



# Major General Keith L. Ware Communications Awards Competition



Category

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**Major General Keith L. Ware Communications Awards Competition**  
**Community Engagement Awards**  
**Category C: Special Event**

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

**Name and Description of Organization and Event**

Nominee: U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Army Service Component Command: U.S. Army Materiel Command

Over the last 100 years the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center has been at the forefront of protecting our warfighters and our nation from the potentially devastating effects of chemical or biological attack. Since its inception, ECBC made tremendous leaps in technology, from detectors the size of a small refrigerator to small plastic kits that identify potentially deadly agents, and from gas masks needing bulky external filters to integrated clothing items that enhance a Soldier's capability.

Today, ECBC's experts work safely every day with some of the most dangerous substances on earth to ensure that our nation's warfighters are protected from those threats on the battlefield. ECBC's 1,400 scientists, engineers, technicians and support personnel continue to support our nation through the innovative efforts which have made ECBC the nation's principal research and development resource for non-medical chemical and biological defense. ECBC maintains its main campus at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, with 1.22 million square feet of laboratory and chamber space spanning 200 buildings worth \$2 billion. ECBC also maintains satellite facilities located at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas; Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois; and Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

First known as Edgewood Arsenal, ECBC was founded in 1917 as the U.S. entered World War I. Its mission during the two world wars was to produce chemical weapons and defenses as the U.S. faced new threats. After World War II, ECBC's mission evolved in response to the changing world order. The Soviet Union emerged as a world superpower, bringing with it increased threats of chemical and biological weapons, and ECBC led the U.S. efforts to counter and protect against those threats.

As the U.S. unilaterally discontinued its biological weapons program in 1969 and signed the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1993, ECBC's mission shifted from biological and chemical weapons production to focus on the destruction of and protection from such threats. This mission is exemplified by the 2014 mission that destroyed the 600 metric tons of Syria's declared chemical warfare material at sea in international waters. As the Center looks toward its next 100 years, this legacy continues.

To mark ECBC's 100 years of service to the nation, the organization held monthly events and ongoing programs throughout the anniversary year to bring together employees, members of the APG and local communities, and partners from government, industry, and academia. From the grand opening of a Visitors Center with the ongoing purpose of demonstrating ECBC's capabilities to stakeholders, to a Gas Mask Dash 5K that brought the ECBC workforce together in the spirit of camaraderie, to a speaker series culminating with one of the nation's top academic minds, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events spanned the organization's rich history and continuing capabilities as the nation's premier provider of chemical and biological defense solutions.

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND  
EDGEWOOD CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL CENTER  
8198 BLACKHAWK ROAD  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21010-5424

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

RDCB-DPB

January 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, U.S. Army Research,  
Development and Engineering Command

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Endorsement for U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center  
Special Event – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events

1. I am pleased to endorse the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's nomination of its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events for recognition under the Army's Keith L. Ware Communications Awards.
2. For more than 100 years, ECBC has led the nation's efforts in chemical and biological defense. It's a history that changed in keeping with the nation's priorities and defense posture, from the development and production of both offensive and defensive capabilities during World Wars I and II and through the Cold War to the shift to entirely defensive programs as a result of the nation's acceptance of international treaties.
3. ECBC planned its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events in order to reaffirm ECBC as the nation's premiere chemical & biological defense laboratory; increase local awareness about ECBC and its impact on the area; and unify the ECBC workforce. These goals were accomplished through broad workforce involvement in monthly and ongoing events and programs demonstrating that the accomplishments of today are built upon those who came before us, and that ECBC lays the foundations today that future generations will build upon.
4. ECBC used an inclusive committee planning process to engage its workforce at all levels when planning events and programs as part of the its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events. The initiative targeted a wide stakeholder base, including the ECBC workforce, APG community, local civilian community, and CB Defense Program partners from government, industry, and academia. The ECBC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events dramatically increased awareness among the ECBC workforce and stakeholder base of ECBC's history, its impact on the community, the Army, and the nation, and its continuing role in protecting the warfighter against emerging chemical and biological threats.
5. ECBC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events was highly successful in marking this important milestone, and is worthy of recognition by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, U.S. Army Materiel Command, and the U.S. Army.

Don N. Kennedy  
Chief, Communications



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND  
3071 ABERDEEN BOULEVARD  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21005-5201

AMSRD-PC

24 January 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, U.S. Army Materiel Command

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Endorsement for U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Special Event – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events

1. I am pleased to endorse the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's nomination of its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events for recognition under the Army's Keith L. Ware Communications Awards.
2. ECBC shares its 100-year history with Aberdeen Proving Ground – both organizations trace their origins to the establishment of the nation's first chemical shell filling plant in 1917 on the site that is today APG South. Since 1917, ECBC has led the nation's efforts in chemical and biological defense.
3. ECBC's long and strong ties with APG and the surrounding community have assisted RDECOM in building local partnerships. The ECBC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events increased local awareness about ECBC as an RDECOM laboratory. ECBC was able to bring together its workforce, members of the APG community, local leaders, and partners from government, industry, and academia during multiple high-profile events over the course of the anniversary year. This approach provided multiple opportunities to tell the RDECOM and ECBC stories to a wide range of stakeholders.
4. ECBC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events successfully emphasized the continuing role of ECBC and RDECOM in protecting the warfighter against emerging chemical and biological threats, and is worthy of recognition by the U.S. Army Materiel Command, and the U.S. Army.

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Joseph Ferrare  
Chief, Public & Congressional Affairs

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

**Context and Purpose**

Nominee: U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Army Service Component Command: U.S. Army Materiel Command

The Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) is a unique organization, within the Army and the nation. It is the primary DoD technical organization for non-medical chemical biological defense. ECBC is 85 percent customer funded. Organizations that regularly contract with ECBC to develop technologies or perform services that will advance their mission include the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In addition to its customers, ECBC has other vital stakeholders such as Congress and the Executive Branch, the members of its own diverse technical workforce, academic and private sector experts, and reporters and editors at the publications that regularly cover chemical biological-related news.

ECBC's Public Affairs Office (PAO) tailors messages to each of these stakeholder groups in accordance with their differing interests and concerns. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary served as a rare opportunity to conduct an information campaign with a single message that all its stakeholders could embrace: The 100-year anniversary series of events included:

**1. Visitor Center grand opening and video premier (Feb. 21)**

More than 150 employees and guests gathered for the grand opening of the ECBC Visitors Center. The ECBC director officiated a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the newly renovated facility immediately after the premiere showing of a video PAO created, "ECBC: A Century of Solutions." The video highlighted ECBC's accomplishments through major global events and showcases its historic roots as a leader in developing innovative solutions to chemical and biological threats. After the video premiere, guests toured the Visitors Center, which features equipment and information displays representing the full range of the ECBC's capabilities.

**2. Gas Mask 5K run (April 27)**

More than 260 runners and walkers turned out for the ECBC Gas Mask Dash five-kilometer race and two-mile walk in an event that was open to the public. Wearing PAO-produced gas mask T-shirts, they ran or walked a course through the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Edgewood area. Instead of firing a starting gun, the race was started by sounding a vintage 1942 M-1 gas attack alarm. The gas mask theme was a tribute to Edgewood Arsenal's (now ECBC) legacy of gas mask design and production starting in World War I. This message was reinforced by an exhibit of historic ECBC gas masks at the race start and end point.

**3. Centennial Celebration including a time capsule and statue design (June 15)**

In an event developed and coordinated by PAO, prominent leaders from the DoD's Chemical Biological Defense Program addressed more than 500 ECBC workforce members and friends of

ECBC in this capstone event of the 100-year anniversary year. The event featured a time capsule to be buried for 50 years and a display of the chemical biological defense items to be placed in it. The event also included the unveiling of PAO's design of an eight-foot-high statue depicting a Soldier and a scientist to be erected on ECBC's campus next year. Finally, it included demonstrations of chemical biological defense technologies currently under development such as drone-mounted sensors and the system that neutralized more than 600 tons of Syria's declared chemical warfare material stockpile onboard a ship in international waters in 2014.

**4. History trivia golf tournament (Oct. 5)**

ECBC held a 100th anniversary golf tournament at the APG Edgewood Area golf course that required the 52 participants to answer trivia questions about the Center's history. The trivia questions, supplied by RDECOM Command Historian Jeffery Smart, spanned ECBC's 100-year history.

**5. Speaker series with UMBC Pres. Freeman Hrabowski (Oct. 11)**

ECBC held four 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary-themed speaker events over the course of 2017. The speakers included RDECOM's command historian plus leading academics who addressed emerging issues and new ideas in their fields. The final speaker was president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Freeman A. Hrabowski, who was featured on *60 Minutes* and named one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2012.

**6. Veterans Day recognition of ECBC veterans (Nov. 8)**

In its final 100-year anniversary observance, ECBC honored its military veterans in an appreciation ceremony. The veterans represented all armed service branches and spanned all ranks below general. In addition to speeches by ECBC's director (a veteran) and ECBC's military deputy, two of the honored veterans in attendance spoke

In addition to these events, ECBC incorporated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme -- including visual displays, videos, and chemical and biological defense historical artifact displays -- into annual events such as the Chemical Corps Green Dragon Ball, the APG Team CBRNE Organization Day, and ECBC's Holiday Bash. The result was a year-long anniversary observance punctuated by at least one event per month.

PAO created and continually updated a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary public website complete with 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary branding. PAO also produced "pop-up" lobby displays that were placed with historical artifacts on pedestals in all five of ECBC's major building lobbies. ECBC PAO also produced retractable banners for display at satellite ECBC facilities at Pine Bluff Arsenal, AR; Rock Island Arsenal IL; and Dugway Proving Ground UT. Other signage included light pole banners which were hung throughout the APG Edgewood Area.

The final component of this year of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary events was a tabletop quality 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary historical anthology depicting ECBC's heritage of innovation in protecting Soldiers and the nation from chemical biological threats over ten decades. It also included sections on ECBC as a force for social progress in its practice of hiring women and minorities from its very earliest days. It was distributed to our stakeholders.

## **U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

### **Planning**

Nominee: U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Army Service Component Command: U.S. Army Materiel Command

PAO began its planning for the 100th Anniversary Year of Events by researching news coverage and internal documents generated by other anniversary events at other Army commands and installations plus ECBC's own 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This information was a source of ideas and helped guide PAO in establishing budgets and metrics such as level of attendance to expect for different types of events, plus the amount of media coverage and level of VIP attendance to expect.

PAO also reviewed its own After Action Reports on prior ECBC large-scale information campaign efforts such as its 2014 CBRNE Capabilities Showcase and its recognition ceremony for the ECBC team that destroyed Syria's declared chemical stockpile onboard a ship in international waters in 2014. Especially useful lessons learned contained in these reports included, "Start planning early," "Create an overall strategic plan to ensure message unity," and "Establish uniform branding of all graphic and video material" – all of which PAO implemented. Finally, ECBC used this research to gain tips on simple, practical details such as how to make it easier for attendees to park and access the venue, and how to arrange seating to make ingress and egress go faster.

ECBC then carefully read the Chief of Staff's Modernization Priorities for the United States Army, and both RDECOM's and ECBC's strategic plans. These documents guided key message development. They also helped identify key target audiences; ECBC's core customers, ECBC employees, civilian VIPs such as elected officials and staffers, and contractors who do business with ECBC.

Information compiled from this research was considered when writing the detailed campaign plan. The campaign plan was developed using a PAO planning matrix, the Event, Opportunity and Milestones Process Form. This document forced PAO to clearly establish its objectives, assumptions, expected impacts, key stakeholders, key messages, tools and tactics, and individual tasks with their owners, due dates and current status. This was a living document that was regularly updated and served as a shared roadmap for the many different people at ECBC involved in the planning and execution.

Using the Event, Opportunity and Milestones Process Form as the source document, PAO then created a briefing for ECBC senior leadership and received their concurrence on the plan.

PAO held its first 100-year anniversary planning meeting in September, 2015. These meetings increased in frequency in 2016. Starting in October 2016 the meetings became weekly with a core committee which established subcommittees each responsible for a different component of the campaign. Each week, representatives from the subcommittees reported on their progress, their budgets, their resource needs and their liaison with other organizations such as APG's Department of Public Works and APG Police, various vendors, and other DoD Chemical Biological Defense Program members.

Each subcommittee held its own regular meetings in which they obtained their event venue, invitation list, and paraphernalia such as 100-year anniversary tee shirts, golf towels and coffee mugs. Each subcommittee was responsible for its own task execution, but was under the oversight of PAO.



PAO retained responsibility for the scripting of speakers at each event, plus press liaison, news story generation and placement, and the campaign's active social media presence. PAO also held periodic meetings with the director to keep him apprised of the campaign's status and to prepare him for events in which he had an active role.

With all this groundwork laid in advance, PAO was fully ready for the execution phase.

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

**Execution**

Nominee: U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Army Service Component Command: U.S. Army Materiel Command

The execution phase of the campaign occurred continuously over the course of the year as it consisted of six major events plus all the signage, posters, lobby displays, video production, news story generation and social media activity that reinforced and supported each event. For each of the major events, PAO and the subcommittee members for the event performed the following:

- Designed and obtained senior leadership approval for a 100-year anniversary logo to go on 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary related graphics and documents.
- Designed and launched the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary microsite as part of ECBC's overall public website.
- Continuous liaison with the garrison, as it was their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary also, to avoid conflicting event dates and to establish key messages unique to each organization.
- 'Save the date' social media posts sent out to desired attendees six weeks before the event with a three-week and one-week follow-up message.
- Liaison with partners for each event such as APG police for processing outside guests at the gate, volunteers for help with parking and as seat ushers, vendors for erecting tents and loudspeaker equipment, and APG's color guard.
- Prepared talking points for speakers and provided briefings to ECBC senior leaders on their role in any particular event.
- Revised scripts for senior leaders based on their edits and feedback.
- Called and e-mailed to reporters at selected news outlets and chemical biological trade publications to secure outside media coverage.
- Coordinated dress rehearsals with the key participants of each event several days in advance in addition to modifying scripts as needed.
- Set up each venue, including erecting tents, placing chairs and tables, setting up and testing the loud speaker system, and setting up historical displays, and placing directional signs.
- Met with volunteers prior to the start of each event to establish roles and responsibilities.
- Performed equipment checks of all loudspeaker, video and other electronic equipment.
- Generated a story about each event for same day posting on ECBC's public website plus social media activity to drive internet traffic to the posts.
- Posted a video of the events on social media to drive internet traffic to the posts.
- Hot wash and collection of lessons learned after each event to be applied to the next event.
- Assessed media coverage and social media activity after each event.

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

**Effectiveness**

Nominee: U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Army Service Component Command: U.S. Army Materiel Command

PAO developed metrics based on three sources:

- Overall attendance and VIP attendance at past major ECBC events organized by PAO.
- Detailed data on news media coverage of ECBC events dating back to 2014.
- Data on visits to ECBC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary social media sites such as the public website and Facebook.

**VIP Attendance** – Attendance by leaders in the DoD's Chemical Biological Defense Program far exceeded any previous ECBC event, including the destruction of the declared Syrian chemical stockpile, which had received worldwide media coverage. VIPs attending and participating in the Centennial Event included the following:

- The Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nonproliferation Research and Development at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- The Deputy Inspector General of the U.S. Army
- The Director of Chemical/Biological Technologies Department, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- The Principal Director of Research, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)
- The Joint Program Executive Officer for Chemical-Biological Defense, Edgewood, Maryland
- The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical-Biological Defense
- The commander of US Army 20th CBRNE Command

**News Coverage** – Using past PAO-organized events as benchmarks for its evaluation of the 100-year anniversary events, PAO looked to news coverage of its 2014 CBRNE Showcase. It was covered by three news outlets based on a news story generated and placed by PAO. The outlets were the U.S. Army website, army.mil, the Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System, and a pickup by the Army Training Support Center website. The ECBC ceremony honoring the Syrian chemical stockpile destruction team was covered by the Baltimore Sun plus a chemical biological specialty blog and the news aggregator, Topix.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary capstone event, the Centennial Event, was covered by Army.mil, APG News, CBRNEWorld Magazine, and a specialty blog. The total coverage for all six major events was 15 stories. Stories appeared in *The Army Chemical Review*, *CBRNE World Magazine*, *Homeland Preparedness News* and *Global Biodefense*. All stories contained two or more of the campaign's key messages. Using the CBRNE Showcase and Syrian chemical stockpile destruction events as benchmarks, PAO considered the Centennial Event a solid and demonstrable success.

**Social Media Activity** – ECBC's public website received a jump in unique visits from an average of 225 per day to 471 on the day of the Centennial Event and 459 the day after, increases of 52 percent and 51 percent respectively. Unique visits spiked to 412 on the day of the Gas Mask 5K Race, an increase of 45 percent.

Unique visits to ECBC's Facebook page more than quadrupled on the day of the Centennial Event. On the day of Gas Mask 5K Race it increased by nine-fold, and on the day of Visitors Center Grand Opening it increased by nearly four-fold.

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

**Overall Value to the Army**

Nominee: U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Army Service Component Command: U.S. Army Materiel Command

ECBC is the cradle of the nation's chemical biological defense and has always stayed at the forefront of new and emerging threats. In telling this story through a year of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, ECBC accomplished several important objectives:

- Reinforced the message that ECBC is the preeminent DoD technical organization for non-medical chemical biological defense now, then, and in the future.
- Shared that message with all of its varied stakeholders from across the DoD chemical biological enterprise in a tangible way that fully engaged those stakeholders.
- Further instilled a sense of pride in ECBC's workforce that the work they do today protecting the warfighter and the nation comes upon the shoulders of the generations of ECBC workers before them.
- Through historical displays and stories showed the current generation of researchers the inspiring story of how ECBC researchers continuously advanced the technology, no matter how daunting the challenges seemed at the time, using innovation to overcome all obstacles.
- Depicted ECBC's history as a 'show, don't tell' message that also conveyed the crucial value of the U.S. Army and the Research, Development and Engineering Command to the security of the warfighter, the nation and the APG community.
- Enhanced the sense of partnership with the surrounding community through key messages about ECBC's history as a major employer in northeast Maryland.
- Enhanced the sense of partnership with the surrounding community by telling the story of ECBC as one of the area's first truly inclusive employers by hiring women and minorities from the start in 1917.

The budget for the year-long campaign was approximately \$200,000. Of that amount, \$150,000 was used to renovate the Visitors Center including displays explaining each of ECBC's product areas and ECBC's history. By providing this comprehensive overview to VIP visitors there, the time that they need to spend in the laboratories is reduced, resulting in a drastic reduction in chemical biological operations suspensions needed to accommodate visitors.

A further \$10,000 was used to produce the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary tabletop publication. Another \$30,000 was spent on renting tents and loudspeaker systems for the outdoor events. The balance funded a range of incidental items such as lobby displays and poster production.

Through this investment, ECBC and the U.S. Army achieved an enormous amount of goodwill and increased awareness from its stakeholders.

**Major General Keith L. Ware Communications Awards Competition**  
**Community Engagement Awards**  
**Category C: Special Event**

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Events**

**Supporting Materials**



HOME COMMUNITY NEWS ▾ INSIDE THE INNOVATION ▾ UPCOMING EVENTS SPECIAL EVENTS ▾

ARCHIVE ▾

JANUARY 17, 2018

## Visitors Center, new video highlight ECBC's 'Century of Innovation'

🕒 March 2, 2017 📍 Edgewood Chemical Biological Center 📁 APG Centennial 1917-2017, Chem/Bio, Inside the Innovation 🗨 0



ECBC Engineering Director Michael Abale, Research and Technology Director Dr. Eric Moore, Program Integration Director Dr. Paul Tanenbaum and Center Director Dr. Joseph Corriveau cut the ribbon on newly renovated ECBC Visitors Center on APG South (Edgewood), Feb. 21, 2017. | U.S. Army photo



ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, or ECBC, unveiled two products on Feb. 21 intended to better inform its partners and stakeholders about its history, mission and contributions to the nation.

About 150 employees and guests gathered for the grand opening of the ECBC Visitors Center. Center Dr. Director Joseph Corriveau, officiated a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the newly renovated facility immediately after the premiere showing of the

video, "ECBC: A Century of Solutions." The video highlights ECBC's accomplishments through major global events and showcases its historic roots as a leader in developing innovative solutions to chemical and biological threats.

"I'm so proud of all the work that's done by the people who work here," Corriveau told the gathered audience of ECBC employees. "You have a very important job, protecting the warfighter against chemical and biological warfare."

After the video premiere, guests toured the Visitors Center, which features exhibits representing the full range of the ECBC's capabilities. The facility highlights key projects that demonstrate ECBC's role as a world leader in chemical and biological defense solutions.

"This has been a long time coming," Corriveau said while touring the Visitors Center. "What's wonderful is that we have a conference center in which we can host visitors and hold meetings, where our history and innovation are on display."

Pausing at an exhibit, he added, "I hope when our visitors walk through this building, our story will inspire their innovative spirit."

During the tour, Corriveau pointed to two items on display – a drone-mounted chemical and biological sensor system called the Array Configurable of Remote Network Sensors and the currently fielded M50 joint service protective mask – as example items that were designed and produced by the ingenuity of ECBC scientists and engineers.

"This Visitors Center tells the amazing stories of real people doing tremendous work to come up with new capabilities to defend our warfighters and our nation against weapons of mass destruction," Corriveau said.

The Visitors Center and video were both created in celebration of ECBC's 100th anniversary. The organization traces its lineage back to Aberdeen Proving Ground's original designation as a filling plant for chemical shells when it was opened in October 1917 under executive order by President Woodrow Wilson during World War I.

Reflecting on the first 100 years of ECBC history, Corriveau told the audience that the same chemical warfare agents that were used during the First World War are still being used today by countries and clandestine groups.

"The threat is real," he said. "The danger of chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction still exists. As we go into the future, we're living in a more complicated world and the need for this organization continues."

The new video and the Visitor's Center will help ECBC to tell that story.

ECBC's centennial celebration continues throughout 2017 with several special events planned, including a 5K run in April and a 100th anniversary celebration in June. The full list of events and information about ECBC's centennial celebration can be found online at <https://www.ecbc.army.mil/100>.



JANUARY 23, 2018

## ECBC celebrates a century of service

Shares

June 21, 2017 • Yvonne Johnson, APG News • Chem/Bio, Inside Innovation • 0



ECBC Acting Director Dr. Eric Moore shares remarks before more than 500 ECBC workforce members and invited guests during the organization's centennial celebration at the APG South (Edgewood) area of Aberdeen Proving Ground June 15, 2017. | U.S. Army photo



<http://apgnews.com/inside-the-innovation/chem-bio/ecbc-celebrates-century-service/>

SEARCH ...

or walked a course that

A large stainless steel time capsule emblazoned with the logo of the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) shared the stage with federal, state, and local officials and leaders within the DoD's Chemical and Biological Defense Program who spoke in celebration of ECBC's 100th anniversary June 15. Speakers at the event also presented items to be placed in the time capsule for future generations.

With a crowd of more than 500 invited guests and workforce members assembled beneath a pavilion at the APG South (Edgewood) area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., ECBC Acting Director Dr. Eric Moore, noted that while ECBC's mission lies in the research and development of technologies to defend U.S. warfighters from chemical and biological threats, it has been generations of ECBC scientists, engineers, technicians, and support personnel who have written the organization's history.

"All of the historical focus on technology is important, but what we're celebrating today, in addition to the technology, is the people," Moore said. "This is really a story about people. All of the equipment and the technology that we talk about - it's the people who make that happen."

Following on that theme, Army Deputy Inspector General Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, the Army's senior Chemical Corps officer, told the audience, "I am in awe of what you do and the role you play in our nation. When the nation asks for your help, you deliver."

Another speaker, Dr. Jason Roos, deputy executive officer of the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical Biological Defense, contributed an M50 protective mask for inclusion in the 12-cubic-foot time capsule, which will be opened 50 years hence. "This mask, and just about every other chemical biological defense technology we have fielded, was developed in collaboration with ECBC," Roos said.

Other speakers added commanders' coins and proclamations to the time capsule collection. These items were in addition to a collection of technologies developed by ECBC scientists and engineers. These included the latest generation hand-held chemical agent detector used by Soldiers in the field, a second generation Tactical Biological Detector, the Joint Service Aircrew Mask, a newly-developed decontamination solution known as DeconGel, a Chemical Reconnaissance and Explosive Screening Set, samples of forward-looking decontamination molecules called metal organic frameworks, and the ECBC flag flown aboard the ship on which an ECBC team

[p://apgnews.com/inside-the-innovation/chem-bio/ecbc-celebrates-century-service/](http://apgnews.com/inside-the-innovation/chem-bio/ecbc-celebrates-century-service/)



destroyed 600 tons of Syrian declared chemical warfare material at sea in 2014.

Also on display was a 10-foot high depiction of a statue of a Soldier in full chemical biological protective gear standing back-to-back with a scientist, which will be placed next to the ECBC headquarters building. Moore described the statue as symbolizing the profound partnership between the Soldier and the ECBC scientist in protecting the nation from chemical biological threats.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, many of the attendees traveled to the ECBC Visitors Center to see a Field Deployable Hydrolysis System identical to the equipment used by ECBC operators to neutralize 600 tons of declared Syrian chemical warfare material aboard the MV Cape Ray, plus ECBC's latest chemical biological surveillance system including an unmanned drone and an unmanned ground vehicle which work in concert with other sensors and a data integration system. Visitors also toured a mobile laboratory used to perform analysis of chemical and biological samples close to their point of collection.

Other dignitaries who delivered remarks at the event included Col. Raymond Compton, chief of staff of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Dale Ormond, principal director for research in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense; and Brig. Gen. William King, commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command.

ECBC was created by presidential proclamation in 1917, establishing the Gunpowder Peninsula in Harford County as the Edgewood Arsenal. It quickly became the nation's principal research and development resource for non-medical chemical biological defense. For more information about ECBC's legacy of service to the nation, visit: <https://www.ecbc.army.mil/100/>.

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## UMBC president wraps up ECBC anniversary speaker series

October 25, 2017 Yvonne Johnson, APG News Chem/Bio, Inside the Innovation, News 0



UMBC President Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III, engages ECBC employees during his talk on innovation, grit, and success during the final presentation of the ECBC 100th Anniversary Speaker Series Oct. 11, 2017. | Photo courtesy of ECBC



*Hrabowski talks innovation, grit, success*

<http://apgnews.com/inside-the-innovation/chem-bio/umco-president-wraps-ecbc-anniversary-speaker-ser>

The president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, Ph.D., spoke to employees of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, or ECBC, during the final event of the center's 100th Anniversary Speaker Series, Oct. 11, 2017.

Named one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2012, Hrabowski is recognized worldwide for cultivating innovation in education at UMBC. Since he became UMBC President in 1992, Hrabowski has transformed the reputation of UMBC from a commuter and sister school to the University of Maryland, College Park, to a university nationally recognized for its academic innovation. UMBC was named in the 2018 U.S. News & World Report college guide as the seventh most innovative university in the nation and is tied with Duke University, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Chicago and the University of Notre Dame as a top university for undergraduate teaching.

During his talk titled, "Grassroots Innovation: The Power of Your Power," Hrabowski said diversity, collaboration, and grit are keys to guiding innovation, enduring challenges, and encouraging ingenuity. Innovation is one of ECBC's strategic goals as an organization. As the nation's premier provider of innovative chemical and biological solutions, ECBC strives for the development of new products and solutions to protect U.S. forces and citizens. "Innovation is the key to staying ahead of future defense needs," said ECBC Associate Director Michelle Goddard. "Dr. Hrabowski's lessons can enhance ECBC employee's ability to be creative and identify unique ways to solve complex defense problems."



UMBC President Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III, examines a M50 protective mask developed by ECBC researchers during a tour of the ECBC Visitors

<http://apgnews.com/inside-the-innovation/chem-bio/umco-president-wraps-ecbc-anniversary-speaker-ser>



Center. | Photo courtesy of ECBC

Hrabowski engaged the audience with a series of what he described as uncomfortable questions, such as inquiries about minority education and participation experiences with Hispanic, African-American and Asian communities in America versus Caucasians of all socio-economic backgrounds. He went on to link the facts to the ways in which UMBC has pioneered the journey to recognize and recruit the underrepresented population of students to their school. UMBC has students from more than 100 different countries.

Hrabowski discussed the importance of being open to risk in the innovation process. Throughout his conversation with the audience he linked risk averseness to innovation.

"There is no way to talk about innovation if we do not talk about creating a climate that allows people to take risks," he said.

Hrabowski explained that UMBC defines innovation as finding more ways to work in groups and to collaborate and partner with industry, colleges and governments in order to rethink the way in which business is done. Hrabowski suggested innovation also means changing the way the word "smart" is used. Rather than dubbing one group to be smarter than another, he encouraged the audience to focus on those with the drive and grit to succeed and achieve at any desired level. According to Hrabowski, true grit, which also happens to be the name of the UMBC Chesapeake Bay Retriever mascot, is having the personal characteristics of hard work and resiliency.

Through Hrabowski's experiences with grit, innovation and education, he has created an educational environment at UMBC which encourages people to step outside of their comfort zones and ask questions. He challenged the ECBC audience, in the spirit of innovation, to ask questions because questioning, he said, is what creates an environment that inspires others to critically think and therefore supports the next era of visionaries.

Hrabowski's talk at ECBC can be viewed at:  
<https://youtu.be/E9HpMZuD8t4>

For more information about ECBC 100th anniversary events, go to:  
<https://www.ecbc.army.mil/100/ecbc-anniversary-events.html>.

**By Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**