



Media Advisory



Oct. 6, 2008

Immediate Release |

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Release # 0829

TARDEC Receives Four U.S. Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Awards

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI — Exemplifying teamwork and unparalleled systems integration capabilities, U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) members received four awards — three collaboration and one team — at the 2008 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony held Oct. 5, 2008, in Arlington, VA.

The awards received are:

- Army Acquisition Excellence Team Award: Equipping and Sustaining our Soldiers' Systems — Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Expedient Armor Program (MEAP) team award with the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.
- High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) Improvement Program (HIP) collaboration award with the Army Research Laboratory (ARL), Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, and Engineering Research and Development Center (ARDEC).
- MEAP collaboration award with ARL.
- Optimization of Communications and Electronic Warfare Antenna Placement on MRAP Vehicles collaboration award with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC).

“Working and collaborating with other organizations to help protect our warfighters is a charge everyone at TARDEC takes personal pride in,” stated TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek. “These awards are a culmination of long hours, dedication and teamwork, but, more importantly, they recognize our commitment to providing engineering solutions that save Soldiers’ lives.”

The MEAP team, honored with two awards, developed an armor protection kit for MRAP vehicles to safeguard Soldiers against an extremely lethal threat in theater — improvised explosive devices and mines. Without technical data or complete engineering drawings, the team characterized, analyzed, designed, fabricated and integrated the armor in just over six weeks. A collaborative effort of this importance had not been undertaken since World War II.



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Although replacements are under development, the HMMWV is going to be around for years to come, so the Office for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology tasked TARDEC to increase protection, performance and capabilities. To accomplish these goals, TARDEC and its collaboration partners implemented the HIP, a “Monster Garage”-like approach based on the Discovery Channel® television show. Nearly 100 people from more than 20 organizations and companies developed an improvement package significantly enhancing the HMMWV. This effort also established a strong technical basis for future improvements to the HMMWV and other ground vehicles by laying groundwork for technological advancements and innovations.

The antenna placement collaboration team realized rapid fielding and delivery precluded traditional modeling, simulation and field-testing for optimum antenna placement. The team developed and validated an advanced modeling and simulation method. This method reduced testing from 12 to two days, minimizing cost and doubling the number of configurations analyzed.

The annual awards ceremony, held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington VA, recognized the accomplishments of the acquisition workforce’s most extraordinary members and the teams they lead. The ceremony was a tribute to the uniformed and civilian professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide combatant commanders and their Soldiers with the weapons and equipment they need to execute decisive, full-spectrum operations as they protect our Nation's precious freedom.

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Note: There are 7 photos available for use with this release. Caption information follows. To download the photo, go to <http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/>.

TARDEC-PR_0829_1_Equip_MRAP.jpg

From left: Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) LTG N. Ross Thompson III; U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) Deputy Commanding General BG Peter Fuller; TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek; and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for AL&T Dean G. Popp at the 2008 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony in Arlington, VA, Oct. 5, 2008. Fuller and Bochenek accepted one of the two 2008 Army Acquisition Excellence awards — Equipping and Sustaining our Soldiers Systems for RDECOM-TARDEC’s MRAP Expedient Armor Program Team. The team ensured the successful execution of equipping MRAP vehicles with armor and that the right types of armor kits were provided quickly. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox.)



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TARDEC-PR_0829_2_HIP.jpg

From left: Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) LTG N. Ross Thompson III; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist Dr. Thomas H. Killion; ARL's Army Research Office Director Dr. David Mann; U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center Director Dr. James Houston; TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek; ARDEC Director Dr. Joseph Lannon; and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for AL&T Dean G. Popps at the 2008 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony in Arlington, VA, Oct. 5, 2008. TARDEC, ARL and ARDEC won the HMMWV Improvement Program collaboration award to "buyback" payload and performance while improving the HMMWV's underbody and armor protection. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox.)

TARDEC-PR_0829_3_Collab_MRAP.jpg

From left: Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) LTG N. Ross Thompson III; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist Dr. Thomas H. Killion; U.S. Army Research Laboratory's (ARL's) Army Research Office Director Dr. David Mann; TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek; and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for AL&T Dean G. Popps at the 2008 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony in Arlington, VA, Oct. 5, 2008. Bochenek and Mann accepted the 2008 Department of the Army Research and Development Laboratory of the Year Award — Collaboration Team of the Year, which was presented to TARDEC and ARL for the MRAP Expedient Armor Program. This collaboration team successfully developed kits that increased the armor protection of vehicles to address mine threats. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox.)

TARDEC-PR_0829_4_Antenna.jpg

From left: Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) LTG N. Ross Thompson III; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist Dr. Thomas H. Killion; CERDEC Director Gary Blohm; TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek; and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for AL&T Dean G. Popps at the 2008 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony in Arlington, VA, Oct. 5, 2008. Bochenek and Blohm accepted the 2008 Department of the Army Research and Development Laboratory of the Year Award — Collaboration Team of the Year, which was presented to TARDEC and CERDEC for the Optimization of Communications and Electronic Warfare Antenna Placement on MRAP Vehicles. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox.)

TARDEC-PR_0829_5_all.jpg

The TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's Program Executive Office for Ground Combat Systems (PEO GCS) and TARDEC were awarded four awards at the 2008 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony in Arlington, VA, Oct. 5, 2008. From left



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are: TARDEC Associate Director Jim Soltesz, TARDEC Assistant Associate Director Starlett Burrell, TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek, TARDEC Deputy Associate Director Deborah DiCesare, and PEO GCS Program Executive Officer Kevin Fahey. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox.)

TARDEC-PR_0829_6_MRAP.jpg

An MRAP undergoes testing at the Aberdeen Test Center in Maryland. MEAP team members received two awards for developing an MRAP armor protection kit to safeguard warfighters against an extremely lethal threat in theater — improvised explosive devices and mines. (U.S. Army photo.)

TARDEC-PR_0829_7_HIP.jpg

Nearly 100 people from more than 20 organizations and companies developed an improvement package significantly enhancing the HMMWV. The HIP also established a strong technical basis for future improvements to the HMMWV and other ground vehicles by laying groundwork for technological advancements and innovations. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo.)

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.rodin@us.army.mil.