

Capital and Northeast SSCFs Visited Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

On Sept. 9, 2009, Capital and Northeast Fellows, Rick Cozby, Bill Gilbert, Chris Manning, Deirdre Sumpter, Medhat Abuhantash, Tony Subrizi, Corde Lane, and Sharon Meirose accompanied by Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF), CNE Director, **Jim Oman** and SSCF Coordinator, Parker Bennett spent the day at Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), the lead military laboratory for chemical and biological defense technology.

The day kicked off with an extensive ECBC overview provided by Associate Director, Dr. Jim Baker. He discussed the history of ECBC beginning with its inception in 1917 to counter the use of chemical weapons during World War I. Over the years, ECBC has worked on smoke, pyrotechnics, and incendiaries in the 1940s and 1950s; biodetection systems and chemical and biological defense during the Gulf war; and more recently, ECBC played a critical mitigation role in the aftermath of

the Sept. 11, 2001, events. Recent contributions of ECBC include the development of a refinery of tactical garbage to energy, the development of the Joint Services General Protection Mask, and aiding in the demilitarization of Albania. After the ECBC Overview, the group continued its visit with a Windshield Tour of key ECBC facilities guided by Dr. Baker.

At midday, the group participated in a working lunch with the Program Integration Director, Joe Wienand. Mr. Wienand spoke about his own professional development path and offered wisdom on qualities of an experienced and adaptable leader. The conversation that ensued covered the importance of leaders with experience working at an array of both civilian and military organizations.

After lunch, the Fellows toured the Advanced Design and Manufacturing (ADM) and Prototype Integration Facility that provides engineering designs, drawings, functional prototypes and deployable items on

short notice. The Fellows visited the ADM's Rapid Technologies Laboratory where conceptual designs can be developed into prototypes within hours. State-of-the-art rapid prototyping machines create models which test form, fit and function and validity of design before investing in large scale manufacturing. As part of their

Engineering Design and Analysis Department, ADM was able to develop a 30-ft robotic arm for the military's Buffalo Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle, a heavily armored mine disposal truck which searches out and disposes

of improvised explosive devices used in Iraq and Afghanistan. The claw enabled the operators of the Buffalo to pick up and turn suspicious objects. This capability proved to be more efficient than the previous scoop and permitted the Buffalo's crew to spend less time in dangerous areas thus saving the lives of numerous soldiers.

Wrapping up the day was a tour of ECBC's Advanced Chemistry Lab. The Advanced Chemistry Lab is one of ECBC's newest buildings,

having been dedicated in 2005. The lab contains over 20 individual labs specializing in the research of physical properties, decontamination sciences, filtration, mid-spectrum agents, synthesis, and nuclear magnetic resonance. The Fellows were hosted by Dr. Wade Kuhlman who provided exceptional explanations of



the construction of the laboratory, its equipment and safety precautions, and on-going activities.

The visit to ECBC was instrumental to creating increased understanding of different Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations on the part of the SSCF Fellows as well as important to Fellowship curricular goals, which focus on developing leadership skills within the Army Acquisition Workforce.