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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



MCoE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
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EDITOR'S NOTE: The media day for this event is June 29. Please call the MCoE Public Affairs Public Affairs Office at 706-545-8970 for more information.

Robotics Rodeo rolls into Fort Benning

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Robots on the battlefield? How do they help the military achieve mission success? These important questions and more will be addressed as part of the 2012 Robotics Rodeo scheduled for June 20-29 at the Maneuver Center of Excellence.

Sponsored by the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) and the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), the Robotics Rodeo enables the military to harness the potential of the research and development community to counter the diverse and dynamic complex and adaptive threats of the battlefield. It will bring together the defense, homeland security, academia and industry communities to energize robots in support of the warfighter.

Planned for the week are a series of operational assessments involving more than 30 technologies at the McKenna Urban Operations Complex at Fort Benning. There will be an open house for the public and media to observe the technologies in action on Friday, June 29, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the McKenna Complex. All other days of the event are closed to the public.

Goals of the Robotics Rodeo are to inform senior Army leaders of emerging capabilities, align the robotics industry with Army operational needs, educate Soldiers and developers on the current state of robotics and demonstrate the emerging robotic technologies that may address capability gaps in the efforts to defeat improvised explosive devices. The Robotics Rodeo will lead to identification of robust solutions and recommendations for further experimentation or rapid fielding.

While this is the 3rd Robotics Rodeo, it is the first time JIEDDO has participated in a challenged-based acquisition process.

As a team, the Maneuver Battle Lab, TARDEC and JIEDDO are developing more effective ways to identify technologies that address gaps in military capability, engage Soldiers in capability developments and support efficient rapid transition to overseas contingency operations. The Robotics Rodeo is just one of many examples of joint community collaboration with industry that advanced the development of robotics and unmanned systems through experimentation. The Robotics Rodeo is an enduring step in the process that will continue to equip warfighters with the tools to defend the nation's interests anywhere anytime and against any threat.