



News Release

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ECBC Engineers Put 54,000 Projectiles Back into Inventory for Army and Marine Corps *Full recapitalization expected by June 2015*

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – After extensive redesigning, planning and testing, the Obscuration and Nonlethal Engineering (ONE) and Pyrotechnics and Explosives Branches of Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) are helping to reintroduce 54,000 obscurant projectiles into inventory for the Army and Marine Corps. Often, equipment that does not pass testing phases cannot be salvaged, but this reintroduction is critical because it provided significant resource savings for the Department of Defense.

The M825A1 projectile is designed to produce a smoke screen on the ground that lasts five to 15 minutes. In September 2008, a random sampling of reworked projectiles failed during a test at Army's Dugway Proving Ground (DPG). The failed projectile canisters were recovered and sent to ECBC for evaluation.

A team from ECBC Pyrotechnics and Explosives Branch analyzed several failed projectile canisters that were recovered at DPG. The engineers discovered that a part called pyrofoil was not functioning as intended and determined that a different igniter would work best. After the new design was complete, instructions and specifications were sent to the ONE Branch to begin testing, which included fuse safety, temperature extremes, gun shock, vibration and burn time.

Since the first successful safety tests were conducted in July 2011, approximately 30,000 projectiles have been put back into the Army's inventory. Rework production and lot acceptance testing will continue until the full recapitalization is completed (expected by June 2015), bringing the total recapped equipment to 54,000 – with 7,500 of those purchased by the Marine Corps for their use for the first time.

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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30

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