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For Immediate Release

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TARDEC Mine Resistant Underbody Earns U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Award

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI — A U.S. Army project to develop lightweight, mine-resistant fuel carriers was recognized Oct. 4 by military leaders as an unparalleled example of the technology development and collaboration needed to protect and promote warfighters.

The U.S. Army Tank Automotive, Research, Development and Engineering Center's (TARDEC's) and Army Research Laboratory's (ARL's) Lightweight Vehicle Underbody Protection System (LVUPS) received a 2009 collaboration award during the U.S. Army Acquisitions Corps Annual Award Ceremony. The project, which linked the efforts of TARDEC engineers, other Army researchers and defense industry experts, has resulted in development of the LVUPS mine protection system that enhances field maneuverability, lowers weight, increases occupant protection, saves fuel and lowers the life-cycle costs associated with Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles.

“This project exemplifies the kind of dedication, cooperation, innovation, expertise and personal pride necessary -- and inherent -- in every project and program that TARDEC undertakes on behalf of the Nation's military personnel,” noted TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek. “This kind of collaboration leverages the most advanced vehicle system technology solutions available for our Soldiers and military personnel.”

Engineers with TARDEC's Prototype Integration Facility partnered with experts from the ARL, the Army Test and Evaluation Center and defense industry contractors to design and field test the underbody system. The system incorporates features that optimize a vehicle's ability to withstand blast force from improvised explosive devices and other explosives and land mines. Those materials and processes include the use of aluminum lithium 2195 and Friction Stir Welding.

The annual awards ceremony, held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA., recognizes the accomplishments of the acquisition workforce's most extraordinary members and the teams they lead. The ceremony is 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 the Nation's precious freedom.



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ABOUT TARDEC

Headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology and serves as the Ground Systems Integrator for all Department of Defense (DOD) manned and unmanned ground vehicle systems. With roots dating back to the World War II era, TARDEC is a full life-cycle, systems engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons, equipment and vehicle systems. TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provide superior capabilities for Future Force integration. TARDEC's technical, scientific and engineering staff lead cutting-edge research and development in Ground Systems Survivability; Power and Mobility; Intelligent Ground Systems; Force Projection; and Vehicle Electronics and Architecture.

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

10_06_09 LVUPS Underbody Protection

Lightweight vehicles, like the one shown in this artist's rendering, are more fuel efficient and face fewer logistics challenges than heavier MRAP vehicles. Due to the LVUPS's superior design and prototyping processes, future vehicles will be able to withstand greater threats than current vehicle systems. (U.S. Army TARDEC drawing.)

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A U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Division Soldier sits in his High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, which is mounted with a .50-caliber machine gun, during a live-fire exercise. Thanks to programs like LVUPS, America's fleet of vehicles can change potentially lethal attacks into attacks that leave Soldiers unharmed. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Ralls Micus.)

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Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology and Army Chief Scientist Dr. Thomas H. Killion (right) congratulates TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek for a 2009 collaboration award received during the U.S. Army Acquisitions Corps Annual Award Ceremony Oct. 4 at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA. TARDEC and ARL received the award for their the LVUPS mine protection system that enhances field maneuverability, lowers weight, increases occupant protection, saves fuel and lowers the life-cycle costs associated with Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Paul Trembly.)

091004-A-1234T-056

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology OASA(ALT) Military Deputy LTG N. Ross Thompson III (left), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology and Army Chief Scientist Dr. Thomas H. Killion (second from left) and OASA(ALT) Principal Deputy Dean G. Popps (right) present a 2009 Department of the Army Research and Development Laboratory of the Year



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Award: Collaboration Team of the Year Award to ARL's William Mermagen (center) and TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek (fourth from left). TARDEC and ARL received the award for their the LVUPS mine protection system that enhances field maneuverability, lowers weight, increases occupant protection, saves fuel and lowers the life-cycle costs associated with Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Paul Trembly.)

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