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THE PICATINNY VOICE

Vol. 29 No. 25 http://www.pica.army.mil/Picatinny/voice/voice.pdf Published in the interest of the Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., community December 16, 2016

Army uses Unmanned Aerial Systems to sample emissions

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

To help ensure public safety, Picatinny engineers are collaborating with multiple government agencies in an attempt to use Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), or drones, to sample open-burn emissions at military facilities.

Both Radford Army Ammunition Plant (AAP) in Radford, Virginia and McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Oklahoma, each recently wrapped up 10-day sampling of efforts to determine emission factors open burning of propellants.

Though much of the manufacturing waste at Radford is disposed of through incinerators—during which emission smoke is processed through an air pollution control system before being released-a portion of propellant waste is still open-burned, in accordance with environmental permitting.

When conducting open-burning, engineers currently use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved emissions models and software to predict what emissions will result from the type and amount of material open-burned.

"We have been using conservative computer modeling to dictate what we burn. So if we burn 500 pounds of X - we should get this much Y in the air," said Charles Saks, Public Affairs Officer at the Radford AAP.

"We hope to prove that the years of using the conservative computer model has been adequate in protecting the health and welfare of the people in and around Radford," he said.

Radford protects the population because safety is the plant's number one priority, Saks added, noting that many factors, such as weather and wind speed, determine whether it is safe to open-burn.

"Radford is exploring technologies to replace the current permitted and effective open-burning solution. However, until those new technologies are underway, there are no closed disposal alternatives for the demilitarization of bulk propellants that have been proven to meet safety and environmental standards for the materials at Radford AAP," said Jorel Alberti, an engineer at the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny.

Alberti is the ARDEC lead on developing potential new technologies to replace open-burning at Radford.

Two closed disposal technologies currently in the design phase – an energetic waste incinerator (EWI) and a contaminated waste processor (CWP) – will reduce emissions to nominal amounts.

An Unmanned Aerial System hovers inside a smoke plume during emissions testing at Radford Army Ammunition Plant.

The sampling of the Radford Open Burning Grounds emissions would help the facility to maintain its mission in two ways:

-- Provide data for use in discussions with the state environmental regulatory agency pertaining to the renewal of RFAAP's permit to operate the open-burning grounds while design and construction of the new EWI/CWP system progresses.

-- Share data with the public to foster good will and as a show of good faith in addressing environmental concerns.

Previously, the Army sampled emissions by placing testing equipment onto tethered aerostats, or balloons, and maneuvered the aerostats into open-burn smoke plumes. However, the aerostats are less maneuverable than UASs, so Picatinny engineers

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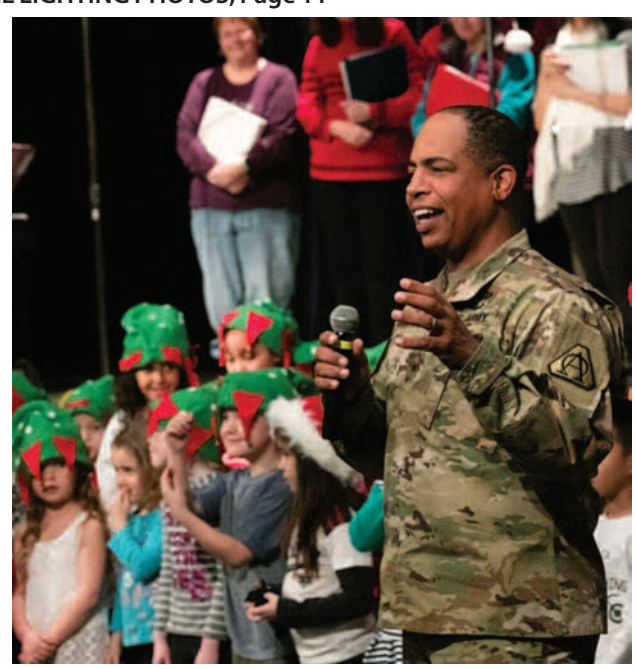
Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

See MORE TREE LIGHTING PHOTOS, Page 11

Photos by Todd Mozes



UNMANNED Continued from Page 1

hope that UAS testing will be more efficient at getting into and staying in the plumes.

"Now they're doing the same sampling procedures but they're attaching the sampling equipment to an unmanned aerial vehicle, or a drone, which should be more efficient," said Alberti.

EPA INVOLVED IN SAMPLING

Since 2010, the EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) has worked with multiple DOD organizations to sample open-burn emissions at three sites in the U.S. and Canada.

The ORD has developed a suite of technologies for sampling emissions from open burning which have been applied toward understanding Open-burn and Open Detonation emission constituents from both aerial and ground-based sampling platforms.

The unmanned aerial vehicle sampling is the result of collaboration across multiple agencies.

The Department of Defense commissioned the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA, to fly their UAS into the plumes while carrying the ORD samplers. Participating scientists from the University of Dayton Research Institute oversee the sampling for the Army.

"The drone flies into the plume as soon as the burn is set. What they're monitoring from the ground is the concentration of carbon monoxide/carbon dioxide," Alberti said. "They know the recipe of each of these burns. They know what kinds of materials are being released and they use that to trace when they have enough sample to be representative.

"(The EPA) would monitor the emissions from the ground and NASA would use a GoPro (camera) that was attached to the drone itself to make sure they were in the plume," Alberti added. "After each burn, the drone would come back down, scientists would change out the sample gear, install new sample equipment and fly the drone back up for the next sample."

UAS sensors respond to gas concentrations. For example, home carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide detectors are sensors. In addition, the EPA tested particles on filters.

Dr. Brian Gullett from EPA's Office of Research and Development believes that this is an ideal application for a UAS: "…when you have open-burning propellant that may only last for 10, 20, 30 seconds, the ability to move the sampler into the plume is greatly enhanced by having the autonomous location controllable UAV or drone."

The sampling data taken are currently undergoing analysis, which is expected to conclude in December.

"Once the data comes in, we must make sure that that equation makes sense – here's what was burned, here's how it should work when things burn and combust," Alberti said. "Here's the data we got and making sure it all adds up. Because this drone sample collection method employs such a new technology, we want to make sure this does represent what's burned there and that the data is valid before using it at other locations."

If the sampling from McAlester and Radford is validated, the technology could potentially be used at other military facilities.

"Now that we've seen this technology, we're trying to leverage it in as many places with open-burning as possible," she said, assuming the sampling from McAlester and Radford is representative.

To help ensure public safety, Picatinny engineers are collaborating with multiple government agencies in an attempt to use Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), or drones, to sample open-burn emissions at military facilities.

DEMILITARIZATION:

Unlike Radford, which burned manufacturing waste, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant used drones to test emissions of open-burns from demilitarization of stockpiled conventional ammunition.

The data from the drone sampling will be used to validate and improve open-burn emissions factors, as well as validate and improve EPA approved computer-based dispersion modeling applications that are currently used throughout the Army in support of the open-burn permitting process, said Orest Hrycak, Chief Engineer, Product Director, Demilitarization at Picatinny Arsenal.

Product Director, Demilitarization, an organization within the Office of the Project Director Joint Services, oversees the demilitarization of all the Department of Defense's conventional ammunition and tactical missiles. In the U.S., demilitarization primarily takes place at seven depot facilities and four contractor facilities.

At McAlester AAP, a Joint Munitions Command (JMC) led Demil Research Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE) project is utilizing the NASA drone to sample emissions emitted during open burning of 155 mm artillery and mortar propelling charges.

"We are executing this project to make sure that the modeling software is correct in predicting that the generation and dispersion of the emissions that are actually being released to the environment," Hrycak said. "The open burning of ammunition is a permitted activity and each demil facility reports emissions on an annual basis to the EPA in compliance with permit requirements, address worker and public safety, and for protection of the local environment."

THE PICATINNY VOICE

Senior Commander Picatinny Arsenal and Deputy Program Executive Officer Ammunition

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Printed on recycled paper

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For matters about business, advertising and subscriptions, contact the printer, North Jersey Community Newspapers, 100 Commons Way, Rockaway, N.J., 07866 at (973) 586-8195/8197.

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All manuscripts, photos or artwork may not be returned without prior coordination. Digital images should be submitted at a resolution of at least 200 pixels per inch.

Due to space limitations, the editor reserves the right to edit submitted articles. Contributions can be sent by e-mail to picavoice@conus.army.mil.

The editorial policy of The Picatinny Voice is to accept letters to the editor and commentaries.

Submissions must be signed or received via e-mail through your own account to be considered for publication, but writer's names may be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed are those of each author and not an official expression of the Department of the Army or the Command.

The PicatinnyVoice reserves the right to select, reject or edit letters and articles to meet space constraints, achieve clarity or for suitability considerations.

http://www.pica.army.mil/Picatinny/voice/voice.pdf

Three Picatinny retirees inducted into Ammunition Hall of Fame

BY FRANK MISURELLI
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

Three Picatinny Arsenal retirees were inducted into the Ammunition Hall of Fame at a ceremony here on Dec. 2

Chris Kimker, Jr., made many contributions to tank munitions, which include fielding of 10 new or improved 105mm, 120mm, and 25mm rounds. As the Deputy, Program Manager Tank Main Armament Systems, he guided the fielding of the first 120mm ammunition to emerge from the Armament Enhancement Initiative program, i.e., the M829A2 kinetic energy round and the M830A1 high explosive multipurpose round that also embodied the first tank-fired anti-helicopter defense capability. Kimker formulated strategy to preserve depleted uranium penetrator manufacturing, thus preserving critical industrial base capabilities.

Col. (Ret.) Raymond Pawlicki, an Ordnance Corps branch Army acquisition professional and highly successful project manager of successively important ACAT I to III programs, stands as one the Army's most successful engineer-managers in programs originating at Picatinny Arsenal. He brought the 155mm Paladin program to full production two months ahead of schedule by means of a "paperless ASARC decision," reflecting stakeholder acknowledgement of the astute management of all aspects of this program. During his tenure as Program Manager Tank Main Armament Systems, his organization's 120mm M829A1 kinetic energy munition became known as the "Silver Bullet" for its devastating effects against Republican Guard armor during Operation Desert Storm.

Robert Reisman worked his way up to Chief of ARDEC Precision Munitions Directorate, and eventually retired as the head of the Army's Science and Technology group, working for the Army's Secretary of Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology. His career touched every stage throughout the acquisition life-cycle and spanned across many armament products, from tank ammunition, prior to and during the Armament Enhancement Initiative days of the Cold War; to the Army's champion for the operational use of smart or precision munitions. Reisman passed away in 2002.

Accepting on behalf of Reisman was his widow, Sheila Reisman, and their son, Garrett Reisman, a former NASA astronaut who participated in Space Shuttle and International Space Station missions.

"This is our fifth group of inductees, and we our eager to carry on with this tradition. Honoring those who have met the challenge to provide the most reliable and lethal munitions in the world to our joint forces," said Brig, Gen. Alfred Abramson III, Picatinny Arsenal Senior Commander and Deputy ProgramExecutive Officer Ammunition.

"Three people that had total influence over my career," John Hedderich III, Director, Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, said of the three inductees. "Three individuals that I served with were all role models."

Three Picatinny Arsenal retirees were inducted into the Ammunition Hall of Fame at a ceremony here on Dec. 2. The inductees were Chris Kimker, Jr., Col. (Ret.) Raymond Pawlicki, and the late Robert Reisman, who died in 2002. Pictured from left, Pawlicki; Sheila and Garrett Reisman; and Kimker. Sheila, the widow of Robert Reisman and their son, Garrett, accepted on behalf of Robert Reisman. Garrett Reisman is a former NASA astronaut who participated in Space Shuttle and International Space Station missions. Photo by Todd Mozes

Kimker, a resident of Mine Hill, New Jersey, said, "I accept this induction today, understanding very well that this could never have happened had it not been for the support and dedication I had over the past years from my family and my coworkers, truly is a team thing."

"They say you can't come home again, but I guess you can," said Pawlicki, "I appreciate being back here and I thank leadership for this opportunity."

"If my dad was here, what would he say?" Reisman asked rhetorically. "He would be so happy to see his friends here. You guys meant a lot to him."

Reisman, Kimker and Pawlicki joined the following 2016 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductees, who were inducted at other locations:

-- John Byrd, former director of the Ammunition Center and School at Savanna Army Depot.

-- Louie Dellamonica, who served 65 years as an engineer at Hawthorne Army Depot.

-- Dale Pollard, who served 57 years at Lake City Ammunition Plant as an acquisition and executive professional.

-- Brig. Gen. John Pitman, a historical inductee, who served the Army during the Civil War and post-war era under the Ordnance Department.

PEO Ammunition wins Defense Department's top acquisition award

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

The Department of Defense has recognized the Program Executive Office (PEO) Ammunition at Picatinny Arsenal for developing an innovative strategy to meet the surging demands of supplying ammunition to our coalition partners, while ensuring competition and keeping costs low.

Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L), announced in a memo Nov. 10 that the Project Manager Maneuver Ammunition (PM MAS) had won a 2016 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award. PM MAS is part of the PEO Ammunition organization.

"Congratulations to the Department of the Army's Project Manager Maneuver Ammunition Systems team on its selection as a 2016 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award winner," Kendall said in the memo to the winners.

"As our most prestigious acquisition team award, the David Packard Award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated exemplary performance and innovation in acquiring and delivering products and capabilities for the warfighter." Kendall explained.

Soldiers from the 201st Afghan National Army Corps conduct mortar training taught by the Warrior Training Alliance at Tactical Base Gamberi in December 2014. Product Manager Non-Standard Ammunition supplies the ANA and other coalition partners with non-standard mortars systems and NSA, which includes items like 60 mm mortars pictured here, and also small-caliber bullets, mortar ammunition and 122 mm rockets. The product manager organization is part of the Program Executive Office Ammunition at Picatinny Arsenal.

The David Packard Award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated superior management and accomplishment in the successful execution of one or more of the Better Buying Power acquisition efficiency initiatives, according to the defense department.

Since 2008, PM MAS's Product Director Non-Standard Ammunition (NSA) has delivered over 1 billion rounds of munitions to 23 countries on five continents. The largest demand for NSA has been and remains in the Central Command area of responsibility, specifically to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of counter Islamic State of Iraq and Levant efforts.

PM MAS received the Packard Award for their innovative acquisition approach, which shortened delivery times when supplying the Iraqi and Afghan National Army with ammunition to fight ISIL.

"There was a swelling demand for Eastern European produced munitions at a time when those plants were starting to change to NATO calibers. This was causing NSA delivery schedules to stretch longer and longer," explained Lt. Col. Lawrence Dring, Product Director NSA. "However, being able to provide rapid delivery of NSA is critical to the national security interests of the United States and her allied partners."

To expedite completing ammunition requirements, Dring said that PM MAS employed several focus areas of Better Buying Power 1.0 - 3.0, as well as Life Cycle management initiatives, to achieve superior agility and effectiveness supporting the coalition Warfighter. The PM NSA office effectively used innovative Better Buying Power through a Systems Contracts approach coupled with the establish ment of a strategic ammunition supply to reduce NSA delivery to a fraction of the time.

A multiple award, 5-year IDIQ contract was awarded to two contractors

See PEO AMMO AWARD, Page 9

Butler of PM CCS sought professional development

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

As the Army looks towards the future, it is important that the Army Acquisition Workforce remains ready to provide the equipment and services Soldiers need to win across multiple missions, conditions and geographies now and in the future.

A way to achieve this goal is to ensure the workforce receives proper leadership and professional training, through education.

One Program Executive Office Ammunition employee, Matt Butler, attended the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Virginia in DC.

"The Eisenhower School is interested in understanding the instruments of power and how that relates to shaping international policy," Butler said. "And it's primarily to train you to be a DOD Joint Staff officer. And it's true – most of my peers went on to joint jobs."

Butler graduated from the program with a master's degree in science in national resource strategy in 2013 and has been the Deputy Project Manager Close Combat Systems for the past three years since his return to Picatinny.

"If you want to be a senior leader in the Army, this is one of the things you need to do," Butler said of the Senior Service College. "It provides better insight into what's happening across the Army, the DOD, and across the country."

Butler added that with young children, he plans to work another 10 or 15 years for the government and wanted to be on track to take on increased roles and responsibilities.

"For me it was a great resume builder to get out and take advantage of this," he added.

COURSE WORK

The ten month program at the School for National Security and Resource Strategy focused on the instruments of national power, such as diplomacy, intelligence, economy and military prowess.

Matt Butler, Deputy Project Manager Close Combat Systems, and his strategic materials group at the Mineral Park Copper mine outside Kingman Arizona. The Mineral Park mine is an open pit copper mine located in in the Cerbat Mountains 14 miles northwest of Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona, in the southwestern United States.

The first semester was classroom learning. Some of the course work studied constitution law, national logistics and leadership

The professors and students were incredible, Butler said, noting that the professors were all experienced. For instance, the constitution law professor was the legal advisor on the White House National Security Council during the Nixon administration.

The spring semester focuses on industry. For that semester, the students divided into 14 groups to conduct industry studies related to the instruments of national power.

Butler's group focused on the world's strategic materials – mines and mining - and related economic, policy and national security impacts.

"It was a fantastic knowledge – countries have gone to war over resources," he said. "Our brief was on studying that the U.S. has adequate strategic materials, because there is a concern for rare earth minerals; a lot of which have critical military applications."

For the report he studied mining across the globe and visited a copper mine, a molybdenum mine and titanium sand banks. During the visits, his group reviewed geologic surveys and studied the mine's operations. His team also reached out to government bodies, such as the Senate National Natural Resource committee to discuss related law and policy.

"I understood the material chain, but I really wasn't a raw material guy. I'm not a scientist, we have scientists (at Picatinny) and they come and talk to me and I understand it, but to do dive in and see the real exchange and the tangible ways it impacts things economically was pretty powerful for me," he said.

At the end of the semester the students briefed the other groups on their reports. Interested senior DOD leaders also attended the briefings.

Butler's class had a broad range of students. About half were military members and the other half were government employees. There was even a Battelle employee. Battelle is a DOD contractor.

"The big thing they want to teach you is the thought process and strategic planning," Butler said. "I find myself still using that strategic planning process. It's a system of environmental awareness, opportunities that exist to create positive results in that environment, and selecting the best one."

Butler said he recently found himself using the strategic thinking process when giving guidance for the Gator Landmine program. The Gator Landmine Replacement program is developing networked munition system for the future.

"The school had that significant an impact on me and how I think, develop and share that with folks," he said.

"I think it's a great experience - if you're one of the ones lucky enough to be selected, definitely go, it's worth working your family situation. It's given me a new skill set and new personal growth. It's great going back to school again and exposing yourself to different thoughts and ideas that you would have considered before. And I think I'm a much better employee, supervisor, thinker and doing a much better job."

Butler applied through the Senior Enterprise Talent Management program, otherwise known as SETM. He created a submission packet, interviewed with a selection board and was placed into the school of the panel's choosing.

For more information on the SETM program, visit: http://www.civiliantraining.army.mil/professional/Pages/SETM.aspx

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL:

While attending a service college is an option, multiple Picatinny employees have also attained graduate degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School. This program is also offered online and residence.

Brian Meierdiercks, a Program Management Engineer in Project Director Joint Services, chose to pursue this program because of the convenience of taking classes through distance learning and the subject matter covered.

The course work studies areas such as Strategic Management, Financial Management for Acquisition Managers and Software Acquisition Management.

"The classes have direct applicability to DOD acquisition," he said. "The most useful course so far has been Communications Strategy for Leaders, because it focused on getting your message across clearly and concisely while avoiding engineering and government-speak."

While the most challenging aspect of getting a master's degree while working full-time has been balancing school, work and home-life, he said that the ability to attend class at his desk has been beneficial.

"It's six hours a week. The classes are during the normal workday, so the program requires that your supervisor agree to allow you to attend class from 1100 to 1400 on Tuesdays and Thursdays," he said

Meierdiercks will graduate from the program in September 2017with a Master of Science in Program Management.

"I think the program is a great option for anyone doing DOD acquisition," Meierdiercks said. "My classmates come from other Army acquisition offices around the country, so there is a lot of opportunity to discuss similarities and differences across programs."

Interested DOD employees can apply to the Naval Postgraduate School through the Army Acquisition Professional Development System. A six-year Service Agreement is required.

For more information about the Naval Postgraduate School, visit http://asc.army.mil/web/career-development/programs/naval-postgraduate-school-master-of-science-in-program-management/

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AU graduates first class of Project Management Professional training

BY ERIC KOWAL
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

Eleven Picatinny students became members of the first class of graduates from a course that prepares students for the rigors of an internationally recognized test that certifies project management professionals here at Armament University (AU) on November 10.

Graduates of the Project Management Professional (PMP) Training Course included employees from the Program Executive Office for Ammunition and the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, which provided the course from its Project Management and Integration Directorate (PMID).

The goal of the course is providing project management training that would also prepare the participants to take the examination leading to the highly coveted global credential of certified Project Management Professional.

"The PMP certification, offered by the Project Management Institute (PMI), is highly recognized and respected within the Department of Defense and throughout the private sector of the international community," said Larry Gibbs, PMP, PMI - Risk Management Professional (RMP), Project Integrator for Training and Processes, PMID.

Why take the PMP Training Course?

"PMI's PMP is the most important industry-recognized certification for project managers," said Gibbs. "Designation as a PMP indicates that the person speaks and understands the global language of project management. It connects the person to a community network of professionals and experts worldwide, and through a disciplined approach, it benefits the person's organization by working to achieve project goals for cost, schedule and performance."

The PMI offers seven other certifications including Risk Management Professional and Scheduling Professional to provide opportunities for increasing project management knowledge and skills. "Certification demonstrates the student's experience, knowledge, education and overall competency in managing projects," said Gibbs.

Photo by Erin Usawicz

Bottom row (from left): Monika Vaccaro-Smith, PMP, Cheryl McCarthy Bielamowicz, Maj. Lendrick James, Maj. Ian Welch, Robert Nodarse, Jigar Parikh - Second row (from left): Gerard Gaeta, Jr., Aisha Mims, Mohamed (Mo) El-Alem, Nicholas Serino, Arthur Pizza, Adrian Nitu-Solomon - Top row (from left): Larry Gibbs, PMP, David Radkovich, PMP.

ARDEC's PMP Training was prepared and conducted by Monika Vaccaro-Smith and David Radkovich, both PMPs and contractors for Subsystem Technologies, Inc., who work in support of PMID. "I've used these materials in the past as a volunteer instructor with the PMI-New Jersey chapter," said Vaccaro-Smith.

"The materials provide the students with all they need to know, covering the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK), the global standard for Project Management published by PMI, as well as incorporating contemporary PM material that is included on the exam," Vaccaro-Smith said.

"We were pleased with the engagement of the students and their commitment to furthering their skills and knowledge as Project Management practitioners. The initial response to the class was encouraging: over 50 employees expressed interest in the pilot."

One of the 11 graduates, Maj. Lendrick James, from the Office of the Project Manager for Close Combat Systems, said, "I really enjoyed taking the Project Management Professional Course. I took the course to become a better officer and distinguish myself from other PM professionals. PMP is a globally recognized certification and many of the techniques I learned will assist in my daily activities. The course also gave me an opportunity to network with other PM professionals who are very driven to succeed."

The next course offering is tentatively planned for March 2017.

U.S. Military to supply Indian government with 145 M777A2 howitzers

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

On November 30, the U.S. Department of Defense and the Indian Ministry of Defence signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to provide the Indian government with 145 M777A2 howitzers for $737 million in Foreign Military Sales (FMS).

The U.S. Army and Marine Corps' M777 howitzer program is managed by the Joint Project Manager Towed Artillery Systems, part of the Program Executive Office Ammunition that is located at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey.

"We're looking forward to what we believe is the beginning of a great, and potentially long-term, relationship with the Indian government and their Army," said Jim Shields, the Program Executive Officer Ammunition.

"While many of the contract details are still being negotiated, PEO Ammunition will continue to work closely with the Indian government to ensure smooth execution of the case," Shields said.

India joins Australia and Canada as the third U.S. ally to purchase M777A2 howitzers.

Besides being reliable and battle-proven, the M777A2 howitzer is lightweight, which allows it be easily airlifted by helicopter in hilly terrain, such as the Himalayas in India. It was the world's first howitzer to weigh less than 10,000 pounds, a weight reduction achieved through innovative use of titanium and aluminum alloys.

CONTRACT DETAILS:

"The Indian government requested that the howitzers be manufactured by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) supply chain used during US production of the M777A2 where BAE Systems was the prime contractor," said Joe Lipinski, PM-TAS lead for International Acquisition Programs.

PEO Ammunition anticipates the contract with BAE Systems to be signed by the end of the year.

PM-TAS will also manage 10 additional contracts for the Government Furnished Equipment required for the howitzer. The largest of these being the cannon assembly which will be manufactured at U.S. Army Watervliet Arsenal, New York.

In addition to providing the howitzers, PEO Ammunition and BAE Systems will provide technical manuals, training programs and engineering support to develop firing tables so that the Indian Army can fire its own ammunition.

"The basic gun is the same as the howitzers that the U.S. military uses, however, they requested a different fire control system. It's the system that Canada uses on their howitzers, so it's already battle-proven," said Lipinski.

The contract also covers five years of spare parts.

Lipinski said that PEO Ammunition plans to provide two guns to India within six months to support firing tables development for the Indian ammunition.

Gun and spare parts deliveries are scheduled to begin in 21 months. PEO Ammunition will also begin training the Indian Army on the howitzers in 21 months.

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL:

This FMS complements the Indian government's "Made in India Campaign," benefits the manufacturing sector in the U.S. and U.K. and allows PEO Ammunition to save money.

"The U.S. fleet of howitzers is now in sustainment, so this LOA provides additional funding to support PM-TAS in maintaining the knowledgeable workforce developed within the PM and the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center during U.S. production. We also benefit from lower costs of spare parts," said Chris Hatch, Deputy PM TAS.

"Now that the howitzer will be back in production, instead of making one or two spare parts when the U.S. needs them, we will have an active production line making the 145howiters and spares. As long as the production line is going, the U.S. military and taxpayers reap the benefits of lower costs."

A time capsule was uncovered recently while renovations were being made to the parking lot in front of the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center headquarters. The capsule was placed in the earth on Sep. 6, 1980, to commemorate the founding of Picatinny Arsenal on Sep. 6, 1880. The memorabilia stored inside the capsule include a flag flown on that day as well photographs, maps, reports, charts, and more. The time capsule will not be opened during this renovation as it is intended to be uncovered on Sep. 6, 2080.

Retiring ARDEC historian Patrick Owens looks back one final time

COMMENTARY BY FRANK MISURELLI
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

When you read the column called "Looking Back… At Picatinny" in this issue, you will be viewing the end of nearly three decades of contributions by its author, Picatinny' s Historian Patrick Owens.

Owens will retire after more than 30 years of federal and military service at the end of this year.

In 1988, Owens joined Picatinny as historian for the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center or ARDEC. "Beginning in January 1992, the installation newspaper ran a regular series of short pieces on Picatinny history," said Owens.

As the late news commentator Paul Harvey often said, "the rest is history." At last count, Owens has authored over 1,000 "Looking Back….At Picatinny" columns.

His columns stretched across a variety of topics such as development of new weapons, entertainment, Soldiers, past commanders, buildings and much more.

"This became as much a learning experience," said Owens and "thanks the former editors Duane 'Dutch' Meier for suggesting the column and to later editors, Myra Hess, Tonya Townsell, Ed Lopez, and Eric Kowal for continuing to publish it."

Peter Rowland, the now-retired for mer Chief of Public Affairs, and who hired Owens, said:

"Dr. Owens is perhaps best known for authoring the column 'Looking Back' in the Voice. But, he accomplished much more over his career, all of which helped preserve and spread word of Picatinny' s illustrious history internally and externally. Pat Owens has been the historical ambassador of Picatinny. The photo book 'Picatinny at a Glance' was compiled by its author the late John Ray. But Dr. Owens supplied the guts of that publication—its photographs. There'd be no book were it not for Pat Owens," said Rowland.

Patrick Owens, historian for the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, often provided tours on a wide variety of occassions.

"I was always impressed with how quickly Dr. Owens responded to questions—even obscure ones— regarding Picatinny history," Rowland continued.

"Often within minutes, he provided an answer to someone's question about the past. He is a walking Picatinny encyclopedia. Wry, irreverent at times, always extremely knowledgeable and pleasant to work with. That's Pat Owens."

Over the course of his 28 years at Picatinny, Owens was also curator of the now defunct Picatinny Museum. Owens was assisted by Lorraine Locke for a number of years, preparing the annual history of ARDEC.

"He really knew United States and Picatinny history—a perfect historian," said Locke.

"Soft spoken, always thought before he spoke. Never opinionated—stuck with the facts," Locke added.

If you participated as a newly hired Picatinny employee, you would have had the opportunity to meet Owens as the tour guide of Picatinny's historic past.

Owens would also be available to many community groups that invited him to speak about Picatinny's history.

"It has been an honor hosting tours with Dr. Owens over the past eight plus years and he made each one more enjoyable," said said Jason Huggan, Cultural Resource Manager and Environmental Affairs Division.

"The installation owes him a debt of gratitude, as do I, for the history he has uncovered of the Arsenal and ARDEC over his years."

Owens, a Boston native, entered the Army during Vietnam as an infantry Soldier and served with the 25th "Tropical Lighting" Division.

He was wounded and, like many veterans, he went back to college for his advanced degrees.

During his time working for the Defense Finance and Accounting service at the now closed Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Indiana, he completed his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

As he nears his retirement, Owens is completing the only official Army History of Picatinny Arsenal first its 100 years.

Besides his love of history, Owens' passion is baseball, cheering on Red Sox nation, and his interest in the Army.

"Picatinny and the Army owe him a huge debt of gratitude for all he's done for the installation and its reputation as a living, breathing place that supports our nation's warfighters," said Rowland.

"Learning from Pat about the Army's approach to recording its history turned out to be invaluable in running my own history program," said Tonya Townsell, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer and a former editor of The Picatinny Voice.

"I suspect most people don't understand the importance of preserving an installation's history, let alone the important role a good historian plays," said Townsell, who remembered when Owens spent a considerable time searching through old documents and articles to verify whether there was actually a rail car buried in the ground on post.

"What sits with me the most from my time working with Pat is that I thoroughly enjoyed reading – and rereading – the Looking Back columns," said Townsell. "I think many people who passed through Picatinny got to know the installation and Center better simply because of those columns. They really are timeless."

So we dedicate this commentary to Patrick Owens, who educated and entertained so many for so many years.

Thanks for the memories.

Army Acquisition Executive stresses importance of investing in employees

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

During a visit to Picatinny, the Army's top civilian for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology told employees and leaders how important it is for an organization to invest in its employees.

Steffanie B. Easter, the Army Acquisition Executive and senior official performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, or ASA (ALT), visited Picatinny Arsenal on Dec. 2 to familiarize herself with the installation, its organizations and missions.

Picatinny was designated the Joint Center of Excellence for Guns and Ammunition, providing products and services to all branches of the U.S. military. It is the third largest employer in Northwestern New Jersey, employing more than 6,000 employees, and provides 90 percent of the Army's lethality.

Easter said that two things struck her during her visit to Picatinny – the installation's collective technical expertise and its investment in employees.

"Just like with a lot of things, technology is really great, but investment in our people far outweighs anything you will do from a materiel perspective," Easter said during her visit.

In her current position, Easter oversees over 36,000 acquisition professionals, civilian and military, who collectively oversee Army research, development and total acquisition lifecycle activities totaling more than $20 billion in Fiscal Year 2016 alone.

During the visit she met with Picatinny senior leaders Jim Shields, the Program Executive Officer Ammunition and Brig. Gen. Alfred Abramson, Deputy Program Executive Officer Ammunition and Picatinny Senior Commander. PEO Ammunition is a subordinate organization to ASA (ALT).

She also met with John Hedderich, director of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, also located at Picatinny.

Easter said she enjoyed seeing the priority that leadership has put on investing in training and education, highlighting the establishment of the Research Development and Engineering Command-ARDEC Armament Graduate School at Picatinny.

The Armament Graduate School (AGS) was founded at Picatinny Arsenal to formalize the development of engineers' and scientists' critical skills, a process that has occurred at Picatinny primarily through mentoring. The first class of students graduated with master's degrees in 2015.

"When you invest in people, like I see here at Picatinny, the product will come and (the employees will) be motivated and excited about innovating new things and then that leads to getting the warfighter what they need," Easter said. "And to me that's the spectrum of what I've seen here and it's been very impressive."

Steffanie B. Easter, the Army Acquisition Executive and senior official performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, or ASA (ALT), visited Picatinny Arsenal on Dec. 2 to familiarize herself with the installation, its organizations and missions. Photo by Erin Usawicz.

WARFIGHTER SUPPORT CULTURE

"I'm pleased that Ms. Easter was able to visit Picatinny to see that wide-spectrum of armaments that we provide our warfighters," said Shields.

"Our culture at Picatinny is defined by an urgent commitment to meet the needs of those who defend us, and we know that we must foster the expertise and talent of our employees to match that commitment. I'm glad this commitment was on display as our engineers and program managers discussed with her our advanced mortars, artillery and ammunition products." Shields said.

Easter advised the Picatinny community to "continue doing what you're doing" by providing warfighters with the technology they need to be successful.

"You'll hear the chief of staff of the Army say all the time that we have to be able to provide overmatch, and what I've seen here in the brief time today, is that we're well on our way to doing that."

She added that, unlike some of the Army focus areas such as aviation, ammunition is unique because it does not have a robust commercial industrial base.

"A lot of people would be concerned that we have this part of our warfighting capability that we're so dependent on, that we have no industry base to support. But after today I can tell them that there's nothing to fear because we've got a lot of talent right here at Picatinny and I think the role is to continue to focus on that unique army requirement, which I saw being done extremely well today," Easter said.

In addition, Easter said that the acquisition community's greatest challenges are staying ahead of evolving threats and grappling with how to balance shrinking resources in a way that allows the Army to plan for today and as well as the future.

"Our ability to stay ahead of the threat and to be able to operate in any given environment, perhaps multiple environments at one time, is going to be a great challenge for us," she said. "And in order to be able to address that we have to be able to plan, we have to be able to innovate, but we also have to be able to invest.

"And in this environment of shrinking resources, being able to have the resources we need to keep our advanced technology going, to make sure that we balance that correctly," Easter said.

"We have this constant battle because of where we are today – how do you balance taking care of today versus preparing for the future. And I think that's something we have to always keep an eye on and make sure we have the right balance. We can't sacrifice today for the future, but we can't sacrifice the future for today."

As the Department of Defense pivots to a new administration, Easter said that ASAALT needs to stay focused on "delivering materiel capability as an enterprise and doing what we're doing today."

"My focus would just be on getting better at it – I call it acquisition excellence. We have to make sure that we're the best at what we do. Because, regardless of the where the new administration takes us, the foundation will be same."

Easter ended by thanking the Picatinny community for hosting her.

"I was telling Mr. Shields (Program Executive Officer Ammunition) this is probably the best kept secret in New Jersey or even in the world," Easter said of Picatinny Arsenal.

"I was very impressed with the level of technical competence, with the level of innovation, and the level of commitment. As I walked through the floor today talking to the individual people, the excitement of what they do is rooted through everything they said and the way they presented it," she added.

Easter remarked that she had talked with people who have worked at Picatinny for up to 20 years.

"So that says to me that this is a great place to be, a place that focuses on its workforce, and focuses on the development of that workforce.

"And I'm impressed by that and I think we need to replicate this model wherever we can across the Army and even DOD."

Looking Back ... At Picatinny

Where hastening feet were wont to go
O'er the bridge from tee to green
White silence now; beneath the snow
Rests the summer that has been.

A POETRY-INSPIRED SEASON

BY PATRICK J. OWENS, ARDEC HISTORIAN

Time to face the inevitable. It is December, December means winter, and winter means snow.

While daunting, these facts do not necessarily inspire despair.

Picatinny can look rather beautiful in winter, as the accompanying page for the Ordnance Bomb of 1937, the arsenal's one and only yearbook, shows.

This snow-covered bridge could even inspire poetry, as the verse below the photo proves.

PEO Ammuntion wins highest DOD buying award

continued from Page 3

who would compete for requirements on a delivery order basis to include Firm Fixed Price with not to exceed (NTE) ceiling prices. The NTE pricing for the Contract Line Item Numbers were proposed based on a delivery schedule of 6 months after award, which is basically the threshold performance for an NDI item.

However, when a requirement is received that is urgent, the strategy is to compete the delivery order indicating schedule as being significantly more important that price, enabling a provision for price to exceed the NTE.

If the delivery schedule proposed for these items is earlier than the 6 months, a Best Value competition is initiated.

This has spurred management innovation on the part of the contractors by providing a structured process by which companies can bid an accelerated schedule, knowing that any increased costs are acceptable and competed.

As a result of the new contract, requirements with delivery times of 24-36 months were reduced in many cases to 6 months or less.

Partnering with other government agencies improved effectiveness of the PM to deliver requirements for some cases in less than 2 months.

"I'm proud of the PM MAS team, and all the organizations at Picatinny who help provide our coalition partners with the safe, reliable, and life-saving ammunition and weapon systems," said Jim Shields, Program Executive Officer Ammunition.

"The NSA office supports the strategic interests of our country because it equips our coalition partners and enables them to fight our common adversaries, which puts fewer U.S. service members lives at risk."

"Due to our innovation, acquisition experience and close relationships with contractors and suppliers, we were able to adapt our processes to meet the speedy requirements of our coalition partners," Shields said.

OTHER WINNERS

The Packard award was first awarded in 1997 in honor of the late David Packard, a former deputy secretary of defense and an advocate of excellence in defense acquisition practices. It is the highest award in DoD acquisition.

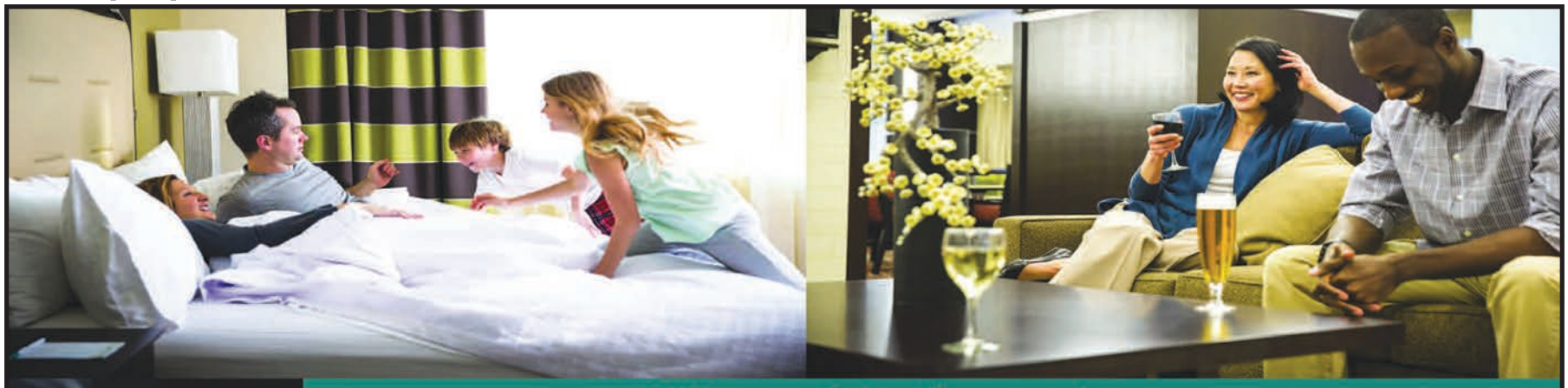
This is the fifth time PEO Ammunition has won the Packard Award, and the third time for PM MAS.

The PM MAS team was one of three that the defense department recognized for acquisition excellence this year.

Aside from PM MAS, the other Packard winners this year were Next Generation Jammer Increment 1 team from the Navy and the Acquisition Rapid Response Light Tactical Vehicle team at Special Operations Command.

The Joint Program Office Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV) team from the Army/Marine Corps was selected to receive the 2016 Should Cost and Innovation Award.

The awards will be presented in a ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. in January



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Annual Holiday Ball yields plenty of good cheer

Photos by Erin Usawicz

BY FRANK MISURELLI
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

More than 240 military and civilian guests attended Picatinny's annual winter holiday ball. Hosting this event was the U.S. Army Contracting Command, New Jersey, which was held at the Manor at Mountain Lakes.

Paul Milenkowic, Director, Army Contracting Command, New Jersey, started a new tradition with a donation from the holiday ball proceeds, $1,000 to the Community Hope Program. This charity supports veterans to overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty by providing housing and support services in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Introducing the evening keynote speaker, Steffanie Easter, currently serving as the senior official preforming the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army was Brig. Gen. Alfred Abramson, Deputy Program Executive Officer Ammunition and Senior Commander, Picatinny Arsenal.

Abramson thanked the Army Contracting Command team for putting the event together.

"I'm sure that there were challenges putting this together," he said. "As 2016 nears to a close, I am honored to serve as you host this evening. I hope to continue this fine tradition. Most important, hosting this affair gives me the opportunity to thank each of you for your support you do for our warfighters."

Former ARDEC Commander Brig. Gen. William R. Holmes a 'silver bullet' leader in wartime

COMMENTARY BY FRANK MISURELLI
Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

The Dec. 2, 2016, issue of The Picatinny Voice carried the obituary of Retired Army Brig. Gen. William R. Holmes, the fourth commander of the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, or ARDEC. He passed away at 75 on Nov. 7, 2016, at his home in Vass, North Carolina.

Holmes became the ARDEC Commander on November 1989. He was the right man at the right time to command ARDEC, preparing the center to go to war in support of Operation Desert Storm.

What Holmes lacked in height (he was about 5'5"), he made up with his steady hand of leadership and his expertise and knowledge of ammunition. All this came to head shortly after sunset on Feb. 18, 1991, when coalition forces attacked Iraqi forces.

Under Holmes' leadership, he provided technical support to two Picatinny programs that made the difference in defeating Saddam Hussein forces so quickly and decisively during the 100 hours of ground combat.

William R. Holmes, pictured here when he was a colonel.

The Patriot missile fuze was developed at Picatinny and was a game-changer, protecting not only coalition forces from Iraqi SCUD attacks but also protecting the state of Israel. Americans got to witness the Patriot missile destroying countless Iraqi SCUD missiles while watching the evening news.

The 120mm M129A1 tank round, nicknamed the "silver bullet" by M-1 Abrams tank crews, was another game-changer. Iraqi tanks never had a chance against the Abrams tank with the "silver bullet." The round penetrated enemy armor like a hot knife through butter.

Those who remember Holmes will recall that, while he took his work seriously, he was less serious about himself. During ceremonies, it was common for him to tell jokes about himself.

He took seriously his responsibility to meet the families of local service members who lost their lives during Operation Desert Storm, as when he participated in the Newton, New Jersey, salute to Operation Desert Storm veterans.

He was genuine, caring and, above all, humble. For those who remember him, he was the right man at the right time.

TREE LIGHTING PHOTOS

continued from Page 1

Photos by Todd Mozes

Picatinny hosted a holiday tree lighting in the Linder Conference Center on Dec. 6. Brig. Gen. Alfred Abramson, Picatinny Senior Commander and Deputy Program Executive Officer Ammunition, kicked off the event, which included carols from the Picatinny Chorus and children from the Picatinny Kindergarten and School Age Care. Santa also made a special visit to talk with the children. The tree lighting is one of many seasonal events at Picatinny. There will be a menorah lighting 4 p.m. Dec. 27, at the Gazebo on the corner of Parker Road.

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