



Media Advisory



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TARDEC Robots Highlight U.S. Army All-American Bowl Festivities

DETROIT ARSENAL, MI – The U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) robots were a hit at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl festivities in San Antonio, Jan. 2 and 3, 2009.

Part of the 2009 Army Strong Zone, TARDEC featured two iRobot® PackBot® robots, one with the 510 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) kit and one with the FasTac kit. Subject-matter experts (SMEs) Lonnie Freiburger and Jeremy Gray were on hand to answer questions and demonstrate the robots' capabilities. NBC nationally televised the classic East vs. West matchup Jan. 3, which showcased tomorrow's college and NFL stars.

The EOD model is a multi-function robot that can be configured for a variety of missions, including traditional ordnance removal, route clearance, engineering support, reconnaissance and surveillance. The lighter, faster FasTac version is used in surveillance and reconnaissance missions and can provide limited EOD support. Fans attending the festivities had an opportunity to maneuver the robots through an obstacle course.

Two Michigan athletes, Detroit Cass Technical High School defensive tackle William Campbell and Oak Park High School running back Edwin Baker, were selected for the East Squad. Baker did not play due to an injury. Campbell started on the defensive line and also played several series at left tackle. On national television, late in the third quarter, Campbell committed to the University of Michigan. "My school is Michigan," Campbell announced. "I feel like I made the right decision. I'm staying close to home, and I'm staying close to my family."

A U.S. Army All-American selection is an important and prestigious honor for these athletes and musicians. These young men and women truly embody the characteristics of an Army Strong Soldier, demonstrating one-of-a-kind mental, emotional and physical strength. Through "Leadership and Teamwork in Action," the U.S. Army All-American Bowl provides opportunities for these young adults to further develop their own strengths to become tomorrow's leaders. Bowl Week activities allow athletes and musicians the opportunity to spend time with Soldiers from around the country to gain a better understanding of what it means to be an Army Strong Soldier.

The All-American Bowl helps the U.S. Army shape these future leaders by providing a national forum for the student athletes to showcase their extraordinary talents. Historically, the bowl is already rich in tradition as it features the Nation's top high school football players, many of whom have gone on to become college and NFL stars over the years. The growing list of alumni includes current NFL stars Adrian Peterson, Reggie Bush, Vince Young and 2007 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow. There are also more than 80 alumni currently playing in the NFL. With the number of elite athletes climbing every year, this year's bowl game was one of the most entertaining to date with the East winning 30-17.



Media Advisory



For its second year, the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band returned to perform during halftime. The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band featured 97 of the finest high school senior marching musicians from across the country. Nine of those musicians were from Michigan and included:

- Josh DeVrou, trumpet, Jenison Senior High School
- Joey Dwyer, snare drum, Walled Lake Central High School
- Paul Gentine, trumpet, Flushing Senior High School
- Brian Haw, marching baritone, Livonia Franklin High School
- Maxwell Lowe, trombone, West Bloomfield High School
- Jonathan Moths, trombone, Jenison High School
- Ross Taylor, mallets, Walled Lake Central High School
- Stephanie Torok, clarinet, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park
- Ryan Zaluzec, clarinet, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park

The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band recognizes the Nation's leading high school musicians who demonstrate the U.S. Army core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity and personal courage. Like the character of an Army Strong Soldier and the U.S. Army All-American football players, the national selection of All-American band members is based on a broad range of attributes: musical accomplishment, academic achievement, leadership abilities and community service. The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band is a top-tier validation of their accomplishments.

Note: There are 11 photos available for use with this release. Caption information follows. To download the photo, go to <http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/>.

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TARDEC-PR-0901_AAB_001.jpg

Michigan natives CPT Jeffary Hoose and William Campbell listen to the National Anthem prior to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Jan. 3, 2009, in San Antonio. Soldier-hero Hoose was matched with Detroit Cass Tech High School All-American Campbell during player introductions. For his heroism during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, Hoose received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for exceptional valorous conduct. He was also awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge. Campbell was selected as starter for the defensive line and also played several series at left tackle. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill Dowell.)



Media Advisory



TARDEC-PR-0901_AAB_002.jpg

Aidan Cisneros hands his All-American Bowl football to a TARDEC EOD PackBot in the 2009 Army Strong Zone during festivities at the All-American Bowl in San Antonio, on Jan. 2, 2009. TARDEC featured two iRobot PackBot robots, one with the 510 EOD kit and one with the FasTac kit. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill Dowell.)

TARDEC-PR-0901_AAB_003.jpg

Kenton Shutters, left, controls the PackBots behind him, as TARDEC's SME Lonnie Freiburger explains the controllers' different screens in the 2009 Army Strong Zone during festivities at the All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Jan. 2, 2009. The robot can perform multiple missions, including EOD, route clearance, engineering support, reconnaissance and surveillance. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill Dowell.)

TARDEC-PR-0901_AAB_004.jpg

FOX29 Cameraman Morgan Allen videotapes TARDEC's PackBot 510 EOD robot live during All-American Bowl festivities Jan. 2, 2009, in San Antonio in the 2009 Army Strong Zone. TARDEC SMEs Lonnie Freiburger and Jeremy Gray were on hand to answer questions and demonstrate the robots' capabilities. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill Dowell.)

TARDEC-PR-0901_AAB_005.jpg

Cass Technical High School All-American defensive lineman, number 73, William Campbell makes a tackle behind the line of scrimmage during the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Jan. 3, 2009, in San Antonio. Campbell was selected as a defensive line starter and also played offensive left tackle for the East vs. West matchup. During the nationally televised game, Campbell committed to the University of Michigan. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill Dowell.)

TARDEC-PR-0901_AAB_006.jpg

Jenison High School All-American Marching Band Musician Jonathan Moths waits in the stands to participate in the halftime show of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Jan. 3, 2009, in San Antonio. Moths and eight other Michigan high school musicians were selected to the second annual band, which recognizes the Nation's finest student marching musicians with "All-American" status. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill Dowell.)

TARDEC-PR-0901_AAB_007.jpg

Walled Lake Central High School All-American marching band musician Ross Taylor plays during halftime at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Jan. 3, 2009, in San Antonio. Taylor and eight other Michigan high school musicians were selected to the second annual band, which recognizes the Nation's finest student marching musicians with "All-American" status. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill Dowell.)



Media Advisory



TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military ground systems and automotive technology. A leading technology integrator for the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Research Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), TARDEC is headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, located in the heart of the world's automotive capitol. TARDEC is a major element of RDECOM and partner in the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. As a full life-cycle engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons and vehicle systems, TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provide superior capabilities for the Future Force. TARDEC's technical staff leads research in ground vehicle survivability; mobility/power and energy; robotics and intelligent systems; maneuver support and sustainment; and vehicle electronics and architecture. TARDEC develops and maintains ground vehicles for all U.S. Armed Forces and numerous federal agencies.

For additional information about TARDEC's forthcoming developments and other technologies, please contact Mike Roddin at Mike.Roddin@us.army.mil.