



Media Advisory



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Robotics Team Assists President Barack Obama's Inauguration Security

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI — As part of the Secret Service's security plan a U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) robotics team assisted with the 56th Presidential Inauguration by providing training and operators for bomb-detecting robots. Inaugural activities took place Jan. 17 - 21, 2009, with the swearing-in ceremony Jan. 20.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security designated the Inaugural as a National Special Security Event (NSSE). When an event is designated an NSSE, the U.S. Secret Service assumes its role as the lead federal agency for designing and implementing the operational security plan. Eight members from TARDEC's Intelligent Ground Systems Division and the Robotics Systems Joint Project Office (RS JPO) formed the TARDEC RS-JPO 2009 Presidential Inauguration Support Team. They assisted the security detail by sending skilled operators, trainers and robotic technicians for the ODIS (Omni-Directional Inspection System), LVUSS (Long-Range Vehicle Undercarriage Surveillance System), Foster-Miller TALON[®] and iRobot[®] PackBot[®] systems.

The team prepared for the inauguration by setting up a training scenario near the Pentagon. The Pentagon Force Protection Agency, FBI explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams, Secret Service, District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and Fairfax County Police Department learned how to operate the robots and helped screen more than 500 vehicles through various check points.

"It is absolutely a privilege to be a part of such a historic event like the 2009 Presidential Inauguration," exclaimed TARDEC RS JPO 2009 Presidential Project Lead MAJ Anh Ha. "The TARDEC robotic experts have been integrated into a security team consisting of great professionals. TARDEC once again represents its importance within, not just the military community but also in the national community, with its innovations and technological expertise. We, as its many essential members, can be proud to be in this organization and for the many great things we do for our country."

TARDEC, MPD, U.S. Capitol Police and U.S. Park Police, as well as a number of other federal and local agencies, played a critical operational role in securing the Inauguration and many other resources were deployed to maintain the necessary level of security.

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/>.



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TARDEC-PR-0902_Inauguration_001.jpg

TARDEC RS-JPO 2009 Presidential Inauguration Support Team assisted the Inauguration security detail by sending skilled operators, trainers and robotic technicians for ODIS, a wheeled robot that performs under-vehicle inspections to detect explosives, contraband and radiological elements. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Paul Tremblay.)

TARDEC-PR-0902_Inauguration_002.jpg

The TALON helped screen more than 500 vehicles during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration. TALON provides unmatched versatility allowing its operator to identify and inspect suspicious objects from a safe and standoff distance of up to 800 meters. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Paul Tremblay.)

TARDEC-PR-0902_Inauguration_003.jpg

TARDEC RS-JPO 2009 Presidential Inauguration Support Team members demonstrate how to safely remove an unknown object with a TALON. TALON has been used extensively in Iraq and Afghanistan for explosive ordinance disposal, reconnaissance and surveillance missions. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Paul Tremblay.)

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.