Media Advisory

October 3, 2008

For Immediate Release | Contact: Mike Roddin

Mike.Roddin@us.army.mil

Release # 0826

Senator Carl Levin and Dr. Grace M. Bochenek Address the NDIA First Annual Life Cycle Conference

Troy, MI — The National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)-sponsored First Annual Robotics Vehicle Life Cycle Conference, held at the Detroit Marriott Troy in Troy, MI, Aug. 12-13, brought together members of industry, academia and Department of Defense (DOD) to discuss the sustainment and growth of the unmanned ground systems in Michigan.

U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek opened the conference by stating to the more than 420 industry, academic and military leaders assembled that "TARDEC is all about the warfighter and the warfighter 20 years from now, and part of our responsibility as a community is what we do in outreach to the local community — you will need to help us shape the future of robotics."

She continued, "I ask for great ideas to come into TARDEC and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), so together we can figure out how to integrate robotic platforms, put them into experiments and demonstrations and make intelligent decisions on requirements." Bochenek then encouraged local industry to become involved with the DOD by applying for contracting opportunities through FedBizOps.com

Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) followed Bochenek's address, stating, "The recent decision to move the Robotic Systems Joint Project Office to Michigan was the right decision for Michigan and the Nation. There is an extraordinary synergy between engineers and the academic world, and there is no place like Michigan for this effort to be sustained."

He added, "Michigan will be in the center of this growth because we have the resources of industry, research and development, and academia that exist here unlike in any other place." Levin also stated that the DOD created the Detroit Arsenal Robotics Center of Excellence in Warren, MI to help develop new robotic capabilities of the 5,000 robots currently in theater that are saving precious American troops and will continue to do so for decades. "We are creating the jobs of the future," exclaimed Levin.

High-level Army speakers included RDECOM Commanding General MG Fred D. Robinson Jr.; Director of Force Development, G-8 — U.S. Army Budget Priorities MG

Davis Halverson; U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command Commanding General MG Scott G. West; and Army Capabilities Integration Center Chief of Maneuver and Soldier Division COL Michael D. Winsted Sr.

Halverson summarized the crucial role robotics plays in saving lives, stating, "This is an important investment for the Army, the Chief of Staff and senior Army leaders we are invested in this technology because it makes sense. If I can put an unmanned system in to solve a problem where a Soldier doesn't have to put his or her life in harm's way, that makes sense."

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

# # #

TARDEC-PR-0826_1_Bochenek.jpg
TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek addresses members of industry, academia and DOD at the NDIA First Annual Robotics Vehicle Life Cycle Conference, Aug. 12-13, at the Detroit Marriott Troy in Troy, MI. Bochenek encouraged local industry to become involved with DOD by applying for contracting opportunities through FedBizOps.com. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

TARDEC-PR-0826_2_Levin.jpg
Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sen. Carl Levin explains why moving the Robotic Systems Joint Project Office to Michigan was the right decision. Levin addressed members of industry, academia and DOD at the NDIA First Annual Robotics Vehicle Life Cycle Conference, Aug. 12-13, at the Detroit Marriott Troy in Troy, MI. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

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.roddin@us.army.mil.