



Media Advisory



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For Immediate Release |

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Fort Hood's III Corps, TARDEC to Host First-Ever "Robotics Rodeo" in Texas

FORT HOOD, Texas — Two seemingly unrelated U.S. Army organizations are gathering robotics experts and companies from across the country in search of innovative robotic solutions to save Soldier's lives.

Fort Hood's III Corps and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) – are hosting a first-ever "Robotics Rodeo" Sept. 1-3 at Fort Hood to encourage development of autonomous systems in support of our Nation's warfighters.

"It's all about saving lives. There's got to be a sense of urgency," LTG Rick Lynch, III Corps commanding general, recently told delegates at an Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) exhibition in Washington D.C.

The Robotics Rodeo – which is open to the media and general public – is not a competition. Instead, the Rodeo is a market research event to determine what industry technologies will potentially benefit the Army's robotics programs. TARDEC, home to the Joint Center for Robotics (JCR), works with the Department of Defense, industry, academia and other government agencies to leverage the best in robotic technologies in the interest of national security. The JCR coordinates and integrates information and technology to ensure U.S. Soldiers have the most advanced robotic capabilities possible.

Lynch, who earned a mechanical engineering master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a proponent of what robots can do for Fort Hood's, and the Army's, Soldiers. The General wants industry to bring systems to the Robotics Rodeo and allow the Soldiers, who just returned from combat, to use the systems. "They'll tell you, "This is going to work. I know that ain't going to work,"" according to Lynch.

"During the Robotics Rodeo, we're looking to motivate the industry, educate developers and key decision makers and observe the current state of robotic technologies to encourage the development of autonomous systems supporting warfighter operational needs," explained TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek.

At Fort Hood, the largest U.S. military base in the world, the Robotics Rodeo will be separated into two areas, an Extravaganza and the Robotic Technology Observation,



Media Advisory



Demonstration and Discussion (RTOD2). The Extravaganza will have displays and freestyle demonstrations. RTOD2 is a closed event.

More information on the Robotics Rodeo is available at <http://www.tardec.info/roboticsrodeo/>

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Media day is on Sept. 3.

Media outlets – especially those interested in science, technology, unmanned vehicles, robotics and military advancements – are welcomed to cover the event. In addition to active, dynamic robotics demonstrations, military and industry leaders will be available for interviews.

Parking is restricted therefore media will be provided transportation from the Ft. Hood Main Gate Visitor Center to the Extravaganza. Two trips will be provided, one at 8 a.m. and the next at 11 a.m. Return trips from the Extravaganza will occur at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and after the closing ceremonies around 5 p.m.

Media wishing to bring satellite trucks must coordinate with Ft. Hood Public Affairs no later than Aug. 31.

To register, contact:

1. TARDEC Public Affairs John Wray at (248) 310-7231 or jwray@brtrc.com.
2. Ft. Hood Public Affairs Point of contact is Nancy Bourget at (254) 287- 9993 or by email at Nancy.Bourget1@conus.army.mil.

Note: A photo and artwork is available for use with this release. Caption information follows. To download the photo, go to <http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/>.

GVSETS Robots.jpg

TARDEC vehicles – including a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle – flank military robots during a simulated reconnaissance mission in the parking lot of the Marriott Hotel in Troy, Mich., for the NDIA Michigan Chapter GVSETS. The demonstration showed how robots can successfully disarm a roadside bomb in an urban setting. (U.S. Army TARDEC Photo by Liz Carnegie.)

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, please contact Bill Dowell at



Media Advisory



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