



# Media Advisory



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## TARDEC Takes Robotics Lead at Cobra Gold 2009

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI — The United States and Thailand will lead a group of nations participating in the Cobra Gold 2009 Exercise Feb. 4-17, 2009. This marks the exercise's 28th anniversary, making it the most visible and largest military cooperative training event in the Pacific region.

The exercise includes robotic operations. The U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) Intelligent Ground Systems (IGS) Mission Payload Integration Team engineers Lonnie Freiburger and Electrical Engineer Jeremy Gray will lead the experiments.

The IGS duo will lead robotics for iRobot® and Autonomous Solutions Incorporated (ASI) systems, which are under contract supporting the Cobra Gold Joint Ground Robotics Enterprise project. ASI will be evaluating the CHAOS™ and iRobot will demonstrate the Warrior™ 700.

The CHAOS robotic platform is designed to remotely access hazardous areas previously accessible only by foot, thereby reducing risk to Soldiers. CHAOS is able to navigate over extremely rough, steep and loose terrain. The iRobot's Warrior is designed to travel over rough terrain and climb stairs while performing a variety of critical mission tasks.



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“TARDEC has two vendors that will provide their systems to the warfighter experiment and test exercises and will gather data which will be included into future research and development solutions to meet warfighter needs,” Freiburger explained. “We will assist the U.S. Marine Corps with test execution and report the results to the Army’s Soldier Battle Lab at Fort Benning, GA, for future warfighter experiments with Army Soldiers.”

Freiburger and Gray will operate their robots through several scenarios at Cobra Gold, ranging from routine security and tactical logistical supply to mass casualty extraction and area security operations.

Cobra Gold is a joint and coalition multinational exercise hosted annually by the Kingdom of Thailand and is the most recent in a continuing series of exercises designed to promote regional peace and security.

The exercise combines Thai, U.S. and Singaporean armed forces in a coalition task force headquarters staff exercise. Thailand, Singapore, Japan and the U.S. will conduct field training exercises. Thailand, U.S, Singapore, Japan and Indonesia will participate in an exercise designed around the United Nations multi-national peace support operations scenario. Thailand, U.S., Singapore, Indonesia and Japan will participate in humanitarian and civic assistance projects, designed to improve quality of life and local infrastructure for the host Thai people.



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In addition to the five main participating countries, the royal Thai government has invited several other nations to participate in various roles during the exercise. The following countries have been invited: Australia, Brunei, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Bangladesh, India, Philippines, Peoples Republic of Cambodia, China, Canada, Germany, South Korea, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam and Mongolia.

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

Captions:

**TARDEC-PR-0913\_1\_CHAOS.jpg**

The CHAOS robot, built by ASI for TARDEC, will be tested in a variety of scenarios during Cobra Gold 2009 (Photo Courtesy of ASI)

**TARDEC-PR-0913\_2\_iRobot Warrior 700 2.jpg**

During a previous training event, an iRobot Warrior 700 robot sorts through debris to uncover an explosive device. TARDEC's leads Lonnie Freiburger and Jeremy Gray will test Warrior and several other robotic systems during the Cobra Gold military training exercise in Thailand. (Photo courtesy of iRobot.)

**TARDEC-PR-0913\_3\_Freiburger.jpg**

Lonnie Freiburger, TARDEC Engineer, makes adjustments to an iRobot during a recent training event. (Photo by Andricka Thomas, U.S. Army Research, Development Engineering Command.)

*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*



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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](mailto:Mike.Roddin@us.army.mil) or contact Bill Dowell at (586) 838-2304 or [William.Dowell2@us.army.mil](mailto:William.Dowell2@us.army.mil).