

CB Quarterly, Issue 29

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EDGEWOOD CB CENTER SUPPORTS U.S. OLYMPICS

On site and ready

The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) deployed personnel and equipment to support the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and emergency planners at this year's Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, UT.

Four ECBC personnel were on-site in Utah during the Olympics to provide technical assistance to the FBI's Hazardous Materials Response Unit. This support involved on-site scientific expertise in both biological and chemical forensic analysis, operation of and support to biological and chemical analytical systems, and the potential for on-site analysis of samples if the need arose. In addition to the on-site technical support to the FBI, ECBC also supported emergency planners at the Olympics. The Responder Assets Management System (RAMS) and its newest version RAMSAFE™ were used during the Olympic Games.

THE RAPID EVOLUTION OF MULTIROLE BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DETECTION SYSTEMS

BIDS evolution from 1993 to 2002

In the wake of the Persian Gulf War, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell testified before Congress that the United States was not prepared to defend itself from biological warfare (BW). That candid assessment served as a wake-up call and led the U.S. Department of Defense to undertake an aggressive biological defense program.

This article highlights the remarkable progress made in just 9 years to field a family of biological detection systems — systems designed to defeat the growing BW threat to our forces abroad and to our citizens at home.

MODERNIZATION OF DECON ASSETS HELPS FIGHT NATIONS' WAR ON TERRORISM

Korean war assets still cut the mustard

The SBCCOM Smoke, Decontamination, and Munitions Team at Rock Island, ECBC's Decontamination Core Team, the Pine Bluff Arsenal, and the 2nd Chemical Battalion at Fort Hood joined forces to modernize the M12A1 Powered Decontamination Apparatus (M12A1) to extend the useful life of the system and to bring the M12A1 back to a full readiness posture. Even though the M12A1 was developed during the mid-1960s and is basically unchanged, it is still a viable means of countering the chemical and biological threat.

NEW WORK GROUP OVERSEES ARMY PACKAGING

Developing standardized army packaging policy and procedures

In July 2001, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DCSLOG) established a formal working group to oversee Army packaging. Richard Decker, ECBC, was selected to participate in the group as the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command's (SBCCOM) representative. Nancy Waltman, also of ECBC, is the alternate SBCCOM representative. All major commands were asked to have representatives participate in the work group.

M49 FIXED INSTALLATION FILTER FOR FIXED SITES AND LABORATORY APPLICATIONS

Successful collaboration effort between ECBC and Pine Bluff Arsenal

ECBC and Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), through a strong collaborative effort, established a successful and reliable production process for the M49 FIF. Fixed Installation Filter (FIF) is designed for chemical-hardened fixed shelters, office command and control, and under-ground shelters during life-support operations and other critical activities. With the logistic support and system engineering planned in accordance with the program acquisition reform strategy, the FIF system was designed to have interface capability with all of the standard size pre-filters and HEPA commercial filters to reduce the life cycle support cost.

ECBC TESTS PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AGAINST DOD AND NIOSH STANDARDS

New and existing equipment is tested

For several years, government agencies and private companies have called upon ECBC's expertise to evaluate the performance of new respirators and other equipment designed to protect against chemical and biological (CB) agents. After September 11th, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued advisories to the public and to manufacturers of CB defense equipment such as air filters, masks, and detectors. ECBC, a DOD agency, has several laboratories that can perform a variety of tests and evaluations for equipment such as CB agent detectors, filtration units, masks, and materials designed to protect against CB agents.

ECBC's MASK TEAM ATTENDS AIR FORCE NBC PROGRAM REVIEW

Looking at joint programming opportunities

The Air Force NBC Program Review was held in January, at Brooks Air Force Base. Representatives of ECBC's Mask Core Team attended and gave a presentation on Mask Team initiatives as well as ECBC testing capabilities related to individual protection.

COLLABORATION:

Cooperative R&D with Industry and Academia

Cooperative Research & Development Agreements

- BioDefense Mask
- Lockheed Martin Naval Electronics Surveillance Systems—Undersea Systems

- INFICON
- Applied Research Laboratory at Pennsylvania State University

Test Services Agreement

- SURVIVAIR
- Raytheon Systems Company/Raytheon Missile Systems
- Intellitec
- STC

Patent License Agreements

- OptiMetrics
- Hamilton Associates, Inc.

Technical Industrial Liaison Office

- Phase II SBIR contract with Manning Applied Technology
- Phase I SBIR contract with Phoenix Analysis and Design Technology
- ECBC Broad Agency Announcement updated for 2002
- Advance Planning Briefing for Industry was held in March

International Cooperative R&D

United States and Canada Sign Project Agreement On Smallpox Vaccine Acquisition

- ECBC's International Division was part of a team that developed and negotiated a landmark agreement—the Smallpox vaccine advanced development and acquisition project arrangement.

HUMAN INTEREST:

- ***ECBC Toxicologist Serves As Congressional Fellow.*** A long-time ECBC toxicologist and member of the Society of Toxicology (SOT), was selected to serve as the 2001 Congressional Science Fellow for the society.
- ***ECBC Attracts High Ranking Officials.*** This quarter, ECBC hosted tours to: U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski; the Honorable Pete Aldridge, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; and Dr. Dale Klein, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.
- ***Family Shares Airborne Tradition.*** It isn't unusual for fathers and sons to go to baseball games, or even go fishing together. However, it isn't every day that a father and son get to jump out of a Vietnam-era helicopter together. For paratroopers Colonel (P) James L. Kennon and his son, Sergeant Richard Kennon, the event was made all the more significant by the presence of James's father, former Corporal John C. Kennon, at Sicily Drop Zone for their jump.
- ***Edgewood CB Center Recruits Young Scientists and Engineer.*** ECBC is actively recruiting new talent in the science and engineering fields from area colleges and universities. "This is a good opportunity for the federal government to hire young talent," stated Janis Seegar, ECBC's college recruitment coordinator. ECBC has approximately 16 positions open in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and electronic engineering.

- ***People.*** Several of our employees won prestigious awards, including the AMC Organization of the Year Award, the AMC Value Engineering Individual of the Year Award, Federal Executive Board Awards, and the U.S. Army RDA Award.