

# CERDEC opens new radio test facility

By **KEN GOSS**  
CERDEC

The Army increased its ability to test radio frequencies used by Soldier technologies when it opened one of the largest anechoic chambers in the mid-Atlantic region at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aug. 21.

The Radio-frequency Electro-Magnetic Compatibility and Antenna Test, or REM-CAT, laboratory provides additional testing space required for larger and mobile vehicle-mounted projects.

This space allows the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, or CERDEC, to test vehicles in a wide variety of radio frequency spectrum tests, allowing maximum function while maintaining accurate performance measurement.

John Willison, CERDEC Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate director, and Dr. Mahbub Hoque, S&TCD Radio Frequency Communications Division chief, welcomed distinguished guests from across the APG community during the opening of the new facility.

"There is a critical need for such a chamber and the important capabilities it will provide for CERDEC and the APG community," Hoque said.

"This facility allows us to focus on a system's functionality in specific frequency ranges, then take test results and predict that it either can maintain signal capability or will lose 'x-amount' in the field," said Frank Bohn, S&TCD Electronic Protection and Interference Mitigation branch chief. "From there, we can provide suggestions to our customers about how to mitigate signal loss, or find a better solution to maintain capability."

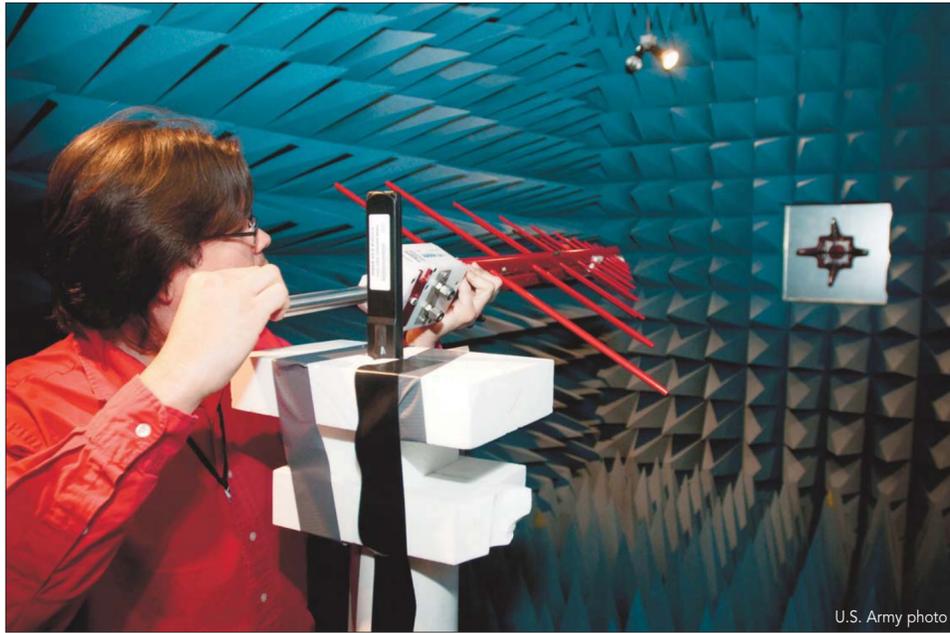
The chamber gives CERDEC directorates the space and flexibility to drive in the largest vehicle with test platforms aboard, then rotate it 360 degrees, all while remaining under testable conditions.

"With the previous facilities, we'd have to remove various bits and pieces to be able to get the whole vehicle through the doors, or the ceiling was too low once the vehicle was inside," Bohn said.

S&TCD will use the facility to support other Army and Defense Department organizations including those located at APG.

"With the improved performance and highly cost-effective nature of the directional networking antenna and its potential application to WIN-T, it will not only enhance the performance of the Army network, but will also reduce the antenna cost as much as 70 percent," Hoque added.

"Once deployed, this will be a game changer for the WIN-T (Warfighter Information Network-Tactical) network," said Gary Martin, Program Execu-



U.S. Army photo

tive Officer for Command, Control and Communications.

Coming up with a widely versatile facility was a challenge on a number of different fronts, according to Henry Muller, CERDEC director.

"From the beginning, we had planned the space for this specific purpose, so we had to act very precisely to preserve the space for what we ultimately knew we wanted," Muller said.

"Many times in our day-to-day activities, we have to write papers to justify what we want to do with a program. In this case, we had to write papers to not do anything, because of our intent for the space and our ultimate goal of using tax dollars responsibly," Muller said. "In the end, we were able to get the best possible test facility, with the least amount of wasted work and energy, using the least amount of money; and once we start sharing the capability with our corporate partners, the return on our investment will increase exponentially."

Attendees witnessed the first official use of the chamber in the form of a successful demonstration of the directional networking antenna that S&TCD developed in-house.

"We are looking forward to many more successful uses of the facility for both CERDEC and the customers we support," Willison said.

(Above) A technician preps an antenna for a test in a smaller anechoic chamber. Researchers will be able to drive the Army's largest vehicle with an on-board test platform into the new REMCAT facility and then rotate it 360 degrees under test conditions.

(Below) Steve Goodall, chief of the CERDEC S&TCD Antenna Technology & Analysis Branch, answers questions about the new Radio frequency Electro-Magnetic Compatibility and Antenna Test, or REMCAT, laboratory's capabilities during the lab's ribbon-cutting ceremony, Aug. 21.



Photo by Ken Goss

# Senior service fellows visit Capitol Hill

By **JAMES OMAN**  
Defense Acquisition University

Fellows from the Senior Service College Fellowship at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Warren, Michigan; and Huntsville, Alabama spent Sept. 14 and 15 on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Over the course of two days, the fellows heard from multiple speakers representing a variety of viewpoints and perspectives on different aspects of policy, security, and U.S. national interests.

Walter Oleszek, Senior Specialist in American Government, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress served as the program moderator and provided an overview of the evolution of power in congress which touched upon divided power, partisanship, and the impact on policy making.

Fellows also heard from Jon Ethern, defense and intelligence consultant and former professional staff member, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Acquisition and Technology, who discussed acquisition policy, reform, and human capital initiatives. Lucian Niemeyer, President, Niemeyer Group and former professional staff member, Senate Armed Services Committee, Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee described the function and responsibilities of the Senate Armed Services committee and his role in support of the committee.

After lunch, Sid Davis, former vice-president and Washington bureau chief, NBC News and former program director, Voice of America, provided his insights on the role of the media and its impact on U.S. national interests. The last speaker for the day, Martin Russo, CEO Russo Capitol Strategies and a former representative from Chicago, shared his thoughts on the role of lobbyists from his perspective as a current lobbyist and as a former member of Congress.

On day two, noted author Gordon Chang provided insights and assessments on China and North Korea and their impact on the national interests of the United States. Over the day and a half, each speaker's presentation provided a greater understanding of the workings of Congress and its relationship to the Department of Defense.

Fellows were also given free time to visit their congressmen and women, explore the Capitol buildings, sit in on Senate hearings and observe votes. Many fellows received Capitol gallery passes from their senators and representatives and were able to observe legislation in action.

The two days spent on Capitol Hill provided each fellow with a better understanding for the "bigger picture" and the role each of them has played and will play in providing support to the warfighter.



Courtesy photo

Fellows from the Senior Service College Fellowship at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Warren, Michigan; and Huntsville, Alabama spent Sept. 14 and 15 on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

## See Something

Cut along dotted lines and fold in middle for use as wallet reference Card.

Provided by the INTEL DIV/DPTMS

## Say Something

INSTALLATION WATCH CARD

### DO OBSERVE & REPORT

- Suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.
- Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information.
- Unusual vehicles operating in or around APG.
- Unusual phone calls, messages, or e-mails.
- Unusual contacts on or off post.
- Unusual aerial activity near or around installation.
- Any possible compromise of sensitive information.



INSTALLATION WATCH CARD

### DON'T

- Discuss any aspect of military operations or planning.
- Discuss military capabilities or limitations.
- Discuss FP measures, capabilities, or posture.
- Disclose information about R&D and testing.

Report suspicious activity immediately to APG Police!

APG (North & South): 410.306.2222  
Off Post in Maryland call 1-800-492-TIPS or 911

Card created by APG Intel

