



Media Advisory



July 15, 2009

For Immediate Release |

Contact: william.dowell2@us.army.mil

Release # 0931

Exhibit to Preserve, Highlight Arsenal of Freedom History

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI — Friends of the Detroit Arsenal are looking for historical memorabilia to display in the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center's (TARDEC's) *History of Innovation* exhibit in Warren, MI.

"This display will preserve and portray the rich history and dedication of TARDEC and the Ground Vehicle Enterprise that supports our Nation's warfighters," TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek explained. "We are asking citizens and local organizations to help us collect any historical items or memorabilia relating to tank production and truck engineering at the arsenal."

The hall is undergoing a renovation to highlight the past, present and future. Friends of the Detroit Arsenal have many photographs and are looking for more including; film, videos; and items from vehicles or testing done at the arsenal. Items may be loaned or donated and will be properly labeled as such.

Located in Building 200 on the Detroit Arsenal campus, the exhibit will focus on the rapid advances in technology on tank and tactical wheeled vehicles. It will showcase the past seven decades of integrated engineering advancements by Tank-automotive Command (TACOM), TARDEC and their industry and academic partners. TACOM's and TARDEC's automotive partners have contributed significantly to the Army's tactical battlefield successes dating back to World War II, including every armed conflict since.

For more information or a donation, please contact Friends of the Detroit Arsenal at: DetroitArsenal@gmail.com.

###

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

090715-A-2361D-001.jpg

William Signius "Big Bill" Knudsen, an industrial production specialist and General Motors Corporation president, was selected to head up the National Defense Advisory Committee and featured on *Time* Magazine's Oct. 7, 1940 cover. In 1942, Knudsen was commissioned as a U.S. Army lieutenant general and worked as a consultant troubleshooter for the War Department. He served in the Army until June 1, 1945. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Bill



Media Advisory



Dowell)

090714-A-1234X-001.jpg

Realizing mass production was the key to achieving mechanized superiority, William Knudsen, former General Motors Corporation president and National Defense Advisory Committee commissioner, asked Chrysler President K.T. Kelly to make tanks. On Aug. 15, 1940, the Army contracted with Chrysler to create the Nation's first government-owned, contractor-operated facility at the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant in Warren, MI. More than 70,000 people were employed to build vehicles supporting the war effort at the 1.1 million square foot building. (U.S. Army photo)

090714-A-1234X-002.jpg

On Sept. 18, 1942, the Detroit Arsenal was honored with a visit from President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The president's 12-car motorcade snaked through the plant, stopping repeatedly along the assembly lines to ask questions and shake hands. (U.S. Army photo)

TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for Ground Systems Integration to ensure U.S. Soldiers continue to be the best-equipped and most lethal, survivable and sustainable fighting force on Earth. For additional information or to schedule an interview with a TARDEC leader or subject-matter expert, please contact Bill Dowell at (586) 574-6683, william.dowell2@us.army.mil.

Follow us on twitter at http://twitter.com/TARDEC_PAO.