



Mindfulness within the military

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THE PICATINNY VOICE

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July 24, 2015

Growing drone threat puts focus on Picatinny technology

The extended area protection system could expand beyond its original intent to tackle the drone threat.

BY ED LOPEZ
Editor

As drone technology gains greater public attention, along with its potential for hostile action against U.S. targets, Army engineers are seeking to adapt ongoing research to counter aerial systems that could threaten Soldiers.

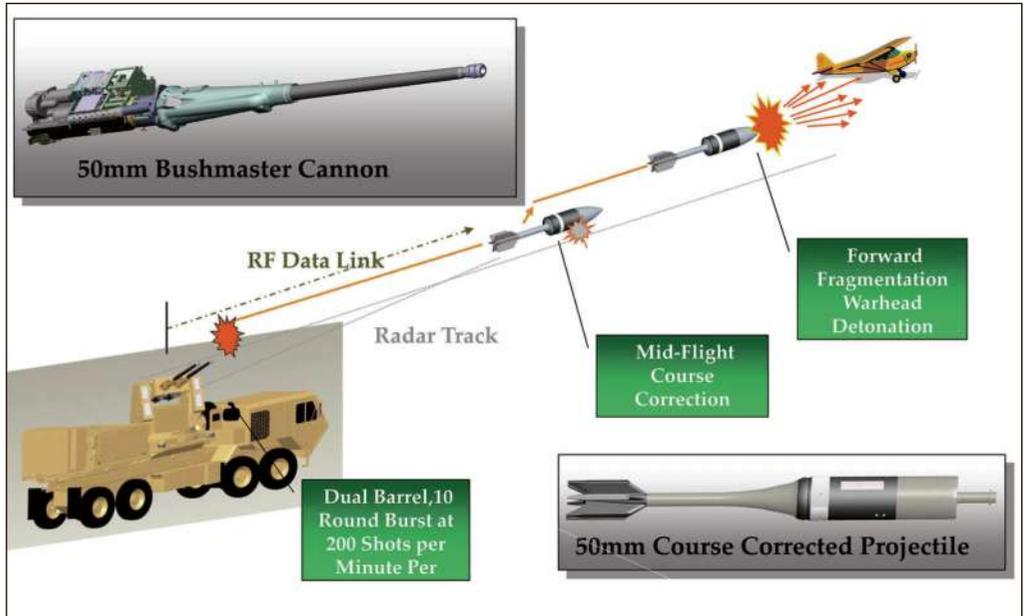
At Picatinny Arsenal, the Extended Area Protection and Survivability Integrated Demonstration, or EAPS ID, began as an Army Technology Objective program. The goal was to develop and demonstrate technology that could support a gun-based solution to counter rockets, artillery and mortars, or C-RAM.

Research into enhanced C-RAM technology had the goal of extending the range and probability of success against the incoming threat. "The smaller and smaller the protective area, the more efficient the gun systems become compared to missiles," said Manfredi Luciano, the

project officer for the EAPS system at Picatinny. "You don't need as many, and the gun system has certain logistics advantages."

Yet as news reports about potential airborne threats to the White House have stirred public awareness of such threat to U.S. interests, ongoing technology aimed at countering rockets, artillery and mortars could be used to defend against Unmanned Aerial Systems, or UAS, Luciano said.

"It's unbelievable how much it's exploded," Luciano said about the use of drones. "Every country has them now, whether they are armed or not or what level of performance. This is a huge threat that has been coming up on everybody. It has almost sneaked up on people, and it's



The operational concept behind the Enhanced Area Protection and Survivability technology is to have a 50mm course-corrected projectile intercept an incoming threat. The warhead has a tantalum-tungsten alloy liner to form forward-propelled penetrators for defeat of rockets, artillery and mortars, while steel-body fragments are designed to counter unmanned aerial systems. The technology is in various stages of development and testing.

almost more important than the counter-RAM threat."

The UAS challenge has grown exponentially in the last decade as the world's inventory of Unmanned Aircraft Systems has grown from approximately 20 system types and 800 aircraft in 1999, to more

than 200 system types and approximately 10,000 unmanned aircraft in 2010, said Nancy Elliott, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Army's Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Although a missile-based C-RAM

See AREA PROTECTION, Page 2



Jim Cullen, left, was among a group of Battle of the Bulge veterans who came to Picatinny Arsenal for a tour and briefing on some of the latest military technology. Photo by Reggie Mays.

Battle of the Bulge vets tour Picatinny Arsenal for look at latest technology

"These veterans' experiences enrich what we do as civilians on Picatinny."

BY REGGIE MAYS
Contributing Writer

More than 70 years ago, WW II veterans Jim Cullen, Marty Rosenbaum, Al Sussarman, Dick Moran, John Marshall, and Ken Schuetz fought in one of the most famous battles on the European front: the Battle of the Bulge.

Fast-forward to July 8, 2015. This small group of warriors were joined by family members and guests to a luncheon and tour of Picatinny Arsenal.

Picatinny Arsenal is where most munitions that were used against our enemy 70 years ago were designed and refined.

Those artillery rounds, grenades and mines were state-of-the-art at the time. They spawned a continuous process of improvement that provide many advancements for our fighting forces today. The weapons used to defeat our enemies, and bring our boys home, have come a long way since the Battle of the Bulge.

That battle, from Dec. 16, 1944 to Jan. 25 1945, was a surprise attack that caught the Allied forces

"If I had the opportunity to sit down with each and every one of them and ask them one thing today, I'd ask what really saved their bacon out there."

completely off guard. The battle was a major German offensive, launched toward the end of World War II, through the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg.

Several stops on the tour of Picatinny for the Bulge veterans and others took them to hear and view special presentations. Keith Gooding, Program Manager for Towed Artillery Systems, and Ron Mills, Systems Engineer Fire Control (Abrams), spoke to the visitors.

During their tour, the veterans expressed

See BULGE VETS, Page 3

AREA PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY EVOLVES

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defense system has been selected as the technical approach for the Indirect Fire Protection Capability Increment 2 Intercept Program of Record, the gun alternative continued to mature as force-protection technologies for other potential applications. In response to proliferation, UAS threats were recently added to the project scope of gun-based force protection.

Luciano and his team, working on enhanced area protection and survivability, tested an integrated system April 22 by shooting down a Class 2 unmanned aerial system using command guidance and command warhead detonation at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

Funding for development and testing was provided by the ARDEC Technology Office.

The EAPS ARDEC gun alternative envisions a 50mm cannon to launch command guided interceptors.

COMPUTATIONS ON THE GROUND

The system uses a precision tracking radar interferometer as a sensor, a fire control computer, and a radio frequency transmitter and receiver to launch the projectile into an engagement “basket.”

“In order to minimize the electronics on board the interceptor and to make it cheaper, all the ‘smarts’ are basically done on the ground station,” Luciano said.

“The computations are done on the ground, and the radio frequency sends the information up to the round.”

The Picatinny area-protection systems tracks both the incoming threat and interceptor, then computes an ideal trajectory correction for the interceptor to maximize probability of mission success.

A thruster on the interceptor/projectile is used for course correction.

The ground station uplinks the maneuver and detonation commands, while receiving downlinked assessment data.

The interceptor takes the commands and computes the roll orientation and time to execute thruster and warhead detonation.

The warhead has a tantalum-tungsten alloy liner to form forward propelled penetrators for defeat of C-RAM targets, and steel body fragments to counter



Manfredi Luciano, the project officer for the Extended Area Protection and Survivability technology program at Picatinny Arsenal, holds a model of the interceptor projectile that uses advanced, forward-fragmentation warheads.

unmanned aerial systems.

The April 22 test was performed with a single shot Mann barrel. The UAS was flying a surveillance-type track and was engaged on the approach path leg.

The airplane fell precipitously from its flight. The integrated test demonstrated a proof-of-principle that direct fire, command guided ammunition can intercept and negate aerial threats, Luciano said.

POTENTIAL FOR NAVAL AIR DEFENSE

Technologies from the EAPS gun alternative Army Technology Objective may potentially be used for both Army and Navy air defense systems, he added.

Luciano said that during another upcoming test, the engineers would try to intercept and destroy an unmanned aerial system under a more difficult engagement scenario.

The EAPS fire-control radar interferometer was designed, fabricated, and operated by Technovative Applications in Brea, California.

Radar interferometers use multiple receive antennas



TOP: The Extended Area Protection System Gun interceptor in flight. BOTTOM: Detonation of the command warhead.

to enhance angular measurements for centimeter tracking accuracy. Design of the 50mm cartridge/interceptor was a collaborative effort between ARDEC engineers and Orbital ATK, Armament Systems Division in Plymouth, Minnesota. Interceptors were assembled by Orbital ATK and warheads by Aerojet Rocketdyne in Sacramento, California.

The fire-control algorithm was a collaborative effort by the various subject matter experts but led and written by Propagation Research Associates, Inc., in Atlanta. The EAPS Integrated Product Team was led by ARDEC’s Munitions Systems and Technology Directorate at Picatinny Arsenal.

THE PICATINNY VOICE



Senior Commander Picatinny Arsenal and Deputy Program Executive Officer Ammunition

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BULGE VETS VISIT ARDEC
continued from Page 1

excitement and curiosity in viewing and hearing about the changes in military equipment that have occurred since their era in combat.

“If we would have had these kinds of advancements we would have killed a lot more enemy and brought home more of our boys alive,” said Cullen, who fought from Normandy, to France, Germany, then was drawn into the Bulge of the Bulge.

LIVING HISTORY, VALUABLE INSIGHTS

Cullen and his battle buddies said they were impressed with the tour and the presenters. For their part, Mills and Gooding also expressed admiration for the veterans.

“These men are living history, the last of the greatest generation,” said Mills.

Although most wars will eventually come to an end, Mills said the wartime experiences of veterans are invaluable in providing insights into how best to equip and support our warfighters in future conflicts.

“Everything those men did 70-plus years ago to preserve our freedoms remains relevant today,” Mills said. “If I had the opportunity to sit down with each and every one of them and ask them one thing today, I’d ask what really saved their bacon out there.

BUILDING ON THE PAST

“We sit around as engineers looking at things from a technical-problem-solving point of view, but until you’ve been down range and actually had to depend on that vehicle or that weapons system, or that piece of kit to complete your mission, you don’t know how much they are capable of. I want to know what they did to push that Sherman tank to its limits when the manual said it was dead in the water.

“I want to know what piece of kit they used countless times to get you out of a jam, and I want to know what they couldn’t have survived the war without. I want to know what malfunctioned when it shouldn’t have that put them and their battle buddies in jeopardy,” Mills added.

“All of these stories help to shape the designs for the next generation, and sometimes they apply to fielded weapons today. Take the M2 50-caliber machine gun. Brought into service in 1933, this John Moses Browning design has gone virtually unchanged onto every vehicle in the U.S. Army inventory, and been used in

every conflict from WW II to Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Hearing their stories about the M2 in WW II is as relevant as asking the same question about the same weapon from a Soldier who returned from Afghanistan yesterday,” Mills continued.

“With all the advancements in weapons technology, I always find myself looking to the past, to the real innovators, like Browning. And I’m not the only one.

SAME WEAPONS, DIFFERENT ERA

“The U.S. Marines recently brought back into service the M1911 (.45 caliber pistol).

“Why did we bring the 1911 back? Why does my Abrams carry the same M2 that the Sherman tank did? Ask these vets, the men who paved the way for us all who served.

“They know better than I do the abuse these weapons take, and how you can depend on them to bring you home.”

Gooding also expressed gratitude and tribute to the veterans on the tour, adding that their knowledge and experiences serve to advance research and development today.

“It’s an honor for me to be able to share what we do here and to shake their hands, and thank them for what they did for our country,” Gooding said.

“These veterans’ experiences enrich what we do as civilians here on Picatinny. The civilian workforce does not always have military experience, and the veterans’ combat history is a vital contribution to what we do here.”

After the first presentation on the tour, the veterans boarded the bus for more sights and sounds of the installation.

They also met some civilians and military members who support today’s warfighters, as their Picatinny predecessors have done in the past, during times of both war and peace.



Battle of the Bulge veterans recently toured Picatinny Arsenal. From left, Dick Moran, Jim Cullen, Marty Rosenbaum, John Marshall, Al Sussarman and Ken Shuetz.



Systems Engineer Ron Mills gives a presentation to a group of visitors that includes veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Photos by Reggie Mays.



The 2015 STEM Academy Summer Enrichment Program gives children the opportunity to conduct experiments and expand their knowledge of technical subjects. ABOVE: Joe Benvenuto, a retired teacher from Blairstown Elementary, demonstrates a polymer experiment in which skewers penetrate a bag filled with water without leaking. Looking on are Picatinny Senior Commander Brig. Gen. Patrick W. Burden, and John Hedderich, Director of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Army close to releasing new pistol to replace M9

Army News Service
FORT BELVOIR, Va. -- The Army moved closer to releasing its long-awaited solicitation for a new, modern handgun system when it hosted a fourth industry day for interested vendors at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, July 8.

The Army named the new weapon the "XM17" Modular Handgun System. It will replace the current M9 standard Army handgun with a more state-of-the-art weapon system.

"More than 20 companies attended the event," said Debi Dawson, PEO Soldier spokesperson.

Federal procurement restrictions do not allow the disclosure of the names of firms participating, she said.

The government presented changes to its latest draft solicitation for the XM17, which were posted to the Federal Business Opportunities website, June 8.

SPECIAL-PURPOSE AMMUNITION

Among changes discussed at the industry day was policy that now opens up the competition to rounds other than ball (full metal jacket) ammunition.

A representative from the Army Judge Advocate General's Office discussed the decision in detail during the event.

Richard Jackson, special assistant to the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General for Law of War, told attendees that federal, state, local and military law enforcement elements routinely use expanding and



Sgt. Dave Salvador, of 75th Medical Company Area Support, South Korea, shoots his M9 during the Stress Shoot Qualification Lane of the Pacific Regional Medical Command Best Medic Competition, Sept. 21-25, 2014, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The Army is looking for a new pistol to replace the M9.

fragmenting ammunition in their handguns due to the increased capability it provides against threats.

"Expanding the XM17 Modular Handgun competition to include special-purpose ammunition will provide

the warfighter with a more accurate and lethal handgun," Jackson said.

"Other types of ammunition allow the XM17 Modular Handgun System to be optimized by vendors, providing a more capable system to warfighters across the

spectrum of shooter experience and skill level."

Through the upcoming competition, the Army intends to replace the M9 with a more modern handgun system.

"Handgun technology has advanced significantly thanks to lighter-weight materials, ergonomics and accessory rails since 1986, when the M9 entered the Army's inventory," Dawson said.

"The Army is seeking a handgun system that outperforms the current M9 system. It also must be modular, meaning it allows adjustments to fit all hand sizes."

ARMY PURCHASES NEW HANDGUNS

The Army is encouraging industry to optimize commercially available gun, ammunition and magazine components to provide a system for maximum performance.

Current plans call for the Army to purchase more than 280,000 of the new handguns from a single vendor. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2018.

The Army also plans to buy approximately 7,000 compact versions of the new handgun.

Dawson said that other military services, participating in the XM17 program, may order an additional 212,000 systems above the Army quantity.

The draft solicitation spells out likely procedural and schedule details that responding vendors will have to follow to participate in the competition.

Picatinny's social media sites inform public of important contributions

Social media sites leverage the power of the Internet to inform the public and members of the Picatinny Arsenal community about activities at the home of the United States Army in northern New Jersey.

Please take time to visit and share the addresses of these various informative sites:

- www.facebook.com/PicatinnyArsenal
- www.twitter.com/Picatinny_NJ
- www.flickr.com/PicatinnyArsenal
- www.youtube.com/user/PicatinnyArsenal
- www.facebook.com/peoammo
- www.facebook.com/RDECOM.ARDEC
- <https://twitter.com/ardec>

Picatinny 5K Walk/Run



A 5K Walk/Run kicks off Picatinny Community Day July 9. Participants ran approximately 3.34 miles. Photo by Todd Mozes.

WOMEN

- 1st: Kelly DiCristina, 21:58
- 2nd: Sarah Collard, 23:07
- 3rd: Julie Gustafson, 23:43

MEN

- 1st: Garrett Hoch, 18:54
- 2nd: Devin Swanson, 18:59
- 3rd: Chris Vo, 19:00

Winners

For more photos of the 5K Walk/Run visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/picatinnyarsenal>

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Army chemists study new kind of molecule

Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. -- Imagine a future in which a chemical attack on a Middle Eastern village in the dead of night has no effect on the people in its path. They are sleeping soundly in tents embedded with protective filtration material that prevents any harm. The village elders, who come out to investigate, have that same material in the headscarves they wear over their faces as they walk about with chemicals lingering in the air.

That day is coming closer. Two U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center scientists, Greg Peterson and Jared DeCoste, are working with chemists at Northwestern University to make it a reality.

For the past eight years, Peterson and DeCoste have been steadily refining and improving a recently developed class of chemical compounds known as metal-organic frameworks, or MOFs. Chemists make them in a laboratory using organic struts and metallic nodes, much like an erector set, creating void spaces for chemical warfare agent, or CWA, or toxic industrial compound, or TIC, molecules to enter.

WHAT MAKES MOFS UNIQUE?

These modular building blocks are organic and inorganic molecular hybrids that take on the advantages of each. The inorganic characteristics give MOFs a very stable compartmentalized structure while the organic component gives them the dynamic quality of interacting with molecules that come into contact with them. Both the organic and inorganic components can be interchanged to create a variety of structures and



For the past eight years, two Army scientists have been steadily refining and improving a recently developed class of chemical compounds known as metal-organic frameworks.

properties designed to absorb or catalyze CWAs, TICs and other gases as desired. Thus, MOFs are truly nano-constructed designer materials.

As researchers continue to improve upon how precisely they assemble MOFs, the actions of these highly customized molecules will become dramatically more sophisticated. In theory, a sequence of MOF crystals could be structured so their pores serve as bays in which nano-manufactured proteins perform computing functions: counting, sorting and coding. This quickly leads to a future in which fibers, fabrics and even construction materials perform a wide range of intelligent functions.

For now, the Army scientists are concentrated on two key areas: protection and decontamination.

PROTECTION

Peterson and DeCoste are working with a zirconium-based MOF, known as the UiO series, to take advantage of its broader filtration properties. They include removal of ammonia, cyanogen, chloride, blister agents and nerve agents. Their goal is to grow them on fibers that can transform a uniform, a tent or even a head scarf into personal protective equipment. This is a potential game-changer in the nation's efforts to establish stability in volatile Middle East countries that have suffered CWA attacks, such as Syria and Iraq.

Peterson and DeCoste are also working on a new MOF, known as NU-1000, created by their research partners at Northwestern. NU-100 doesn't just trap the CWA molecules but breaks their bonds

on contact. With the addition of water to flush the MOFs out, these MOFs do not get saturated and can keep on working. Because of that, this new MOF neutralizes agent eighty times faster than other MOFs created thus far.

In addition, NU-1000 remains stable for years at both extremely high and extremely low temperatures, and is able to take the water needed to conduct CWA neutralization out of the atmosphere. These qualities make it much more effective when used in protective mask filters, building filters, and as a decontamination material.

DECONTAMINATION

As Peterson and DeCoste and their research collaborators gain more knowledge of MOFs through their protection research, applications to decontamination starting becoming apparent. They saw that the MOFs they were working with actually decompose entire classes of chemical warfare agent or toxic industrial compounds on contact and in bulk, especially in the presence of moisture. But to fully exploit this characteristic, they have to find the MOF sweet spot.

"We are working with our partners to design a MOF with both the best pore structure for agents to enter, and the most reaction sites where the decomposition occurs. This is hard because while big pores take in large molecules, they also place the reactive sites farther apart. We're working on getting the right balance," Peterson said.

Ultimately, Peterson and DeCoste hope to develop a decontamination powder that can be used to neutralize CWAs found in the field, and even a MOF aerosol.

Picatinny solar project to generate 500 kw of power

BY NICK STECKY

Picatinny Energy Office

The Picatinny Energy Office continues its drive towards energy efficiency and retaining its position as one of the leading installations in the Army Energy Program. The following is an update:

We can now answer the question, "Where is our solar energy project, When will it come?"

We finally have our first solar photovoltaic project under construction in an area called "The Old Burning Grounds." This ground mounted system will generate about 500 KW of electric power and completion is expected in the fall. The Old Burning Grounds was selected because this was a productive way to use a recently environmentally remediated space that due to its nature could be used for little else.

Next, we have competed for and won special Army energy funding for a number of projects and technologies and will be implementing them this year. They include:

- Replacing inefficient lighting with new high efficiency LEDs, Light Emitting Diode, lamps.
- Installing technology solutions to improve control over the use of lighting. For example this includes occupancy sensors to turn off lighting when an area or office is unoccupied. Also there will be changes to lighting circuits to provide more

switching options.

- Installing occupancy controlled smart electrical power strips. We will replace many of the standard power strips currently in use in offices and cubicles with smart power strips. These will contain outlets some of which will be switched by an occupancy sensor and some that are continuously on. For example, plug your PC into the always on outlet but plug your monitor, speakers, energy vampires and other devices into the occupancy controlled outlets. The power strips on/off timing does have the capability to be adjusted to your particular needs.

- Improving the energy efficiency of hot water heaters by replacing old inefficient water heaters with new and for others still usable, we will install insulating "blankets" to improve efficiency.

- Upgrades to heating and cooling systems in a number of buildings. For example we have just replaced an old inefficient chiller in Building 65 with a new unit.

In addition, we need to continue our Energy Awareness focus, encouraging personnel to reduce energy consumption on post.

Because although energy efficiency is generally seen as a "technology thing," such as high efficiency lamps and equipment, human efforts to reduce waste and turn things off can bring in as much savings as the efficient equipment can.

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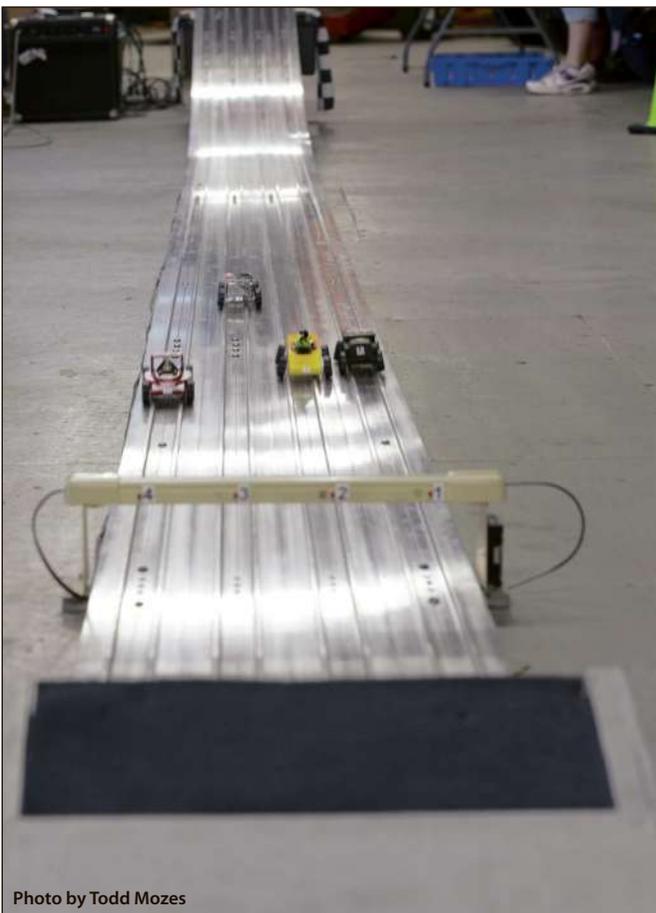


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COMMUNITY DAY

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Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency established, new mission set

JIDA News Service

The Department of Defense approved a new mission for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), renaming the Department's newest defense agency as the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency (JIDA).

"Over the past year we have made great strides across the department to ensure the capabilities JIEDDO brought to the table will endure through JIDA and complementary to missions where our business model ought to be applied," said Lt. Gen. John D. Johnson, JIDA's director.

SEAMLESS TRANSITION

"While we have changed our name and expanded our mission, the transition should be seamless to the warfighters we support daily. We are in the business of helping warfighters adapt."

As chartered by the Secretary of Defense, JIDA shall enable Department of Defense actions to counter improvised threats with tactical responsiveness and anticipatory acquisition in support of combatant commanders' efforts to prepare



for, and adapt to, battlefield surprise in support of counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, and other related mission areas including counter-improvised explosive device.

Reflecting that mission statement, the new name recognizes the need to sustain efforts to enable the defeat of improvised threats globally, and to further enable U.S. forces' preparation to counter such threats when they arise.

The name preserves JIEDDO's warfighter-recognized brand, sustains its purpose to rapidly provide capabilities

The new name recognizes the need to sustain efforts to enable the defeat of improvised threats globally, and to further enable U.S. forces' preparation to counter such threats when they arise.

to a joint force, and informs a proactive, threat-defeat approach.

Embedded at the tactical edge, JIDA assists joint force commanders by helping identify and understand their improvised-threat risks and vulnerabilities.

It enables rapid and early understanding of capability gaps, timely validation of requirements, and investments in counter-threat technologies and non-material solutions for the combatant command within its latest time of need.

JIDA illuminates threat networks' use of improvised weapons to enhance joint force commanders' force protection, maneuverability, tactical responsiveness, operational planning.

This support enables DoD and operational commanders to take actions against

those networks, leveraging capabilities, authorities, resources, and access from wide communities of action both inside and outside the Department of Defense, including the U.S. government, industry, academia, and international partners.

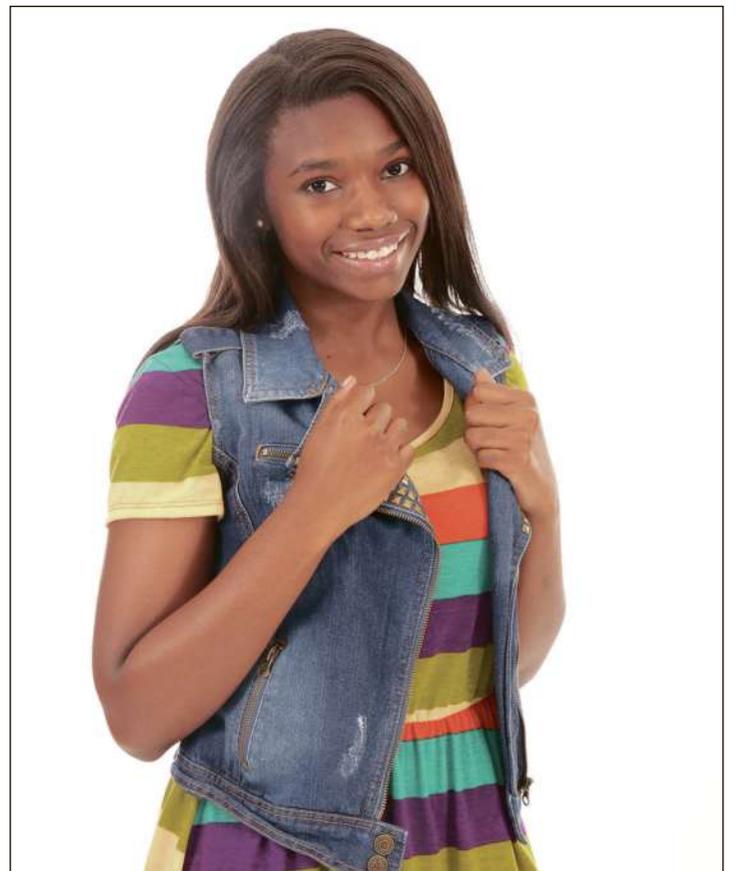
In March, DoD announced JIEDDO's transition from a DoD activity to a defense agency under the direction and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics USD (AT&L). Thus, JIDA joined a select group of defense agencies designated as combat support agencies.

The alignment aims to preserve joint capabilities while leveraging USD (AT&L)'s roles as the Defense Acquisition Executive and the chairman of the Warfighter Senior Integration Group.



Outgoing Product Manager Guided Precision Munitions and Mortar Systems (GP-M2S), Lt. Col. William McDonough; Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems, Col. Willie Coleman; and incoming Product Manager GP-M2S, Lt. Col. Anthony Gibbs, salute during the Product Manager GP-M2S Change of Management Ceremony July 8. The Product Manager GP-M2S is the life-cycle manager responsible for guided munition improvements for cannon-launched weapons, mortar weapons and mortar fire-control systems.

McDonough became the Product Manager GP-M2S in 2012. During the last three years, the program achieved many milestones including fielding the Precision Guidance Kit to troops, equipping the first unit with the new lightweight 81 mm Battalion Mortar System and delivering more than 1,350 mortar systems to U.S. allies.



Picatinny resident finalist for Miss New Jersey Teen pageant

Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

Picatinny Arsenal resident Kendra Burden, 16, is a finalist in the National American Miss New Jersey pageant to be held Aug. 17, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Burden is the daughter of the Picatinny Arsenal Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Patrick W. Burden, and Dr. Veorah Burden.

The National American Miss Pageant System holds pageants for girls ages 4 to 18 in five different age groups. Contestants compete in four overall categories including formal wear modeling, personal introduction, interview and community service project.

Burden is competing in the 16 to 18 age group. Her activities include track, technology, fashion and math.

The Miss New Jersey Teen winner advances to the national pageant at Disneyland in California, and receives prizes that include a \$1,000 cash award.

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Mindfulness-based stress reduction finds a place in the military

Army News Service
 SAN ANTONIO -- Mindfulness-based meditation and the military are generally two things that one would not associate with one another.

But on Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Dr. Valerie Rice, chief of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory's Human Research and Engineering Directorate Army Medical Department Field Element in San Antonio, has participated in the Army Study Program since 2012. She has led a study entitled "Evaluating Next Generation Resiliency Training using the Virtual World of Second Life" for the last four years.

This study, along with her two related 2015 studies "Fortifying and Amplifying Resiliency Training" and "Expeditions Resiliency: Examining a 5-day Intensive Mindfulness Training," which were recently funded, have allowed Rice and her team to work with active-duty military and veterans to examine the potential benefits of mindfulness-based stress



Mindfulness-based meditation and the military are generally two things that one would not associate with one another. But on Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Valerie Rice, chief, U.S. Army Research Laboratory's Human Research and Engineering Directorate Army Medical Department Field Element in San Antonio, has participated in the Army Study Program since 2012.

reduction for conditions such as post traumatic stress disorder, also known as PTSD, depression, chronic pain, and anxiety among others.

The practice of "mindfulness, or being in the moment," uses age-old meditation practices, offering practitioners an outlet for stress relief, Rice said.

Members of Rice's research team are not only educated on the topics the study proposes to address, but each member must participate in both the online and in-person portions of the study as a prerequisite to joining the research team. This gives each member a unique understanding and perspective of the study and of the issues and

methods that participants are hoping to address.

Additionally, it builds a trust and camaraderie between participants and the research team, which is important in a situation, where individuals may be revealing their deepest thoughts and fears.

Members of the Army Study Program Management Office, or ASPMO, team were invited to participate in an online mindfulness meditation session to gain an understanding of the experience. The virtual world, Second Life, is a 3-D computer environment, where avatars represent the individuals, who are participating.

In the virtual world participants are able to design the avatars to represent themselves, and even have the option to disguise the sound of their voice to the other participants. The virtual world includes not only the lodge, where participants meet, practice meditation, and have open discussions; but walking trails, horse stables, and other relaxing activities for participants.

"The virtual world reduces the anxiety that comes from going into a behavioral health center by offering anonymity," Rice said. "There is still a stigma we have to confront that asking for help is a sign of weakness."

A group of previous study participants came out to the Stillwell House on Fort Sam Houston to greet the team

from ASPMO and to discuss their experience and outcomes pertaining to the study. It was made clear during the discussion that the group environment - whether in-person or through the virtual world - is greatly beneficial and builds a supportive network for those participating.

Feedback regarding the study has been very positive, as each participant not only shared the positive results of the mindfulness meditation itself, but also the benefits for a wide range of conditions experienced within the group including PTSD, chronic pain, and anger management. Participants also experienced some positive unexpected benefits.

Researchers and participants were surprised to experience not only the first-hand benefits of the mindfulness meditation, but the secondary benefits experienced by some including weight loss, improved sleep, lower blood pressure, reduced anger, and increased calmness.

The ages, backgrounds, and ailments of participants varied greatly. The participants are active-duty military and military veterans, and range in age from 22-75 years.

Regardless of the demographics, the participants overwhelmingly agreed on the benefits of the group setting and of the mindfulness meditation to the admitted surprise of those who were formerly skeptical.

Looking Back ... At Picatinny



BY PATRICK J. OWENS, ARDEC HISTORIAN

Today, Building 31 is home to the Armament Software Engineering Center. In earlier times, its inhabitants worked with tools much heavier than software ones in use today. These photos from July 1945, 70 years ago, show the people and machinery of the Service Grinding Unit of the Metal Components Department's Tool and Fixture Section.

These photos celebrated the correction of overcrowding for the unit's 85 employees as other activities moved out of this wing of 31. The unit gained 625 square feet, but the people had to share some of it with added machinery and a new tool crib.

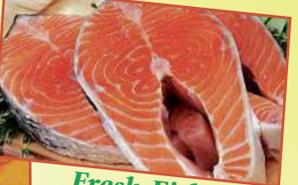
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OPM announces steps to protect workers from cyber threats

BY OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT PRESS RELEASE

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, has announced the results of the interagency forensics investigation into a recent cyber incident involving federal background investigation data and the steps it is taking to protect those impacted.

Throughout this investigation, OPM has been committed to providing information in a timely, transparent and accurate manner. As information has become available and verifiable, the agency has updated Congress, the inspector general, federal employee representatives, and - most importantly - those that are affected. This announcement is the latest in this series of updates, and OPM will continue to provide additional information going forward.

BACKGROUND ON THE INTRUSION

Since the end of 2013, OPM has undertaken an aggressive effort to upgrade the agency's cybersecurity posture, adding numerous tools and capabilities to its various legacy networks. As a direct result of these steps, OPM was able to identify two separate but related cybersecurity incidents on its systems.

OPM announced the results of the interagency forensic investigation into the second incident. As previously announced, in late-May 2015, as a result of ongoing efforts to secure its systems, OPM discovered an incident affecting background investigation records of current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors.

Following the conclusion of the forensics investigation, OPM has determined that the types of information in these records include identification details such as social security numbers; residency and educational history; employment history; information about immediate family and other personal and business acquaintances; health, criminal and financial history; and other details.

Some records also include findings from interviews conducted by background investigators and fingerprints. Usernames and passwords, which background investigation applicants used to fill out their background investigation forms, were also stolen.

While background investigation records do contain some information regarding mental health and financial history provided by those that have applied for a security clearance and by individuals contacted during the background investigation, there is no evidence that separate systems that store information regarding the health, financial, payroll and retirement records of federal personnel were impacted by this incident (for example, annuity rolls, retirement records, USA JOBS, Employee Express).

This incident is separate but related to a previous incident, discovered in April 2015, affecting personnel data for current and former federal employees. OPM and its interagency partners concluded with a high degree of confidence that personnel data for 4.2 million individuals had been stolen. This number has not changed since it was announced by OPM in early June, and OPM has worked to notify all of these individuals and ensure that they are provided with the appropriate support and tools to protect their personal information.

ANALYSIS OF INVESTIGATION

The team has now concluded with high confidence that sensitive information, including the social security numbers of 21.5 million individuals, was stolen from the background investigation databases. This includes 19.7 million individuals that applied for a background investigation, and 1.8 million non-applicants, predominantly spouses or co-habitants of applicants. As noted, some



The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, identified a cybersecurity incident potentially affecting personnel data for current and former federal employees. OPM announced the results July 13 of the interagency forensics investigation into the recent cyber incident and the steps it is taking to protect those affected.

records also include findings from interviews conducted by background investigators and approximately 1.1 million include fingerprints.

There is no information at this time to suggest any misuse or further dissemination of the information that was stolen from OPM's systems.

If an individual underwent a background investigation through OPM in 2000 or afterwards (which occurs through the submission of forms SF 86, SF 85, or SF 85P for a new investigation or periodic reinvestigation), it is highly likely that the individual is impacted by this cyber breach.

If an individual underwent a background investigation before 2000, that individual still may be impacted, but it is less likely.

ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS

OPM is also announcing the steps it is taking to protect those impacted:

1. Providing a comprehensive suite of monitoring and protection services for background investigation applicants and non-applicants, whose Social Security numbers, and in many cases other sensitive information, were stolen.

For the 21.5 million background investigation applicants, spouses or co-habitants with Social Security Numbers and other sensitive information that was stolen from OPM databases, OPM and the Department of Defense will work with a private-sector firm specializing in credit and identity theft monitoring to provide services such as:

- Full service identity restoration support and victim recovery assistance
- Identity theft insurance
- Identity monitoring for minor children
- Continuous credit monitoring
- Fraud monitoring services beyond credit files

The protections in this suite of services are tailored to address potential risks created by this particular incident, and will be provided for a period of at least three years, at no charge. In the coming weeks, OPM will begin to send notification packages to these individuals, which will provide details on the incident and information on how to access these services.

OPM will also provide educational materials and guidance to help them prevent identity theft, better secure their personal and work-related data, and become more generally informed about cyber threats and other risks presented by malicious actors.

2. Helping other individuals, who had other information included on background investigation forms:

Beyond background investigation applicants and their spouses or co-habitants described above, there are other individuals, whose name, address, date of birth, or other similar information may have been listed on a background investigation form, but whose Social Security numbers are not included. These individuals could include immediate family members or other close contacts of the applicant.

In many cases, the information about these individuals is the same as information generally available in public forums, such as online directories or social media, and therefore the compromise of this information generally does not present the same level of risk of identity theft or other issues.

The notification package, which will be sent to background investigation applicants, will include detailed information that the applicant can provide to individuals he or she may have listed on a background investigation form. This information will explain the types of data that may have been included on the form, best practices they can exercise to protect themselves, and the resources publicly available to address questions or concerns.

3. Establishing an online cybersecurity incident resource center:

OPM launched a new, online incident resource center to offer information regarding the OPM incidents as well as direct individuals to materials, training, and useful information on best practices to secure data, protect against identity theft, and stay safe online. This resource site will be regularly updated with the most recent information about both the personnel records and background investigation incidents, responses to frequently asked questions, and tools that can help guard against emerging cyber threats.

4. Establishing a call center to respond to questions:

In the coming weeks, a call center will be opened to respond to questions and provide more information. Individuals will not be able to receive personalized information until notifications begin and the call center is opened. OPM recognizes that it is important to be able to provide individual assistance to those that reach out with questions, and will work with its partners to establish this call center as quickly as possible.

5. Protecting all federal employees:

In the coming months, the administration will work with federal employee representatives and other stakeholders to develop a proposal for the types of credit and identity theft monitoring services that should be provided to all federal employees in the future - regardless of whether they have been affected by this incident - to ensure their personal information is always protected.

STRENGTHEN OPM CYBERSECURITY

OPM continues to take aggressive action to strengthen its broader cyber defenses and information technology (IT) systems, in partnership with experts from DOD, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and its other interagency partners.

As outlined in its recent Cybersecurity Action Report, in June, OPM identified 15 new steps to improve security, leverage outside expertise, modernize its systems, and ensure internal accountability in its cyber practices.

This includes completing deployment of two-factor strong authentication for all users, expanding continuous monitoring of its systems, and hiring a new cybersecurity advisor.

OPM's director has initiated a comprehensive review of the architectural design of OPM's IT systems, to identify and immediately mitigate any other vulnerabilities that may exist, and assess OPM's data sharing and use policies.

That review is ongoing.

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