR) Business Unit, met with Westphal during his tour of ECBC facilities, which included several static displays of destruction equipment that has been used on past deployments around the world for the elimination of chemical agents. Additionally, the rapid prototype integration facility displayed recent engineering designs for new prototype elimination systems.

Westphal also toured the Prototype Detonation and Test Destruction Facility, which showed ECBC's capability to provide field deployable solutions for weapons of mass destruction elimination. A field site was set up at J-Field to illustrate the kinds of deployable equipment -- the vapor containment structure, electrical generators, chemical agent filtration systems and the Multiple Power Distribution System -- are used to support an elimination or remediation mission onsite at home and abroad.

"ECBC's role was to provide some visibility of our rapid prototyping solutions for weapons of mass destruction elimination," Blades said. "We've been working with ADM for the last two months on a high-priority project and it has really been an excellent learning experience. ADM has some neat design tools that have worked well with the things that CBARR does."

CBARR's partnership with the Advanced Design and Manufacturing Division within ECBC's Engineering Directorate was part of the reason for Westphal's visit. ECBC's highly skilled workforce has expertise in research and technology and engineering and operations as well as a proven history of successful field remediation missions. The rapid prototyping capability allows CBARR maintenance technicians, operators and chemists to work with ADM's engineers to design new solutions for elimination.

“This is the first time CBARR is working with ADM in this capacity,” Blades said. “It’s a collaborative effort to formulate a concept into a working solution, and they’ve really been a part of that. Working together we can take a problem, figure out the tool that best works for the job, test it using ADM’s rapid prototyping capability and then implement it into our missions—and that’s pretty powerful.”

During his visit, Westphal met with soldiers and civilians, and emphasized the immeasurable role Team CBRNE has in informing the national defense and protecting the Warfighter and society against CBRNE threats. Team CBRNE is comprised of ECBC, JPEO-CBD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency – Joint Science and Technology Office, the 20th Support Command, the Chemical Materials Activity, Program Executive Office-Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, and the U.S. Army Public Health Command.

Photos courtesy of JPEO-CBD.



Tim Blades, CBARR director of operations, shows Under Secretary of the Army, Dr. Joseph Westphal, ECBC’s field equipment during a March 28 tour.



The 20th Support Command’s CBRNE response team demonstrates decontamination procedures.



Tim Blades and Dr. Westphal discuss solutions for WMDE elimination.

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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