



# News Release

For Information: Amanda Dubbs, 410-436-1159

29 May 2014

## ECBC Engineers Field M50 Mask in Japan and Korea

*More than 39,000 masks successfully inspected, trained and fielded to Army soldiers stationed in the region*

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.** – Seven weeks and more than 39,000 masks later, the Joint Service General Mask (JSGM) Team of Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) recently returned from fielding the M50 mask to Soldiers stationed at six different Army sites in Japan and Korea.

A significant improvement over legacy masks, the M50 provides increased comfort, visibility and hydration for the Soldier, as well as easier use and maintenance. Self-sealing valves allow for changing filters in a threat environment, and a single lens across the face allows for a wider area of view and improved compatibility with sighting devices such as binoculars.

Development of the mask has been ongoing for more than 15 years, and it is considered one of the most heavily tested pieces of personal protective equipment developed by the U.S. Department of Defense. “We have been involved in every step of the design, validation, testing and modification process, as well as filter testing and product quality and deficiency reporting,” said Akanksha W. Raja, systems and logistics engineer for the ECBC JSGM Team.

The M50 mask has been outfitted across the Services since 2008, beginning with the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. Fielding to the Army began in 2013.

“The compliments we’ve heard directly from Warfighters make every bit of effort spent on this program well worth it,” said Raja. “Using the M50 as the baseline for modifications and enhancements, our team looks forward to developing an even greater capability to protect Soldiers of the future.”

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.*

**# 30 #**

**Approved for Public Release**