



News Release

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Under secretary visits Team CBRNE for WMD-elimination tour



ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. - Under Secretary of the Army Brad Carson traveled to Edgewood, Md. on July 29 to visit the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), the 20th Support Command, the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) and the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA).

These organizations are part of Team CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives), a group of organizations committed to the beginning-to-end-lifecycle support

for science, engineering and operation solutions.

“It was a great opportunity for Under Secretary Carson to see the full breadth of the work done here at Edgewood,” said Carmen Spencer, director of JPEO-CBD. “This kind of interagency collaboration is what makes us a Center of Excellence for chemical weapons of mass destruction (CWMD). There is no other community like it in the nation.”

Senior leaders of each organization briefed Carson on current and future efforts for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including the development of capabilities and new technologies like the Field Deployable Hydrolysis System (FDHS). The FDHS is a new transportable WMD-elimination technology that uses proven neutralization processes to render bulk chemical agent as useless.

Two FDHS units have been installed on the MV Cape Ray to destroy Syria’s chemical agent stockpile in support of a joint mission between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations. ECBC worked with government agencies from FDHS inception, spearheading the science, design and manufacturing efforts in an unprecedented six month acquisition timeline. ECBC’s trained technicians are now operating the system onboard the ship in international waters and as of July 21,

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more than 400 tons of chemicals have been safely destroyed.

“ECBC plays a critical role within Team CBRNE to provide operational forces and equipment to counter CBRNE and WMD threats,” said Joseph Wienand, director of ECBC. “It’s imperative we stay current with technologies that can advance research defense efforts for emerging threats.”

Carson also had the chance to tour facilities, meet with subject matter experts and discuss current operations with organizational leaders. One of the places Carson toured was a land-based FDHS site set up. The layout has multiple components including the hydrolysis and reactor skids, breathing air compressors, a personnel decontamination station, a chemical agent filtration system, water pumps and tanks, system air compressors, waste containers, reagents, water heaters, power distribution, generators, storage and supply containers, and a mobile analytical laboratory.

The visit marks Carson’s first trip to the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground as the Department of Defense’s 31st Under Secretary of the Army. He was appointed to the position on March 27 and previously served on the 20th General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

Photo credit: U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

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) 436-1159

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